

## Questions?

If you have questions about the Adopt-a-Basket program please feel free to contact Laura Phillips, the Archaeology Collections Manager. She would be happy to talk to you about the important work being done on this collection and how your donations can help!

Send email to:

[lphill@u.washington.edu](mailto:lphill@u.washington.edu)

Call the Archaeology Division:  
(206) 685-3849 ext. 2

Or write to us at:

Archaeology Division  
Burke Museum  
University of Washington  
Box 353010  
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## Adopt a Basket



### **Would you like to help preserve a basket?**

The Burke Museum Archaeology Division has set up an Adopt-a-Basket program that allows members to help save artifacts from a significant Washington State archaeological site.

Look inside to learn about the Biderbost archaeological site and what *you* can do to help preserve important artifacts from this site!

## Local Archaeologist Saves a Site and a Collection

Last fall Dr. Astrida Blukis Onat, owner of BOAS, Inc, a cultural resource management firm in Seattle, donated forty-five boxes of more than 3000 artifacts and archives from the Biderbost Site (45-SN-100) to the Burke Museum Archaeology Department.

The Biderbost Site is located along the Snoqualmie River. A significant variety of artifacts were recovered, most notably hundreds of basketry fragments and pieces of fishing gear, as well as mineral-painted cobbles. A single radiocarbon date from the site indicates that people lived there at least 2400 years ago.



Rehoused fishing implement

The first excavations at this site were conducted in the late 1950s and early 1960s by members of the Washington Archaeological Society

(WAS). In the late 1970s, Dr. Blukis Onat, then professor at Seattle Central Community College, investigated the site with field school students. Over the years, students helped to catalog and store the collections, but no formal analyses have been published.



Basketry fragments in need of rehousing

## The Donation

Recognizing the importance of the site Dr. Blukis Onat purchased the property from the Milwaukee Railroad during bankruptcy proceedings in the 1980s. Since then, the collection has remained in private storage.

To ensure long term preservation and access to this unique and important site, Dr. Blukis Onat transferred the collections to their new home at the Burke Museum.

## Rehousing the Collection

The Archaeology Department immediately began the intensive process of cataloging and rehousing the collection to encourage research access. Future studies and analysis of this collection are essential to better understanding this region.

To help preserve the collection all of the objects are being rehousing in new acid free boxes that are specially designed for those objects.

## What can you do?

The Burke Museum is asking for donations to help with the cleaning, conservation, and rehousing of the Biderbost Site basketry.



Basket before rehousing and conservation