

# *HIGH DESERT VOICES*

September 2016

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## **High Desert Rendezvous 2016**

*by Heather Duchow & Siobhan Sullivan*

Warm sunny weather greeted visitors attending this year's *Rendezvous* event. Wildlife "ambassadors" handled by Wildlife staff members welcomed visitors just outside the main entrance to the Museum. The raven, gyrfalcon, peregrine falcon, golden eagle, great horned owl, tortoise, and blue-tongued skink patiently sat with handlers as visitors asked a variety of questions. The newest addition to the Museum, a young red-tailed hawk, flapped its wings and called loudly as it was introduced to the public.



Once inside the doors, staff and volunteers quickly and efficiently registered visitors. They picked up their *Program and Auction Catalog* and many purchased raffle tickets. The raffle this year was for an all-inclusive experience for two at a private island getaway on Palm Island in the Grenadines.

There were three areas beautifully set up with items for the silent auction. As the first area closing time approached, visitors crowded around the tables with last minute bids. Jewelry, a saddle,

chaps, custom artwork, gift baskets, and gift certificates were among the many items up for purchase. Some of the more popular silent auction items included a gift certificate for Mt. Bachelor, a gift basket of Crater Lake liquor, a getaway at Brasada Ranch, a trip to Cleveland with tickets to several attractions, a gift certificate for Bend's Hot Box Betty store, golf for two at Awbrey Butte, and a Bend's Best Breakfast and River Rafting package.

The artwork in the *Art of the West* was also up for auction. Visitors browsing the artwork entered bids on many of the pieces. Some of the works, such as an expressive painting of a goat by artist Barbara Slater, garnered multiple bids.





president of presenting sponsor, Bank of the Cascades, and Dana Whitelaw, executive director of the High Desert Museum. Visitors had a choice of salmon, tri-tip beef, or creamy polenta in a dinner that also included fresh vegetables, rolls, and BBQ beans. Beer, wine, and mixed drinks were available throughout the evening.

The live auction, conducted by Pamela Hulse Andrews and Greg Quiroga, took place after dinner. Auction items included getaways to Italy, Africa, Arizona, and Maui. There was also a local trip for a guided fly fishing adventure along the Deschutes River. Trips to Portland to see local theatre productions

Visitors could also participate in gambling games that were played in the late 1800's - early 1900's. Staff and volunteers dressed in period-appropriate garb led games of Faro, Keno, Over & Under, and Chuck-A-Luck. Some of the games, such as Chuck-A-Luck, are still being played in Reno gambling halls today.

After the silent auction sections closed, visitors moved outside to a large tent where dinner was served. They were welcomed with speeches by Julie Miller, executive vice



and the Portland trailblazers were up for auction. There were two packages of wine that visitors could bid on. One focused on red wines while the other included favorites selected by the Museum's Board of Trustees.

There were two Museum-related items available at the live auction. One was a special historical dinner at the Miller Ranch hosted by Executive Director Dana Whitelaw, Lifetime Trustee Cameron Kerr, and a Museum Curator. The Thorn Hollow String Band will be providing background music for this special evening. Museum volunteers, Steve and Cynde Magidson, placed the high bid for this unique experience.



some very lively bidding. The lot combined the naming rights for the newly acquired red-tailed hawk and a two-day guided trip to the sagebrush steppe areas of eastern Oregon. The winning bidder has a choice of several natural history or western history sites to visit. She will be accompanied by the Donald M. Kerr Curator of Natural History, Louise Shirley, and Curator of Western History, Dr. Laura Ferguson. The hammer price, after heated back-and-forth bidding, was a whopping ten thousand dollars. The winning bidder was ready with her name for the hawk: Desert Dusty.

The second Museum-related auction item elicited





During a break in the bidding, a video was presented that focused on how the Museum can provide the spark to fuel kids' curiosity and desire to learn. The video touched on two programs fairly new to the Museum: Little Wonders and Museum and Me.

After the video, an exhilarating round of pledging took place, then guests moved inside for dessert. The buffet tables were piled with chocolate-covered strawberries and various other sweets. The tule-covered summer lodge provided an interesting backdrop for the band, Redwood Sun, which was set up in the Hall of Plateau Indians. Several couples enjoyed the opportunity to show off their western swing dance skills.

The winners of the silent auction retrieved their items at a table in the Chiles Gallery. Museum staff members worked hard during dinner and the live auction to get the many items from

the silent auction organized, bagged, and ready for pick-up. Staff and volunteers remained at the table in the entry area to assist guests with final check out needs.

Thanks to the hard work of staff and volunteers, this event was a huge success. By donating to the Museum at this event, visitors helped make many programs and future exhibits possible. The Museum is also grateful to the many sponsors of this event for their role in putting together such a memorable experience for our guests.

Photos by Heather Duchow, Siobhan Sullivan, & John Williams

## Kudos Korner

by Siobhan Sullivan

**Frank Graham** was thanked for his two years of service as the VAC Chair and an additional two years as Vice-Chair. Staff and volunteers put in many hours of work on the *Rendezvous* event. Thanks to all of them for making it a wonderful event. Kudos to all of you!



Photo by Abbott Schindler



## Mustang Awareness Day

by Heather Duchow, Newsletter Writer



On the hot afternoon of Saturday, August 13, I was happy to play the role of “model target audience member” for Mustang Awareness Day at the 1904 Miller Ranch. My main qualification for this position was my skepticism about mustang adoption. I blame my skepticism on a camping trip my husband and I took when we were twenty-something graduate students on the east coast. We visited Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland. We were attracted partly by the thought of unrolling our sleeping bags on soft sand and partly by the novelty of the feral horses that roam the island. We imagined watching horses play in the ocean surf. I didn’t have any notion that the horses would be docile, but I wasn’t worried because I figured they would keep their distance from people. Unfortunately, some distinctly memorable signs posted around the island quickly altered the atmosphere of our trip. The signs warned visitors that wild ponies kick and bite. A drawing of a deranged-looking pony in mid-attack accompanied the text. Largely because of those signs (still seared into both our memories—I confirmed this with my husband), the night we spent camping on the soft sand was not as relaxing as it should have been. Our concern increased and any semblance of enjoying the night in the tent evaporated when the wild ponies tramped through the campground right next to our campsite. My mental image of wild horses took a lasting hit because of the attack ponies depicted on the signs at Assateague Island. I imagined that mustangs must be particularly difficult to domesticate. At Mustang Awareness Day, I learned that I was mistaken.

Charlie and Sadie, along with their humans, were in the fenced area behind the barn, waiting to show me that horses born in the wild can make wonderful domestic horses. One of the first things I noticed about the horses was the white marking on their necks. It looked like some sort of ancient runes or alien symbols. This freeze mark is applied to all horses gathered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and it uses the Alpha Angle System for encoding letters and numbers to represent the identification number given to a horse when it is captured. It is applied using a metal brand cooled by liquid nitrogen. The freezing kills the pigment cells in hair follicles, and the hair in the brand area grows back white. It is much easier on the horses and more visible than hot-iron branding. The “R over ©” on the horses’ hindquarters was much less mysterious than the coded freeze mark. Both horses belong to Rob and Marietta Robey, and the Robeys love horses. They are involved with several horse-centered organizations in Central Oregon, have volunteered with the BLM for many years, and have had mustangs since 1993. August 13 was the third time the Robeys brought Sadie to the Museum for Mustang Awareness Day. Marietta said that Sadie is a 16-year-old mare that was captured as a 2-year-old. She gives riding lessons, helps to gentle other wild horses, and participates in cowboy dressage with Marietta. Rob said that Charlie is an 11-year-old male that was also captured as a 2-year-old. Charlie teaches horseback riding like Sadie, but Charlie is also a backcountry horse. He accompanies Rob on hunting trips. On this day, he was saddled with a sawbuck pack saddle and some fancy pannier-style saddlebags. Both of these formerly wild horses are gentle and sweet domestic horses.





Why does the BLM offer wild horses for adoption? Why don't they just leave all the wild horses to run free? The BLM in Oregon is responsible for managing the horses in several Herd Management Areas (HMAs) in a way that sustains both healthy rangeland and healthy horses. When there aren't enough resources to support the wild horses in a particular HMA (for example when there isn't enough water or grass), the BLM gathers horses and transfers them to the wild horse corral facility in Burns, OR. The horses are fed and watered in this facility. Because the number of horses in the HMAs has increased significantly above what the range can sustain, many horses end up in the Burns corrals. These horses won't ever be re-introduced to the range, so the BLM offers them for adoption.

Krissy Matterson, a Wild Horse and Burro Assistant with the BLM, was available to answer questions about the Wild Horse and Burro program. She had information about the program, Junior Explorer Activity Books, and free posters, pencils, and bracelets. Kate Beardsley and Tammy Pahl were also there with information about Mustangs to the Rescue. Their organization rescues all breeds, but about half of their rescues are mustangs.

When Matterson wasn't busy behind her table of educational items, she spoke to the Robeys about Sadie and Charlie's coat colors. Sadie, who is sorrel, has a very common coat color. Charlie's dapple gray coat is fairly unusual. According to Matterson, unusual coat color can contribute to improved chances of adoption for wild horses. Matterson mentioned that the adoption rate for BLM wild horses is on the rise. She said this is due partly to the improving economy and partly to new programs to make wild horse adoption more accessible to more people. The Trainer Incentive Program (TIP) through the Mustang Heritage Foundation serves as a connection between BLM horses and adopters. Trainers receive payment for gentling the horses prior to adoption, and adopters get horses that can be lead with a halter, are trained to load into a trailer, and can lift their feet for the farrier to trim their hooves. Horses that have already learned to do these things are more attractive to some adopters and are certainly a far cry from the attack ponies on the signs at Assateague Island.



A change in perspective with regard to mustangs is part of the motivation behind the many events the HDM has partnered with the BLM to present over the last decade. By providing Museum visitors with the opportunity to meet some very sweet "gentled" mustangs and their humans, the Museum hopes to provide insight into the kind of resources and management required to maintain healthy herds of wild horses on BLM rangeland and to convey the merits of formerly wild horses as domesticated stock.



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Don't miss the next Mustang Awareness Day on Saturday, September 17.

For more information about the BLM Wild Horses and Burro program, please visit <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns/wildhorse/>

# Dee Wright Observatory

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



Looking like some medieval castle about to be attacked by dragons, the [Dee Wright Observatory](#) is located near the top of McKenzie Pass at an elevation of 5,187 feet. No, there is not a telescope set up here for star viewing, but you can see several Cascade Mountain peaks nearby standing tall amidst 65-square miles of black lava rock.

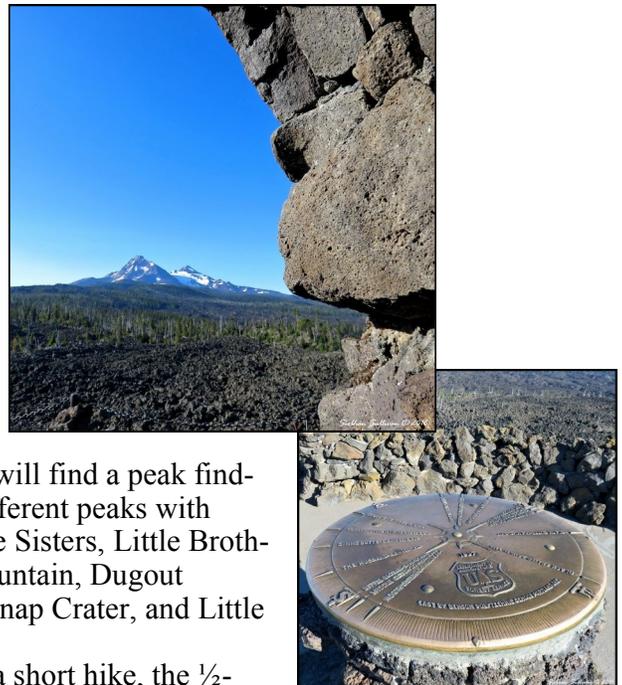
The lava is from relatively recent flows from Yapoah, Little Belknap, and Belknap Craters. One of the types of lava you will see here is called *Block* or *A A* lava.

Though there is little rainfall in this area, there can be up to 20 feet of snow. The melting snow travels through cracks in the lava to underground reservoirs that feed the McKenzie and Metolius Rivers.

The McKenzie Pass Highway (Highway 242) follows parts of the McKenzie Salt Springs and Deschutes Wagon Road that was built in the period of 1866-1872. It was used to move cattle east of the mountains to parts of Oregon and Idaho. The wagon road was established as a toll road in 1872. It's hard to imagine how travelers made it over the rough lava rocks at the pass and many had to abandon their wagons.

The Dee Wright Observatory building was completed in 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. This and other projects in the area, such as the Santiam Ski Lodge, employed many people in a time of economic hardship. Dee Wright supervised the crew but passed away a year before the observatory was completed. This site was named in honor of his 24 years of service with the U. S. Forest Service as an officer, guide, and packer.

There are large and small openings in the observatory building that have labels indicating which mountains you are viewing. If you follow the staircase up to the top of the building, you will find a peak finder. Arrows pointing in various directions show the distance to different peaks with their respective elevations. You can see many peaks including the Sisters, Little Brother, Mount Jefferson, Mount Washington, Black Butte, Cache Mountain, Dugout Butte, Condon Butte, Scott Mountain, South Belknap Cone, Belknap Crater, and Little Belknap.



If you want to take a short hike, the ½-mile long [Lava River Recreation Trail](#) is right next to the observatory. This accessible trail has informational panels that will teach you more about the site.

We drove the entire 82-mile loop of the [McKenzie Pass-Santiam Pass Scenic Byway](#). We started at Sisters and drove west along the winding byway. The two-lane road is only open seasonally. If you go early in the day, you can avoid the traffic – motor vehicles and bicycles. Note that vehicles over 35 feet long are not allowed on this narrow, curvy road.

It's an interesting drive because you pass through several types of habitat. East of the loop you will see drier sagebrush steppe habitats. As you travel around the loop, you will go through Ponderosa pine forests and subalpine forests. On the west side of the loop, you'll travel through mixed conifer forest areas with high rainfall. Keep your eye out for interesting wildlife that live in the different habitats along the

Photos by Siobhan Sullivan

route.

McKenzie Pass closes in November and does not open again until July due to snow. Be sure to take in the sights there while you still can!

## *Raptors of the Desert Sky* Ends Soon So See it While You Still Can!



Photos by Abbott Schindler & John Williams

Don't forget to attend the  
**Volunteer Recognition Event on**  
**September 12, 2016**  
**5:30—7:30 pm**  
A catered dinner will be served  
RSVP [here](#)

### **High Desert Voices**

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# HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

BEND, OREGON

*High Desert  
Museum, Inc.*  
59800 S. Highway 97  
Bend, OR 97702

2016



2016

**Kitchen Patrol:** Admissions/Greeters & Silver Sage Store Teams

September	October - Save the Date! continued
3 <b>International Vulture Awareness Day.</b> 11:00 am - 3:30 pm.	8 <b>Teacher Training:</b> <i>Water Quality Science Workshop for 5th - 8th Grade Educators.</i> 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Free. Participating teachers receive a \$50 stipend plus materials. Register at <a href="http://bit.ly/SlygQ">http://bit.ly/SlygQ</a> .
3 <b>Thorn Hollow String Band.</b> 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.	10 <b>Conversation Project:</b> <i>This Place.</i> 6:00 pm. Free. No-host bar. RSVP.
10 <b>Weekend Workshop:</b> <i>Fire in our Forests.</i> 10:00 - 11:30 am. Paired pricing for one adult and one child; Members \$10, Non-members \$15. Each additional \$5. Registration and pre-payment required.	11 <b>Off-site Event:</b> <i>Natural History Pub: Wolves in Oregon..</i> McMenamins. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Program starts at 7:00 pm. RSVP.
11 <b>Exhibit closes:</b> <i>Art of the West.</i>	12 <b>Senior Day.</b> Free admission for everyone 65 and older.
12 <b>Volunteer Recognition.</b> 5:30 - 7:30 pm.	13 <b>Lecture:</b> <i>Rethinking our Relationship with Fire.</i> 5:45 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. No-host bar. RSVP.
13 <b>Off-site Event:</b> <i>Natural History Pub: Monitoring the Pacific Northwest's American Pika Populations.</i> McMenamins. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Program starts at 7:00 pm. RSVP.	13-14 <b>Teacher Training:</b> <i>Into the Field: Exploring Environmental Issues through Inquiry.</i> 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Free. Registration required.
15 <b>Lecture:</b> <i>Learning to Live with Fire.</i> 6:00 pm. No-host bar. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.	17-19 <b>Writing Workshop:</b> <i>Writing Wild Horses.</i> Oct. 17: 2:00 - 4:00 pm; Oct. 18: 10:00 am - 4:30 pm; Oct. 19: 1:00 - 4:30 pm. \$220. Registration and pre-payment required.
17 <b>Mustang Awareness Day at the 1904 Miller Ranch.</b> 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.	19 <b>Lecture:</b> <i>Seeking Solutions Part I: Mustang Population Management.</i> 6:00 pm. No-host bar. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.
21 <b>Lecture:</b> <i>Mustang Herds and the Environment.</i> 6:00 pm. No-host bar. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.	20 <b>Lecture:</b> <i>Smokeyjumper Stories.</i> 6:00 pm. No-host bar. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.
22 <b>Teachers' Night Out.</b> 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Doors open at 4:30 pm with special programming. Free to public, private, and homeschool educators and administrators. RSVP.	21 <b>Lecture:</b> <i>Buzzsaw Sharks with artist Ray Troll.</i> 6:00 pm. No-host bar. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.
23 <b>Exclusive Members' Exhibit Opening:</b> <i>The Buzzsaw Sharks of Long Ago.</i> 6:30 - 8:00 pm. No-host bar. Members free, Member guests \$5. RSVP.	22 <b>Exhibit opens:</b> <i>Ansel Adams: Masterworks.</i>
24 <b>Exhibit opens:</b> <i>The Buzzsaw Sharks of Long Ago.</i>	22 <b>Curator Conversation:</b> <i>Conversation and Book Signing with Ray Troll.</i> 10:00 - 11:15 am. Free.
24 <b>Off-site Event:</b> <i>Discover Nature Festival.</i> 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Free. Riverbend Park, 799 SW Columbia St., Bend.	22 <b>Drawing Workshop:</b> <i>Drawing with Ray Troll.</i> 12:30 - 2:30 pm. Members \$12, Non-members \$15. Registration and pre-payment required.
27 <b>Off-site Event:</b> <i>Wild Horses on America's Public Lands: Home on the Range or Not?</i> 12:00 - 1:00 pm. The Museum at Warm Springs, 2189 Hwy 26, Warm Springs. Free with Museum admission. Bring brown bag lunch.	22 <b>Lecture:</b> <i>Crusin' the Fossil Freeway with Ray Troll.</i> 3:00 - 4:00 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.
27 <b>Lecture:</b> <i>Wild Horses on America's Public Lands: Home on the Range or Not?</i> 6:00 pm. No-host bar. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.	25 <b>Lecture:</b> <i>Photographing Natural Landscapes of Western North America.</i> 6:00 pm. No-host bar. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.
<b>October - Save the Date!</b>	26 <b>Lecture:</b> <i>Seeking Solutions Part II: Mustang Adoptions.</i> 6:00 pm. No-host bar. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.
1 <b>Exhibit opens:</b> <i>From the Vault: Pat Courtney Gold Baskets.</i>	28 <b>Off-site Event:</b> <i>A Day in the Life of a Smokeyjumper.</i> 9:00 - 11:45 am. Paired pricing for one adult and one child; Members \$10, Non-members \$15. Each additional \$5. Registration and pre-payment required.
1 <b>Off-site Event:</b> <i>Raptor Watch Field Trip.</i> 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Members \$10, Non-members \$20. Registration and pre-payment required.	29 <b>Tales of Hallow's Eve.</b> 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Members \$3, Non-members \$7. RSVP.
1 <b>Thorn Hollow String Band.</b> 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.	
2 <b>Exhibit closes:</b> <i>Art for a Nation: Inspiration from the Great Depression.</i>	
<b>To RSVP:</b> <a href="http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp">www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp</a> or 541-382-4754	
<b>To pre-register:</b> <a href="http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/program">www.highdesertmuseum.org/program</a>	