

# ***HIGH DESERT VOICES***

**April 2015**

*News and Information published by and for Volunteers*

## **Meet the Mammal Team – Area Overview**

*by Carmen West, Mammal Team Volunteer*

On any given Wednesday, visitors interested in listening to the porcupine, wild cat, and otter talks are treated to lively and informative 10 to 20 minute presentations on those mammals by the leader of the Mammal Team, Cynde Magidson. Cynde, like the other Mammal Team members Carmen West, Susie Linford, Ray Taylor, Don Arkell, Alexa Dellinger, and Shannon Pozovich, is delighted to share information and fun facts about those animals with the intent of helping the visitors gain a better understanding of them and their place in our high desert ecosystem.



A typical talk includes information on the animals' range, life span, food habits, defense systems, predators, ecosystem role, and conservation status. Items of interest such as the best places to encounter or to see the animal locally, how the animal they are looking at came to be at the museum, or where it came from and what we feed it, are always visitor favorites.

During peak visitor season there may be over 100 visitors at a given talk; while during the winter time, there may be less than 10. So, sometimes we need to set up and wear a microphone, other times not. And, because the audiences range in age from toddlers to senior citizens, and from having no knowledge about the animal to experts on the subject, it is always a challenge to adapt the talks to the particular audience makeup. That's one of the things which keep the interpretive talks fun and challenging for the mammal team.

Another is having new mammals arrive. Learning about them and gaining the confidence to interpret them gives us an opportunity to hone our skills, do some research, and expand our knowledge, as well as inspire our visitors to be good stewards of those high desert animals and the environment they live in.



Currently we have two river otters, three porcupines, a bobcat, and a raccoon on exhibit. The raccoon is a very recent arrival and we are not yet giving talks on it; but the other animals have daily presentations scheduled.

Behind the scenes, the wildlife staff is caring for and working with other mammals, namely the skunk and two badgers, to get them ready for inclusion in the summer Desert Dwellers program.

As mammal interpreters we do not actually 'handle' the animals. We do, however, get to offer them food items as a reward for moving around and exhibiting some of their natural behaviors, which we can point out and the visitors can observe. Having the porcupine climb up the 'tree' for his sweet potato chunk and having the otters swim for their fish snacks are two examples.



## Mammal Team—continued

Visitors often remember particular animals and ask about them when they come on a return visit. That has particularly been the case with our otters. The first two in the exhibit, Bert and Ernie, were there from 1983 through the early 2000's and had quite a following! Children even learned to tell them apart. After Bert died of old age, we acquired a female named Mokie. She preferred one of the back dens and often stayed there throughout our talks. Not having an otter visible made our presentations a bit more challenging to



say the least! After Ernie passed away, Thomas, who was 'the face of the High Desert Museum' for years, arrived on the scene. He was a 'real ham' and loved the audience; and we loved him for always being out of his den interacting with the visitors. He helped to keep Mokie young and active until she was 18. It was a sad day when he died. But, we are thrilled to have our current four- and two-year old otters, who are very active and

entertaining.

Our team works most closely with Wildlife staff members Jon Brower, who is in charge of the exhibit animals, as well as Nickie Broesel and Jon Nelson. They provide invaluable support, information, training, artifacts, props, and data for us and always make us feel like we are valuable wildlife team members.



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If the above sounds interesting to you, the Mammal Team is currently looking for one or two more members to give talks when someone is on vacation, ill, or has other commitments. Just contact Cynde Magidson, our team leader, at [cynde.magidson@gmail.com](mailto:cynde.magidson@gmail.com) and she will get you started.



Photos by Lee Schaefer, Siobhan Sullivan, and file

## High Desert Museum Area Updates from February & March 2015

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

**By Hand Through Memory** – This area has one new volunteer. Sigrid von Hurst reiterated that she would like to give potential volunteers a personal introduction to the area. There are many interesting things to know about the area that could be passed on best through an in-person visit.

**Naturalists** – With the addition of one new volunteer, this area almost has a "complete" team. They would like to have at least one more volunteer.

**Collections** – Cleaning of Spirit of the West went well thanks to the help of many volunteers and staff. Frank Graham suggested that people volunteer to help with future cleanings because you will learn all kinds of interesting things from items in the Museum's collections.

**Silver Sage Trading Center** – A new section has been set up in the store that contains items related to gardening. Gardening related items include seeds, books, and artwork. The store also has cute bug-shaped containers that contain seeds. Bath balms created by staff member Amanda Berry are available. Small notepads with a wildlife photo on the cover are popular. Stationery with photos of the new raccoon by Lee Schaefer are for sale. Delicate jewelry created by Bend artist Jen Newton was recently added to the store. There are also several new books for very young readers.

**Admissions/Greeters** – Admissions hopes to have the new ticketing system online by Memorial Day. There will be trainings on how to use this more efficient system soon.

## Introducing Shannon Campbell, Volunteer Coordinator and Human Resources Manager

by Lynne Schaefer, Newsletter Writer



Shannon O’Gorman spent the first five years of her life in her birth city of Chicago, Illinois, before moving with her parents to California where her father worked in high tech in the Silicon Valley. The family grew with the addition of two brothers and a sister. Shannon looked forward to her Halloween-themed birthday parties every October 30. An active dancer, she became a member of the Saratoga High School dance team that performed at halftime football games and traveled to competitions throughout California and to Hawaii. The team won the 1986-1987 California state championship.

Shannon earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology at UC Santa Barbara and a master’s degree in education at San Jose State before serving 20 years as an educator in the city of Campbell, seven as a middle school teacher, five in new teacher support and professional development, and eight years as district administrator. As district administrator or extensions coordinator, she managed after school/summer programs and sports/arts. “My passion was out-of-school time, which is well aligned with the mission and programs at the Museum,” Shannon said. “It was also my first time working with the volunteers who taught and coached the youngsters. We were able to support students’ learning but focus on enrichment,

relationships, and opportunities youngsters don’t receive in the classroom.”

Mutual teaching friends arranged a blind date for her to meet another teacher, Doug Campbell. They took their collective three Labrador retrievers on a hike and married in 2000. Searching for a different lifestyle in which to rear a family, they visited Bend in 2008 after a friend recommended finding her dream spot in central Oregon.

“We loved it right away,” Shannon said. “It took several years to get the courage to move and for Doug to obtain his Oregon teaching license and get a job in the school district here.”

The Campbell clan moved from Campbell to Bend in 2012 where Doug teaches third grade at Miller Elementary. “Our three sons, Noah, 13, Carter, 11, and Sawyer, 9, attended the same school in Campbell where he taught; now only the youngest attends Miller,” Shannon said.


The family is active snowboarding, skiing, and skate skiing—“a tough workout” Shannon adds. “I entered and completed my first marathon last October in Portland,” she said, “and during the final hour, I vowed never to do it again. After recovering though, I now look forward to my next marathon.”

Doug and Shannon sometimes must spread themselves thin to attend their sons’ Little League, football and basketball games, and track events.

Whenever Shannon walks her chocolate Labrador retriever, Zoey, the dog attracts attention. Zoey was born with a defective underbite that makes for a strange-looking mouth yet Zoey doesn’t know she is different.

The Campbells visited the Museum every summer between their first visit to Bend and their move here three years ago. During their 2007 visit, an owl perched outside Sawyer’s bedroom window. He became interested in birds and wildlife so for his eighth birthday present, Doug and Shannon adopted the Museum owl, Luna, for him. He was thrilled with the behind-the-scenes hour tour and looks forward to attending Museum summer camp.

Shannon’s four-day work week is divided between human resources “to develop relationships and support”, and volunteer coordinator “to exchange ideas and practices with other local volunteer agencies” (including the Humane Society and Parks and Recreation). Shannon looks to honor volunteers in different ways. She said, “You can’t find paid people who are as passionate as HDM volunteers.”



## Volunteer Appreciation BBQ

<<<<< April 20, 2015 >>>>>

4:30—6:30 pm



## Introducing Patrick Johnson, Facilities Manager

by Dave Gilbert, Newsletter Writer



When Patrick Johnson was given the job of managing the complex and varied facilities at the High Desert Museum, he tried to “come in here softly,” and learn from the people around him.

“Many of them have a decade or two of experience here at the museum,” he says, “so I have a lot to learn from them. I don’t like the ‘B’ word.” “Boss” is the word he does not care for.

“We all have a job to do here, and everyone’s job is important,” he says. “The team takes that seriously.”

Since he started in late February, he says, his co-workers have earned his respect. He does, however, say he was “a bit overwhelmed the first couple of days.”

The walk to his office is interrupted by three contract tree fallers who need to know which trees to remove for a new Birds of Prey flight path. When he reaches his office, he needs to line up a museum employee to use equipment to move the logs. He’s feeling his way, settling in.

He looks comfortable behind his office desk. His mouth hints at a smile. He speaks softly and easily holds eye contact through small lenses in wire-frame glasses. He’s a compact man, and his dress and stubble of beard suggest both a lack of formality and confidence.

Patrick spent the first two decades of life in the upper Midwest, moving between Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Part of his time was spent in Door County, Wisconsin, a picturesque peninsula that juts into Lake Michigan, where his maternal grandmother lived. The other part was lived in Anoka, Minnesota, and later in his father’s hometown in Pine City.

Patrick has one sibling, a brother, a “really nice guy” who, he says, “was different in many ways.” He smiles at unspoken memories and sums it up: “I was the oldest, so I typically followed the rules,” his brother, not so much. Despite their differences, Patrick says, his brother “turned out to be an amazing person.”

Growing up, Patrick remembers always working. “At 13, I was a newspaper delivery boy, at 15, I was a dishwasher, at 16, I was a busboy, at 17, I was a cook....”

At 20, Patrick began college at University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menomonie, the same place his parents had met and married, and where he and his brother were born. He lived on a farm belonging to his aunt and uncle, working with livestock, haying, and doing the whole spectrum of farm chores. His uncle, Helmuth, whom everyone called Pookie, became a guiding force in his life.

Patrick and his friend Lane decided to give bull riding a try, and they took up what Patrick calls the “rodeo-bulls and Jack Daniels” way of life. It was a life cut short.

“One of my buddies was trampled,” Patrick says. “He died right in front of me.” So at 23, it was reassessment time. “I saw my future with a wife and children.”

So the next day, he went back to school. He decided he wanted to be a chiropractor and transferred to the University of Minnesota for the prerequisites.

He met a woman whose “real name” is Li Andra Post, but goes by Andi. “When I first saw her I heard a voice in my head introducing her to me as ‘your wife.’”

That didn’t happen right away. In 1996 he and Andi moved to Davenport, Iowa, to attend Palmer College of Chiropractic where their relationship grew as they attended school together.

In their first four years there, they bought an apartment building, got engaged and married, and left the chiropractic program.

In 2000, Patrick began working at the corporate office of a construction company and, three years later, Andi gave birth to their first of two children, Maya. “I liked that name,” Patrick says, “because it was a soft name, like a sigh.”

“Having a daughter motivated me to take the last class needed for my Bachelor of Science degree,” Patrick says. His work and ownership of an apartment house sparked an interest in business, and a new goal was born: earning a Master’s degree in Business Administration. He returned to school, and on weekends he and Andi completed construction of a loft-style penthouse on the upper floors of their apartment building.

Andi’s hometown is Prineville, and the couple wanted to get out of Iowa. They cast their eyes westward.

In 2006, Patrick got a job helping build the Silver Mountain Resort in Idaho’s panhandle. The place had 278 condos, a restaurant, and Idaho’s largest indoor waterpark. Andi gave birth to their second child, Björn. But the economy was slumping, construction stalled, people were laid off. Patrick became the facilities manager at Silver Mountain until he, too, was laid off.

Two days before Christmas in 2011, Patrick and Andi found a “fresh start” in Redmond. With his experience in business and in resort management, Patrick found work as a “facilities person” at SHARC in Sunriver. After a year

**Patrick Johnson**—continued

and a half, he became the aquatic center manager.

But Patrick’s dream of an MBA and Andi’s desire to become a massage therapist persisted. They decided to “go for it,” Patrick says.

“It was a rough couple of years,” he says, but he completed his coursework through Concordia College’s Bend program last September and received his MBA. Andi completed her training and opened a massage business in Redmond. Both are 44 years old. The family lives in Redmond with two “house rabbits” named Shadow and Cupid. Both kids are home-schooled.

When Patrick’s work in Sunriver became “dispiriting,” he looked toward the High Desert Museum, a place his family had come to love.

“There’s so much here,” he says. “The staff is kind and passionate. It’s an honor to be part of that.”

## Naming Ceremony for the New River Otter

*by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor*



On March 6, 2015, the Museum’s new river otter was officially named “Brook” in a ceremony at the otter enclosure. Naming rights were up for auction at the High Desert Rendezvous event last year. The otter was named for Brooke Bounds, the six-year old great granddaughter of Doris Swayze Bounds, granddaughter of Roger Bounds, and daughter of High Desert Museum trustee Ryan W. Bounds. Brooke is pictured here feeding Brook, the otter.

Photos by Lee Schaefer

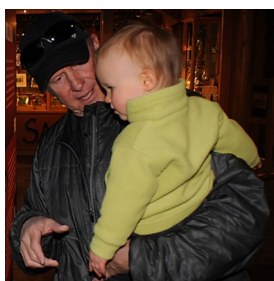
## Kudos Korner

*by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor*

Several staff and volunteers were thanked for their work in February and March. **Frank Graham, Sigrid von Hurst, Jim Langton, and Chris Frey** were all thanked for helping clean the Spirit of the West area. **Tedra Leonard** and **Ann Arbow** also helped out. **Shannon Campbell** contributed by cleaning the windows. Kudos to all of you!



## Family Fun at Spring Break!



Photos by Richard Frederick, Lee Schaefer, & Abbott Schindler

## High Desert Voices

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*The*  
*High Desert*  
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2015



**Kitchen Patrol: Paid Staff**

### April

- 2 **Beer tasting:** *Sessions & Imperials*. 4:30-8:00 pm. Members \$3; Non-members \$5. Beer tasting package \$10 for glass & five tastings. Additional tastings \$1 each. RSVP.
- 4 **Exhibit Opening:** *Growing Up Western*.
- 4 **Thornhollow String Band**. 11:00 am-3:00 pm.
- 9 **Museum & Me**. 4:00-7:00 pm. Free. RSVP.
- 11 **Off-Site Field Trip:** *Sage Grouse Lek Tour*. 5:30-9:00 am. Sorry FULL.
- 11 **Weekend Workshop:** *Playful Pastimes*. 10:30 am-12:00 pm. Members \$10; Non-members \$15. Each additional \$5. Registration and pre-pay required.
- 14 **Natural History Pub:** *The Magma Chamber Below Newberry Caldera*. 7:00 pm. (Doors open at 5:30 pm). McMenamins. RSVP.
- 18 **Off-Site Field Trip:** *Waterfowl of Central Oregon*. 8:00 am-12:00 pm. Members \$10; Non-members \$20. Registration and pre-pay required.
- 20 **Volunteer Appreciation BBQ**. 4:30-6:30 pm.
- 21 **High Desert Museum Bookclub**. Discussion of *Fools Crow* written by James Welch. 6:00-7:00 pm. Free. Downtown Bend Library. RSVP.
- 21 **VAC meeting**. 2:00-4:00 pm.
- 22 **Lunch & Lecture:** *Tracking Biodiversity in the High Desert*. 12:00-1:30 pm. Free.
- 22 **Teacher Training:** *Incorporating Technology into Your Classroom with Vernier Probes*. 4:30 - 6:30 pm. Free. RSVP.
- 23 **History Lecture:** *Shifting Gender Roles on the Oregon Frontier*. 6:00 pm. Members \$3; Non-members \$5. No-host bar. RSVP.
- 25 **Ranch & Brewery Tour**. 9:00 am-3:00 pm. \$35. Sorry FULL.  
**To RSVP:** <http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp>  
**To pre-register:** [www.highdesertmuseum.org/program](http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/program)

### May— Save the Date!

- 1 **Summer Hours Begin:** 9:00 am-5:00 pm.
- 2 **Weekend Workshop:** *Gardening 101*. 10:30 am-12:00 pm. Paired pricing—1 adult & 1 child: Members \$10; Non-members \$15. Each additional \$5. Registration and pre-pay required.
- 2 **Thornhollow String Band**. 11:00 am-3:00 pm.
- 6 **Teacher Training:** *Biomimicry*. 4:30-6:30 pm. RSVP.
- 7 **Beer tasting:** *Sours & Belgians*. 4:30-8:00 pm. Members \$3; Non-members \$5. Beer tasting package \$10 for glass & five tastings. Additional tastings \$1 each. RSVP.
- 9 **Off-Site Field Trip:** *Central Oregon Birds*. 8:00 am-12:00 pm. Members \$10; Non-members \$20. Registration and pre-pay required.
- 9 **Mother's Day Tea**. 12:00-1:30 pm. Paired pricing—1 adult & 1 child: Members \$10; Non-members \$15. Each additional \$5. Registration and pre-pay required.
- 12 **Natural History Pub:** *The Evolution of Central Oregon Wildlife: From Tropics to High Desert*. 7:00 pm. (Doors open at 5:30 pm). McMenamins. RSVP.
- 13 **Senior Day**. Free admission for everyone 65 or older.
- 16 **Off-Site Field Trip:** *High Desert Wildflowers*. 8:00 am-12:00. Sorry FULL.
- 16 **New Teen Volunteer Orientation/Interview Day**. 11:00 am-4:00 pm.
- 19 **High Desert Museum Bookclub**. Discussion of *The Meadow* written by James Galvin. 6:00-7:00 pm. Free. Downtown Bend Library. RSVP.
- 19 **VAC meeting**. 2:00-4:00 pm.
- 21 **History Lecture:** *The Chemawa Indian School: Assimilation to Affirmation 1880's to 2010's*. 6:00 pm. Members \$3; Non-members \$5. No-host bar. RSVP.
- 29 **Open 'til Dark**. 5:00-9:00 pm. Adults \$8; Children or students w/ID \$5; Beer tasting package \$10 for glass & five tastings. Additional tastings \$1 each. RSVP.