

Burro or Donkey?

by Lynne Schaefer, Newsletter Writer



With the addition of two companions for Sage and Izzy the mustangs, a question overheard frequently at the Miller barn and corral is, “What is the difference between a donkey and a burro?”

It all depends on whom you ask.

The dictionary defines a burro as a small donkey used as a pack animal in the southwestern United States and Mexico; a donkey, *Equus asinus*, is an ass; an ass is a long-eared, sure-footed, domesticated mammal related to the horse and used as a beast of burden. “Burro” is Spanish for an ass. “Burro” is also used to describe feral donkeys. That is the answer Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Rob Sharp gave at Mustang Awareness Day last September: “A burro is a wild donkey.”

The first donkeys arrived with the second voyage of Christopher Columbus in 1495, multiplied in Mexico, and crossed the Rio Grande to the United States around 1598. They aided natives at mission settlements to grind flour and gold prospectors as pack animals. Most were then abandoned and established the feral population with mustangs.

A mule is a cross between a male horse (stallion) and a female donkey (jenny), or a male donkey (jackass) and a female horse (mare). Mules cannot reproduce. A mule is larger and stronger than a donkey but more sure-footed than a horse.

Burros come in a variety of colors but The High Desert Museum’s two burros from the BLM display two different variations. The white burro with brown patches is most unusual while the gray burro is the common color associated with donkeys. Donkeys are known for their distinct shoulder stripe. Most domesticated donkeys have a black dorsal stripe. When the shoulder and dorsal stripes combine, it is called a “cross”.

According to Linda Evans, Curator of Living History, the Museum plans to conduct a contest to name the two burros, which will be added with Sage the mustang to the “Adopt An Animal” program to help cover their expenses.

“Last year, Sage learned to respect people and their personal space, have her feet handled, and tie quietly,” Linda said. “She became safer to lead and gained understanding of directional cues. She was introduced to the saddle blanket and the saddle. My hope is that she will become more sensitive to cues and learn to remain calm in unfamiliar settings.”





Photos by Lee Schaefer

The BLM also delivered a year old gelding mustang named Izzy from the Murderer’s Creek herd. “Our plan is to auction him at the end of summer,” Linda said.

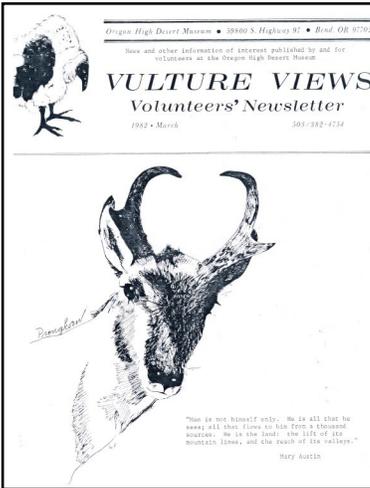
“A recent California visitor learned of the BLM mustang program when she saw the mustangs at the Miller Ranch,” Linda continued. “It sparked her interest and she went to the BLM in Burns and adopted a mare and foal!”

Learn more about the BLM program to place wild burros and mustangs in caring homes at the Museum’s Mustang Awareness Day September 19.

High Desert Voices Newsletter - Area Overview

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

No one knows exactly when the *High Desert Voices* newsletter started but there is a copy that dates back to March of 1982 archived in the Museum lunchroom. The newsletter has changed in several ways over the years. It was called *Vulture Views* until July of 1982. In past years, the cover often had pen-and-ink drawings created by volunteers. The president of the Museum wrote a story in each issue for several years and staff regularly contributed. *High Desert Voices* is by and for Museum volunteers and beginning in 2014, volunteers began writing all of the articles in each issue. The newsletter includes articles on current events and exhibits at the Museum, profiles of staff and volunteers, a calendar of upcoming events, and articles related to Central Oregon that volunteers and staff may find interesting. Updates on the different areas of the Museum and thanks to specific individuals are also included.



The volunteer newsletter team consists of a core group of five people. **Siobhan Sullivan** is currently the team lead, editor, and one of the writers. This is the first newsletter she has worked on. She has experience with scientific, conservation nonprofit, and school district-related writing. **Ralph Berry** is the veteran member of the team and he helps with layout, printing, and writing. His background is in scientific writing from his years of experience as a Professor of Entomology at Oregon State University. **Dave Gilbert** writes profiles of staff and volunteers. He was a reporter for newspapers in Alaska and Colorado. He was the city editor for about 10 years at the Albany Democrat-Herald in Oregon. Alternating with his newspaper jobs, he taught journalism at the University of Wyoming for 10 years and Linfield College in McMinnville for 15 years. **Lynne Schaefer** writes profiles and articles for the newsletter. She has written newspaper columns related to skiing in California, wildlife in Oregon, and articles for regional magazines on travel and gardening. She has written two books: *A Traveler’s Guide to Historic California* and *Christmas Trivia Quiz*. She also wrote the copy for three High Desert Museum DVDs and one Newberry National Monument DVD. **Phil Meurer** is the proofreader for the newsletter. He has a degree in English and wrote a variety of both marketing and training materials throughout his career. The newsletter has included articles by Susie Linford and many other volunteers over the years.

Our space is limited but if you have any ideas for the *High Desert Voices* newsletter or would like to contribute an article, please let us know. You may contact Siobhan Sullivan, team lead, at soybean@aol.com or call her at 541-728-0846. If you have any comments about the newsletter, let her know and she will pass them on to the team. We all work hard on the newsletter and hope you enjoy reading it.



Photo by Lee Schaefer

Introducing John Williams, Photography Team Lead

by Dave Gilbert, Newsletter Writer

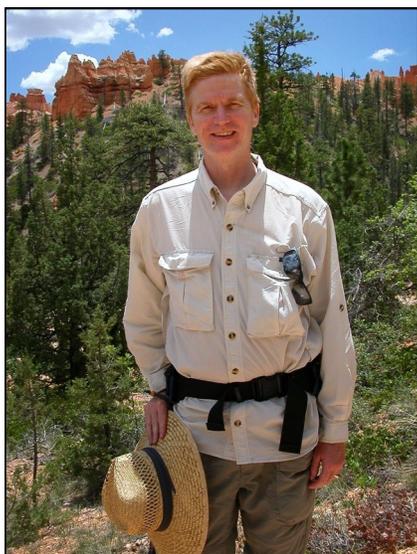


Photo by Mary Williams

One precious reward for John Williams is to photograph what he calls “that sparkling moment” when a visitor to the High Desert Museum experiences inspiration, wonder, or joy. He often finds it in kids and parents learning something together, while having fun. John is the team lead of the Museum’s photographers.

He’s tall and slender, his reddish hair is just beginning to show the frost of age. He gives the impression of quiet self-assurance, yet he seems intense and alert.

John’s journey to the High Desert Museum began a month short of 60 years ago when he was born into a military family at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. His father, a colonel, met his mother, an Army nurse, at a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) unit in Korea. They had three daughters before John was born.

He ticks off the numerous postings typical of a military life: from Texas to Washington, D.C., to Germany, to California, then again to Texas, and back to California. The family was in Germany during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962.

“I think most folks don’t appreciate how close to a nuclear war we were,” John says. “I could see tanks and missiles from our front yard.”

He completed high school in Marin County, California, and went off to college at the University of California-Berkeley. It was a crazy time in that city. “Students were jumping out of windows if they failed a test,” he says. “It was nuts.”

He went to Sonoma State for a time, then transferred to Humboldt State in Arcata, and liked it. “It fit me best,” he says.

John studied natural resources sciences and ended up with two master’s degrees.

One of his projects was to study alternative methods of waste-water treatment. In his late 20’s, Lockheed hired him to study acid rain, traveling up and down the East Coast and “flying in to remote lakes,” to do his research. He helped establish a correlation between power plant emissions and acid rain.

John notes a pattern in his life: “I do something until I’m pretty good at it, then go on.” So after the “Big Project” on acid rain, he turned to Aikido.

Aikido combines martial arts, philosophy, and spiritualism for defense without seriously injuring the opponent. As John explains it, “you use an opponent’s movements to help him go where he wants to go.”

One of his opponents was a woman named Mary, who was studying Taekwondo. “The first night, she kicked me in the head, and I said, ‘I’m gonna marry that woman.’”

He did. They each earned black belts in their respective art.

In the late 1980’s, John was in Seattle teaching science to “bright kids” before moving back into environmental work for Washington State. His job was to discover the sources of contamination and enforce the rule that required the responsible party to clean-up the site.

“It was interesting,” he says, “a good mix of detective work and science.”

He moved to Olympia to work in the enforcement office of the state Department of Ecology, but found that job “more lawyer than scientific stuff.”

So he changed direction and went into IT work, using those skills working with the Spill Response program developing plans to handle larger oil spills. Part of that work involved digital photography.

His next change was to identify toxic substances in children’s products and write rules to enforce their removal. The hope was that the public would then pressure them to stop using the chemicals. He expressed surprise at how long he stayed with the state, but, he says, he found his co-workers motivated and the work interesting.

Three years ago John retired and moved to Central Oregon. It wasn’t a new place to him. He and Mary had bought a home in Sunriver 25 years ago and spent much time “playing down here.”

They sold that house, but built another, also in Sunriver.

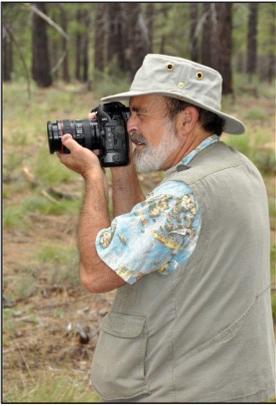
They “play a lot,” John says. He and Mary like nordic skiing, snowshoeing, biking, hiking, bird watching... “If it’s outdoors, I like doing it.”

He visited the High Desert Museum a few times, and “liked what they do.” In 2013, he volunteered to do photography for the Museum.

He especially likes action shots, he says, capturing the “intensity and focus of people in the zone.” There, he

Photography – Area Overview

by John Williams, Photography Team Lead



File photo

The photo team provides a wide variety of photographic services. We document exhibits, shoot candid shots of the visitors, capture actions shots of wildlife, provide 'portraits', produce artifact documentation, and supply specific images to assist with getting grants. Images have been used for several different types of public awareness campaigns including magazines, billboards, newsletters, and newspapers.

Being on the photo team is one of the best volunteer positions at the High Desert Museum for the following reasons:

- 1) You get to help out with a wide variety of events.
- 2) The hours are flexible.
- 3) It's fun - you get to see people at their best and capture the moment.
- 4) Your photography improves.

There are five photographers on the team. Each of them provided the following information about themselves.

Richard Frederick photographs events, animals, and artifacts at the Museum. He especially enjoys photographing young children in the programs presented by the Museum. He says, "The Museum makes wondrous gifts to the people of Oregon and to visitors who come to the Museum from elsewhere. The photographic effort that I voluntarily provide to the Museum is a small measure of giving back. I feel gratified if my small contribution helps the Museum to continue its outstanding work."

R. Todd Cary's main interest is in images of people, especially children, which are used in promoting the Museum. His interest in photography began in college when he was a darkroom assistant for the Stanford Daily. He was given about 30 minutes of instruction on how to develop and print film, a 4 x 5 Speed Graphic camera, film, and flashbulbs and then was told he would have to figure out the rest on his own. After graduating from dental school, he went on to take photographs for a private high school, the Santa Rosa Symphony, the New York Times Weekly, the Argus Courier, and the Greater Bend Rotary Club. He assisted Ned and Jody Martin with their books on American Indian bridles and the bits and spurs of the American cowboys (www.hawkhillpress.com). He was introduced to the HDM while photographing a bridle that had belonged to Chief Joseph. That photo is now in one of their books. He said, "So when my wife, Corol Ann, and I came here, I asked if I could be of assistance to the Museum."

Lee Schaefer joined the photography team in 2006 to help promote the Museum through the use of video, which was not being utilized at that time. He prefers to shoot video or stills, focusing on action and wildlife. Lee made a documentary of the spotted owls and their offspring, which sold well in the gift shop. His DVDs of the Spirit of the West, Nature Walk tours, and the Lazinka sawmill, meant as instructional guides for new volunteers, also sold in the gift shop. He taped the *Art Through Ancestry* exhibit and worked with Native American, Vivian Adams, the original curator of By Hand Through Memory (BHTM). He worked off site to tape several Native Americans including Lillian Pitt, Pat Courtney Gold, and Rick Bartow in each of their respective studios on that detailed video tour. He made an instructional video of spring cleaning BHTM that is used to recruit volunteers. He has also been involved in taping the *Sin in the Sagebrush* exhibit, *Frontier Firearms*, *Butterflies & Hummingbirds*, *Leapers & Creepers*, *Plateau Indian Bags*, and *From Head to Toe*, and workers remodeling the E.L. Wiegand Pavilion, short clips of otters at play, training of mustangs, and how to fire the flintlock musket.

Abbott Schindler joined the photo team in 2008—the Photo Team Leader at the time noticed him and his camera when he was watching an otter talk and said, "Wow! That's the biggest camera I've ever seen; you need to be on the Photo Team." At the Museum, he documents the exhibits and does general shooting, as well as concentrating on special animal exhibits. His favorite subjects are birds, wildlife, and general nature subjects. He also loves pre-WWII classic cars, planes, and trains (or what he refers to as "guy stuff"). In addition to volunteering at Museum, he teaches photography classes and workshops at Central Oregon Community College (COCC) and at the Cascade Center of Photography. He also teaches Macintosh classes at COCC. Just to make sure he doesn't get bored, he leads some of his own workshops and has a small Macintosh and photography consulting business.

John Williams has been enjoying the HDM for over 20 years and, once he retired, he decided to volunteer. He said, "The photo team appealed to me as it allows the volunteer to help out in a wide variety of situations." Unlike the others on the team, he has a pretty limited photography background - indeed, he never even took pictures before digital cameras became available. "While most of my 'photo time' had been taking shots of wildlife or athletic events, my time at the Museum has helped me realize I enjoy taking candid shots of people. I currently act as the photo team lead, so if you are interested or have questions just let me know."

If you would like to find out more, or already know you would like to join, please contact John Williams - jowi461@gmail.com.

Fun at the Picnic in the Past



Photos by John Williams

August 2015

High Desert Voices

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Printing: Ralph Berry & Siobhan Sullivan

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

2015



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Kitchen patrol: Wildlife Programs & High Desert Ranger Station

August

- 1-31 **Raptors of the Desert Sky.** 12:30 - 1:00 pm. Members \$2; Non-members \$3, plus admission. Kids 4 and under, free.
- 1 **Thorn Hollow String Band.** 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.
- 6 **Teacher Training: *Into the Field.*** 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. \$10. Registration and pre-payment required. [www. highdesertmuseum.org/teacher-workshop](http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/teacher-workshop) .
- 8-9 **Frontier Township Days.** 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Free.
- 8-9 **Mining Days.** Saturday 9:00 am—5:00 pm.; Sunday 9:00 am—3:00 pm. Museum admission plus \$2.00 per miner.
- 11 **Teacher Training: *Into the Field.*** 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. \$10. Registration and pre-payment required. [www. highdesertmuseum.org/teacher-workshop](http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/teacher-workshop) .
- 13 **Evening Lecture: *Cougar Behavior on the Urban-Wildland Interface.*** 6:00 pm. Members \$3; Non-members \$5. RSVP.
- 14 **Bat Walk.** 8:30 - 9:30 pm. Members \$5; Non-members \$10. RSVP.
- 19 **Museum and Me.** 5:00 - 8:00 pm. Free. RSVP.
- 22 **Field Trip: *Cascade Carnivores.*** 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Members \$10; Non-members \$15. Registration and pre-payment required. [www. highdesertmuseum.org/field-trip](http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/field-trip) .
- 29 **High Desert Rendezvous.** 5:00 - 9:00 pm. Members \$150/person, \$300/couple, \$150/additional guest, Table of 8 \$2,000 sponsorship, Table of 10 \$3,000 sponsorship; Non-member \$200/person, \$350/couple. Purchase tickets on the link at <http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/high-desert-rendezvous-0> .

September — Save the Date!

- 1-7 **Raptors of the Desert Sky.** 12:30 - 1:00 pm. Members \$2; Non-members \$3, plus admission. Kids 4 and under, free.
- 5 **Thorn Hollow String Band.** 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.
- 7 **Otter Renovation Begins.**
- 12 **New Exhibit Opens.**
- 18 **Volunteer Recognition & Annual Meeting.** Time TBD.

To RSVP: www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp or
541-382-4754 ext. 241

To pre-register: www.highdesertmuseum.org/program