

The MOR You Know

Museum of the Rockies Volunteer Newsletter

Museum of the Rockies 406.994.6611, Merry Shyne, Newsletter Editor
www.museumoftherockies.org

CALENDAR

- ❖ Monday, February 6th, 12:00-1:00pm, Volunteer Meeting with Dave Swingle, on 'The Fur Trade,' Classroom
- ❖ Tuesday, February 7th, 9:30-10:30am, Volunteer Board Meeting, Board Room
- ❖ Thursday, February 9th, 10:00am-12:30pm, Docent Training, Andy Warhol Film, Hager Auditorium
- ❖ Tuesday, February 14th, 2:00-4:30pm, Adventure in the Arts, *required* Docent Training with Steve Jackson, Hager Auditorium
- ❖ Thursday, February 16th, 10:00am-12:00pm, Docent Training, Andy Warhol Film, Hager Auditorium
- ❖ Friday, February 17th, Members only Exhibit Preview, An Adventure in the Arts, 5:00-7:00pm

Blair - The Secret is in the Speed

Raised in the spectacular horse country of Lexington, Kentucky, our Volunteer and Docent Coordinator, and Assistant Guest Services, Blair Speed, is one of the Museum of the Rockies remarkable staff members. She came to MOR just a year ago and made her mark early, first as a greeter at the Front Desk, providing museum information, processing memberships and directing phone calls; a job she still occupies a few days a week.

Now, she carries the heavy responsibility of recruiting new volunteers, and scheduling current volunteers in Security, the Children's Discovery Center, Events Planning, the Viewing Lab, Living History Farm, Front Desk and the Museum Store. While working closely with the Docent Board she helps create and implement the three-month Docent Training Program each Fall. The Volunteer Board also has the benefit of her expertise in planning the Volunteer "brown bag" Programs at noon once a

month. Such speakers as MOR staff, graduate students, community leaders, MSU professors, and government officials, provide continuing education for Volunteers. Together, Blair and Docent Merry Shyne produce the monthly "The MOR You Know" newsletter to keep volunteers in the loop on MOR research, events and news.

"We have more than 250 active volunteers who donate 21,000 hours of their time each year," she says. "In 2010 alone our amazing docents gave 800 tours! We are so fortunate to have these wonderful volunteers and we are happy to celebrate their hard work by hosting a Docent Luncheon, Christmas Potluck, Recognition Dessert, and Board Luncheons."

Coming from the ultimate horse country around Lexington, Blair learned to ride at an early age and showed competitively in the English saddle as a hunter jumper.



"My Kentucky upbringing led me to eat a lot of collard greens and sweet potatoes," she says, "and when my fourth grade assignment called for dressing as an influential person in American History, I went as Reba McIntire."

Blair graduated from the University of Florida, with a degree in History, and ran for the schools' Competitive Club Track Team. After college she taught sixth grade in Valrico, Florida and served as Middle School Track and Field coach. That summer she and her best friend, Lindsey, hiked the Appalachian Trail, from Virginia to Maine, a distance of 1,400 miles.

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“The four months I spent on the trail will always be a treasured time in my life,” she says, “I learned about the kindness in the hearts of Americans that we don’t often hear about in the news. I also learned the accessibility of adventure and the strength within.”

She decided on graduate school and was accepted into the University of Kentucky with a full scholarship; the Clements Fellowship. But, how shall we say this? Somehow Montana got in the way. Among her previous outdoor adventures was a summer job on a guest ranch in Montana. That did it! From then on Montana was on her mind. As so often happens, once a visitor gets a taste of the wide open spaces and vast sky, it pulls them back, and so it was with Blair. She gave up her scholarship, and took off for the west.

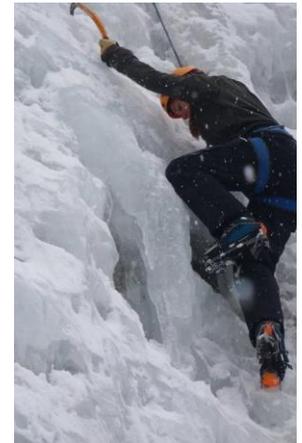
She spent the next two years as a hiking guide, kid’s counselor, wood chopper and bartender in Paradise Valley, at the ranch of Arthur Blank, former CEO of Home Depot and now owner of the Atlanta Falcons.

Blair ran her first marathon and the Bridger Ridge Run last year, and is entered in this year’s Devil’s Backbone 50miler in Hyalite Canyon, as a relay team with Lisa Verwys, Assistant Registrar for the Povah Collection, MOR. When she is not climbing or running, she can be found lounging with her orange cat, The Great Catsby, adopted from Heart of the Valley.

She met her boyfriend, Travis, several years ago while volunteering with the Gallatin County Search and Rescue. While many first dates might involve dinner and a concert, this couple spent theirs – ice climbing. That’s our Blair. She has grabbed life by the horns and it doesn’t look as if she will ever let go



Blair on top of Elephant Peak, Hyalite Canyon.



Blair climbing in Hyalite Canyon

Written by
Merry Shyne, Newsletter Editor

A Letter from MOR’s Volunteer President

Dear Volunteers of the Museum of the Rockies,

Welcome to the New Year! MOR Volunteers bid farewell to 2011 with a rousing and TASTY potluck in December, for which we give kudos to Donna Dehn, Doris Henson, Dee Hellings, Bob Hamil, and countless others, for making that occasion such a success. Incidentally, we also collected 120# of canned goods for the local Food Bank.

We began our 2012 by extending our interests beyond the walls of the museum and have begun planning “outreach” programs, whereby our volunteers may visit groups in the community to educate them about the many exhibits the museum brings to Bozeman. And, thanks to Bob Hamil and Donna Dehn, the response to the first visits was beyond enthusiastic! We welcome your ideas and participation in this program.

The museum newsletter, *The MOR You Know*, edited by Merry Shyne, keeps us up-to-date on the museum staff and activities, and we enjoy the notes from the Tinsley House by Karen James.

Blair Speed, our Volunteer Coordinator and good friend of the MOR Volunteers, offers untiring and warm, enthusiastic support at our monthly meetings.

Finally, during the past 18 years I have served as a docent, a “bone duster” in the old Bowman Fossil Bank, a dino cart operator, a Tinsley House Tea fundraiser participant, an office filer, an office receptionist, and a “stitcher” for the Tinsley House, but, most importantly, I feel truly honored to have been able to serve on the Volunteer Organization Board as secretary, vice president, and president.

Thank you, Volunteers, for all you do to make the Museum of the Rockies an outstanding institution in the region!

Iris Gray, *MOR Volunteer President*

Andy Warhol Cultural Icon for All Time

Non-conforming, untraditional, rebel; Andy Warhol has been called all of this and more, but one thing is undeniably true, he was, and will remain, a cultural icon to be reckoned with.

His art is included in 'An Adventure in the Arts,' which opens in late February in galleries at the Museum of the Rockies. Born Andrew Warhola, he showed an early talent for drawing, and at the age of 6, while he was confined to bed with Scarlet Fever and Cholera, his family encouraged this gift by teaching him to draw, trace and make prints.

He dropped the "a" from his name in 1950 because, he said, Warhol was easier to say. By then he was receiving illustration work from all the major fashion magazines. After a decade of enormous success as an illustrator

he took on a larger challenge, using advertising and comic strip imagery as his art.

Experimenting with different techniques, he gained his greatest notoriety through the paintings of Campbell's Soup cans. During his most creative period in the 1960s, Warhol and several other artists working on the same themes, but with different styles, were linked in a new movement called Pop Art.

He moved on to film making after that and created "The Factory," where he produced underground films that created a stir in the art world because of their strange, unconventional boldness. All the movies were completely unscripted and his actors were cast as themselves. He maintained that if the girl needed a script she



wasn't right for the part. Warhol was shot by a visitor to the studio in 1968. He slowly recovered, but the traumatic event was a turning point for his life. The Factory changed considerably. It was no longer the open, free-flowing mecca of previous years. Film-making became less experimental and more commercial. His painting was less risk-taking and therefore didn't shake the art world as it had in the 60s. Society portraiture became the primary focus of his work.

For all his fame and popularity he considered



himself unattractive and unsexy. To compensate he developed his own image, which he carefully nurtured. He owned 400 wigs of all styles imaginable, but always in the trademark silver gray.

In 1987 Warhol entered a hospital for the removal of an infected gall bladder and although the surgery was successful, he died of unseen complications during the night. He was 58 years old.

*Written by, Merry Shyne,
Newsletter Editor*

Astronomy Winter Lecture Series: NASA'S Future Space Telescopes

Friday, February 24th - 7:00pm in the Hagar auditorium. Free and open to the public.

What kind of telescopes are in space right now, and what is the future of telescopes in space? What do we hope to discover with these long-gazing eyes? What goes into these machines built on Earth, and what is needed to keep them running in space?

Dr. Joe Howard will discuss the past, present, and future state of optics in space. Joe serves as the lead optical designer for the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), the successor to Hubble Space Telescope. He will discuss telescopes such as the Hubble Space Telescope, James Webb Space Telescope, and WFIRST missions.



An Adventure in the Arts Docent Training



Women, Willem de Koonig

An Adventure in the Arts: A Selection from the Permanent Collection of the Guild Hall Museum, February 18- May 13, 2012 at the Museum of the Rockies

Thursday, February 9, 10:00am-12:30pm in the Hager Auditorium

- Art for all Ages: Packet
- Part 1: PBS Documentary Film on Andy Warhol (optional)

Tuesday, February 14, 2:00-4:00pm in the Hager Auditorium

- 'An Adventure in the Arts' Docent Training, with Steve Jackson, Curator of Art and Photography, MOR (required)

Thursday, February 16, 10:00am-12:00pm in the Hager Auditorium

- Part 2: PBS Documentary Film on Andy Warhol (optional)

Docent Trainings are always open to all MOR staff and Volunteers.

Tuesday February 14th, "An Adventure in the Arts" Docent Training with Steve Jackson is required training for all Docents. While the PBS Film showing on Thursday February 9th and February 16th are more casual and are not required trainings, we'll be showing the Film in the Hager Auditorium, all Volunteers are welcome to come and enjoy the film!

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