

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, March 4th, 9:30am, Volunteer Board Meeting, Boardroom
- ❖ Monday, March 4th, 12:00pm, Docent Board Meeting, Valley View Golf Course
- ❖ Saturday, March 9th, 9am-2pm, Scout Day, please let Angie or Blair know if you're available to volunteer! ☺
- ❖ Saturday, March 23, 10am-12pm, Rainforest Adventure Family Day, please let Blair know if you're available to volunteer.
- ❖ Friday, March 29th, last day to get your Volunteer Hours recorded to go towards the Volunteer Recognition Dessert (Recognition is scheduled for Monday, April 22)
- ❖ Saturday, March 30, 10am-12pm, Dinosaur Egg Hunt and Eggstravaganza, please let Blair or Angie know if you're available to volunteer.
- ❖ Volunteer Seed Sorters needed! Interested in helping sort seeds for the Heirloom Gardens at the Tinsley House? Come volunteer Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1pm.

Meet Our MOR Board of Trustees - 2013

The Museum of the Rockies ranks among the top such institutions in the country. In partnership with Montana State University, MOR reaches widely diverse communities with its collections and educational programs. We are proud to be home to one of the world's largest Dinosaur collections, along with an Enduring Peoples Exhibit, Living History Farm, Taylor Planetarium and other permanent and traveling exhibits.

The Museum operates as a hybrid of MOR, a department of MSU, governed by a Board of Regents, and MOR, Inc., which is a separate non-profit, administrated by the Museum Board of Trustees. MOR has been a part of the campus since 1957, while MOR, Inc. was established in 1965. A membership agreement between the two bodies provides for a smoothly operating institution. We are indeed fortunate in having a Board of Trustees dedicated to the advancement of the Museum's programs, exhibits and research. President of the Board is **Iris M.-L. Model**, owner of

Indian Uprising Gallery. Attorney **Ralph Steele, of Bozeman**, holds the office of Vice President. He is also chairman of the Trustee Management Committee which draws up the slate of candidates chosen by the membership and reviews policy and by-laws. Bozeman physician **Patrick Holland, MD**, serves as Secretary and chairman of the Collections Committee. As Treasurer, **Mike Hope**, co-owner of Ferraro's Fine Italian Dining, chairs the Finance Committee, which monitors the budget. An outside accounting firm is hired each year for the annual audit. Trustee **Darrell Hirsch, vice-president of US Bank, in Bozeman** chairs the Development Committee. His group is charged with raising funds not appropriated in the budget, a formidable task in the light of today's economy.

Museum of the Rockies **Director Sheldon McKamey** serves as ex-officio member. **Montana State University President Dr. Waded Cruzado**, also sits on the Board. The Board of Trustees meets



President of the MOR Executive Committee, Iris Model.

quarterly, with committees meeting each month or as required.

The Board has fiduciary responsibility for the Museum, and the Finance Committee meets monthly to review revenue and expenses as compared to the annual budget, which the Board approves each January, and evaluate proposals that have financial implications for the Museum. The Finance Committee also manages the Board's investments.

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Leadership of Strategic Planning is shared by **Michael Sanderson**, a principle at Sanderson and Stewart Engineering, in Billings, and **Julianne Williams**, a homemaker in Bozeman. Their responsibilities include charting the course for future expansion of programs and facilities, and monitoring the Museum's adherence to current goals and objectives.

Another important Board committee is the Collections Committee which works with curators and the registrar to accept gifts to the collections and review deaccession proposals. All deaccessions to the collections must be approved by the Board of Trustees.

A newly formed committee chaired by **Jerry Cashman**, owner, of Cashman's Nursery, is working with the staff and new board member **Ardi DeVries**, a Bozeman businesswoman, on a plan for the Living History program which celebrates its 25th anniversary at the MOR in 2014.

Working with the officers and committees are **Kiah Abbey**, president, Associated Students of MSU; **Rick Burt**, director of Community Affairs, Northwestern Energy, in Billings; **Don Cape**, founder and managing member of JWT Capital, LLC; **Mike Conlon**, Wells Fargo; **Don Farris**, a retired banker; **Bill Fraser, DDS**; **Lisa Harjo Lone Fight**, graduate student ; **Tom McCoy**, MSU vice president for research; **John Montague**, a Bozeman businessman; and **James Wagner**, a businessman in Bozeman and Naples, Florida.

"It's a pleasure to work with such a dedicated group of individuals," said President Model, "all striving toward a common goal of seeing the Museum of the Rockies become the best that it can be, and maintaining its position as a world-class institution."

"But we could never do this, no matter how high we set our standards, if it weren't for our wonderful docents and volunteers," she continued. "There is no way we could even open the doors if it weren't for them. And the generosity shown by our community is just amazing. I feel so fortunate to be working with such a group."

By Merry Shyne, Newsletter Editor

Coffee with the Volunteers: Moves to Sola Cafe



Spend all your time diggin' dino bones? Only know volunteers who volunteer on the same day of the week you do? Come enjoy a cup of coffee or a hot chocolate with fellow MOR Volunteers and Staff!

"Coffee with the Volunteers" is a non-agenda meeting, meant for casual conversation and getting to know the many great volunteers and staff of MOR better!

We've been fortunate to have delicious coffee and treats at Café M but with Sola Café reopened and the possibility to reserve the large Community Table at Sola, we'll be moving across the street and stretching out our legs!

So mark your calendars for Friday, March 22 at 11:00am for the next "Coffee with the Volunteers" held at Sola Café located at 290 W. Kagy. (Across from the Museum of the Rockies @ 3rd & Kagy.)



Eric Loberg: MOR Planetarium Manager



Eric is the man inside, outside and behind our up-to-date and very popular planetarium. “I still remember coming to the planetarium as a kid (both on field trips and with family) and how it wowed me. I asked the operator if you needed to be an astronaut to work here!” Although he is not an astronaut, he seems to be a superhero in orchestrating the renovations and improvements to the planetarium and shows. Eric has worked with architects to redesign the theater, chosen new systems to test and received MOR Board approval for orders, subcontracted audio and video vendors and explained the planetarium renovation progress to all of us countless times.

“I am always reviewing shows from other facilities – at long last our system will be able to run almost any show that anyone is giving. We will be bringing in and rotating through shows just like we bring in traveling exhibits!”

Eric will be creating content for many shows. “We’ll start with ‘The Big Sky Tonight’, showing what you can see in your back yard.” “I am also putting ‘A Montana Moment’ before most of our purchased shows, a short in-house produced segment that highlights (mostly) MSU research.” He will transfer some of our old shows to the new system starting with ‘Season of Light’. And, he will have original programming available with school groups.

Born in Bozeman, Eric grew up in Deer Lodge loving astronomy. He taught himself the stars using “Find the Constellations” by H. A. Rey (who wrote Curious George). His family visited MOR and started buying annual memberships when the museum expanded in 1989. He came to MSU in 1997 as a student to study Computer Science. He has taken classes in philosophy and history which he credits with helping him in his position.

Eric was hired by the head of the Planetarium, Mike Murray, when he started classes in 1997. Mike now runs the Clark Planetarium in Salt Lake City. Taking a year off in 2001, Eric was re-hired by Planetarium Director Jim Manning (now director of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific). Eric and David Binnewies (who now installs planetarium audio and lights all over the world with Bowen Technovation), ran the planetarium together until 2008 when Eric became the sole planetarium operator and manager. “I started in 1997 with this staff of three who have gone on to bigger things, but I have wanted to stay here in a less populated, more mountainous area. I’ve been the only full time planetarium staff for four years, though many of the shows are still given by MSU students.”

Eric and his wife, Esther, have a three-year-old son, Kai, and a grey kitty named Crypto. He played drums in the MSU pep band and now in his basement. Although he is truly tech-savvy, he has never owned a cell phone! His office is full of legos to remind him to be a kid at heart. Eric likes to read both fiction and non-fiction. “I never want to stop learning, I want to learn something new every day.” He likes to travel in the Western U.S. but avoids planes when possible. His favorite travel seems to be to the stars through the Planetarium.

“My goal at MOR is to inspire.” “I hope that when people walk in, they walk out with a new awe for either technology or science -- some feeling that makes them want more of whatever they just experienced.”

Friday, March 1, the Planetarium will open for a Members Only event. The general public will be able to enjoy all the new shows, new seating and new experiences starting Saturday, March 2.

Growing up Eric wanted to be “someone with joy and inner peace”. “I do remember knowing that whatever I did I wanted to enjoy.” This amazing high energy MOR staff member helps bring joy and inner peace to our Planetarium visitors.

Written by: Meredith Lewis, Newsletter Co-Editor

MOR Volunteer Board Nominations

The following nominations are for Docent and Volunteer Boards; Boards will be voted on in April.

Volunteer Board:

Chair: Lynne Barnes

Vice-Chair: Doris Henson

Secretary: Barbara Brown

Security Representative: Pete Rieke

Viewing Lab Rep: Michelina Kazeminejad

Tinsley House Representative: Beth Naert

Sewing Representative: Jean Thorson

Docent Board:

Chair: Roger Barnes

Vice-Chair: Meredith Lewis

Secretary: Bill Hookey

Senior Representative: Sarah Leinen

Representative: Diane Brawner

Representative: Peggy Jensen

Representative: Trish Rice

March Volunteer Meeting with Betsy Watry



Women on the Rim of Yellowstone Canyon — 1904

Come to our March Volunteer Meeting, Monday, March 18th at 12pm in the Classroom to meet and listen to MOR Assistant History Curator, Betsy Watry, speak on “Women’s History in Yellowstone National Park.”

Betsy is assisting with the Hamilton Povah Collection at MOR. She has also written the book *Women in Wonderland; Legends and Legacies of Yellowstone National Park* and she donated a signed copy to the Volunteer Library.

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