

Museum's signature fundraiser goes virtual

The High Desert Museum's signature fundraiser, High Desert Rendezvous, returns on Saturday, August 29, at 6:30 p.m. The lively evening this year will take place in the virtual world. This marks the 31st year of the High Desert Rendezvous, making it one of the longest-running fundraisers in Central Oregon.

The online event will include special programming, auction items and a raffle, and it will be free to all to attend.

"The High Desert Rendezvous is one of the Museum's most celebratory events of the year," said Museum Executive Director Dana Whitelaw, Ph.D. "We're excited for people from far and wide to join us from the comfort of their homes to hear about the mission of the Museum."

Bidding on auction items and raffle ticket sales will be open to all. It will begin online on Wednesday, August 26 at www.highdesertmuseum.org/hdr. In addition, the Rendezvous raffle this year features a fine wine array specially selected by the High Desert Museum Board of Trustees.

This year, the Museum's invitational, juried art exhibition and silent auction, Art in the West—which traditionally culminated at the High Desert Rendezvous—will be on display at the Museum and online from Saturday, August 1 through Saturday, October 3. The works of nearly 50 artists, ranging from paintings to sculpture to photography, will be available for the first time for silent bidding virtually at www.highdesertmuseum.org/art-in-the-west.

"A virtual Rendezvous gala

and Art in the West bidding makes these wonderful experiences available to a wide audience," said Whitelaw. "The fundraisers also take on a special importance this year, as we missed three months of welcoming the public through our doors."

Registration for the virtual Rendezvous is free and preregistration is encouraged. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. A \$3,000 Buckaroo sponsorship includes recognition with a logo or name prominently displayed in all promotional material for both the High Desert Rendezvous and Art in the West, and a \$2,000 Lucky Horseshoe sponsorship will also include logo and name recognition associated with the High Desert Rendezvous. For registration and sponsorship information, visit www.highdesertmuseum.org/hdr.

The 2020 Rendezvous Honorees are Bill and Gail McCormick, longtime supporters of the High Desert Museum. Bill, a former Museum trustee, was once the U.S. ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa and is a prominent restaurateur—owning Bend's downtown landmark, The Pine Tavern, and is the founder of the popular McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurants.

The High Desert Rendezvous and Art in the West help support the Museum's educational programs, bringing science, art and history education to life-long learners throughout the region.

The 31st annual High Desert Rendezvous, as well as Art in the West, are presented by First Interstate Bank.

Gray fox newest animal ambassador

Visitors returning to the High Desert Museum after its three-month closure will meet a new mammal in the Museum's care — an approximately 12-month-old, female gray fox.

The as-of-yet unnamed fox arrived at the Museum shortly before the facility's closure to the public. She was found severely malnourished and with a seriously injured hip as a pup in southwestern Oregon. She was brought to Bend after surgery to remove part of her femur.

The fox also was wearing a collar around her neck when found. Professional wildlife rehabilitators determined she is habituated to humans, meaning she doesn't have adequate fear of humans to be able to survive in the wild.

The Museum's reopening day on June 17 marked the first time the general public has gotten to see the fox. She is one of the first new mammals to come into the Museum's care in several years.

"This gray fox is inquisitive and very active," says Museum Executive Director Dana Whitelaw, Ph.D. "We're sure visitors will be delighted with her. And more importantly, the fox serves as an ambassador for her species. We know visitors will take away an appreciation for the important role foxes play in the High Desert ecosystem."

The fox is in an outdoor habitat that's specially designed for her needs. The exhibit includes a hollow log, an above-ground shelter, a ground-level shelter



PHOTO PROVIDED

A year-old female gray fox is the latest addition to the animal community at High Desert Museum.

and a below ground-level den, as well as two climbing structures, a resting shelf and a variety of rocks and other logs.

"This fox is very playful," Museum Curator of Wildlife Jon Nelson says. "She loves to climb and is extremely agile despite her hip surgery. Gray foxes are both cursorial and arboreal—meaning they both run and climb. The exhibit space we have constructed affords her ample opportunity to do both, and she makes full use of the space to play."

Gray foxes range throughout much of North and Central America. They're omnivores that typically grow to weigh between eight and 15 pounds, eating small mammals, birds and insects as well as fruit and vegetation. They readily climb trees with their strong, hooked claws.

At the Museum, the fox enjoys a diet of rats, mice and birds as well as a range of vegetables, seeds, nuts and some fruit. The fox is

being crate and target trained to facilitate her care. She receives a wide variety of enrichment—Nelson says catching live crickets and playing with a Kong toy are among her favorites.

The naming of the fox will be an auction item at this year's Virtual High Desert Rendezvous, which takes place on Saturday, August 29. Learn more about Rendezvous at www.highdesertmuseum.org/hdr.

In the wild, gray foxes are believed to live roughly six years. Animals often live longer when in the care of zoos and other similar facilities.

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