

Profile

John Alexander

Birthplace: Baltimore, MD.

Birthdate: December 23, 1968.

Marital status: Married to Taylor for 19 years. We have a 12-year-old son Henry and a 17-year-old daughter Natalie.

Title: Executive Director of the Klamath Bird Observatory.

Tell us something about your organization: KBO (KlamathBird.org), with headquarters in Ashland,

is a scientific nonprofit organization that achieves bird conservation in the Pacific Northwest and throughout the migratory ranges of the birds of our region. We developed our award-winning conservation model in the ruggedly beautiful and wildlife-rich Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion

of southern Oregon and northern California. Emphasizing the role of birds as indicators of the health of the land, we specialize in cost-effective bird monitoring and research projects that improve natural resource management.

We also nurture a conservation ethic in our communities through our outreach and educational programs. KBO has nine full-time employees and hires up to thirty seasonal workers each year. We owe our success to committed donors, volunteers, staff, and conservation partners who demonstrate that each of us can contribute to a legacy of abundant bird populations and healthy land, air, and water.

How long have you lived in Ashland?

My family and I moved to Ashland in 1997 after living on the Klamath River in Siskiyou County for five years while doing most of our shopping and dining here.

Favorite movie: *Star Wars*.

Favorite play: *Hair*.

Favorite actor: John Belushi.

Favorite actress: Helen Mirren.

Favorite TV show: *Game of Thrones*.

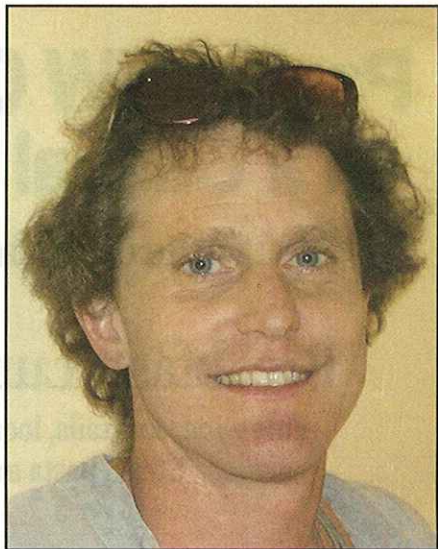
Favorite radio station: WWOZ New Orleans 90.7 FM, closely followed by Jefferson Public Radio.

Favorite book of all time: *Sometimes a Great Notion*, Ken Kesey.

Favorite magazine: *National Geographic*.

Favorite pet of all time: Perry, the golden retriever who was with me from adolescence into adulthood.

Other than friends and family, what person do you admire the most? Jerry Garcia, for the love and enlightenment he channeled and shared through his



music.

What's the first thing you turn to when you read a daily newspaper? World news.

Favorite part of the Sneak Preview: Best of Ashland and Profiles.

Favorite hobbies: Playing music (guitar), river rafting.

Favorite kind of music: Rock 'n' roll, Grateful Dead.

Favorite Beatle and/or Beatle song: John Lennon, "Across the Universe" and "All You Need is Love."

Favorite local restaurants: Caldera Tap House (the Pub), El Paraiso, Omar's, Agave, Morning Glory.

What would you do if you won \$10 million in the lottery? Ensure financial security for my family, buy river-front property, help Klamath Bird Observatory acquire a permanent home, practice effective philanthropy.

What is the most important thing you learned as a child? Confidence to play music.

What person or event had the biggest impact on your life? Family support for higher education, attending Evergreen State College, the fortune of excellent teachers and mentors.

Proudest achievement: My marriage and kids, Klamath Bird Observatory.

Favorite thing about Ashland: Small town liberal atmosphere, surrounding beauty.

What changes would you like to see in Ashland? Ashland connected to cities along the I-5 corridor via effective rail system.