

LASSEN NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE LASSEN PARK FOUNDATION

FALL 2011

HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE

BUILDING STRONG KIDS

ONWARD TO THE PEAK

WEBSITE

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

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Martha McCoy
Executive Director

BUILDING STRONG KIDS THROUGH OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES

"Do you remember your first camping trip, your first visit to a national park? Don't all children deserve that?"

Summer 2011 provided a special time for 235 youth that benefitted from a camping trip to Lassen Volcanic National Park. The Lassen Park Foundation's fifteen year old program has been recently energized by even stronger national park support. This year, a park ranger devoted time to each visiting group to increase the depth of the experience for the youth. Ranger Jeff provided orientation, interpretation, environmental education, and a lot of fun when he met with the youth groups. They learned map reading, basic earth science, tree identification and local history while they experienced living outdoors. Fifteen groups from Paradise, Red Bluff, Oroville, Redding, Marysville, Quincy, Los Molinos, Davis, Sacramento and San Francisco were awarded grants this year to make their camping trip happen. Even though many of the young people live in close proximity to Lassen Park, most had never been there and come from homes where unemployment, substance abuse, and lack of transportation are prevalent. For most of the kids, this is a first time-ever camping experience. Reports from the youth leaders say that this is a life changing experience for kids. They see how the youth relate to one another and to their leaders more sincerely, due to the shared experience of being together in the mountains without distractions. These camping trips provide inspiration for a new academic year as youth return to their homes and schools with increased objectivity and understanding of the natural world—learning in a national park is definitely fun!



Ranger Jeff met with the groups often during their visit. Using role play, games and interactive illustrations, he adapted his presentation and activities to make learning exciting for teenagers."

The Board of Directors of Lassen Park Foundation is working diligently with the National Park Service at Lassen Volcanic to expand this outstanding youth program. Plans are underway to increase the number of youth participants, to improve a designated group campground, and to provide additional educational programs. Your interest has spurred the Foundation to dream big for this program. After all, we all remember our first experiences in the magic of a national park.



ONWARD TO THE PEAK!

The march to Lassen Peak and the restoration of the park's signature trail is progressing on schedule. The second year of the five-year project has been completed. The Lassen Park Foundation is celebrating the award of a \$199,479 grant from the Federal Highway Administration's Scenic Byway program that has helped the Foundation to be nearly halfway to their goal of raising \$500,000 for the project. Rehabilitation of the 2.5 mile trail will improve the visitor experience and accommodate the increasing numbers of hikers who climb the Peak each year.

The park's trail crew and the California Conservation Corps are constructing 20 switchbacks, 40 rock staircases, one climbing turn and 900 linear feet of retaining walls on the trail. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the project! We are proud to be a partner in helping to rehabilitate one of the most popular trails in the national park system.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

The Lassen Park Foundation website, www.lassenparkfoundation.org is waiting for your visit. There is a new shopping section where the "Reach the Peak" logo items are for sale—the proceeds benefit this special campaign. The Foundation has been awarded a Google grant which will help to promote the website usage.



POST OFFICE BOX 33
1699 HIGHWAY 273
ANDERSON, CA 96007

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For information on the Lassen Park Foundation please call (530) 378-2600 or write to the address above. You may also visit our website at www.lassenparkfoundation.org

Thank you for helping the Lassen Park Foundation to grow so that we can help to preserve and protect the Lassen region that we love. Your contributions are a vote of confidence in the ambitious work that we do, and each is greatly appreciated!

INTRODUCING MARTHA MCCOY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Martha McCoy may be new to the Lassen Park Foundation, but she is a long-time Redding resident and Lassen Park enthusiast. She has been hiking and enjoying the scenery there for almost 22 years. One of her favorite memories is hiking the Manzanita Lake trail with her two sons. Martha has extensive experience in city government and non-profit work, as well as grant writing. She has worked in the non-profit arena for over fifteen years, and brings a background in development, housing, health care, and youth programs. Martha was involved in administration and program development at Northern Valley Catholic Social Service, and has experience as a Development Officer at Mercy Foundation North and Catholic Healthcare West in Tehama and Shasta counties. She is a Rotary Club member and active volunteer in the Redding community. Martha graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a B.A. in Social Welfare and received a teaching credential from California State University, Hayward. "She joins the Lassen

Park Foundation at a moment when talent and energy like hers have never been more important," said John Koeberer, Lassen Park Foundation chairman. "In 2016, the National Park Service and Lassen Volcanic National Park commemorate their 100th anniversaries. Leading to those anniversaries, our foundation will carry increased responsibilities to assist the National Park Service and Lassen Park in preparing for their second century. Martha brings skills and energy that will help us do that."



You're Invited

Please join us for an open house and introduction of our new Executive Director Martha McCoy

L A S S E N
PARK FOUNDATION
"Passion for Lassen"

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED
THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2012
5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM
1699 HIGHWAY 273 • ANDERSON • INSIDE THE CALIFORNIA WELCOME CENTER
(530) 378-2600 • WWW.LASSENPAKFOUNDATION.ORG

LASSEN IS A FAMILY-FRIENDLY DESTINATION



NEW BOARD MEMBERS JOIN THE FOUNDATION

At the September board meeting of the Lassen Park Foundation, two new board members were elected. William "Buck" Farmer is a practicing attorney in San Francisco, where he is one of the managing partners of Collette Erickson Farmer & O'Neill LLP, a business law firm. Buck's background before entering private practice was as Assistant Chief of the U.S. Department of Justice's regional Antitrust Division, San Francisco Office, and later as a criminal prosecutor in the Special Prosecutions Unit of the U.S. Attorneys Office in San Francisco. Buck's education was Princeton undergraduate and University of Texas Law School. Buck and his family are fortunate to have been Warner Valley property owners for some twenty years with a home and land that abuts Lassen National Park.

Nancy Ferguson is a recently retired teacher from Chico. She and her husband, Mike, own and operate Mike Ferguson Recreation, a recreational vehicle sales and service dealership in Paradise. Their Warner Valley 1940's vintage cabin is where their family has spent many summers hiking, fishing, and enjoying the Lassen area. Nancy presented some interesting ideas about long-distance learning and how it can be used to bring a national park to a classroom.

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.LASSENPAKFOUNDATION.ORG
YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE - YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS SO APPRECIATED!