

LASSEN NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE LASSEN PARK FOUNDATION

FALL 2013

HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE

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YOUTH SUMMER CAMP

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DARK SKY FESTIVAL

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WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER

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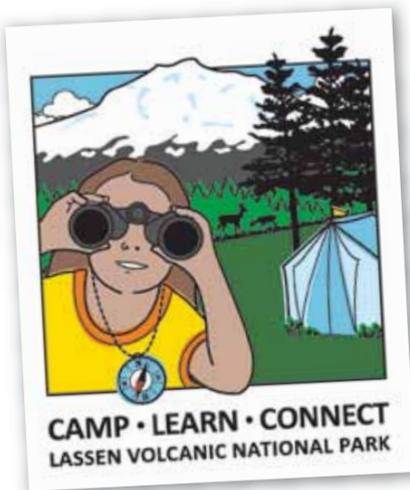
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- Karen Haner
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Kristen Gray
Executive Director
- Anne Coehlo
Development Assistant



CRAGS YOUTH CAMP CAMPAIGN HAS BEGUN!



As we look forward toward the future with technology advances, social media, and kids who are connected to all things electronic, we realize that outdoor experiences are more critical than ever. The Crags Youth Camp will help more youth connect with nature and have an opportunity for a life-changing outdoor experience. This program will benefit at-risk and underserved youth by offering them an opportunity to camp and visit a national park. Crags Campground will also offer a chance for youth to camp during the "shoulder" season.

Since 1996, the Youth Camping Program of Lassen Park Foundation has provided grants to Northern California schools and youth organizations for camping trips to Lassen Volcanic National Park. This program has been extremely successful and the number of youth participating has increased every year. This new camping facility will provide a permanent home for our camping program by offering tent cabins, a cooking area, and shower facilities.

The \$500,000 capital project will be supported by National Park Service funding, grants, major donor gifts, corporate sponsors, and community support. The Foundation "kicked" off the campaign at their "Summer Fun" in Lassen event on July 20th where they raised \$3600 of the \$300,000 they will need for the project. The completion date is planned for 2016 in time for the park's 100th year anniversary.

Park Superintendent Darlene Koontz has made connecting with children and young adults a high priority for Lassen. "With many children and young folks, a positive, early experience while visiting a national park can lead to an adult that has a greater understanding of the natural world and a higher sense of stewardship. That is one of the many reasons we are so excited to further the Lassen Park Foundation Youth Camping Program by developing a youth camp facility at Crags Campground."



YOUTH CAMPING SUMMER 2013: CONNECTING TO NATURE

It has been another great summer for our Youth Campers! The Lassen Volcanic Park Youth Camping Program has welcomed 23 groups and 327 campers ranging from ages 6 to 18 this summer. A wide variety of youth groups participated in this year's Youth Camping program. The groups represented low-income, inner-city and rural communities, local service groups, at-risk youth, and special needs participants. Park staff worked closely with group leaders to adjust programs and activities to meet the needs and challenges of each particular group. These groups came from a wide variety of areas, starting from Bieber all the way to the Bay Area and everywhere in between. The youth were able to participate in numerous activities which included: Group Leader-led Discovery Hikes, Ranger-led Programs, and Fire Science in Action. Many groups hiked Cinder Cone which gave them a great sense of accomplishment.

The feedback from the group leaders and participants indicate the program made a strong impact on the participants on many different levels: Forging a Personal Connection with Nature through Immersion, Developing Interpersonal Skills through New Friendships, and Strengthen Leadership Skills and Improving Self Confidence through Planning and Execution. Each youth camper brings back a unique experience from this camping experience which will stay with them for years to come.

One leader stated, "One of the most profound changes we saw in the youth was their diminishing desire for their electronic devices. They were told they were to explore, enjoy nature and communicate with each other...by the end of the trip they didn't even care that they were not electronically connected and had a great time learning new things, participating in activities, and observing nature."

This was another successful summer for the Youth Camping Program which would not have been possible without the support of our generous donors, including: The Volgenau Foundation, Johnson Family Foundation, PG&E, US Bank, The Strong Foundation, and The North Face Explore Fund.

"SUMMER FUN IN LASSEN" RAISES OVER \$37,000



The "Summer Fun in Lassen" event on July 20, 2013 that was held at the Kohm Yah mah-nee Visitor Center in Lassen Volcanic National Park rose over \$37,000 for the Lassen Park Foundation! We would like to thank everyone that attend this event and supported the Lassen Park Foundation. The evening offered great silent and live auction items and wonderful food. Everyone attending had an opportunity to meet our Honorary Director, Zach Brunner and his family. Zach spoke about how he had requested donations to be made to the Lassen Park Foundation in lieu of birthday gifts to help support the Lassen Volcanic National Park. Darlene Koontz, Superintendent of LVNP, shared



fun facts about Lassen and the Board of Directors knowledge of the park. Everyone had a wonderful time and could not have asked for a more beautiful venue. We would like to thank LVNP Staff, California Guest Services, and Catalyst Group of Redding for their help with the event. We would also like to thank our sponsors for their generous support: Rolling Hills Casino, Dignity Health, Holliday Investment Management, Drakesbad Guest Ranch, Anderson Rotary, Red Bluff Rotary, Cornerstone Community Bank, and Redding Bank of Commerce.

DARK SKY FESTIVAL AND EXPLORE SAFELY TRAIL CHALLENGE:



Stars and stripes were the theme for this year's special events in the park. Some 5,500 visitors participated in Lassen's second annual **Dark Sky Festival or Explore Safely Trail Challenge**. Both events offered families and young visitors special opportunities designed to help them discover their park. A NASA information station, moon rock samples, and astronomy programs complete with hot chocolate helped kids discover that half the park is after dark. The summer-long, simplified, Explore Safely Trail Challenge encouraged families to hike at least three trails in the park with safety in mind. Groups with young visitors mentioned excellent safety measures including

NASA scientist Dave Blake discusses the findings of a special instrument on an automobile-sized rover on Mars under a starry sky at the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Amphitheater.



"use a swim test when hiking near water" and "share your trek plan with children in case they get separated from the group." Kids themselves chimed in with some important safety notes including "don't run without parent supervision" and "don't eat flowers."



Many families participated in the Explore Safely Trail Challenge.

THE LASSEN PARK FOUNDATION WELCOMES

New Board Director: Debby Trotter

At the May Board of Director's meeting, Debby Trotter was elected as a new Board member. Debby is a children's author living in the San Francisco Bay Area, and she has a lifelong relationship with Lassen. Ms. Trotter has spent countless winter and summer days skiing and hiking the trails in Lassen Park. Debby's parents, Don and Ida Webster, were both active for years with the Lassen Park Foundation, Don as a founding member of the Board of Directors. Ms. Trotter's husband Dave served on the Lassen Park Foundation Board of Directors for 17 years until 2008, and her brother, Ben Webster, is a current Director. We are very happy to have Debby join the Board of Directors and continue the family tradition.



New Executive Director: Kristen Gray

Kristen has been with the Lassen Park Foundation for over a year as the Development Assistant and has taken on the role of Executive Director as of June, 2013. Kristen has over 10 years' of fundraising and development experience with Lassen and is very excited to have the opportunity to continue the success of the Lassen Park Foundation.

New Development Assistant: Anne Coehlo

Anne has many years' experience in fundraising, organization, and development with non-profits. She is a current member of the Catholic Schools Advisory Commission for Mercy High School in Red Bluff. Anne wholeheartedly believes in the mission of the Foundation, with fond memories of hiking, skiing, and camping at Lassen as a child. Anne has three beautiful daughters who made their own first memories of Lassen Park with a hike to Bumpass Hell this summer.

Become a friend of the Lassen Park Foundation. Check out our website: www.lassenparkfoundation.org or call us at (530) 378-2600. You make it possible - Your contribution is appreciated!