...to educate, interpret, restore and preserve.

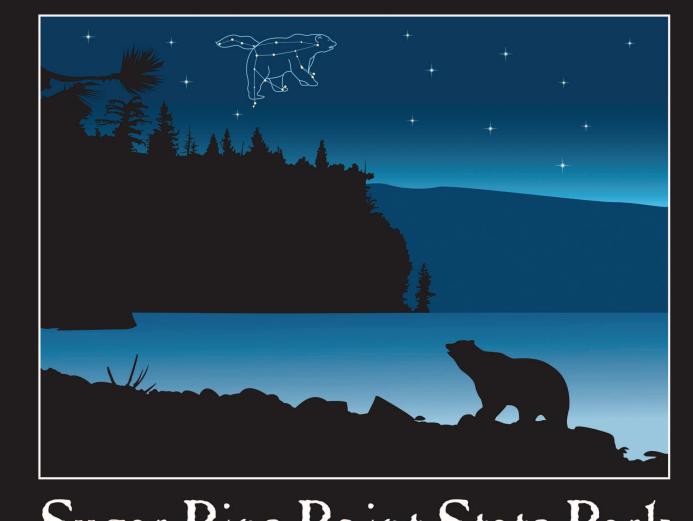
THE NEWS OF THE SIERRA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION

www.sierrastateparks.org

FALL 2011

Volume 1

Number 1



Sugar Pine Point State Park

Sierra State Parks Foundation Board of Directors

Dr. Larry Bienati, President • Dick Read, Treasurer Rosalee Smith, Secretary • Lynn Gibson, Marketing Rob Weston, Friend of the Board • Dr. Helen Smith, Honorary Member

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Stewardship Of Our State Parks

by Dr. Larry Bienati, President, Board of Directors, Sierra State Parks Foundation

ounded in 1973, the Sierra State Parks Foundation has renewed its efforts to respond to changing dynamics in the California economy. We have refocused our mission to best serve our Partners at the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). Deepening budget cuts to the California State Parks (possible of closure of 70 parks) are challenging Sierra State Parks Foundation more than ever to secure the funds necessary to remain vital, and provide the level of services to our visitors that will result in an exceptional Sierra experience. To strengthen our support of our Park partners, the Foundation has reorganized its infrastructure to ensure prudent, cost effective financial systems and business practices. We revised our strategic plan to focus on implementing a successful volunteer program, launching the park patron program with local businesses, enhancing retail presentation at our various State Parks, and developing fund raising strategies and priority funding of appropriate restoration projects in the Parks. This season, the Foundation provided significant contributions to the Sierra Parks

for staffing park aide positions at Emerald Bay State Park, D.L. Bliss State Park and Donner Memorial State Park. Our donation dollars provided much needed restoration and repairs to the Pine Lodge (the Ehrman Mansion) at Sugar Pine Point State Park and the Vikingsholm Mansion at Emerald Bay State Park. We purchased a new vehicle for wood delivery to the campsites at Donner Memorial State Park, and provided funds for the repair of the Snow Cat that grooms the cross country ski trails in the winter at Sugar Pine Point State Park. We revitalized our mission to promote education about our parks by introducing a new program at the Vikingsholm Mansion. "Conversations with History" with Dr. Helen Smith.In addition. we continued our participation in "Living History Day" at Sugar Pine Point State Park. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of our donors and members whose generous contributions made all this possible. We would also like to acknowledge a very special group of donors whose signifigant contributions to this Foundation have continued to benefit our Sierra State Parks. We are very grateful to Warren Hellman and the



Hellman Family Foundation,

Ms. Jody S. Lindell and The Stern Family Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wiesner and Wiesner and the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, Mr. Cha

Foundation, Mr. Charles and Mrs. Gail Greene and The Marin Community Foundation, Mr. Tom Hoynes, Mr. Terrance Clapham, Ms. Wendy Jordan, Mrs. Lorinda Knight Johnson, Mrs. Martha Knight Clyde, and Dr. Helen Smith for their gracious and valued support. As we march into 2012, I am reminded of our noble mission in a phrase that I saw in the Department of Parks and **Recreation Strategic Plan** before I joined the Foundation that serves as our compass with our Park Partners: "In every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions for the next seven generations." No matter where technology takes us in this brave new world, we all have a duty to ensure our Parks remain a

vibrant legacy well into the 22nd century. With your support and commitment, the Board and Team of SSPF will continue our mission to provide critically needed funds to support and expand Sierra State Parks programs for education, interpretation, restoration, cultural and environmental restoration. Let's leave a legacy for generations to come!

REFLECTIONS *** Sierra State Parks Foundation 2011

by Michele McDonald, Sierra State Parks Foundation Business Manager

RETAIL

Retail operations from our Visitor Centers have faced some challenging obstacles this year. Inclement weather



for most of the month of June impacted visitor revenue. Reduced park staffing as a result of budget shortfalls resulted in fewer hours of operation at the visitor centers and campground kiosks. The sales kiosk at Emerald Bay State Park

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parking lot was closed this season, also due to staffing shortages. Construction of the parking lot for the new Donner Museum also affected visitor attendance there. In spite of these issues, our retail sales for the season remained vigorous, and because of diligent stewardship and planning by our management team, we kept a tight rein on expenses and reduced our operational costs by more than 57% from last year. Thanks to the talents of our Retail Manager, Rose Payne, our visitor centers received new face lifts, and sales of many interpretive items increased because of improved display arrangements.

FUNDRAISING

With our retail revenue stream flowing steadily, our board of directors has been able to focus its attention on renewed fundraising efforts. Two programs were launched this year that have yielded promising results: The Park Patron Donor program, which engages local and regional business owners in supporting the parks via optional donations from their customers, and the **Camper Donation Program** which encourages campers

to make a one dollar donation for every year they have camped at the Sierra Parks. Both of these programs were made possible by the direct

effort and support of Sierra State Park and Foundation administrators, notably, District Superintendent Matt Green, Lake Tahoe Sector Superintendent Susan Grove, and Foundation Board Secretary Rosie Smith. Many thanks to Larry Boerner of the Tahoe Gal for participating as our first Park Patron partner!

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The Foundation continued to promote its visibility in the community and to connect to our local business partners. This season, together with the Sierra State Parks, we participated in Earth Day, an annual event at Squaw Valley Ski Resort. This important expo features local businesses and organizations that promote public awareness of environmentally sustainable products and programs. In addition,

we hosted a chamber mixer with our dedicated business neighbors, Lisa Adams of The Store and Jim and Sue Kass of Barifot Photography. We were proud to attend the annual volunteer awards sponsored by the North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Rosie Smith accepted the award for most valuable volunteer on behalf of the Sierra State Parks for her efforts and skill in helping to organize Living History Day at Sugar Pine Point State Park. In Truckee, we participated in the annual Business Expo, featuring



Representing the Sierra State Parks Foundation are Board President, Dr. Larry Bienati with Donner State Park Book Store Manager, Veneta Stewart at Truckee Business Expo

Donner Memorial State Park. In attendance were Foundation Board President Dr. Larry Bienati, Donner Museum Retail Manager Veneta Stewart, and Foundation Business Manager Michele McDonald. Our purpose was to re-connect with community busi-

ness partners and reacquaint them with the many programs and services this wonderful park offers visitors who support the local economy when they come to our area. On October 16th, the Foundation staff rolled up their sleeves and pitched in on Truckee River Day.

EDUCATION

The Sierra State Parks Foundation was represented at Truckee Community Day, which was sponsored by the

Sugar Pine Foundation. This organization propagates Sugar Pine seedlings that are resistant to the White Pine Blister Rust that is spreading through many of our western forests. Participants learn about the nature of this disease

and its threat to the Sierra forest. They are then given the resistant Sugar Pine seedlings to transplant into designated areas of the forest. Although the Sierra State Parks is involved with the Sugar Pine seedling

Continues on page 4



Sierra State Parks Interpretive Manager, Heidi Doyle and Foundation table on Earth Day!

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Sierra State Parks Foundation attended Truckee Community Planting Day, hosted by the Sugar Pine Foundation.

transplant program at an internal level, our foundation

would like to explore the possibility of organizing a planting day in the Lake Sector parks that would involve community participants as well. For more information on Community Planting sched-

ules, visit the Sugar Pine Foundation at www.sugarpinefoundation.com.

The Sierra State Parks Foundation also hosted a workshop at Donner Memorial State Park to introduce the Conifer Connection curriculum to teachers, docents, volunteers and park staff who are interested in utilizing it for student and adult tours in the parks. This wonderful resource for learning and teaching about coniferous forests and watersheds was written by Michael Roa, who conducted this workshop. The curriculum was published by the California State Parks Foundation and the California Community

Foundation. We are currently developing plans to expand this program in collaboration with the Sugar Pine Foundation. Our goal is to promote awareness of for-

Forests

est ecology in the Sierra by



Michael Roa conducting Conifer workshop at Donner Memorial State Park.

implementing the curriculum during adult and student tours in the Sierra State Parks. We would like to offer our program to the many service providers in our community whose constituents would not otherwise be able to visit the

parks. It is our hope Dr. Helen Smith (center) presenting "Conversations With to host more work-

shops over the winter, then implement the program in the summer at the parks in cooperation with park staff. For more information about The Conifer Connection, or if you are interested in participating as a volunteer docent, please contact us at 530.583.9911.

TWO NEW EVENTS LAUNCHED THIS SEASON

The Sierra State Parks Foundation sponsored two very impressive events to advance cultural and interpretive education in the parks for our visitors, as

> well as to generate Foundation membership revenue. The Tahoe Youth Ballet Company performed for the first time ever on the shores of Lake Tahoe at beautiful Sugar Pine Point State Park on August 17th. With the support of Sierra State Parks and Foundation staff, these remarkable young professionals attracted

History" at Vikingsholm Mansion

upward of 150 guests. The

Foundation looks forward to

another performance by this

wonderful ballet company

next summer, and perhaps

for many more after that.

Many thanks to Ballet Artistic Director Christin Hanna for her incredible effort in putting this event together, and to Dick Read, Sierra State Parks Foundation Board Treasurer and his wife, Gloria, for their assistance at our membership tables during the event. Sierra State Parks Interpretive Program Manager Heidi Doyle and Historian Dr. Helen Smith collaborated with the Sierra State Parks Foundation to present "Conversations With History" at the Vikingsholm Mansion at Emerald Bay State Park this summer. The event was presented at dusk in June, July and August, earning rave reviews from the guests who attended. The program involved a behind the scenes tour of the Vikingsholm Mansion by Dr. Helen Smith, who spent 14 summers there during her youth as a guest of the origi-

> nal owner. Lora Knight. After the tour, guests gathered in the courtvard for wine and hors d'oeuvres, and enjoyed informal conversations with Helen about her life as a young girl at Vikingsholm. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to this remarkable woman

for her lifelong efforts to preserve the Vikingsholm Mansion and for her generosity and support of the Sierra State Parks Foundation.

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LAKE SECTOR SUPERINTENDENT, SUSAN GROVE RETIRES

The Sierra State Parks Foundation salutes Susan Grove, our outgoing Lake Tahoe Sector Superintendent for providing her many years of excellent leadership to the Sierra State Parks and her valued support of this foundation. We wish you the very best in the good years ahead, Susan, and look forward to working with you as a member of our team.

AND NOW, IN HER OWN WORDS, HEEEEERE'S SUSAN!

I've worked with CA State Parks for 26 years (I was 24 when I started and now I'm 50!) after spending two years with the National Park Service (NPS). I also worked for a couple of years for the City of Pacifica Park and Rec Dept (my first job out of college) and while in college, I was a camp director for three summers. Prior to that, while in Jr. High and High School, I was a camp counselor in the summers from the ages of 14 to 18. I like to tell people that I've worked in the Park and Recreation field since I was 14! I always wanted to be a ranger. This was a result of camping in many State and National Parks while growing up.

My time with NPS was spent giving interpretive tours on Alcatraz Island.

STATE PARK NEWS



Sierra State Parks Lake Sector Superintendent, Susan Grove

With CA State Parks, I worked at Silverwood Lake (in the San Bernardino Mtns), Big Sur, and then Big Basin Redwoods. After that I promoted to Supervising Ranger and worked at Folsom Lake, Palomar Mountain and Castle Crags/Burney Falls. Then I promoted again to a superintendent position and oversaw Grover Hot Springs, Bodie and Mono Lake. And finally, I came to Lake Tahoe Sector almost six years ago and ended my career as the Sector Superintendent here. It's hard to remember accomplishments from years gone by, but in my current position I think I'm most proud of two things. One is growing the Special Events program by embracing weddings, corporate dinners etc. on the grounds of the Hellman-Ehrman Mansion. We get to keep the fees for these events and we've been able to do quite a bit of

restoration on the mansion. Pine Lodge (Hellman-Ehrman Mansion) was really falling into disrepair and I saw the opportunity to bring in funds to start restoration work. I've also worked very cooperatively with the Vikingsholm Foundation to continue restoration efforts at beautiful Vikingsholm as well. The second thing I'm proud of is the contacts and partnerships I've built with our allied agencies and the business community. I believe that CA State Parks now has a very positive relationship with many businesses and local agencies that is mutually beneficial. I hope that the next generation of staff will continue to strive to restore our lovely mansions, both of which are on the National Register of Historic Places. I also hope that the positive relationship with businesses and allied agencies continues. I'm so proud to have dedicated over half of my life to being

a park professional. Parks are so important for many reasons: they preserve valuable habitat, they protect wildlife, they provide recreational opportunities for families; they provide quiet time in nature in people's hectic lives, they allow school children to have an outdoor classroom, and they support the local economy by bringing visitors to the area. What a wonderful thing to have been a part of for all these years!

LAKE TAHOE STATE PARKS EXPERIENCE CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP

Lake Tahoe Sector Superintendent Susan Grove has announced her retirement and is moving on to a new chapter in her life. Susan brought a wealth of experience with her to the Superintendent position at the lake, and was able to make many positive changes in the Sector. She aggressively nurtured the Special Events and Volunteer Programs into the great successes recognized today. Susan earned the respect and cooperation of the community and built great partnerships with local leaders. Her most recent achievement was to successfully operate the parks this past summer and maintain a high quality visitor experience, in spite of the Department's dire fiscal restraints. She will be sorely missed.

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On October 1st. Susan handed the reins of the Lake Tahoe area parks over to Superintendent Brian Barton. Brian also brings a wealth of experience and diverse background to park operations. He began in private industry as a field manager for Carnation / Contadina and worked 10 years for the Department of Fish and Game as the Northern California Coordinator of the Private Lands Habitat Enhancement Program. Brian started as a State Park Ranger in 1998 on the Big Sur Coast, and

came to Lake Tahoe in 2002. Here in Tahoe he has worked as a State Park Ranger, Supervising State Park Ranger, and most recently Public Safety Officer for the Sierra

District. In his

spare time he has taught college classes and was a newspaper columnist. He is an avid bird watcher and enjoys hunting, fishing, and diving. When asked recently about upcoming issues in the sector, Brian stated "The budget ... or lack thereof! Partnerships and support from outside the Department will be critical to meet the needs of our visitors, and to continue to provide them with a safe and rewarding park experience in the Lake Tahoe Area."

KUDOS FOR ROB WESTON

The Sierra State Parks Foundation would like to acknowledge our special friend, Rob Weston of West Shore Sports for his outstanding efforts and contributions to our organization. For many years, Rob has provided this foundation with the proceeds from the full moon snowshoe tours he sponsors at Sugar Pine Point during the

winter

months.

This sum-

mer, Rob

launched a

very popu-

lar kayak

operation

at Sugar

Point. As

snowshoe

tours, Rob

also con-

with the

Pine



Congratulations, Brian!

ducted full moon kayak tours on beautiful Lake Tahoe, donating those proceeds as well to the Sierra State Parks Foundation. The West Shore Business Association, of which Rob serves as President, donated over \$300 of proceeds from their Big Band Jazz in the Park event to Sierra State Parks Foundation. We are deeply grateful for his commitment to the Sierra Parks and his generosity to this foundation. If you would like more

Full Moon On Lake Tahoe

information about the snowshoe tours which will be offered again this winter, please visit our website at www.sierrastateparks.org, or call West Shore Sports at (530) 525-9920

DONNER UPDATE

by Veneta Stewart

Donner Trails

Autumn is a wonderful time to visit Donner Memorial State Park. While our campground closed for the season on September 24, the museum remains open to visitors. Our newly paved parking lot is once again available for use so come on in. The museum is open 10AM to 5PM daily with a Donner Party video shown hourly until 4PM. Be sure to visit the bookstore. We have a great selection of books on the Donner Party and local area history as well as apparel and gift items.

Sierra State Parks Foundation members: present your membership card for a 20% discount on all purchases.

While you are at the park, take a stroll on our nature trail. or venture into Coldstream Valley to enjoy the fall colors of the Aspen Grove near Horseshoe Bend. The 2 1/2 mile Lakeshore/ China Cove loop trail offers beautiful vistas of Donner Lake and the Pacific Crest. Maps of the park are available at the Museum for \$1.00. Construction continues on our new museum, expected to open by the summer of 2013, with expanded interpretive exhibits on local area history. It will feature interactive exhibits that will allow visitors to explore the experience of the early Native People, the Washoe, Emigrants including the Donner Party, the Chinese population who largely built the transcontinental railroad

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in this area, and the early motoring experience over the Victory Highway (Old 40). Donations supporting Donner Memorial State Park are welcomed at the front counter or in the Covered Wagon stand by the exhibit room entrance.

LIVING HISTORY DAY

Sugar Pine Point State Park and SSPF host the annual Living History Day the last Saturday of July each year. Over 150 volunteers step forward to make this a fun



Teacher & Living History volunteer extraordinaire, Victoria Workman.

and successful day portraying life in the 1930's at Lake Tahoe, with Pine Lodge's Open House for all the visitors being the main attraction. We also feature a classic car exhibit, a Native American storytelling circle presented by Washoe tribal elders, an activity area for children. as

well as food and refreshment stands. All the events are free except for parking and the food booths. We have a raffle each vear to off-

set the expenses and thank all the won-

derful businesses and people that participate.

Plan to join us in July 28, 2012 for a family fun filled event.

BEHIND THE SCENES IN THE PARKS

The True Grit Of Park Operations

One of the major goals of the Sierra State Parks is to preserve and protect these beautiful areas for all our visitors to enjoy. Most of us think of the State Parks as just thatplaces with breathtaking views, clean, fresh mountain air, pure water, spectacular hiking trails, get-away campsites, intriguing flora and fauna, and a bounty of historical legacy to learn about. But who are the folks that help to make all this possible? What is the real day to day work involved in managing and preserving our state park system that most of us are



Puttin' On The Ritz at Living History Day

water systems- one of the most important aspects of park operations. We hope that our interview with Mr. Payne will increase public awareness of drinking water production and sewage treatment within Sierra State Parks.

Graham, can you tell us something of what your job involves in the Lake Sector Parks?

Within the Lake Sector, I oversee 4 water treatment facilities, 6 water distribution systems and 9 sewage pumping stations. My job duties include every day operations of each of these systems to provide safe drinking water to the public and conveyance of sewage out of the parks.

When you say water systems, what do you mean by that?

A water system is the process of taking water from its natural state (river, aquifer or lake) and purifying it to make it potable and safe for human consumption.

Where does the water come from?

The water in the Lake Tahoe Basin Parks comes from several different sources. Eagle Point Campground, Boat Camp Campground and Vikingsholm Castle all get their water from Lake Tahoe. D.L. Bliss takes water from a stream flowing from snow melt and springs above the park.

How is it delivered to the parks?

Water is delivered to the parks by distribution systems which are a large array of pipes buried below the parks.

In this issue of our newsletter. the Sierra State Parks Foundation would like to take you behind the scenes with an interview by Mr. Graham Payne, Water & Sewer Plant Supervisor, who manages

our parks'

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Can you give us a basic plan of how the water system works?

Raw water is stored either in a reservoir (lake) or in a catch basin located on a river or stream. The collected water is piped to the water treatment facility where it is purified. This is done by one of three types of filtration systems: Pressure Vessel Filtration, where we force the water through nine various types of sand and garnets, Diatomaceous Earth Filtration where we filter it through small diatoms, or Micro Filtration where we force the water through laser pierced membranes. Once the water has passed through one of these filter units and reached 99.999% cvst removal, it is then disinfected with chlorine to assure that the remaining .001% does not contain any bacterias. The water is then pumped into storage tanks where the water is able to have contact time with the chlorine we have added. This assures that the water is 100% bacteria free. The water then leaves the tanks and enters the distribution system within the park and is delivered to the hose bibs, showers and restroom facilities.

Is the water quality tested?

The water is tested constantly. On a daily basis, we check for chlorine residuals and pH. On a monthly basis, we test for coliforms and E-Coli. This is required by the California Health Code. Once per year we check for Nitrates and every three



years for Nitrites. Once every 5 years we do a complete panel test on the source water to check for any changes to the source. If at any time we find something in the water that is not normal, we re-sample to assure that it was not contaminated while collecting it. If the problem is noticed again, corrective action is taken within the system to identify where the problem came from and it is resolved and tested again prior to consumption.

What are your concerns about water issues?

My main concerns pertaining to water issues are that we continually provide excellent water quality to all customers. I hope that the state will fund all water and sewer projects throughout the state so park visitors have an excellent experience.

What are three things you would like park visitors and our readers to understand the most about water issues in the parks? Not just park visitors but everybody needs to understand how water and sewer systems operate. Most people have no idea of the process. They feel that the water miraculously comes out of the pipe pure and ready to drink. It takes time and money to produce water for human consumption. I would first like park visitors to understand that we have operators on call 24 hours a day to provide quality water, so when there is a problem, please be patient and understanding. We are doing our best with what we have. Second, when initiatives come up on the ballet for funding of State Parks. please think about them hard. If you use a park or have a school that uses them for educational or recreational purposes, please support them. And third, please respect the water and sewer systems within the parks. They are old and take lots of TLC.

THANK YOU! Thank you, too, Graham!

FROM THE STATE CAPITOL

On October 4, Gov. Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 42 by Assemblyman Jared Huffman (D, San Rafael). AB 42 authorizes the California Department of Parks and Recreation to enter into operating agreements with qualified nonprofit and private organizations to operate a state park unit or specific park site within a park, if the agreement will enable the state park to remain open. It is considered a creative solution to keeping parks operating despite the state's budget challenges. This law is expected to save many parks that are now slated for closure. Mr Huffman says, "Particularly in these tough economic times, creative public/private partnerships are an essential tool in providing ongoing protection of, and continued access to, these treasured public assets". It is critical that State government recognizes that nonprofit organizations are vital to the State Parks as supporting partners. It is a new model that provides the State Parks with the flexibility to welcome a wide array of organizations that can provide services which will help to keep the parks open. The Sierra State Parks Foundation is already at work, exploring new avenues of operations with our Sierra Park partners as a result of this new law.

Stay tuned!

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AT THE BOOKSTORE

This month, the Sierra State Foundation online store presents a new addition: "Rubicon Springs and The Rubicon Trail: A History" by local author Rick Morris, who is now a professional archeologist with an interest in the study of historic tourism, homesteads, mining. The Rubicon Springs is a natural flowing mineral springs located on the eastern side of the Rubicon River approximately 15 miles west of Lake Tahoe, California, at an elevation of about 6,000 feet. The Springs location was first established as having tourist possibilities in the early 1860's by George and John Hunsucker. This informative volume highlights the history of the Rubicon Springs area and its development in fascinating detail. It is replete with rare and unique historical photographs of visitors who came to the Rubicon Springs Hotel from 1887 onward and provides fascinating details of turn of the century tourist culture. Rubicon Springs will be available Nov. 1 at our online store for only \$35.00 plus tax. Get a jump on Christmas by visiting our online store at www.sierrastateparks.org today.



GET INVOLVED

We welcome your thoughts and feedback anytime. Our next issue will introduce our new column, "The Forum". Articles sent in to us by our readers will be published under this section with the author's permission, and we will strive to represent a diversity of opinions from our readers who write to us. So speak up about park issues, areas of special concern you may have about the parks, or just tell us about a noteworthy visit or experience at the Sierra Parks! Readers may submit their articles to info@sierrastateparks.org.

We would like to conclude this edition of the Sierra Spirit with the following quotation:

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature--the assurance that dawn comes after night and spring comes after winter."

~Rachel Carson

We thank all our readers for their support of the Sierra State Parks Foundation. Look for the next edition of the Sierra Spirit this coming Spring.

We wish you a wonderful Holiday Season!

Graphic Art by Susan De Ryke. To see more of Susan's unique renderings of our Sierra Parks, please visit our online store at sierrastateparks.org

Sierra Spirit Contributors: Dr. Larry Bienati Michele McDonald Veneta Stewart Susan Grove Brian Barton Graham Payne **Photo Credits:** Charlotte Patterson Heidi Doyle Susan Grove Michele McDonald Karen Rehkop Veneta Stewart Brian Barton Rose Payne Larry Bienati



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"I believe the Sierra State Parks have a future, and I want to be a part of it!" Join online at www.sierrastateparks.org, or fill out and return this form:

□ \$35 Park Friend □ \$50 Park Partner □ \$75 Park Guardian □ \$100 Park Steward

□ \$500 Park Conservator □ \$1,000 + Park Benefactor □	<u>\$</u>
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Please make checks payable to: Sierra State Parks Foundation and send to: Sierra State Parks Foundation, PO Box 28, Tahoe City, CA 96145

Please help us to protect the future of our beautiful Sierra State Parks. Your membership purchase or donation will make a significant difference now!