



SIERRA
STATE
PARKS
FOUNDATION

SIERRA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION THE SIERRA SPIRIT

Volume 3 Issue 3 Winter 2015/16 www.SierraStateParks.org

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

A Message from the Executive Director

Where is your happy place? For many of us, it is our Lake Tahoe and Truckee California State Parks. Our parks are places to quiet our minds, create family memories, and to share our love of the outdoors and special places with friends. Your life would be less enriched without these world-class opportunities to experience natural beauty and rich local history.

Regretfully, public funding for State Parks is at a near historic low; entrance fees fall far short of what is required to keep the gates open and programming available. Fortunately, Sierra State Parks Foundation is on hand to close the funding gap to keep facilities and visitor centers open and provide ongoing maintenance. Because of YOU, our generous network of supporters, we accomplished much in 2015 and can be justifiably proud. See page 4 for details.

In 2016, SSPF intends to reach out to local non-traditional park users so that they, too, may find their happy place in our State Parks. Please join us with your ideas, commitment and enthusiasm; I'm excited about what we can do together!

For a meaningful holiday season, consider giving a gift of membership to the Sierra State Parks Foundation. Membership benefits include passes to our historic sites and discounts in our park stores. Most importantly, however, your gift ensures the park gates will remain open with smiles guaranteed.

Visit our website or give us a call to get started. Give the gift of parks!

Yours in parks,
Heidi Doyle, Executive Director



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GOT HISTORY BUFFS ON YOUR GIFT LIST?

SHOP SIERRA HISTORY AT OUR
FULLY STOCKED
GIFT STORE!

Featuring the human and natural
history of the area

- Native Americans
- Donner Party & Pioneers
- Transcontinental Railroad
- Old Highway 40
- Maps / Books
- Children's Section
- Unique Gifts

SPECIAL EVENTS ALL WINTER!

Donner Memorial State Park Visitor Center
12593 Donner Pass Road, Truckee
Open 10am-5pm everyday | Closed holidays
530-582-7892

Purchases directly supports Donner
State Park. Store is operated by the
Sierra State Parks Foundation.



CHIEF
TRUCKEE

AN INTERVIEW WITH DENISE JAFFKE

Sierra District California State Parks Archeologist By Michelle McDonald

1. Please introduce yourself to us, and tell us what your responsibilities are at the Sierra State Parks.

I've worked as a State Archaeologist and Native American Liaison for the Sierra District just over 10 years. When hired in 2003, I was the first permanent, full-time archaeologist for the District- so the Archaeology Program had to be built essentially from scratch. I've worked for Caltrans (Central Region), Forest Service (Tahoe and Lassen National Forests), and the private sector as a consulting archaeologist but I found my home at Parks, and Sierra District in particular.



2. Describe some key aspects of your work and why it is important to the parks and our park visitors.

I have three primary responsibilities as the District Archaeologist: 1) inventorying and monitoring cultural resources including archaeological sites, features, and artifacts; 2) evaluating Park projects to determine if the project will have a negative impact on cultural resources and recommended treatment options as necessary; and 3) serving as a liaison for the Washoe, Maidu, and Paiute Tribes. I also serve on the statewide State Parks Dive Team and the Native American Consultation Policy Committee.

In regards to establishing priorities, I work on two different time lines. The first, and more immediate, is performing archival research, conducting fieldwork, and preparing reports for Visitor Services, Maintenance, or Forestry projects. The second, and more inclusive, is establishing comprehensive cultural resources inventory for every park in the District. It's incredibly important for us to complete these park inventories to be able to understand the breadth and complexity of the resources we are charged to protect and interpret.

3. What is your most exciting project this summer? Or- what kind of project would you like to see happening in the near future?

Just off-shore at Emerald Bay State Park is a collection of small recreation boats from the 1930s/40s era Emerald Bay Resort we call the "Mini-fleet" and the two barges located below Eagle Point Campground. We would like to create a Maritime Heritage Trail, with both underwater and terrestrial elements, to highlight Tahoe's boating history using the submerged boats as points of interest. John Foster, Senior State Archaeologist (retired) and Fredrick (Fritz) Hanselmann (Chief Underwater Archaeologist and

Diving Program Director for the Meadows Center, Texas State University) joined us in September to assess the condition of the boats and prepare a draft trail plan. We submitted a grant proposal for the "Emerald Bay, Lake Tahoe Maritime Heritage Trail" to the National Maritime Heritage Grant Program last August. I'm hoping to organize public outreach events this winter to present a draft plan and gather input from the local and diving community. We will also be presenting our

draft plan at the Society for Historical and Underwater Archaeology conference, Washington D.C., in January 2016.

4. How can the Sierra State Parks Foundation contribute to your vision and current endeavors?

I would like to build a Sierra Archaeological Site Stewardship Program where trained volunteers work with me to protect archaeological and historical resources by regularly visiting sites and recording changes. We have close to



Underwater Archeology Team in Emerald Bay

1000 recorded archaeological sites in the District and one archaeologist to monitor and manage these important resources—many are at risk. The SSPF could help me advertise and promote the stewardship program. I would also like to begin annual public archaeology events at Tahoe and Donner, which SSPF could help advertise, organize, and fund. Additionally, the Foundation could also help me to spread the word about

our no artifact collection policy to the general public. We are incrementally losing valuable information about our local history and prehistory from folks collecting artifacts to serve as souvenirs or in attempt to "clean" the forest. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Sierra State Parks Foundation for all they do to help us manage our cultural resources.

WELCOME ABOARD, NORMA SANTIAGO

Originally from Ponce, Puerto Rico, family circumstances led me to California in the early 70s. I jokingly referred to myself as a retired Navy brat. I have a Bachelors of Science degree from UC Berkeley in Business Administration with an emphasis in Organizational Behavior and Marketing.

I am the proud mother of two beautiful, intelligent children, Earl (27) and Tatianna Peck (25).

I served as an El Dorado County Supervisor from 2005 to 2010 representing District 5. During my tenure as County Supervisor, I focused on many issues including economic and workforce development, sustainable communities, forest management, transportation and environmental redevelopment, just to name a few. Currently, I am using this experience in developing my own consulting business, Catalytic Connections, which focuses on bringing together key partners towards building solutions and implementing projects that provide an economic, environmental, and social benefit to our community.

I look forward to bringing my skills and experience to the Sierra State Parks Foundation as a Member of the Board of Directors.



WE DID IT! THE GRASS GROWS GREENER NOW

The Sierra State Parks Foundation is excited and pleased to announce that the Sod Roof project at Vikingsholm, Emerald Bay State Park, has been completed! This project has been four years in the making, but the time and effort it has taken for this restoration has produced beautiful results. The new watering system was installed, and the roof is now resplendent with a beautiful hue of green grass. The wildflower seeds were sown on the grass at the end of the summer. Visiting Vikingsholm this coming year is a must!

We would like to take this opportunity to give a special thanks to all of the wonderful people whose hard work and generous contributions have made this project possible. It could not have happened without you!

- Sierra District State Park Team
- The San Francisco Foundation
- The Antique & Classic Boat Society
- The Tahoe Yacht Club
- Jody Lindell of The Stern Family Foundation
- Steve Lannoy of Kayak Tahoe
- Dr. Helen Smith
- Cecile Cutitta
- Robert Bowser
- Micah Feingold
- Kenneth and Rona Powell
- Richard and Louise Wiesner
- Martha Knight-Clyde
- Richard and Lorinda Johnson
- Robert and Marilyn Weiss



State Park Restoration Crew hard at work on the sod roof.

Below: Our board, staff and volunteers work together to complete critical projects such as restoration of the Vikingsholm sod roof.



A (Short List) Of Our Accomplishments in 2015:

Donner Memorial State Park

- Provided \$40,000 to enable the hiring of the Visitor Center Coordinator.
- Lobbied for State Budget augmentation for support of the Visitor Center-we won!
- Funded the volunteer program.
- Funded the return of campfire programs and school group tours to the park.

Kings Beach State Recreation Area

- Provided a State Park Information Booth for 6 weeks to collect user data and assist the park staff.

Ed Z'berg Sugar Pine Point State Park

- Operated the house museum tours of the Hellman-Ehrman Estate & Visitor Center
- Completed electrical system upgrade to Pine Lodge and completing repairs to porch ceiling.
- Funded groundskeepers and historic building caretakers.
- Funded the permit process of the South Boathouse Restoration.
- Provided mechanical grooming of the snow trail system.

DL Bliss State Park

- Supported the State Park volunteer program and Visitor Center.
- Contracted for the production of 14 interpretive panels along the Rubicon Trail.
- Installation slated for Spring 2016.
- Supported park campfire and educational programming.

Emerald Bay State Park

- Operated the house museum tours and Visitor Center at Vikingsholm.
- Restored the sod/wildflower roof and watering system at Vikingsholm.
- Completed the electrical system upgrade at Vikingsholm.
- Funded a position dedicated to the maintenance of Vikingsholm.

Washoe Meadows State Park

- Created a Washoe Meadows SP committee with plans for 2016 programming.

Tahoe State Recreation Area

- Supported the State Park Volunteer Program.

Proudly Supporting These Treasures

Emerald Bay
State Park

DL Bliss State Park

Donner Memorial
State Park

Washoe Meadows
State Park

Kings Beach State
Recreation Area

Tahoe State
Recreation Area

Burton Creek
State Park



SUPPORT THESE FUTURE PROJECTS

(Visit www.SierraStateParks.org for project details)

- The construction of an outdoor educational pavilion outside the Donner Visitor Center (\$5K)
- The production of a movie "Crossing Barriers, Changing Lives" for Donner (\$100K)
- "Park on Wheels: A Mobile Interpretive Exhibit" (\$90K)
- South Boathouse Repairs at Sugar Pine Point (\$40K)
- Interpretive Signing at Washoe Meadows SP (\$25K)
- Summer Interpretive Specialist (\$20K)

TOGETHER...WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE...

Your support of our State Parks is vital!

Use the enclosed envelope to send in your year-end contribution today

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

The Sierra State Parks Foundation has published a long anticipated, self guided brochure through the Historic Zone at Sugar Pine Point State Park. This guide enables visitors to understand the buildings and landmarks while visiting the park during the off season when the visitor center is closed. Many years in the making, we would like to thank our student intern, Jonathan Heywood, who did the initial research, retired Park Superintendent Susan Grove for her editing skills and Wild West Communications for the graphics. This project was funded through the Raymond Aymeric Memorial Fund.

Thanks For A Great Year!



Dedication of the new Visitor Center at Donner Memorial State Park on June 5

A Self-Guided Tour OF THE Hellman-Ehrman Estate Ed Z'berg Sugar Pine Point STATE PARK



Below: We raise funds in support of our parks. Donner Wall opportunities are available starting at \$1,000.



“What a great time everyone had on the Tahoe Gal during our popular Liar’s Cruise in October. We appreciate our volunteers, event attendees, and park partners.

Right: Our summer intern, Laura Gray, helping us to survey the needs of Kings Beach State Recreation Area. Based on the data collected, we are raising funds for a *Park on Wheels* to bring educational programming to our parks this coming summer.



Executive Director Heidi Doyle, SSSPF Volunteer of the Year Bill Mueser and Volunteer and Event Coordinator Kelly Leage.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sierra State Parks Foundation would like to sincerely thank these individuals and organizations that have contributed to our cause since May. Your financial support has made a significant difference in enabling us to achieve our goals in support of our valued California State Parks in the Lake Tahoe-Truckee region.

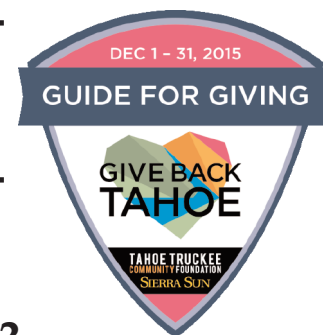
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Mike & Priscilla Watson
Rob Weston & Sally Taylor
West Shore Sports
Richard & Louise Wiesner

Thank you Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation for supporting our cause in the upcoming Give Back to Tahoe campaign. Help us win the challenge grant with the most \$50 individual donations! Please visit www.ttcf.net to donate.



DID YOU KNOW?

- 27,000 tours were provided by SSPF guides this summer.
- 171 volunteers for SSPF logged 1,239 hours on behalf of State Parks.
- 40,000 visitors came to the two Visitor Centers we operate at Sugar Pine Point and Emerald Bay State Park.

DONNER VISITOR CENTER NEWS By Steve Ellmore, Visitor Center Coordinator



The Donner Memorial State Park Visitor Center staff and volunteers have been incredibly busy during our first summer season of operation and are currently in the thick of the school program season. In the past 15 weeks, 30,000 visitors came through our doors. Over 1400 of them took advantage of our guided history walks. Currently, guided school programs are proving very popular with local educators.

Topics include the transcontinental railroad, pioneers, the Donner party, and the history of the Donner monument.

On October 3rd, we kicked off our new monthly or bi-monthly speaker series. Attendees were treated to local author Bill Oudegeest's presentation on his book "Walking Through Donner Summit History", followed by a book signing. Everyone is invited to join us for future speakers. Call 530-582-7892 for schedule information.

Many upcoming projects are in the works. The park maintenance team is repairing and upgrading the nature trail; it will reopen soon. A new film on the history of the Chinese in the Sierra Nevada will soon be ready for showings at Rock Theater.



We are so proud of the new Visitor Center at Donner Memorial State Park. Be sure to stop by the expanded store featuring unique gifts and our large book selection. SSPF members receive a 10% discount!

Even in the winter season, Donner State Park is a great place to visit. In addition to enjoying cross country skiing, come in to see our new state-of-the-art visitor center. If you like what you see (and you will!), consider becoming a volunteer.

Volunteers help at the information counter, conduct guided walks, assist in the park store, and perform a myriad of other fun and vital



SSPF Historian Gail Green conducting volunteer training

tasks. We provide training, which includes traveling to sister State Parks to observe their volunteer programs. We recently hosted a group of docents from Empire Mine State Park in

Grass Valley. We also regularly recognize the valuable contributions of our volunteers at appreciation events such as the dinner which took place on September 19th.

Sierra State Parks Foundation has provided funding to support our interpretive and docent programs. We are so grateful to the Foundation and its members; we couldn't do it without you!

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY ...

Looking for a unique and delightful gift for that special person this holiday season? Consider purchasing a ticket for a chance to win an Evening Soirée at the Pine Lodge Mansion (Hellman-Ehrman Mansion) at Sugar Pine Point State Park. The winning ticket entitles you and 15 friends to be wined and dined in elegant style in one of the most beautiful historic homes of the early 20th century. Please visit our website at www.sierrastateparks.org or call us at 530/583-9911 to buy your winning ticket.



Evening Soirée. This could be your next dinner party inside the Hellman-Ehrman Mansion



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We Believe!

We, at the Sierra State Parks Foundation, believe that Lake Tahoe and Truckee area California State Parks are unique treasures worthy of our support.

SSPF provides critical financial support for restoration and maintenance projects, creative programming, and a dedicated volunteer staff.

Because of our work, these valuable cultural and natural resources will continue to be places of inspiration and education for generations to come.

Donate Today!

at www.sierrastateparks.org

SUPPORT YOUR SIERRA STATE PARKS & GET INVOLVED TODAY!
Volunteer, donate, or visit the Sierra State Parks.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF OUR
WONDERFUL SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY
AND SUPPORT OF THE SIERRA STATE PARKS



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