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# SIERRA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION THE SIERRA SPIRIT

Volume 2 Issue 4 November 2013 www.sierrastateparks.org

## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

### "Memories are perhaps the best gifts of all."

- Gloria Gaither

My favorite family memories involve a California State Park. The Sierra State Parks Foundation is dedicated to providing support to our beloved Tahoe-Truckee area parks to ensure that your next visit will create the gift of fond and lasting memories. As I approach my one year anniversary as your Director, I would like to thank you, our members and supporters, for your tremendous encouragement. A special shout-out to our Board of Directors who spend countless hours on behalf of our State Parks.

2013 has been a memorable year for SSPF! Our membership base grew by 51% and donations have far exceeded \$1,050,000! In addition we have received financial support from the Tahoe-Truckee Community Foundation, the Hellman Family Foundation and the California State Parks Foundation. A very special thanks to our local "Park Partners", The Tahoe Gal, Kayak Tahoe and West Shore Sports- for donating a substantial portion of their profits towards our cause. These monies are not only funding identified critical park projects, but are enabling us to vision with our State Park partners to strategically protect, preserve and educate now and for the future. Please support these wonderful businesses that that have so generously contributed to our cause!

Your dollars make a difference with the Sierra State Parks (an abbreviated list!)

- The electrical safety upgrades at the Hellman-Ehrman Estate are out to bid after the long evaluation, planning and permitting process. The total cost of this project will exceed \$110,000 and will ensure continued access to Pine Lodge for all our park visitors to enjoy.
- We are in the evaluation stage of the front porch ceiling and hope to get this \$50,000 project done in the spring. The gardens are tucked in for the winter and plans to hire a dedicated landscaper are in place for both this property, as well as Vikingsholm.
- Research has been completed for the design of 5 interpretive panels for Bliss State Park and we are coordinating the fabrication process for a 2014 installation.
- The snow groomer is ready to go when the white stuff flies at Sugar Pine Point State Park. Did you know that YOUR foundation grooms the only free Nordic trails in Tahoe?
- This past season, we subsidized historic house tours to 456 school children.
- Living History Day brought our landmark alive to over 1200 visitors in July.

As we approach the Holiday season, I am grateful for the continued support you have shown our organization. As we look towards 2014, I am excited about the possibilities that we can achieve together!

Yours in parks,  
Heidi Doyle, Executive Director



Heidi Doyle, Executive Director

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...educate, interpret, restore & preserve

Sierrastateparks.org

Phone: 530/583-9911

Fax: 866/467-2137

## Park Stores Holiday Super Sales!



**FRIDAY  
December 6**

Donner Museum Store  
10am - 5pm  
12593 Donner Pass Rd., Truckee

**SATURDAY  
December 14**

Foundation Office  
10am - 5pm  
1295 N. Lake Tahoe Blvd., Tahoe City

"Membership Only" Specials & Discounts  
Refreshments!

**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



# OLYMPIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION

January 11-19, 2014

The 50th Anniversary of the Winter Olympic Games will be celebrated at Squaw Valley, and the Sierra State Parks Foundation will be assisting in the Nordic Skiing events to be held at Ed Z'berg Sugar Pine Point State Park. In 1960, millions of people worldwide viewed the first televised Olympics, and had their first exposure to the Nordic style of skiing beamed to their homes from just outside of Tahoma. What was a novelty then to many, has now become a highly popular and competitive sport.

Today new trees cover most of the old Olympic trails and much of the land is now publically owned. Year-round visitors to Sugar Pine Point State Park, now hike, bike and ski on segments of the original Olympic system. The Sierra State Parks Foundation is proud to be part of the 50-year Olympic celebration. We will host a free opening ceremony day on Saturday, January 11, which will also be the opening day of our cross-country season. Festivities include a welcome and lighting of the Cauldron at 11am, a celebration of Native American culture, guided snowshoe and cross-country tours, and refreshments. Our trails are groomed twice weekly, and

following storms, and cover just over 8 miles. Other Sugar Pine olympic celebration events will include a Biathlon and Snowshoe Hike on Saturday, January 18. For a complete list of Olympic Heritage Celebration events and more information on Nordic skiing at Sugar Pine Point, go to [www.sierrastateparks.org](http://www.sierrastateparks.org)



## SUMMARY OF HISTORIC TOUR PROGRAM

by Lindsay Harbison, Guide Supervisor

This was the first summer the Sierra State Parks Foundation was responsible for staffing and running the tours of historic Pine Lodge. The transition went smoothly, and attendance was spectacular. Beside the regular tours, we accommodated 877 individuals and schoolchildren on special tours, along with 650 who attended our open house on Living History Day. The bottom line: over 6500 visitors toured Pine Lodge, and were made aware of the wonderful work done by the Sierra State Parks Foundation.

In May, we had an introduction to the new audiovisual system that will help us comply with the American Disabilities Act guidelines. Various options were demonstrated showing how dis-



Nancy Arnold on Tour-Vikingsholm



Lindsay Harbison on Tour-Ehrman Mansion

abled visitors can enjoy a tour of Pine Lodge and the grounds, at their own pace. They can also view a live tour of the mansion from a downstairs big screen TV. We have already used the hearing assisted equipment on a number of tours. This season's Wine and Wisdom fundraisers were well attended. Both educational and enjoyable, these much-loved occasions supplied much-needed funds for the upkeep of Pine Lodge. We were also pleased to receive some substantial private donations specifically for its maintenance.

It is wonderful to be a part of the SSPF team, working with our wonderful volunteers and the California State Parks to accomplish our common goals. See you next summer!

# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

by Marilyn Linkem



Marilyn Linkem, Sierra District Superintendent

We had a wonderful summer and fall in the Lake Tahoe sector, and were able to keep our parks open later in the year. D.L. Bliss stayed open through September, and the Vikingsholm parking lot was staffed through October. Due to the Federal Government shutdown, we opened additional camping loops at both Sugar Pine Point State Park and Donner Memorial State Park. The latter stayed open through the first weekend in November, making

visitors happy to have found a campground open so late in the season. A big thank you goes out to the park staff for their extra hours and efforts. The popular house tours at Pine Lodge and Vikingsholm would not have happened this summer without The Sierra State Parks Foundation. Thank you for providing quality tours for our park visitors.

We are ready for winter! Let's get out and ski the beautiful cross-country ski trails at Sugar Pine Point. And don't forget to join us for our full moon snowshoe interpretive hikes. Thanks again to SSPF and West Shore Sports for providing grooming and funding for these programs. For more information, please visit [www.sierrastateparks.org](http://www.sierrastateparks.org). Have a healthy and happy holiday season.

## INTERPRETIVE CONFERENCE REPORT

by Nichole Gange, Lake Tahoe Sector, Interpreter

Thank you to the Sierra State Parks Foundation (SSPF) for supporting the professional development of Interpreters in our State Parks! My name is Nichole Gange, and I work in the Lake Tahoe Sector providing interpretation for California State Parks. SSPF recently sponsored my attendance at the National Association of Interpretation conference in Reno. This allowed me to spend four days with other professionals in the field, sharing ideas and attending workshops on improving programs, navigating workplace dynamics and inspiring enthusiasm. I got to explore topics with talented interpreters who know how to make a difference in their communities. I participated in discussions on strategic planning, nurturing staff, and incorporating techniques to get the public more involved with their parks. I cannot wait to put this information into action and to create new opportunities for the public, volunteers and staff. Once again, I would like to thank SSPF for providing me with this opportunity.

## MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

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Presented by the Sierra State Parks Foundation

*Win an Evening Soiree at The Mansion*

**\$100 / ticket**

You and 23 of your friends have a 1-in-100 chance of winning an elegant evening soiree at the Ehrman-Hellman Mansion at Sugar Pine Point State Park, on the shores of Lake Tahoe. Known as Pine Lodge, the Mansion set the standard for grand turn-of-the-century living at Lake Tahoe.

- Sparkling wines, a five-course huntsman dinner, and period music will create an historic ambiance for the winner of this special, elegant evening.
- The winner will be drawn immediately after the 100th ticket is sold!

Tickets can be purchased at the Tahoe City Visitors Center at the "wye", James-Harold Galleries in the Boatworks and on line at [SierraStateParks.org](http://SierraStateParks.org). For more information call the SSPF at 530-583-9911.

Available during the 2013-2014 season by reservation only. All Park facility rules apply. Proceeds will contribute to the ongoing maintenance of Pine Lodge.