

Crater Lake Currents

Photo by
Jenn Evans

June 15, 2015

In this issue...

Caldera News

Safety & Wellness

In the Community

People of the Lake



Trolley Tours began **June 12**, the same day the Rim opened in its entirety. Boat Tours start **June 26**, as do most other Interpretive hikes in the park. And with fish this big waiting at Cleetwood, its time to get out and play, don't you think? (Thanks, Jordan, for the photo.)

CALDERA NEWS

Welcome, Seasonals!

By Craig Ackerman, Superintendent

In his 1810 visitors' guide to England's Lake District, Romanticist William Wordsworth, who 30 years later would be appointed Britain's poet laureate, wrote that the Lakes were such a spectacular and unique expanse of relatively wild natural beauty that they should be protected by the federal government as "sort of national property in which every man has a right and interest who has an eye to perceive and a heart to enjoy." Twenty-plus years later, in 1832 in the U.S. this concept was actively being promoted by painter George Caitlin after he had witnessed firsthand the negative effects on cultures, wildlife, and wilderness that had come about with westward expansion, and he eloquently appealed Congress to grant custody of Yosemite Valley to the state of California to be "...used and preserved for the benefit of all mankind."

In 1864 President Lincoln signed an act into law that provided custody of Yosemite Valley to the State of California for the purpose of preserving the resources therein and to provide for recreational

opportunities. The designation of Yellowstone National Park as the world's first official "national park" followed a few years later in 1872.

So what does any of this have to do with being a new or returning seasonal employee at Crater Lake National Park? Well, it serves as a strong reminder that you, I, all of the staff of the NPS, the Natural History Association, Xanterra Parks and Resorts, and all of our volunteers represent a long and proud tradition of individuals dedicating their efforts, and in some cases most of their lives, to protect, preserve, and provide for the use of these special places—of which one of the most well noted has now been entrusted to your care. This is a monumental task to which I ask every employee to commit their full focus and effort whenever you are carrying out your assigned duties and interacting with our visitors from around the world. Our "owners" have a special respect for you and this place. It's up to you to understand that awesome responsibility and to help ensure that our visitors, co-workers, and stakeholders understand that we know it is both a privilege and an honor to serve in this regard. I am confident you're up to the task!

What's Blooming Now

By Jen Beck, Botanist

The flowering season is now in full swing within the Park; you can barely take a step without noticing petals gracing the landscape with their color. Featured here are three wildflowers that are conspicuous throughout the Park right now, along with two other flowers that may take some more effort to find:



Spreading Phlox (*Phlox diffusa*). Spot this plant along Munson Valley Road and West Rim Drive. Phlox means “flame” in Greek, and is likely in reference to how the plant appears to ignite with blooms. The spreading phlox fan is also likely to notice the diversity in petal color from one plant to the next; flowers can range from white to deep purple. Studies have shown that upon pollination, flower color changes from light to dark, which may help pollinators find flowers that still need their assistance.



Pussypaws (*Calyptridium umbellatum*). This plant grows throughout the Park, and is even rugged enough to eke out an existence in the Pumice Desert. The flowers range from whitish to pink, and are arranged in clusters at stem ends like upturned cat paws. During cool weather and at night, the flowers lay down on the soil; but during the heat of the day, the stems rise and lift the flowers off the ground.



Western Pasqueflower (*Anemone occidentalis*). This plant can be found at high-elevation rockier habitats, namely around the Watchman on West Rim Drive and Dutton Ridge on East Rim Drive, and also along the Garfield Peak and Union Peak trails. Not only is this plant showy in bloom, but it transforms into a character worthy of a Dr. Seuss book when it is in fruit. While this flower looks friendly, look but don't touch as contact with its sap can cause blistering and inflammation.



Western Springbeauty (*Claytonia lanceolata*). As soon as the snow recedes, this flower blooms in a flash and is gone before you know it. If you can find melting snowbanks in open locations, you may be lucky enough to catch this pink-striped flower in bloom. This photo was taken in the meadows around North Junction.



Glacier Lily (*Erythronium grandiflorum* var. *grandiflorum*). This is another very ephemeral flower emerging just after snowmelt. As flowers last only four to five days, it is a treat to catch it blooming; look for it in the Sun Notch area around East Rim Drive. Glacier lily is pollinated by queen bumblebees with occasional visits from smaller bees and hummingbirds.

GIS Branch Continues Outreach Opportunities with Oregon Tech

By Chris Wayne, GIS Analyst

If you have ever visited the GIS Lab in Rat Hall, you've seen "organized chaos." (And if you haven't visited the GIS Lab, you should. Bring food.) Most days it is a cartography lab, making maps for every branch including wildlife, botany, trails, roads, LE, fire, cultural resources, interpretation, and yes even administration. During the field season—now—there all kinds of GPS units coming and going with various data also coming and going. Some days it is a graphics shop, plotting maps and posters and making interpretive videos.

But other days it is empty. This is because like several other Natural Resources staff, the GIS Analyst (Chris Wayne, that's me writing this) is an adjunct faculty at OIT. This spring quarter, from April through June, I have had the opportunity to teach a lab session of the GIS course at OIT. I have been able to enrich young minds not just in GIS but in the mission of the National Park Service. Most of my students are aspiring civil engineers and/or surveyors. Few of them want to make GIS or the NPS their full-time vocation, but they all aspire to make a difference in the world. And they seem to be getting the basics of GIS. When in doubt, right-click, and save your map often.

Another aspect of our partnership with OIT is mentoring an intern from the Young Leaders in Climate Change program. **Donal O'Leary** is that intern this summer, coming on after the end of Graduate School at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington. He will be working on a project designed by our Research Coordinator, Dr. Jherime Kellermann of OIT, to look at satellite imagery of snowpack and tie that to plant phenology.

SAFETY AND WELLNESS

The next Safety Meeting will be held this **Wednesday June 17, at 7:15 a.m.** in Bay 9 next to the Fire Engine in the Maintenance Building. This week's topic is heat stress.

Here are few facts about heat stress from the CDC's **website**, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2010-114/>:

Heat stress, from exertion or hot environments, places workers at risk for illnesses such as heat stroke, heat exhaustion, or heat cramps.

Heat Stroke: A condition that occurs when the body becomes unable to control its temperature, and can cause death or permanent disability.

Heat Exhaustion: The body's response to an excessive loss of water and salt, usually through sweating.

Heat Cramps: Affect workers who sweat a lot during strenuous activity. Sweating depletes the body's salt and moisture levels.

Come to the safety meeting and learn more.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Tap House Talk: Permaculture

What: Join the staff from SOU's Center for Sustainability for a lively discussion! Permaculture combines science and technology with an ethical vision for living in harmony with nature. Speakers: Jessica Harper, Farm Manager, and volunteer Brandon Schilling. 21 and over only.

Where: Howiee's on Front, 16 N. Front Street, Medford

When: Thursday, June 18, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Klamath County Chamber Golf Tournament

What: Swing into Summer with the Annual Klamath County Chamber Golf tournament held at Reames Golf Course. Gather your four-person team for an afternoon on the beautiful 18-hole golf course! Registration includes golf, cart, range balls, dinner, contest prizes (four hole-in-ones, longest drive and closest-to-the-pin), and plenty of snacks and beverages. Raffle tickets are available for purchase for prizes. Team entry fee is \$400 or \$100 per person.

Where: Reames Golf Course, 4201 Hwy 97, near Klamath Falls

When: Friday, June 19, 11 a.m registration, noon shotgun start

Free Concerts in the Park

What: Free Concerts in the Park with the Ashland City Band. Enjoy a summer concert every Thursday evening in beautiful Lithia Park. Bring a picnic dinner (alcohol is not allowed), blanket or chair, and your family and friends! Pre-registration not required.

Where: The Lithia Park Bandshell, 150 Winburn Way, Ashland

When: Every Thursday, June 18 - August 13, 7 - 8 p.m.

Hanley Farm Celebrates Local Artisans!

What: Hanley Farm is hosting local artists and crafters at the farm. Come out, admire original works of art: unique, one-of-a-kind jewelry: hand-made crafts, etc. Speak with fair participants: learn more about how they-do-what they do. AND support your local artisans! Find the just-right gift for your friends, family, OR for yourself! Be sure to take a self-guided garden tour.

Where: Hanley Farm, 1053 Hanley Road, Central Point

When: Saturday, June 20, 10 a.m - 3 p.m.

Willie Nelson and Alison Krauss

What: Iconic singer-songwriter, Willie Nelson, and renowned bluegrass band, Alison Krauss & Union Station, grace the Britt stage with their exceptional talents. <http://www.brittfest.org/performances/williealison>

Where: Britt Pavillion, 350 First Street, Jacksonville

When: Wednesday, June 24, 7:30 p.m.



PEOPLE OF THE LAKE

COMING...

Conor Kendrick and **Nathan Perryman** joined Law Enforcement in early June.

Kristen Beem returned to CRLA on June 8 after last's year's SCA experience with aquatics.

Kathryn Williams returns on June 15 as a Lead Revegetation Crew Member.

Donal O'Leary, an intern the Young Leaders in Climate Change program, will join the Crater Lake to work on phenology this summer.

Heidrun Perez will be joining us June 15 as the Library Technician at the Science and Learning Center.

Roger Rohl is coming on as part of the lake crew beginning June 15.

Anthony Quattlebaum joins Maintenance on June 15 as well.

Joseph Lemanski and **Stephen Staiger** both started another season with aquatics on June 15.

Interpretation will add one more ranger, **Jeffrey Bauer**, on June 15 as well.

Andrew San Juan will join Fees on June 21. Andrew is coming to Crater Lake after serving an internship at Joshua Tree.

MOVING AROUND...

Suann Sauvey is moving from Budget Technician for Maintenance into the position of Budget Analyst. Congratulations, Suann!



BIG NEWS...

Lauren Jones and **Seth Macey** are tying the knot on **June 28!!** They will wed at Smith Rock State Park in a small ceremony with family.

They would like a chance to celebrate with their park friends and colleagues, so Lauren and Seth invite everyone to a midday potluck in Steel Circle on **Sunday, July 5**. Come out, celebrate, and wish the couple well in their new life together. More details to be sent out soon.

Adding to the Lodge

By Steve Mark, Park Historian

Dates on buildings are relatively common and may mean nothing more than simply indicating the year when crews completed an exterior. One on the Crater Lake Lodge, with "1923" refers to the time when exterior stonework on the annexes (additions) finally supported three stories of wood frame construction. What effectively increased the hotel's square footage by over 40 percent took two years, starting in the summer of 1922. A building contractor from Medford, F.P. Salter, did both masonry and carpentry after having erected the Kiser Studio at Rim Village in 1921.

Placed in context, the annexes came about when the park experienced large increases in annual visitation (at least in percentage terms) during the early 1920s. Oregon had only started to build a highway system recognizable to today's travelers, so the prevailing day use pattern of summer tourism at Crater Lake had yet to fully become fully evident. Demand at that time for overnight accommodations appeared to be on the rise, so the NPS forced concessionaire Alfred Parkhurst to unwillingly forfeit his contract in the face of complaints about an inadequately-built original lodge that had opened in 1915. A Portland-based company headed by Richard W. Price replaced Parkhurst as concessionaire by the summer of 1922, with one of the conditions being to expand the number of guestrooms.

Building the lodge annexes thus coincided with the beginning of a new 20 year contract, with some of the newspapers in Oregon reporting that Price intended to increase the number of guest rooms from 64 to 147. Stone from the "west rim" was used to harmonize the exterior of these additions with the original hotel, whose western façade had ended where the lobby fireplace is today. Like the under-capitalization that plagued Parkhurst's initial construction efforts at the lodge, Price also experienced limits to his finances pledged for hotel improvements. As a result, 22 of the 85 rooms in the annexes (mostly on the fourth floor) were never finished.

Price finally had 50 rooms to rent in the annexes by 1940, but lost several of them in the face of new requirements for additional fire escapes after World War II. Not until 1995 was the Crater Lake Lodge finally "completed," once a rehabilitation project using the same footprint left the hotel with only an estimated ten percent of the original building material. A new structure that now holds a total of 71 guest rooms and most of the material re-used from the original lodge consisted of exterior stone. It includes the inscription that should probably have read "1993," since the masonry is simply a veneer that masks what structural steel and reinforced concrete currently do to hold the building in place.

