

Crater Lake Currents

June 1, 2015

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For more information about the Waters to Watch program and the National Fish Habitat Partnership, and to see the complete 2015 Waters to Watch list, visit www.fishhabitat.org/waters-to-watch.

CALDERA NEWS

Waters to Watch

By Mac Brock, Chief Natural Resources Preservation and Research

The Sun Creek restoration project earned recognition this month when the National Fish Habitat Partnership named Sun Creek one of ten "Waters to Watch" for 2015. The National Fish Habitat Partnership is an organization of state and federal fish and wildlife agencies and professional groups committed to protecting, restoring, and enhancing the nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships. The group compiles its "Waters to Watch" list annually to highlight rivers, lakes, estuaries, and other aquatic systems where diverse stakeholders are working together to benefit fish habitat and fish populations.

Twenty-five years ago, the park's only native fish faced extirpation. Now, the bull trout population has expanded dramatically, and the Sun Creek project is a watershed-scale partnership between state and federal agencies, conservation groups, and private landowners.

This year Fisheries Biologist **Dave Hering** and Aquatic Ecologist **Mark**

Buktenica will work to rebuild a 3-mile segment of the stream through state forest and private cattle ranches downstream of the park. This part of the stream was diverted for irrigation in the late 1800s, preventing bull trout and other native fish from moving between Sun Creek and the larger Wood River. The project will reconstruct a natural channel through the area and improve the efficiency of irrigation, creating high quality trout habitat, increasing instream flow, and allowing the expanding bull trout population in Sun Creek to connect with the Wood River.

Channel restoration efforts on private land are being led by the Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust, a regional non-profit conservation group. Other partners include the Western Native Trout Initiative, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Crater Lake National Park, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Water Resources Department, The Klamath Tribes, and two private land owners.

Phantom Ship rises above the clouds on Sunday, May 24, by **Krista Johnson**. See page 5 for another inversion photo.

Hike of the Month

Pinnacles Trail

By Jen Gifford, Trails Supervisor

The Pinnacles Trail is located in the southeast corner of the park and is the old east entrance to the park. This trail is usually the first hike-able trail in the park in spring, but it is only accessible via Forest Service roads that may or may not have been cleared of down trees. From inside the park, this trail can be found at the end of the Pinnacles Road. A wide and flat trail takes you along the edge of the Sand Creek Canyon where impressive views of the “pinnacles” or spires of volcanic ash sculpted by erosion can be seen. Less than a half mile from the trailhead you will reach the boundary of the park where a large stone monument and sign tower above the trail. This is the only remains of the park’s East Entrance. Hike another half mile and you will reach the end of the trail at the Forest Service trailhead on road 2304. This trail is accessible to hikers with mobility devices; however assistance might be needed in areas. The Pinnacles Trail is also the only bicycle friendly trail in the park. For early season hikers, take the scenic drive on Sun Mountain Road (FS road 2300) out of Fort Klamath to FS road 2304.



Open to: Foot travel, mobility devices, and bicycles

Difficulty: Very easy

Distance: 1 mile round trip

What's Blooming Now

By Jen Beck, Botanist

An easy way to enjoy some of the earlier-blooming wildflowers in the park is to head to an unlikely destination: **the South Yard**. The surrounding ponderosa pine forest is home to a diverse suite of wildflowers that thrive in canopy openings amidst long-needle pine litter, grasses, and sedges. Here are some species that can be found in their full nectar- and pollen-laden glory:



Wax currant (*Ribes cereum* var. *cereum*). The genus *Ribes* gets a bad rap for being an alternate host of the nasty disease white pine blister rust. Blister rust is a fatal disease that infects our five-needle pines (western white, sugar, and whitebark pines). From 1937-1949, approximately 150,000 *Ribes* plants were yanked out by the roots in the Cloudcap area in an unsuccessful attempt to halt the spread of blister rust. While we don't like blister rust, we do like *Ribes* and don't attack them anymore. The pink flowers will develop into an edible red berry.



Blue-Eyed Mary (*Collinsia parviflora*). You may have to get down on your belly to really appreciate this little beauty. Each flower has five petals, which are fused into two "lips." The upper lip (two petals) is usually whitish or whitish-blue, and the lower lip (three petals) is a deep blue or purple. This plant attracts native bee species.



Least Tarweed (*Hemizonella minima*). This plant could be a contender in the park's Tiniest Flowers contest. These small flowers deliver big rewards in the form of nectar to butterflies, including the very rare Leona's little blue butterfly, which may occur within the park.



Upland Larkspur (*Delphinium nuttallianum*). This lovely plant almost looks good enough to eat. But don't do it, as most members in the genus *Delphinium* are highly toxic to humans and livestock. This plant provides nectar for hummingbirds, and traditionally was used as a source for blue dye to color things such as arrows and for ceremonial purposes.



Tall Western Groundsel (*Senecio integerrimus* var. *exaltatus*). This species is also toxic to livestock, but it attracts many pollinators including bumblebees, butterflies, and flies. This flower is especially obvious right between the south entrance sign and the Ponderosa Pine Picnic Area.

Snow Watch

The snow is almost gone, but before we go into summer mode completely, let's recap where we are with snow levels this year. From Grimes: Unless we get 62 more inches of snow, this will be the park's most dismal winter on record. Right now snow totals are at 195 inches. The previous low was 243 inches in 1991-92. Of the 80 winters for which we have data, only five times have we failed to reach 300 inches.

SAFETY AND WELLNESS

June is National Safety Month, and this year's theme is "What I Live For." Make sure you take care of yourself so that you can be there and healthy for those people and things that make life worthwhile.

Slips Trips and Falls

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, slips, trips and falls make up the majority of general industry accidents, which account for:

- 15 percent of all accidental deaths per year, the second-leading cause behind motor vehicles
- About 25 percent of all reported injury claims per fiscal year
- More than 95 million lost work days per year – about 65 percent of all work days lost

Here are five guidelines to help you create a safer working environment:

1) Create Good Housekeeping Practices

Good housekeeping is critical. Safety and housekeeping go hand-in-hand. If your facility's housekeeping habits are poor, the result may be a higher incidence of employee injuries, ever-increasing insurance costs and regulatory citations. If an organization's facilities are noticeably clean and well organized, it is a good indication that its overall safety program is effective as well.

2) Reduce Wet or Slippery Surfaces

Walking surfaces account for a significant portion of injuries reported by state agencies. The most frequently reported types of surfaces where these injuries occur include parking lots, sidewalks (or lack of), food preparation areas, and shower stalls.

3) Avoid Creating Obstacles in Aisles and Walkways

Injuries can also result in from trips caused by obstacles, clutter, materials, and equipment in aisles, corridors, entranceways, and stairwells. Proper housekeeping in work and traffic areas is still the most effective control measure in avoiding the proliferation of these types of hazards. This means having policies or procedures in place and allowing time for cleaning the area, especially where scrap material or waste is a by-product of the work operation.

4) Create and Maintain Proper Lighting

Poor lighting in the workplace is associated with an increase in accidents.

5) Wear Proper Shoes

The shoes we wear can play a big part in preventing falls. The slickness of the soles and the type of heels worn need to be evaluated to avoid slips, trips, and falls.



Cloud Inversion

By Jordan Neumann

These photos are from the inversion we had last week in the caldera where 95% of the Caldera was filled with clouds at lake level near sunrise. They remained for the next few hours.



On this, the 100th anniversary of the Lodge, I thought I'd throw some Lodge trivia in the newsletter. This photo is from the south side of the Lodge above a first floor window. Has anyone ever noticed the date above the window? Do you know why it reads 1923?

Historian Steve Mark will explain in the next newsletter.

IN THE COMMUNITY

State Parks Day & Free Fishing Weekend

What: State parks throughout Oregon invite the public to camp and play for free this weekend in celebration of State Parks Day and Free Fishing Weekend. Camping is free the night of June 6 in traditional sites; full hookup, electrical hookup, and tent sites. Yurts, cabins and tepees are available at regular price. Parking will also be free June 6-7 at the 26 parks that charge a day-use parking fee. Also, fish for free in Oregon's public waters. http://www.dfw.state.or.us/education/angling/free_fishing.asp

Where: Diamond Lake and Lake of the Woods, among other places

When: Saturday and Sunday, June 6 & 7



National Trails Day

What: The **CRLA Trails Crew** will be hosting a trail clean up volunteer day on the Pinnacles Trail with help from the Klamath Trails Alliance, a local mountain bike-trail building club. www.klamathtrails.org. Everyone is welcome.

Where: Meet at Steel Visitor Center

When: Saturday, June 6, 9 a.m. meeting time

Daniel Meyer Pool Opening & Swim Lesson Registration

What: The pool season is almost here and the Ashland Parks & Recreation Commission invites you to the Daniel Meyer Pool this summer! The pool offers lap swim, open swim, water fitness classes, swim lessons for all ages, swim camps, lifeguard certification classes, and much more. View complete information at www.ashland.or.us/Swim.

Where: Daniel Meyer Pool, 1705 Homes Avenue, Ashland

When: Thursday, June 11, 3:30 - 6 p.m.

National Get Outdoors Day

What: Diamond Lake Ranger District is hosting an event at Diamond Lake in celebration, and the **CRLA Trail Crew** will be there to teach folks how to use a crosscut saw. Cut a log "cookie" and get it branded!

Where: Diamond Lake

When: June 13



PEOPLE OF THE LAKE

COMING...

Justin Roe recently began his fifth season at Crater Lake. His first two seasons he worked for NHA, then two years in Fees. This summer Justin will be back with the NHA as Operations Manager.

LE Ranger **Kristen Gregory** began her summer season in late May.

Beginning on July 1, new Trail Crew member will be arriving at CRLA. Welcome, **Dominique McCadden** from Montana and **Valerie Tamburri** from Texas.

On June 1, Botany will see **Melody Frederic** (Revegetation Crew), **Jesse Sikora** (Revegetation Crew), and **Seth Keena** (Invasive Vegetation Management Crew) starting. **Renee Gallardo** (Invasive Vegetation Management Crew) will begin on June 8.

Terrestrial Biology will also see some new employees on June 1. Both **Dorsey Burger** and **Alan Tomaszewski** will be returning that day.

Fees staff **Chris Reinhardt** will begin another season at Crater Lake on June 1, and **Melissa McDevitt** will arrive on June 14.

Interpreters **Kris Smith** and **Gabby Sigala Orozco** begin on June 1. Most of the remaining interpreters will be arriving in time for Interp training on June 8, including returnees **Madeline Rose**, **Dave Harrison**, **Shawn Reinhardt**, **Gregory Pohll**, and **Tim Elam**, and new staff **Heidi Ault**, **Ashley Wright**, **Nicole Ball**, **William Raedy**, **Jeff Bauer**, and **Daphnie Leigh**.

The bull trout program will get some help this summer from Biological Sciences Technicians **Cris Salazar**, who arrived May 26, and **Joe Lemanski** and **Stephen Staiger**, both arriving June 14. Stephen is returning from two previous seasons at CRLA.

Kristen Beem will rejoin Aquatics on June 6.

Fire welcomes **Isaac Martinez** and **Krista Johnson** for summer seasons on June 1.

Dispatcher **Robyn Colburn** begins her season on June 1 as well.

Facilities has a few new employees coming on. **Russ Stone** started May 29; **Christina Bender** and **Randall Doak** begin on June 1; and **Todd Quattlebaum** starts on June 8.

GOING...

The park said goodbye to Management Assistant **Scott Burch** and HR Specialist **Jean Heacock** on May 28. Best of luck to both at their new parks.

MOVING AROUND...

Shawn Parratt recently accepted a promotion to Administrative Officer, after acting in the position for many months. Congratulations, Shawn!