

Crater Lake Currents

Photo by
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Watchman Cut, cleared this year without dozers (Photo by Steve Thomas)

CALDERA NEWS

All Employee Meeting/ Potluck

In March the park will start holding monthly all employee meetings. The first one is **Thursday, March 19**, at noon in the Watchman Room of Rim Cafe. Bring a dish to share and meet some visitors from China's Office of Friendship with Foreign Countries, who are interested in working with the park to develop a sister park with Wuyi Mountain Park and Preserve in Fujian Province.

Stay Connected

Crater Lake employees now have a couple of new ways to keep up with social happenings. First, there's a new Google calendar called "All Employee Events Calendar." This is a place to learn about and share upcoming gatherings and events. All CRLA Employees can add events to the calendar. If you're not familiar with using Google Calendar, **Jenn Evans** would be happy to give you a quick tutorial! Also, Crater Lake Employees, past and present, will soon have a Facebook group page where you can keep in touch, reach out to friends and colleagues, and share professional opportunities. More news on this coming soon.

Contracting Deadlines

Contracting deadlines are out and should help with planning for FY2015. Contact **Shawn Parratt** if you have questions.

CONTRACT TYPE	DUE IN CONTRACTING
Negotiated Sole Source 8(a) Contracts	6/5
Negotiated RFPs & Sealed Bid IFBs	6/5
Construction Requests for Quotation (\$25,000 - \$150,000)	6/19
Other Requests for Quotation (\$25,000 - \$150,000)	6/19
Cooperative Agreements (including task agreements and modifications)	7/10
GSA Delivery Order	7/17
Simplified Acquisitions (\$3,000 - \$24,999)	7/17
Purchases <\$3,000 Requiring a Purchase Order	7/31
Interagency Agreements	7/17
Architect/Engineer IDIQ Task Orders	7/17
Contract Modifications	7/31

Some Good Spring Reading!

By Steve Mark, Park Historian

Most of the great classics employ a thin veneer of fiction to express through setting and characters profound ideas based on observable facts and perceptions. Although scientific and historical works on Crater Lake greatly outnumber literary ones, there are a few books in the latter category. While it is likely that none of the fictional stories set at Crater Lake have or will approach the level of a "classic," our library nevertheless contains writing that the interested reader might like to encounter as part of gaining a deeper appreciation of the park.

There are a couple of stories aimed at children and teens, such as Walter Pritchard Eaton's *Boy Scouts at Crater Lake* (1922), or *Marooned in Crater Lake* (1930) by Alfred Powers. A novel suitable for young adults and older readers by Michael La Lumiere titled *Why is Crater Lake so Blue?* (2007) heats up after a slow start, with the uncertainties surrounding the park's water crisis of 1975 bringing about some interesting twists. Poetry remains among the rarest work in regard to Crater Lake, but the most readily accessible volume of verse is *Blue Interval* (1935) by Ernest G. Moll, a NPS ranger-naturalist who also taught at the University of Oregon.



Works Progress Administration (WPA) Art Project, circa 1936

The sheer rarity of one book, Richard L. Helm's *Blue Waters* (1938) has so far limited acquisition by the NPS to one copy in the park's museum collection. Initially recommended to me by a member of the Klamath Tribes, this is a riveting story that is difficult to put down once started, much like an unpublished murder mystery of 1993 titled "Corpse in the Caldera" by the now-retired NPS naturalist and historian, William C. Tweed. More readily obtainable, in that the park library has circulating copies, are somewhat better known novels set a short distance south of the park. These include Zane Grey's *Forlorn River* (1926) and *The Plume Hunter* (2011) by Renée Thompson.

Not limited to Crater Lake and the Klamath Basin is the park library's fine (and much larger) selection of nature writing. Come by and browse!

Spring Opening

Photos by Steve Thomas, Equipment Operator

With record low snowfall, spring opening is happening a little early this year. Although the road won't be open to the public for vehicle traffic anytime soon, it is open to walking and bike riding. Steve Thomas said that "As far as I know, the Road Crew has never made it past Discovery Point without using our Caterpillar dozers. As of today, we have made it much further, through the Watchman Cut, and hope to be able to continue to North Junction using only the rotaries."



The rotary on Union Peak grade



Roger Van Curler clearing the Community House



SHARE YOUR STORY

My first season in the National Park Service I learned the phrase "We get paid in sunsets." Over the last few years, I've heard it used to express both untarnished enthusiasm and well worn cynicism. But the kernel of that statement is that many people who work for the NPS choose to work here for reasons that are less than practical. Many of us at one point fell in love with the idea of the national parks or with one national park in particular, and that experience has shaped our lives.

The National Park Service Centennial Office has started collecting these love stories to "re-introduce and redefine the National Park Service to a new generation of Americans." They are asking NPS employees why we came to work for the agency, what inspires us about national parks, and where we hope the agency will go in the coming years. You can share your stories in any format—essays, photos, videos, or songs. The platform is the Share Your Stories website, found here: <https://sites.google.com/a/nps.gov/share-your-story/>. Eventually, the public will be able to submit their own love stories and will have access to ours.

Take a look at what inspires your colleagues. And then, maybe, leave a story to hearten others, now and into the future.

PEOPLE OF THE LAKE

COMING...

New Engineering Equipment Operator Supervisor **Chris Bradley** joined the Crater Lake road crew at the beginning of February. Most recently, Chris was at Assateague Island National Seashore in Virginia where he served as the Maintenance Mechanic Supervisor. He has 15 years with the National Park Service and has worked at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee and Lassen Volcanic National Park in California.

GOING...

Seasonal LE Ranger **Tim Cook** will leave Crater Lake on March 29 to take a position at Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Bon voyage!

NHA Operations Manager **Derek Grieve** will be moving north, way north! He has accepted a new position in Anchorage, Alaska, with Alaska Geographic. Good luck, Derek, and congratulations on the new opportunity!

NHA Is Hiring!
The Natural History Association is now hiring seasonal staff for summer. If you know anyone who might be interested, have them contact NHA Executive Director Vickie Grieve at (541) 594-3110 or vickie@craterlakeoregon.org.

SAFETY AND WELLNESS

You may have noticed the tell-tale sprinkles left behind by rodent visitors in various park buildings. Before you just wipe or vacuum them up, review the following safety precautions from the CDC.

<http://www.cdc.gov/rodents/cleaning/> When in doubt or if you need supplies, call Brian Coulter at x3038. And, remember, the best thing you can do is to not attract rodents in the first place. Keep attractants like food and water away from your work station and clean up after yourself in common areas like kitchens.

FIRST, CLEAN UP ANY URINE AND DROPPINGS

When you begin cleaning, it is important that you **DO NOT STIR UP DUST BY SWEEPING OR VACUUMING** up droppings, urine, or nesting materials.

- Wear rubber, latex, or vinyl gloves when cleaning urine and droppings.
- Spray the urine and droppings with a disinfectant or a mixture of bleach and water and let soak 5 minutes. The recommended concentration of bleach solution is 1 part bleach to 10 parts water. When using a commercial disinfectant, following the manufacturer's instructions on the label for dilution and disinfection time.
- Use a paper towel to pick up the urine and droppings, and dispose of the waste in the garbage.
- After the rodent droppings and urine have been removed, disinfect items that might have been contaminated by rodents or their urine and droppings.

NEXT, CLEAN AND DISINFECT THE WHOLE AREA

- Mop floors and clean countertops with disinfectant or bleach solution.
- Steam clean or shampoo upholstered furniture and carpets with evidence of rodent exposure.
- Wash any bedding and clothing with laundry detergent in hot water if exposed to rodent urine or droppings.

Remove gloves, and thoroughly wash hands with soap and water (or use a waterless alcohol-based hand rub when soap is not available and hands are not visibly soiled).

IN THE COMMUNITY

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

What: McMenamins will offer live music, bagpipers, McMenamins Irish Stout, Irish Coffee cocktails, and Irish Reubens and Corned Beef & Cabbage. <http://www.mcmenamins.com/events/135094-St-Patricks-Day-Celebration-at-Old-St-Francis-School>

Where: Old St. Francis School, 700 NW Bond Street, Bend

When: Tuesday, March 17, 3 - 11 p.m.



Rogue Valley Growers and Crafters Market

What: A farmers market and craft fair in one.

Where: National Guard Armory, 1420 E Main Street, Ashland

When: Tuesday, March 17, and every Tuesday through the fall, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

ScienceWorks Tap House Talk - Digital Pioneers

What: The Enchantress of Numbers Meets the Genius of Bletchley Park: Ada Lovelace encounters Alan Turing ScienceWorks presents an imaginary meeting of minds between Ada Lovelace, the earliest computer programmer (c.1840), and Alan Turing, the Father of Computing and subject of the Oscar winning film *The Imitation Game*, born almost exactly one hundred years later. Their dialogue will focus on the promise and peril of computing, particularly what Turing called the "Lady Lovelace Objection"—that computers will never be able to think or become conscious. Lady Lovelace will be portrayed by Victoria Law, former computer programmer and Director of the Ashland History Museum, and Roy Kindell, member of the ScienceWorks Advisory Board and a founding board member of the National Center for Science Education.

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

When: Thursday, March 19, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

TEDxKlamathLibrary: Adventures

What: The theme for the afternoon is Adventures. TEDx is a series of combined video TED talks and group discussions that take place every other month. No registration is required to attend the free discussions. For more information, please contact Adult Services Librarian Charla Oppenlander at 541-882-8894 ext. 10.

Where: Klamath County Library, 126 South Third Street, Klamath Falls

When: Sunday, March 22, 3 - 5 p.m.

Local Women in History

What: Museum volunteers Jackie Bonner and Gloria Sullivan will present a program on leading female figures in local history. Free admission.

Where: Lobby of the Baldwin Hotel Museum, 31 Main Street, Klamath Falls

When: Sunday, March 29, 2 p.m.