

Crater Lake Currents

Photo by
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In this issue...

Caldera News

People of the Lake

Going Green

Safety and
Wellness

In the Community

CALDERA NEWS

Classroom at Crater Lake Starting Up

In early April look for yellow school buses heading up to the Rim again for Classroom at Crater Lake.

Students will spend a day in the park participating in a snowshoe walk and experiencing Crater Lake's winter ecology first hand with Education Rangers **Emily Prud'homme** and **Matt Daniel**.

Save Your Bottles and Cans for the Employee Association

Buildings and Utilities Supervisor **Brian Coulter** and the folks at Facilities have set up an account so that Crater Lake employees can benefit from redeeming container deposits for glass bottles and aluminum cans. All proceeds will benefit the Crater Lake Employee Association. You can help by separating out bottles and **non-crushed** cans from comingled recyclables in your work area. Likewise, residents can separate out bottles and non-crushed cans from the rest of their recycling at home. The bottles and cans must have been purchased in Oregon. The money from these desoposits will be used for a fun event for all of us this summer.

Summer 2015 YCC Crew

By Jen Gifford, Trails Supervisor
The park is looking for the next generation of park stewards! We need hard working youth to be a part of the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crew this summer. The program is open to youth 15 to 18 years old who are interested in working on conservation projects. The program runs for 8 weeks from **June 22 to August 14**, and is non-residential, so participants must find transportation to Crater Lake each day. They will earn Oregon minimum wage (\$9.25/hr) plus paid holidays while working as a part of YCC. If you know anyone who might be interested, please have him or her contact **Jen Gifford** at 541-594-3037 or jennifer_gifford@nps.gov.

Xanterra Opening Dates

Low snowfall may permit Xanterra to begin providing visitor services early this year. These opening dates are approved, but weather dependent:

- Annie Creek Restaurant, Gift Shop, Mazama Village Cabins - **April 24**
- Mazama Campground and Camper Store - **May 8**
- Gasoline Sales - **May 1 or 8**



A past YCC member gets to work with a view.

Progress on a New Visitor Orientation and Education Center

By Craig Ackerman, Superintendent



The long awaited and much discussed Visitor Orientation and Education Center is finally out of the starting blocks. The park recently received notification that the project has been placed on the Pacific West region's submission for the major construction request from the nationwide 20% fee account. That account is made up of the 20% of entrance fees collected at all parks but not retained within their 80% allocation under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. Crater Lake annually contributes to this 20% fund but has not requested any major projects from that source.

The proposed facility would be located on the site of the existing "1928 building" adjacent to the new Rim Café in Rim Village. The park was somewhat locked into this site as part of a proposal that demolished the previous, large concessions services building and massive parking lot that occupied the location at the entrance to Rim Village. The facilities were designed to be co-located and somewhat interdependent in terms of infrastructure support and utility systems. Uncoupling the new VC from this already completed work, along with restrictions on new construction elsewhere in the park, lead multiple reviews and value analyses to conclude that the proposed site is the best option for seeing the project to fruition. The subterranean connecting tunnel, shared utilities with the Café, and foundation of the existing 1928 building will be utilized in the new construction as much as possible.

The year-round facility would include an orientation area, NHA sales area, new exhibits and an audio-visual room or theater. Indoor restrooms would be included. The most modern technologies would be incorporated into the displays and messaging, allowing visitors to carry with them electronic information obtained at the VC. Further, the plan envisions expanding the interpretive message onto the outdoor plaza areas to reduce crowding and allow visitors to learn about the park while gazing on the incredible landscapes during the summer months. This concept has worked well in other locations like Zion National Park. The Crater Lake Natural History Association will collaborate on design and layout of the sales area to incorporate best practices into the final configuration. The Crater Lake Trust will work with the park to obtain private funding for some phases of the project.

Although construction won't begin anytime soon, having the project approved to compete in the 20% fund source is a major accomplishment. Perhaps in your term of service at the park, you may see a new visitor service facility that has been 113 years in the making.

Early Hiking Opportunities

The Rim Road isn't open yet, but the Pinnacles Road is already accessible to hiking via Forest Service roads to the east. This photo was taken at the Sand Creek pinnacles (not the ones seen from the road) in mid-March.



Photo by Scott Burch

2016

National Park Service
CENTENNIAL

FOLLOWING CANADA'S LEAD

By Steve Mark, Park Historian

Four years ago a colleague who works in the NPS Seattle office called me somewhat distraught. He could not believe that Parks Canada celebrated its centennial in 2011, having started life as the "Dominion Parks Branch." In any event, the 2016 celebration south of the border marks the hundredth anniversary of President Woodrow Wilson signing legislation creating a bureau to administer national parks, monuments, and reservations in the United States.

The organization thereby established did not commence operations, however, until passage of an appropriations bill on April 17, 1917. Park units established prior to August 25, 1916, did not exist in a bureaucratic void, as they had their own creative ("organic") legislation and staff, whose authority was delegated from the Secretary of the Interior. The superintendent at Crater Lake thus reported directly to the Secretary until 1912, when an assistant secretary assumed the oversight role. This early "system" had become sufficiently complex to warrant yet another level of reporting in 1914, when a part-time "Superintendent of National Parks" was created and funded through the end of 1916 as a way of channeling communications from the parks to Assistant Secretary Stephen T. Mather.

In contrast to the literature on national parks, which is relatively vast by comparison, studies of the national parks' managing bureau in the United States are sparse—just as they are in Canada and other countries. Fortunately, our park library contains most of the best ones for the USNPS:

Our National Park Policy (1961), *America's National Parks and Their Keepers* (1984), *Guardians of the Parks* (1995), *Preserving Nature in the National Parks* (1997), and *Museums, Monuments, and National Parks* (2012).

Why not stop by and find out how we got to now?

PEOPLE OF THE LAKE

COMING...



Please welcome **Patricia (Trish) Heidt** to the NHA as their new Operations Manager. Trish has over 20 years customer service experience, and she has spent the last 9 years working with the owners to manage The Union Creek Resort. The NHA is excited to have her onboard.

Interpretation has a couple of familiar faces returning for Classroom at Crater Lake beginning on April 1. Welcome back, **Matt Daniel** and **Emily Prud'homme**.

Administration and HR are getting a reinforcement just in time for summer seasonals to begin arriving. New HR Assistant **Paul Triantafilos** enters on duty the week of April 19. Paul comes to Crater Lake from the Department of Veterans Affairs in Loma Linda, California.

Kean Mihata, Crater Lake's new Park Ranger - Operations Supervisor, will enter on duty on April 19 as well. Kean grew up in Canby, Oregon, and graduated from Canby Union High School. He went to Oregon State University, interned with the BLM on the Upper Klamath River as a River Ranger, and graduated in 1996. His previous work experience includes working as a backcountry ranger and interpretive ranger for the USFS at Mount St. Helens, and working as a park guide, interpretive ranger, and LE ranger at PORE, ZION, GRCA, WEAR, and GLCA. Kean is the father of an active 4.5 year old. He's also an endurance junkie who enjoys Ironman triathlon racing, 50k and 50 mi runs, and long bike rides. He's looking forward to trees and fishing!

Shane Rogers will also be returning to Crater Lake to join the Rangers permanently on April 19.

MOVING AROUND...

Congratulations to **Seth Macey** on his promotion to Park Ranger - Staff Park Ranger. Seth will be taking on the duties of supervising fees and dispatch, as well as serving as the park's law enforcement specialist and collateral duty safety officer.

NHA's **Ann Jennings** has been promoted to Supervisor. Congrats, Ann!

GOING GREEN

By Jenn Evans

Often, it's the small things that can add up to make a big difference. Recently, I was inspired by a colleague to start a mini-campaign to rid the park of junk mail and unwanted catalogs. I take a few minutes each day to call vendors and ask them to remove the park and old employees from mailing lists. Although it's early, my hope is that in a few months, the piles of catalogs addressed to long-gone employees will disappear, and we'll reduce the waste we recycle. So far, efforts have been limited to junk mail addressed to former employees or to the park in general, so don't worry, if you want them, you'll still get your catalogs. But if you're an online purchaser and immediately chuck catalogs into the recycle bin, why not take a moment to remove yourself from mailing lists? It's a few minutes that could save a lot of paper and energy over time.

SAFETY AND WELLNESS

Distracted Driving

April is the National Safety Council's Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Up here it's easy to put the phone down at park boundaries, as most cell service drops there. But do you reach for the phone as soon as you leave the park? Here are some statistics on the impacts of distracted driving from distraction.gov. Whether at work or on your own time, stay safe—keep your eyes on the road and your attention on your driving.



Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger driver, passenger, and bystander safety. These types of distractions include:

- Texting
- Using a cell phone or smartphone
- Eating and drinking
- Talking to passengers
- Grooming
- Reading, including maps
- Using a navigation system
- Watching a video
- Adjusting a radio, CD player, or MP3 player

The number of people killed in distraction-affected crashes decreased slightly from 3,360 in 2011 to 3,328 in 2012. An estimated 421,000 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver, this was a nine percent increase from the estimated 387,000 people injured in 2011.

10% of drivers under the age of 20 involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted at the time of the crash. This age group has the largest proportion of drivers who were distracted.

Drivers in their 20s make up 27 percent of the distracted drivers in fatal crashes.

At any given daylight moment in America, approximately 660,000 drivers are using cell phones or manipulating electronic devices while driving, a number that has held steady since 2010.

Engaging in visual-manual subtasks (such as reaching for a phone, dialing, and texting) associated with the use of hand-held phones and other portable devices increased the risk of getting into a crash by three times.

Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55mph, that's enough time to cover the length of a football field blindfolded.

Headset cell phone use is not substantially safer than hand-held use.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Oregon Caves Open for Spring Break

What: Oregon Caves National Monument is gearing up for another season of cave tours, school programs, children's activities, and adventure! Bring the family and enjoy traversing through the narrow, winding passageways that make a trip to the Oregon Caves so memorable. During Spring break, expect long wait times. Tours are filling up by 2:30 p.m. Contact 541-592-2100 or stop at the Illinois Valley Visitor Center (201 Caves Highway) in Cave Junction for up to day information.

Where: Oregon Caves National Monument

When: Cave tours began Saturday, March 21, and are held once per hour, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., until May 23, when summer hours go into effect

Easter Egg Scramble

What: Oregon Tech Housing & Residence Life invites community members to bring their children for an Easter Egg Scramble at the Oregon Tech Soccer Field. The Egg Scramble opens for infants to 4-year-olds at 10 a.m.; 5-year-olds to 7-year-olds at 10:15 a.m.; and 8-year-olds and older at 10:30 a.m.

Where: Purvine Recreation Field, Oregon Tech, 3201 Campus Drive, Klamath Falls

When: Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m.

Ashland Independent Film Festival

What: The Ashland Independent Film Festival is five days of more than 7,000 film lovers gathering at the art-deco Varsity Theatre, the Historic Ashland Armory, and other venues to watch over 90 documentary, feature, and short films. Filmmakers from around the world engage with the audience after each screening and at festival events. <http://www.ashlandfilm.org/index.asp>

Where: Ashland, various locations, check website

When: Thursday - Monday, April 9 - 13, various times

Leon Russell at the Tower Theater

What: Leon Russell has been called a rock and roll Renaissance man, and indeed there is little this singer-pianist hasn't done. His quixotic half-century in music stretches from his teen years in Oklahoma in the late Fifties to his best-selling collaboration with Elton John from 2010, *The Union*.

Where: Tower Theater, 835 N.W. Wall Street, Bend

When: Monday, April 20, 7 p.m.

Table Rock Wildflower Hike

What: Table Rocks is a unique geologic formation, like an island in the sky, it offers spectacular views of the Rogue Valley and is one of the best places to seek early spring wildflowers.

Where: Carpools meets at Northwest Nature Shop at 8:30 a.m. in Ashland or meet at the Lower Table Rock Trailhead at 9:15 a.m.

When: Sunday, April 26, 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

