



Friends of Crater Lake National Park

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Spring 2011

President's Message

George Buckingham, President of the Board

The Friends of Crater Lake continues to manage its most successful program, the Winter Rim Desk under the able tutelage of Larry Smith. This month sees the program winding down for this season. By the end of the month we will be on to other programs. You will find articles by volunteers elsewhere in this newsletter.

Winter Rim Desk

On our first weekend working the Winter Rim Desk, I discovered that an old, but very serviceable exhibit was in a sorry state. Four large masonite panels had broken off. A kindly park maintenance person obtained some bolts for me and I replaced sixteen flimsy screws. Those panels aren't going anywhere now! However, in the process I dis-

covered an even bigger problem. The oak frame was badly cracked. I suspect that this large and very heavy free

Larry Smith and I conspired to manipulate volunteer Dave Panebaker into doing the job. He fell right into our little trap



Thumbs up! Exhibit is repaired.
(Dave Panebaker and Larry Smith)

standing exhibit had suffered a nasty fall, snapping off the panels and cracking the frame. I didn't have the tools or the time to fix the frame.

and, utilizing his excellent carpentry skills, did a fine job. The only downside was I didn't have nearly enough time to

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Family History at Crater Lake

Mary White

My name is Mary White (VP of Friends). I have a lot of history at Crater Lake. My Great, Great Grandfather (**Issac Skeeters**) was on the search party that discovered Crater Lake on June 12, 1853.

The movie *Mirror of Heaven* is one of the films I have shown at the park that tells of his discovery. Also, my aunt **Lu Wells** was a very talented illustrator with a unique gift, captured many images of the park's beauty. She was one of the founding members of the Friends, also *Who's Who in American Artists* for her Cra-

ter Lake paintings. I want to honor my family by devoting myself as a lifetime member of the Friends and to share my heritage with the visitors at Crater Lake.

Please e-mail me:
frommarye@yahoo.com

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"Got snow?"



"Got Wind?"

Dave Panebaker Photos

Winter Volunteering at Crater Lake

Larry Smith

For the past nearly two decades the Friends have been coordinating the winter volunteer program at Crater Lake National Park.

Most of our volunteers come from Southern Oregon, but this winter we also reached out to Janet and David Panebaker from Colorado. David is a retired National Park Chief Ranger from Dinosaur National Park. The Panebakers spent two weeks at Crater Lake working on special projects and staffing the Steel Center.

The Panebakers complimented a group of 41 volunteers working mostly on weekends, though some continued on through the Christmas and Spring Breaks. The main job for most of our

VIP's (Volunteer In the Park) was to staff the Winter Rim Viewing Room located above the Café Building. Using interpretive displays provided by the FOCL, volunteers answered many questions about Crater Lake and assisted with trip planning. This personal contact was especially important on days when the Lake was not visible due to storms over the Caldera. Having a person available to talk to helped ease the disappointment of not seeing the Lake after having driven several hundred miles.

In addition to visiting with park visitors, our volunteers helped with the Park's snowshoe hikes, conducted Rim Roves, designed and repaired interpretive displays.



Larry Smith digging his car out of the snow

Overnight housing is available for those wanting to stay overnight in the Park. This winter our corps of 41 VIP's provided 71 days of staffing for a total of

13,200 hours of volunteer time.

If anyone has questions about the Friends Winter Volunteer Program or would like to sign up for next winter, please contact

Friends Donations over the Years

Judy Buckingham

Since the inception of the Friends group back in 1993 we have made a number of donations. Early on about \$125 was used to restore a couple of historic pictures of the lake when it was completely frozen over. During the lead-up to the Centennial of the park in 2002, a number of Friends members, mainly the Arthur family, contributed funds for a book on the history of Crater Lake which was written by Rick Harmon. A donation by Friends members, the Mazamas, in the amount of \$7,000 was made toward the development of The Mirror

of Heaven, a film about the park shown on PBS and now shown in the park. Also in relation to the centennial, we helped finance the research and writing of a one-person, one act play of a character portraying Will Steel. This was performed at many locations, including the employee reunion during the centennial weekend. Chief Ranger Dave Brennan requested \$775 for some life safety signs, which we provided and installed summer of 2005. With the passing of our good "Friend" Greg Hartell in 2006, an internship for historic preservation was set up. Friends members have donated close to \$14,000 so



Greg Hartell

far. In the fall of 2006 we provided the cake for the Science & Learning Center dedication. About \$1,600 has been spent on interpretive exhibits for the upstairs viewing room above the

café/gift shop. Larry Smith used information from park newspapers to answer the most commonly asked questions using display boards. We provided \$500 to purchase some new trail-head signs for winter ski use. The Ski Patrol was in need of new uniforms. We provided about 1/3 of the cost, slightly over \$4,000. And last year and this year we are providing funds for housing for the Artists-in-Residence for about \$900 per year. So you can see, your money is being well-used to benefit the park.

President's Message

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exchange lies with a fellow retired Chief Ranger (Dave was Chief Ranger at Dinosaur National Monument and I retired from Crater Lake). Dave was visiting old stomping grounds as he was

also once a ranger at Crater Lake. I spend three years at Dinosaur as a District Ranger (long before Dave was there) and we both continued working part time in related fields, so we have lots in common.

Ski Patrol Uniforms
This winter, the Friends made its largest cash donation to-date to the park. Back when I was at Crater Lake, I purchased, using operating funds, a cache of very rugged parkas for the park volunteer Ski Patrol

program. I must admit to feeling a bit threatened when Pete Reinhardt (current Chief Ranger) came to me last fall requesting help in replacing "my" ski parkas. It seems that about twenty or more years of heavy use has taken its toll. The parkas I was so proud of are now just plain worn out. Pete put together a cooperative program to not only replace the parkas, but upgrade the system to include not just parkas, but a much more complete and versatile suite of outer wear utilizing the latest in technology. The 'cooperative' part comes in the financing. About a third of the cost was born by the ski patrollers themselves, using personal funds. Pete contributed park operating funds and the Friends of Crater Lake



Ski Patrol in new uniforms

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Wintertime Volunteering at Crater Lake

Larry Filosi

I am sure that many of you are aware of the opportunity that FOCL members have of volunteering to work the "Winter Desk" at Crater Lake National Park. Long time FOCL member, Larry Smith, under the guidance of Ranger Eric Andersen of CLNP organizes this program. Larry asked three of us, who spent the first weekend of March as volunteers, to write a short article describing the typical experience. Among a plethora of unique and fun experiences one could have, the two that stuck out to us

were the people you encounter and the privilege of staying in "The Park" overnight. There are three groups of people that you come in contact with as a volunteer: The park visitors, the park staff, and the other volunteers. Most importantly as a volunteer of the park, you greet a variety of visitors and answer many questions. The indoor duty takes place in the viewing room on the third floor of the café at Rim Village. Luckily there are numerous posters with answers to the most asked questions, so you can point



Dave Russel, Janet Panebaker, Larry Filosi, Mark Rochester & Florence Abend

them out when you are not sure of an answer. Many of the questions are repeated

and soon you find that you've learned the answers

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Panebaker's Crater Lake Winter VIP Experience

Dave & Janet Panebaker

We drove from Colorado to volunteer here for two weeks. For Dave this was a return to his old stomping grounds. He worked at the park as a seasonal interpreter in 1970 while going to Colorado State University. In 1973 he joined the permanent ranks as a Crater Lake Park Aid and later a Park Technician. Janet visited Crater Lake for the first time in winter 1978 when they skied around the lake after they were married.

The park now has better equipment in every department. 35mm slides are now all digital images. Rolling stock are top of the line – ambulance, patrol cars, push plows, rotary plows, fire truck, snowmobiles, etc. Visitor use has changed a little such as skiing down the Garfield Peak avalanche chute. Snowshoe activ-

ity has really increased. We used to snowmobile around the lake, however most of that activity was on the North Entrance Road to North Junction. The Sleepy Hollow apartment is a tremendous improvement over the old wooden houses. Unfortunately they don't do snow surveys at the end of each month anymore. They were always fun!

Our duties included helping in the Steel VC, snowshoe walks, repairing a cracked wooden display frame, building a wooden snowshoe storage container, breaking ski trails, manning the Rim Center, shoveling snow, meeting some great FOCL volunteers on the weekends, helping rangers



Dave Panebaker drilling.

pull stuck vehicles out of the snow (semi on west road and a mustang on the headquarters corkscrew), painting window frames in the carpenter

shop, taking 900 digital pictures, working with some of the Crater Lake Ski Patrolters, checking bolt patterns on the Fort Klamath inter-

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Will Whitebark Pine Not Fade Away?

Michael Murray, PARK-Science

Regarded as a hardy stalwart forests on the Pacific Coast and in Rocky Mountain ranges, whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) is a prominent feature in 10 western national parks. The picturesque, weather-beaten form of timberline veterans is captured on the pages of calendars, postcards, guides, and photo albums of visitors who come to national parks and forests to enjoy the breathtaking mountain scenery. Many sites where whitebark pine resides are too climatically harsh for other tree species. Thus, whitebark pine forests thrive where otherwise only meadow, talus, or other sparse natural communities would. Showy wildflowers such



NPS Photo

Whitebark pine trees decimated by blister rust & mountain pine beetles North Junction

as heart-leaved arnica (*Arnica cordifolia*) and verdant tufts of smooth woodrush (*Luzula hitchcockii*) prefer the filtered sunlight afforded by groves of whitebark pine.

This pine species also stabilizes soil on steep slopes and shades patches of snow, providing continuous flow of meltwater well into summer. As the

producer of the largest tree seeds in the subalpine zone, whitebark pine supports more than two dozen species of foraging mammals and birds, including grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) and Clark's nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*). The value of whitebark pine to wildlife simply cannot be overstated. Unfortunately, populations of whitebark pine are increasingly threatened and their numbers are dwindling. The nonnative blister rust disease (caused by the fungus *Cronartium ribicola*) has crept across its natural range since it was first introduced in western North America in 1910. Natural resistance to

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Will Whitebark Pine Not Fade Away?

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blister rust among whitebark pine may be lower than 1% (Hoff et al. 1994). Ongoing epidemics of the native mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae*) appear unprecedented in extent (Sharik et al. 2010) in addition to common stress from fire, dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium* spp.), and

ips beetles (*Ips* spp).

Crater Lake National Park, Oregon, is home to the most extensive lakeside population of whitebark pine known. Some of the oldest trees in the park garnish the margins of the 33-mile-long (53 km) Rim Drive and Rim Village, enjoyed by nearly 500,000 visitors every year. By the

late 1990s an accumulation of dead trees, such as those on the summit of Wizard Island in the middle of Crater Lake, had piqued the curiosity of park staff, visitors, and media. A subsequent survey revealed that most whitebark pine stands were infected with blister rust (Murray and Rasmussen 2003). In 2003, I initiated a long-term moni-

toring program to track mortality in whitebark pine at Crater Lake National Park. This is among the first established monitoring programs aimed specifically at whitebark pine in the National Park System.

President's Message

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made up the final third (\$4,192). We have included a picture of the Ski Patrol modeling their new outfits. When I say, the Friends contributed, I am, of course, meaning that all you, individually and collectively, contributed. While I am a bit biased, I think this is a great way to utilize our funds. Thank you.

Winter Wings Festival

Another fun event this winter was partnering with the Crater Lake Trust to staff a booth at the Winter Wings Festival held in Klamath Falls, OR. This is one in a series of events the Trust will be staffing.

Family Fun Day

On April 23, several Friends will be volunteering at the park 'Family Fun Day,' sponsored by the park and the Trust. This program has been on-going for several years and has proven to be quite popular and a lot of fun for both participants and volunteers. Events will include: igloo building, snowman building, a snowshoe fun run, snow science, and several more. Ski Patrol also helps with this.

Amphitheater Clean Up

A couple of year ago, we cleaned up and power-washed the benches at the Mazama Campground amphitheater. The park was so pleased with that project that they asked that it be made a continuing event. The weather didn't



Larry & Linda Smith, , Janet & Dave Panebaker

cooperate (that seems to be a common theme at Crater Lake) last summer, but we are planning to pick this project up again on July 9, 2011. This is a one-day for a few shorts hours and we will need just a few volunteers. Let me know if you are interested.

Cleetwood Improvements

This summer will see a major improvement and consequential intrusion on the park visitor experience as the bulk head which secures the docks at

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Panebaker's Crater Lake Winter VIP Experience

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pretive sign to see if new frames will fit, interpreting the park environs to visitors, etc. The park employees

were very helpful and fun to work with.

It was hard to leave at the end of the tour. The experience was very positive and we hope

to do it again soon. It is great that FOCL provides opportunities to VIP at Crater Lake in the winter.

Message from the President

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Cleetwood Cove are replaced. The first instinct of park planners was to simply close the area for the duration of the project. Instead, the park is going to considerable lengths to make visitation possible. That doesn't mean everything will be 'as usual.' This is a big job. There are both technical challenges and considerable safety concerns. Helicopters will be used extensively. Working public access into the equation is not going to be easy. We anticipate the park may be asking for



Dave Panebaker repairing sign

volunteers to assist in people management. Exactly how that translates into actual job descriptions is yet to be worked out. We will

keep you informed through the website and by email.

Artists-in-Residence

The park has asked for, and the Board approved, another

donation (\$950) to support the Artist-in-Residence program. We are paying for quarters for the artists. A showing of their talents will be held at the Rim Community House on July 9-10. Friends volunteers are needed.

FOCL Brochures

Our Friends brochure supply, the second edition, is getting low. As one would expect, some information has become dated so the Board embarked upon a revision. Judy Buckingham is spearheading the effort. She welcomes suggestions: jlbuckingham@centureytel.net

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Compliment from a Ranger

Larry Smith

(as an email to Dave Grimes)

On Tuesday I was working with, Jo Wright, a teacher at Roosevelt School in Medford. She was sharing with her staff the "wonderful" day that their singles group had snowshoeing at Crater Lake with "Ranger Grimes". She said that the day was perfect, the snow was the best she had ever seen, and that Ranger Grimes was great! "Why he told us about tree flexibility, etc, etc..." As she shared the things that she had learned from you. She got the staff so jazzed some want to come up.

Larry,
Thanks for the e-mail. It's always nice to receive some positive feedback. I appreciate

you taking the time to write.

smoothly.

I also really appreciate all you do to make the Winter Volunteer Program such a big success! You make everything run so

Dave Grimes
Park Ranger (Interpretation)
Crater Lake National Park



Ranger Dave Grimes

An Artist's Thank You

Cathleen Casey

I can't thank you enough for such stunning and comfortable housing, also very convenient. I brought a small drafting table and had ample room for all my art supplies. It was a real luxury to have a full kitchen and bath too. Thank you immensely for your generous support of the Artist-in-Residency program. It was the most extraordinary experience and opportunity of my life!

President's Message

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Project Weekend

The traditional Project weekend is scheduled for August 19-21. We plan to continue the agenda we have been using for the past few years. That consists of two nights of camping at Mazama Campground, working on Saturday and possibly Sunday morning. Projects have not been chosen, but we structure it so there are a variety of tasks to match varying physical abilities as well as individual interests.

NPS Funding

It is painfully obvious that the National Park Service is facing what may well be the most serious funding challenges in generations. Funding, and/or the lack thereof, may be used as a policy changing tool. This may translate into significant changes in the ability of the NPS to serve the public and protect our parks. You may approve or not. In either case, I urge you to keep informed and make your views known.

Annual Meeting

Finally, on October 1 we will gather at the park for the an-



Crater Lake with ice

nual meeting to elect new Board members and chart a path for the following year. I think we are a busy and

productive group! Please do not hesitate to provide suggestions and ideas.

Winter Volunteering at Crater Lake

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and can spout them off easily. Crater Lake in winter is a truly magnificent wonderland and visitors you meet from all over the world are excited to be there. During our weekend most of the visitors were from Oregon communities, but there was a couple from Minnesota. We met several members of the Salem Nordic Club who were there for their annual visit. We also had students from Sutherlin High School and a group of Chinese students from St. Mary's school in Medford who were there for snowshoe walks. We were joined at "The Winter Desk" with volunteer Florence Abend from Klamath Falls and Dave and Janet Panebacker from

Colorado. Florence had worked the previous summer at Mazama Village and told us about the dramatic differences between summer and winter seasons at the park. Calling it "Winter Desk" is only partially accurate, as you can spend as much time outdoors talking to visitors or accompanying snowshoe walks as you do inside working the desk. We spent part of our outside time meeting visitors on the lake side of the cafe, atop the snow where it overlooks the lake. The questions outside were more practical, like, where can we ski, are the trails marked, and can you take our picture? One of the important aspects of having the volunteer program is to meet one-on-one with visitors and to help them enjoy the park in the fashion that best suits their interests.

Sometimes we even provided some additional options that they were unaware of. Meeting the rangers and accompanying them on the snowshoe walks adds tremendously to the overall experience. In addition to tromping through the snow, which in itself is spectacular, the worthwhile facts that the rangers give about winter in CLNP adds to your repertoire of Crater Lake knowledge. Each ranger gives their own personal touch to the walk and it's fun to get to know their personalities as the weekend progresses. One big advantage to the program is the housing that is provided in the park while volunteering. From inside the condo style living room in our "Sleepy

Hollow" accommodations we stayed warm and cozy as 12 inches of new snow fell that first night. We also had a great time socializing into the wee hours with volunteers Dave and Janet who were in the adjoining condo. Dave was a retired NP employee, who spent much of his tenure as a Chief Ranger. He had worked at CLNP early in his career. Another highlight of the evening was sharing passages from the book that Larry Smith and his brother wrote about anecdotal stories of happenings at Crater Lake that they collected over the years.

We would like to give a huge thank you to FOCL and all those who made this opportunity available and encourage any member to consider volunteering in the future.

**Friends of Crater Lake
National Park**



Friends of Crater Lake National Park
P.O. Box 88
Crater Lake, Oregon 97604
Website: friendsofcraterlake.org
Email: friendsofcl@yahoo.com

**Check out our website:
friendsofcraterlake.org**

Event Calendar 2011

Item	Date	Contact
Winter Volunteering, Rim Desk	November - April	Larry Smith 541.899.7402
Adopt-a-Highway	Weekends Before <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Memorial Day• 4th of July• Labor Day	Greg Reddell 541.882.6257
Amphitheater Clean Up Day	July 9, 2011	George Buckingham 541.783.3136
Artist-in-Residence Art Show	July 9-10, 2011 Community House	George Buckingham 541.783.3136
Planiki Falls Trail Dedication	Early August	George Buckingham 541.783.3136
Project Weekend	August 19-21, 2011	George Buckingham 541.783.3136
Annual Meeting	October 1, 2011	George Buckingham 541.783.3136

Board Members:

<i>George Buckingham:</i>	President
<i>Mary White:</i>	Vice President
<i>Larry Filosi:</i>	Secretary
<i>Beverley Hartell:</i>	Treasurer
<i>Judy Buckingham:</i>	Membership
<i>Niel Barrett:</i>	Ski Patrol & Webmaster
<i>John Salinas:</i>	Member
<i>Shirley Van Leuven:</i>	Member
<i>Beverly Paulson:</i>	Member

Non-board member positions:

<i>Leslie Buckingham:</i>	Newsletter editor
<i>Marsha McCabe:</i>	Park Liaison