

# LASSEN NEWS

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OPENS!

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THE CHAIRMAN

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## KOHM YAH-MAH-NEE VISITOR CENTER OPENS!



On September 20th, the Lassen Park Foundation hosted a donor recognition event at the new Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center in Lassen Volcanic National Park and over 200 loyal friends attended.

What an exciting day to see this project complete! It was also a great privilege to be part of the dedication ceremony on October 2nd when the National Park Service formally opened the facility for visitors.

**Kohm Yah-mah-nee** is the Mountain Maidu Indian name for Snow Mountain (Lassen Peak). Although Lassen Volcanic National Park was the nation's 13th national park, founded in 1916, it has never had a formal Visitor Center.

The building has been designed and constructed with the goal to achieve the platinum level of “green building” certification, and is the first \*LEED-certified national park building that is to be open year-round. LEED certification means that the building meets national standards for environmentally smart construction and operation, such as energy use, source of timber/building materials, and operation. There is no conventional air conditioning equipment. Instead, interior air temperature is regulated similar to a heat pump through pipes buried deep in the ground and cooled by the surrounding earth. High, vaulted ceilings pull warm air higher. With its large windows, the building takes advantage of ambient light through a software-guided lighting system that measures and responds to room brightness. It also adjusts to a darkened or totally dark room that is not in use and won't heat it as much. Winters at Lassen Volcanic National Park will never be the same as when there were few comforts and little space. With a year-round center to accommodate visitors, a warm interpretive center to visit, a book and gift store, restrooms, and food service, the public can enjoy the Park in all seasons. With the establishment of a true Visitor Center, visitation to the Park is expected to increase. The new center is the fulfillment of a long-awaited dream, especially of the Lassen Park Foundation, which was established with the goal of creating a much-needed Visitor Center for this national park.

\* *The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green building rating system.*

Dear Friends,

This has been an outstanding year for the Lassen Park Foundation because we saw our long-awaited dream come true—a Visitor Center for Lassen Volcanic National Park! We are so grateful to all of you who made it possible to raise \$500,000 to support the project. We are especially proud of one of our contributions—the 21-minute interpretive film about the Park that orients visitors and encourages them to make the most of their visit.

Our Youth Camping Program is thriving and we are committed to meeting the need. Reading the stories of how challenged young lives are changed by a camping trip to a national park makes us all want to spend more time at Lassen Park! This year we sent a record number of 14 groups and next year we would like to send even more.

2008 was a year of great progress for the Lassen Park Foundation and now we are planning our next capital campaign to restore the Lassen Peak Trail. Our success is only a result of our partnership with you however, and your love of our favorite national park. We hope that you can make a gift this year to encourage us in our work.

Best wishes for the holiday season and a happy and prosperous 2009!

John W. Koeberer  
Chairman



## YOUTH CAMPING GRANTS CHANGE LIVES

This summer we had our most extensive Youth Camping Program and were able to fund 14 groups, so that they could have a life-changing experience in Lassen Volcanic National Park. The reports back from the groups are very inspiring and encouraging! Over 200 participants were camping in the Park this year. They came from the following groups: Youth for Change from Paradise, Remi Vista Foster Care Agency from Redding, YMCA PlusOne mentors from Redding, two Sierra Club Inner City groups, Today's Youth Matter from Sacramento, Acorn Teen Group from the Montgomery Creek area, the Lassen Alliance Mentorship Project that serves children of incarcerated parents in Susanville, and Plumas Crisis Intervention and Resource Center from Quincy that serves youth in foster care who are making a transition to independent living. Other groups included this year were youth from Cottonwood and Flournoy Schools, Families First Foster Care agency from Davis, a Corning Boy Scout troop, and Lassen County Friday Night Live group, which promotes a drug and alcohol free lifestyle for teens.



*"We climbed Mt. Lassen today and boy, it was rough, but I made it and it was fun going with one of the little kids—I encouraged him to continue even though he didn't want to go. It felt great when I made it up with him." - a participant*

*"This place will give me a lot of memories and when I have kids and a family I would bring them here—I would want them to see this!" - a participant*



*Ten girls from Today's Youth Matter, Sacramento, completed a backpacking trip.*

The young people who took part in the program learned first hand about the diversity of plant and animal life and had the opportunity to experience Lassen's geologic wonders. They also learned about their role as stewards of the Park. When a Park ranger asked the kids from a Sacramento group who owns the Park, they looked blank. One responded that the ranger must be the owner. The ranger explained that everyone owns the Park and users must "leave no trace" so that others may enjoy it too. They were able to attend a bird banding demonstration and help release the birds back into the wild afterwards. They experienced the joys of being huddled around a campfire, swimming in a pristine alpine lake and admiring a delicate meadow. These trips give young people a rich experience that could never be explained or equaled in the classroom or on television.



## "REACH THE PEAK" PROJECT GEARS UP

Did you know that more than 40,000 people of all ages and skill level climb Lassen Peak each year? Years of overuse has led to the trail's deterioration, and it's time to restore the trail and to construct educational exhibits and place signs to ensure the safety and enjoyment of current and future generations.

In response to this real need, the Lassen Park Foundation is raising funds for the restoration and enhancement of the Lassen Peak Trail, a project that will take place over five years, beginning in 2009. The project will restore the signature trail in Lassen Volcanic National Park. Currently, the Foundation is working with Lassen Volcanic National Park and a national fundraising partner, the National Park Trust, to design a campaign to support this project.



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YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE - YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS SO APPRECIATED!