

LASSEN NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE LASSEN PARK FOUNDATION

FALL 2009

HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE

FUNDRAISER
A SUCCESS

CAMPING
FOR KIDS

SEEKING
INVESTORS

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FUNDRAISER CREATES NEW FRIENDS AND RESOURCES - \$40,000 RAISED!

On September 12th, the Lassen Park Foundation held another of its successful auction fundraisers, this time at Lake Almanor. The event, using the theme, "Celebrate Our National Parks—America's Best Idea" was held at a beautiful lakeside location, courtesy of Greg and Dean Chabrier, and 180 people enjoyed bidding on a unique selection of donated items. The evening made many new friends for the Lassen Park Foundation and valuable resources were raised to support the important projects of the Foundation.

Thank you to everyone who came to the event, donated items, and bid on them. The all-important sponsorship for the event was provided by the following individuals and businesses, to which we are especially grateful.

Almanor Bowling Center
Greg & Dean Chabrier
Terry Collins
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CAMPING FOR KIDS! ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

"I believe this trip blew their worlds wide open," said a trip coordinator who brought a group of kids from a homeless shelter. "They were without technology for three days, and nobody missed it. It was back to basics for these kids, and they had a fabulous time. New interests were discovered and a profound respect for the environment was gained."

Each year that we offer this program to young people who otherwise would not have a chance to enjoy a camping trip, we are more excited by the results and resolute in our pledge to keep this program going and hopefully enlarge it. This year ten groups benefited from camping trips which included 200 young people and their mentors. The youth came from Susanville, Bieber, Quincy, Redding, Paynes Creek, Red Bluff, Paradise and Sacramento. All groups reported that the trip initiated a special bond for the youth and adults who shared this experience. Many of the kids had never camped, fished, or been in a boat. Soon they were on the trail to Lassen Peak or Bumpass Hell and learning that this wonderful place belongs to all of us.



Youth for Change - On the trail



(continued on back)

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YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE - YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS SO APPRECIATED!





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Thank you for helping the Lassen Park Foundation to grow so that we can help to preserve and protect the Lassen region that we love. Your contributions are a vote of confidence in the ambitious work that we do, and each is greatly appreciated!



MORE CAMPING FOR KIDS!

The coordinator from Big Valley Family Resource Center, Bieber, said that most of the campers were from high-risk families so it was great to witness them learning to work together for the benefit of everyone. The youth all go to school together and many of them had differences in the past. By the end of the trip they had learned to work together and share a laugh instead of an argument. Through hikes, ranger presentations and campfire discussions, youth involved in the program learned to appreciate the public lands they were visiting.



YMCA PlusOne Mentoring Program

Said the coordinator from Jackson Heights School: "We suspect that most youth had never heard of such a thing as a national park before this trip and they certainly had no idea of the expanse of the park. Most thought the Loomis Museum area (just near the park gate) was the whole park when we first arrived! The park rangers did a wonderful job of enlightening the students about LVNP and how they can contribute to its health and future."



The Sierra Club Inner City Outings from Sacramento brought children from a homeless shelter. "The kids acquired a new vocabulary", said the trip coordinator. "It was really fun to watch them try to identify the different types of volcanoes and animals. I saw them continually applying new information. I also observed a lot of teamwork. They would encourage each other on a long trail, or help each other up if somebody fell. During the long drive up the Sacramento Valley, Alissa and Aaliyah, both 11, had wondered why the group didn't just camp at some lake much closer to Sacramento. But when the cars arrived at the Manzanita Lake parking lot and they saw the snow-streaked mountain looming above the cobalt lake, the oohs and aahs began." "That's the most beautiful thing I've ever seen", said Noah, 9 when he saw Lassen Peak."



The ranger is recording vital stats on a bird as part of the Park's resources monitoring program. Lassen has quite a number of bird species that either live year-round, seasonally, migrate through, breed, etc and this is one of the ways to learn of the health and persistence of these birds.



The Lassen Park Foundation is aiding Lassen Volcanic National Park in the rehabilitation of the Lassen Peak Trail. The trail allows visitors to hike 2.5 miles to the top of one of the largest plug dome volcanoes in the world, providing visitors with stunning views of surrounding areas, dacite rock formations, and an impressive overview of the Devastated Area. The trail rehabilitation project is partially funded by The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, fee monies set aside from park visitation, and contributions from the Lassen Park Foundation and the National Park Trust with the help of their supporters through donations and grants. The Park anticipates the Environmental Assessment (EA) to be released late this fall for public comment. Once the comment period is complete the EA will be finalized in consideration of comments and released as a final document after the new year. Work on the trail is to begin as soon as conditions allow the trail to be opened to the top. The project work identified in the EA will be completed over the next five years.

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SEEKING INVESTORS — The Lassen Park Foundation is looking for new investors, supporters who are passionate about providing a stewardship role for our national parks, especially Lassen Volcanic National Park. This fall we are beginning a process of strategic planning in order to identify how we can accomplish more. Our track record is good, with \$1.3 million raised for projects in the Lassen area, but we are ambitious. Sometimes, people don't think that a small contribution can make a difference, but really it can, especially when it's a regular commitment. One donor to the Lassen Park Foundation has been contributing \$25 per month for 16 years. That amounts to \$4800, which has certainly made a difference to the Foundation. Imagine if 100 people had been doing the same. That would be \$480,000. We invite you to adopt us as your favorite charity this year. Don't forget that there are many ways to give and gifts of stocks, bonds, and real estate are sometimes advantageous to both sides, the charity and the donor. — *For more information about how you can really make an investment in our organization please call our Executive Director, Jane Ziad at 530-898-9309 or email: jane@lassenparkfoundation.org*