



WILSONIA

TIMES

Volume 9, Issue 5
November, 2010

~autumn edition~



www.wilsoniavillage.com

Wiltonia Historic District Trust Update

The Wiltonia Historic District Trust (WHDT) Board of Directors has had a busy summer. First we completed and submitted our amendment to the Historic District to the State Office of Historic Preservation. It was unanimously approved and we are waiting for it to be published in the National Register. It has to be reviewed by the NPS before going to the "Keeper." When finalized, we will go from 139 contributing cabins (67%) to some 163 contributing cabins (77%).

The WHDT has made some changes to our board. Dr. Fran Preston was named Director Emeritus. New members to the board are Sally Tripp, who will take over the duties of Treasurer, and Jean Faszholz. We are delighted with their willingness to service.

The WHDT refined its mission statement to read as follows:

"The mission of the Wiltonia Historic District Trust is to preserve, interpret, and perpetuate our community's history, unique quality of life, intense and long-term family commitment, and natural resources that have been handed down over generations. Specific attention is given to the cultural artifacts and natural resources which contribute to keeping Wiltonia a historic community."

NPS: "Wiltonia here to stay"

... with the formation of the Wiltonia Historic District "everything changed" and that since then it has been the Park's view that "you [Wiltonia] are here to stay."

ing, Dan Blackwell, NPS, noted with some clarity that with the formation of the Wiltonia Historic District [on March 15, 1996], "everything changed" and that since then it has been the Park's view that "you [Wiltonia] are here to stay." He went on to say that **"We are not after you and we have made that clear in our GMP [General Management Plan]. ... we see you now as an important cultural resource and a part of our ongoing cultural heritage and landscape."**

The meeting was concluded with the recommendation that the WHDT, Wiltonia Village and the Park Superintendent meet annually to keep the communications open.

H.A. "Gus" Collin III, WHDT President

Bear A10 - A Success Story

Earlier this summer, the Grant Grove and Wiltonia area had a sow with two cubs that learned to access human food and garbage from dumpsters, even those that were properly latched. Bears are very smart and adaptable and this particular bear learned that by flipping the dumpsters on their sides, she could break the latch that held the lids down. Because she was so successful in this technique, she quickly began flipping several dumpsters each night. She was first documented breaking into dumpsters on (cont. on page 2)

Upcoming Events:

October 31st

- Garbage Service Ends

February 26th, 2011

Meetings at the Mixer's home in Reedley

- WVI Board Meeting - 10am
- Fire Safe Meeting - 2pm

Thank You, Thank You!

- to Dave & Jean Faszholz and friends for thinning out and organizing the Library in the Clubhouse.
- to Dick Peters and Mitch Brookins for Clubhouse bathroom repairs.
- to Paul Finck for the Clubhouse kitchen fan installation.
- to our summer events hosts: the Hamm, McCormick/Montgomery, Wilson, Tripp, Peters and Doyle families.
- and **THANK YOU** to all the WVI, WHDT Board and Fire Committee members for countless hours of volunteer service to the Wiltonia community.

WVI 2011 Dues

In the fall of each year, we ask each and every Wiltonia Cabin owner to pay his/her Wiltonia Village Inc. membership dues for the upcoming year. Annual dues have remained at a **very** reasonable \$55 for the last seven years. The dues that are collected from each Wiltonia property owner help fund the many services that Wiltonia Village Inc. provides for the community, including:

- Disposal Service (late May - October)
- Clubhouse Maintenance & Insurance
- Communications
- ENS Service
- Summer Social Activities

If you feel that you are getting a bargain on the dues, and make good use of the services WVI offers, donations beyond \$55 are most welcome and greatly appreciated. If you have forgotten to pay your dues in the past few years, please won't you pay now for the upcoming year. Please fill out the form on the insert.

Bear A10 - cont. from page 1

June 6th and by June 8th, Park biologists had captured her and fitted her with a radio-collar and an ear tag so that her behavior could be more closely monitored. She was released close to where she was captured, in the Crystal Springs campground. She became known as A10, meaning she was the first bear captured in 2010.

Despite being captured, the strong food rewards that A10 was receiving from dumpsters (often many thousands of calories a night), were worth the risk to her to attempt it again. The very next night, she broke into another dumpster and by July 2nd, she had broken into at least 20 more.

During this time, the Park was working towards improving the latches on the dumpsters and once the latches were fixed, the frequency with which A10 was able to obtain human food and garbage diminished greatly. As of October 15th, she has been observed occasionally trying to get into them, but she has been unsuccessful. Now, she is eating wild foods and largely avoiding humans. Her radio signal indicates that she often spends her time far away from Grant Grove; **she is behaving like a wild bear again.**

Success stories like this are unfortunately too rare with food-conditioned bears. In many cases, once bears obtain human food there is very little that can be done to stop them from doing it again and again, and they become increasingly less wary of humans. As this wariness decreases, bears can become bold enough to approach humans directly and take their food. Bears that behave in this manner often have to be killed.

It is great to see that A10 is behaving like a wild bear again. The Park will continue to monitor her and make every effort to ensure that she stays wild. However, you can be sure that she and her cubs have not forgotten where they can find calorie rich human food and garbage. Her cubs will be on their own next year, and life can be hard for young bears. They will seek an easy meal if the opportunity is given to them. It will be important to properly store food and garbage at all times to prevent this situation from developing again.

Thanks for helping to keep bears wild!

Daniel Gammons - SEKI NP Wildlife Biologist
daniel_gammons@nps.gov (559) 565-3124

Verizon Cell Tower Update

The tower and auxillary building have been installed on the Park Ridge site (just northeast of the fire lookout). Work is progressing... cell service should be a few weeks away.

Residents of Wilsonia,

The fall rains have come and soon the winter snow will blanket the ground and cabins of Wilsonia. The change in weather also marks the end of my season as Fire Education Park Ranger in these parks. It has been my pleasure meeting many of the residents, though I would have liked to have met all of the residents of Wilsonia. Thank you all for your efforts keeping Wilsonia fire safe and have a wonderful winter season.

Georgia D. Etter - Park Ranger, Fire Education SEKI NP

Labor Day WVI Board Meeting

The last 2010 meeting of the WVI Board of Directors was held on Sunday, September 5th at 11 am, following the pancake breakfast. Business discussed:

- WHDT Report & Fire Committee Report
- WVI officer elections - listed on back page
- Clubhouse usage and security
- Clubhouse end-of-year maintenance & closing
- Memorial gifts



The next WVI Board Meeting, the winter planning meeting, will be held on Saturday, February 26th, 2011 at 10 am, at the Mixer home in Reedley. If you have comments or questions to be addressed at that meeting, please contact any Board Member (listed on back page).

Congratulations to Kings Canyon District FMO Brit Rosso on his promotion to manager at the NPS National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute in Arizona. Britt had been with SEKI NP for 25 years, 21 with the Arrowhead Hotshots and 4 years as FMO. Brit was instrumental in obtaining the four water tanks for Wilsonia. Farewell Brit.

CHIMNEY FIRES

Summer has passed too quickly and the cold weather has arrived. On those cold winter weekends and holidays in Wilsonia, many of us rely on our fireplaces for heat. The fireplace, although a source of warmth and comfort, is also one of the most likely ways that a cabin can be destroyed. The last two cabin fires in Wilsonia have been caused by fires escaping the chimney and going into the walls of cabins.

Chimneys require maintenance, as they age they will need to be repaired. Chimneys need to be cleaned and inspected on a regular basis. Finding and recognizing defects in the structure of the chimney and keeping the chimney clean will prevent chimney fires and can prevent the loss of your cabin.

There are a variety of professional chimney sweeps in the area who are trained to properly clean and inspect your chimney. If it has been a few years since you have had your chimney inspected, please be safe and consult a chimney sweep (there is list of names on the website). Consider your cabin and what it means to you and your family. The fireplace is often a central feature of your cabin, don't let it destroy your cabin.

~ from the June 2010 article by Ned Kelleher ~

Snowmobiles in Wilsonia

The last few seasons have seen an increase in problems and complaints about snowmobiles in Wilsonia; the NPS requested we run this reminder.

The National Park Service staff would like to remind you of snowmobile use rules in and around Wilsonia. Remember, snowmobiles can't be used for recreation. All snowmobiles must be permitted by the Park prior to operation, and can only be used for direct access to private property on unplowed roads. Permits are available at the Kings Canyon Visitor Center. For more information, please call Ellen McClellan at (559) 565-4331. Thanks, and have a safe and wonderful winter!

Winter Parking in Wilsonia

Winter will soon be here and as the snow begins to pile up, all roads except the northern section of Park Road will become inaccessible to vehicle traffic. Park Road (from the four-way stop to Lilac Lane) essentially becomes a narrow access route and parking area for all Wilsonia residents and visitors. Weekend parking, as many of you have experienced, can be quite congested. Holidays have proven to be even worse. Here are some guidelines to help make winter parking and access to Wilsonia more comfortable.

Please park your vehicle perpendicular or diagonal to the road, backed in (with the front of the car sticking out) so there will be more parking available and less digging necessary to remove your vehicle.



Please be available to move your car as necessary for the snow removal equipment to come in and clear the road. This may involve moving all vehicles from one side of the parking area to the other during the course of the day. To expedite this, we ask:

Post on your driver's side dashboard or windshield the following info:

- * Your name
- * Wilsonia address - street name and number
- * Cabin phone number (if any)

Labor Day Weekend

The Labor Day weekend potluck on Saturday night had a great turnout. More than 70 Wilsonia friends and neighbors came over to the clubhouse for one last summer dinner together, with the usual wonderful assortment of food and enough desserts to ruin everyone's diets. The dinner was hosted by our newest board member, Susan Doyle.

Before and during the meal, Sally Tripp sold 50-50 tickets, winner Jean Faszholz took home half the \$190 pot, and the remainder went to the WVI piggy bank. After dinner, nearly half the crowd stayed around for some good old fashioned Bingo. There were more than two dozen winners, adults and children. Thanks to Sheri for finding some fun prizes and to Neal and Sally for calling the numbers.

Pancake Breakfast

A big **Thank You** to Lois and Sally Tripp for once again organizing and hosting the annual fund-raiser breakfast. Thanks also to their cooks and helpers who made this popular end of the summer event a big success.

91 adults and 11 children dined on all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage and eggs, plus coffee, milk and OJ. The event raised \$358 for the WVI general fund.

If you came for breakfast, thanks so much for supporting Wilsonia Village. If you missed it, why not make a point of coming next year - always on Labor Day weekend Sunday. It's the best breakfast \$5 can buy.

Meet two of the newest WVI Board Members

Uschi Hamm:

I was born in Germany (who would guess) and raised on the Swiss border, very close to the mountains. To be up here in Wilsonia, thanks to my husband Charlie's grandmother, I have a connection to the mountains again. How fortunate I am. We live up here in Wilsonia when mother nature allows us, from the time the snow melts 'til it snows again.

Karen Carlstrom:

I was born in Yosemite National Park. My father was raised there, and worked there for several years as an adult prior to moving to Exeter, CA. My family has always had a love of the Sierra Nevadas, and I have many fond memories of camping in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks as a child. I just completed 38 years with Visalia Unified School District as a teacher, school psychologist and counselor, and retired in June.

We purchased a cabin in Wilsonia in the Masonic Tract in 1988, and rebuilt it in 1990. We have enjoyed many gatherings with friends and family at our cabin, especially in the summer, when the cooler temperatures are such a relief. My husband, Rick, and I have three grown sons who currently reside in Palm Desert, Seattle, and Philadelphia. We enjoy our empty nest, and increased freedom and time to enjoy Wilsonia.

Wanted:

*Winter contributor(s) for the Wilsonia web page and/or Facebook, for weather and snow updates
If you are in Wilsonia during winter weekends or holidays, please post or email your updates - Thanks, Neal*



On the schedule again for next summer,

Wilsonia Black Pot Cook-Off

We will publish some recipes in the next issues and on the web-page.

How about buying a Black Pot Cooker for that favorite Wilsonian on your Christmas list.



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WILSONIA TIMES

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SERVICE CHANGE REQUESTED

WVI Board of Directors 2010 Contact information

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Sheri Parkinson	Secretary	teebars@yahoo.com	(559) 638-4527	335-2252
Neal Mixer	Treasurer-Newsletter	mixter3@msn.com	(559) 643-8518	335-1144
Karen Carlstrom		wilsonia@comcast.net	(559) 732-1928	335-2539
Uschi Hamm			(559) 643-0807	335-2575
Susan Doyle			(559) 229-6021	335-2460

Grant Grove	NPS Visitors Center		(559) 565-4307	335-2856
Ash Mountain	NPS District Office	www.nps.gov/seki	(559) 565-3341	

EMERGENCY ** CALL 911 and 565-3196 / 3197 NPS Dispatch**

Bear sightings, problems or questions?



Please contact
the KCNP
Bear Tech at
(559) 565-4258

*Garbage service is
discontinued on October 31st.
Service will resume on Memorial
Day weekend.*

*Please come prepared to
haul out your trash.*

Still getting your newsletter in the mail ?

You can receive it by email
and save some paper and the cost of a stamp.

Email your request to:

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**Type "subscribe" in the subject line
& provide your name and cabin address**