



WILSONIA

Volume 12, Issue 3
August 2013

~summer edition~

TIMES

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This issue of the Wilsonia Times was delayed in order to provide you with accurate information about the visit to Wilsonia by the new NPS Sequoia Kings Canyon Superintendent Woody Smeck.

Meet Superintendent Smeck

This Sunday, August 11th, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m., please drop by the Burgin Cabin at 83634 Hazel Lane for a meet and greet with new SEKI NPS Superintendent Woody Smeck. Earlier in the day, Mr. Smeck will meet with Board Members of WVI, the WHDT and the Sierra Masonic Family Club.

Saturday - August 10th - 7:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse

The Last Season

The story of Ranger Randy Morgenson

Talk, Q&A and book signing by author Eric Blehm

If you have read the book, remember the story, or want to find out more about the intriguing circumstances of the disappearance of one of our most experienced back country rangers, come listen to Eric Blehm author of the bestselling book titled *The Last Season*. Mr Blehm will discuss his interest in the story, the research he did and will take questions. He will also have books available to autograph, or you may bring your own copies.

Also that evening, we will be viewing the episode of the Investigation Discovery Channel program *Disappeared* based on the story and Mr. Blehm's book. An interview portion of that video was filmed in the Wilsonia Clubhouse last summer.

Since this is a Wilsonia event, of course there will be food... cobblers, pies and ice cream will be served. If you can help provide dessert, please contact Jean Faszholtz at 559-335-2563

WHDT Update

by Gus Collin - WHDT President

Representatives of the Wilsonia Historic District Trust, Wilsonia Village Inc., and the Sierra Masonic Family Club Boards of Directors met with the new Superintendent of SEKI NP on Friday, July 19th. It was a very good meeting. Superintendent Woody Smeck explained what his goals and ideas were. He expects to buy a home in the area and will be working to learn about our beautiful area. We are very pleased to have Mr. Smeck as the new Superintendent and look forward to working with him for some time.

Links to information about Supt. Smeck can be found on the Wilsonia webpage.

Safe Fire Practices

by Larry Duba - Fire Safe Committee Vice Chair

The current drought has caused the forest to be in a condition similar to what is normal for the end of the season. The park received only about 8 inches of rain versus the normal 30 inches. We are currently under Stage 2 fire restrictions which allow fires only above 6,000 ft. elevation and only in fire pits with campfire rings in designated Park campgrounds and residential areas such as Wilsonia. It is recommended that fire rings be no (cont on pg 2)

Upcoming Events:

August 10th

"The Last Season" 7:30 pm
Talk, Q&A and Video

August 11th

Meet NPS Superintendent
Woody Smeck 1-2:30 pm

August 31st

Potluck - 6 pm

Bingo - 7 pm

September 1st

Pancake Breakfast - 8 am

WVI Board Meeting - 11 am

September 2nd

Hike to the Evans Tree - 9 am



Trek to the Ishi Giant

by David Doyle



The hikers gathered at the base of the Ishi Giant

On July 13th, Wilsonia Village Inc. had the first of what we hope will be one or two annual hikes. We still do not have a name for this "group". One suggestion is the "Gimpy Geezers", but we are open for suggestions. The first hike was to the Ishi Giant. The Ishi Giant is a magnificent tree, with one of the largest bases of any Giant Sequoia. The tree has appx. 40,000 cubic feet in the trunk, making it one of the largest trees in the world. (cont on pg 2)

In Memory of

Gib Virgo

A Wilsonia friend and neighbor
who will be dearly missed.

Gib passed away on August 4th, 2013.

WVI Annual BBQ Dinner and General Meeting

Thanks to Chuck Burgin for cooking the tri-tip for the annual BBQ sponsored by the WVI Board. Thanks to all who provided the wonderful side dishes and desserts. There were approximately 50 Wilsonians in attendance.

Chuck, who is the current Board President, presided over the annual meeting that followed the dinner. WVI business and community events were discussed and the election of Board Members was held. Chuck Burgin is retiring from the Board. Congratulations to Linda Montgomery, who was elected to the Board. Susan Doyle, Uschi Hamm and Neal Mixter were re-elected for new three year terms. WVI Board Officers will be selected by the Board at the September 1st meeting.

Road Signs Fundraiser and Project

Thanks to all the generous Wilsonia cabin owners, we have reached our goal of \$4500. To date we have received **\$4,590** in donations and pledges. If you have previously pledged to sponsor a sign, please send in your donation. Sign posts and arms are now being constructed and the installation of signs will be in the late summer or early fall.



photos by Leighanna Mixter

Ishi Giant - cont. from page 1

Based upon the list in "To Find The Biggest Tree", taking into account that the Washington tree in Giant Forest is now only 100 feet tall, it is the 12th largest tree in the world.

Eleven people attended the hike, we think. If the number was twelve, somebody is still out there. The average age of the hikers is a top secret that will only be revealed upon pain of injury or death. The hike to the tree was much more intense than the hike back, due to the magnificent pioneering skills of Dave Doyle and Ty Parkinson.

We are planning another hike for September 2, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. to the Evans Tree, which is one of the 37 largest Sequoias still standing. The hike will include a view of Tehipite Dome (the largest dome in the Sierras). Check the bulletin board and Facebook page for details.

WVI Board Meetings

The WVI Board of Directors met on Saturday, June 29th to plan upcoming events and to discuss ongoing and new business. Business discussed:

WHDt Report - NPS Owned Cabins
Wilsonia Road Sign Project
Treasurer's Report - Dues and Fundraising
Clubhouse Cleaning and Maintenance
Auction and July 4th Week Events

The WVI Board of Directors held their third summer meeting this past Saturday, August 3rd at the Hamm Cabin, due to a Clubhouse rental that morning. Thanks to Leighanna Mixter for taking minutes in the absence of Secretary Karen Carlstrom. Business Discussed:

WHDt Report - Meeting with NPS Supt.
Wilsonia Fire Committee Report
Treasurer's Report - Road Sign Project Fundraising
General Meeting and Election of Board Members

The final summer Board Meeting will be on Sunday, Sept. 1st at 1pm at the Clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend, ask questions and get involved.

Wilsonia Defensible Space

A drive around Wilsonia by Fire Committee members revealed that there are some ongoing defensible space issues that need attention. If one or more of these conditions exist at your property, please be diligent to correct it.

- 12 properties need to remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks and cabins.
- 10 properties need to remove brush piles
- 1 property needs to remove flammables from around propane tank
- 18 properties need to remove or limb vegetation to maintain vertical clearance and horizontal clearance around structures.
- 8 properties need to rake and dispose of pine needles, branches and other dead vegetation.
- 9 properties need to remove or dispose of old lumber against or near structures.

Safe Fire Practices - cont. from page 1

more than 3 to 4 feet in diameter with a rock perimeter. Bon fires are prohibited. Please avoid burning paper and other light weight items that could produce floating embers. Fire pits or BBQs should not be close to wood piles and/or wood decks, and the ground should be cleared of debris around each. Fires should be of low fire intensity (low flame height) so that the fire cannot creep or spread from the radiant heat to wood piles or structures. Rather than burning yard debris, please take it to the NPS dump. The key to the dump is available at the Visitors' Center. Remember: no construction materials or plastic bags are allowed at the dump.

Please, if you see something unsafe nearby, talk to your neighbors about it in a diplomatic manner. We all rely upon each other to make our wonderful area fire safe. Thank you for your attention to these restrictions and guidelines.



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Summer 2013 - Remaining Events

All events at the Clubhouse unless stated otherwise

Sat. Aug. 10	7:30 pm	Eric Blehm's "The Last Season" - Talk and Video
Sun. Aug 11	1-2:30 pm	Meet NPS Superintendent Woody Smeck - at the Burgin Cabin
Sat. Aug. 31	6 pm	Potluck
	7 pm	Bingo / Game night
Sun. Sept. 1	8-11 am	Pancake Breakfast
		Adults \$5, Children (12 & under) \$3
	1 pm	Board of Directors Meeting
Mon. Sept. 2	9 am	Hike to the Evans Tree
Sat. Sept. 21	1 pm	Wilsonia Fire Committee Meeting

CLUBHOUSE RENTAL

The Wilsonia Clubhouse is still available for rental to WVI members for family or social gatherings.

For details or to reserve a date, contact Neal Mixer.

Potlucks are open to all WVI members and guests – please bring a main dish and a salad or dessert.

Coffee provided, drinks for sale - Don't forget your table service.

WATCH THE WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE, BULLETIN BOARD & WVI NEWSLETTER FOR UPDATES

Silent Auction

Continues to be a Fun and Profitable Event

Thanks once again to the hard work of coordinators Sheri Parkinson and Uschi Hamm with help from others including Corky Harmon, Mary Ann Lawrence and Susan Doyle; the auction this year (including some Sunday sales) raised \$1341.26. Why the strange amount? We now accept credit and debit cards, so a small amount (\$2.74) went to card service fees.

Thanks to all who shopped at the auction and to those who donated the fine goods, delicious foods and gently used furniture and antiques. Shawn Verkaik was the high bidder for the night; she won a lovely wicker loveseat and chair donated by Jim and B.J. Spitze. Unsold items were taken to local charities.

Quilters and Crafters Retreat

by Mel Peters

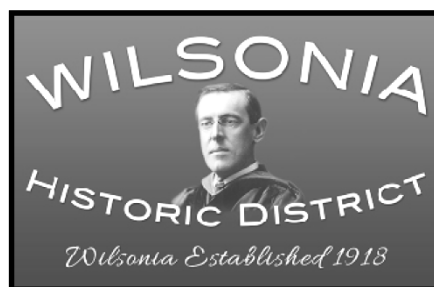
Smiles and hugs greeted everyone who arrived at the Clubhouse the week of July 15th for our 11th annual retreat. We had 28-32 participants every day. We went to Hume Lake for burgers one evening, and we had potluck one evening. We all made jar blocks for a quilt (won by Gwen Paulus). We had a grand time! We will gather again next year same time - July 14th through 19th - same place.



Did you See and Smell the Wildflowers?

Thanks once again to Steve Stocking, Education Chair of the WHDT, for providing an informative slideshow on native wildflowers on Thursday, July 4th. On Friday, July 5th, a group of 18 took a leisurely walking tour through the Village where Steve pointed out the native species that are in bloom in the early summer. Nature enthusiast Jim Spitze counted 28 unique species identified that day. If you don't know the difference between Indian Paintbrush and Shooting Stars, you should join us next year. Information on local native species is available from the California Native Plant Society Sierra Foothills Chapter website. A link to that site is on the Wilsonia webpage.

Wilsonia Historic District Flags For Sale



\$100

Proceeds benefit the WHDT

Contact Gus Collin

wilsonianagus@gmail.com

Independence Day Ice Cream Social

Once again nearly 100 Wilsonians enjoyed ice cream and toppings on the afternoon of July 4th. Thanks to Mary Rice, Annie Crabtree, Sally, Mike and Laura Toomey who served toppings and to Dick Peters who scooped ice cream. All the bowls were licked clean! It was fun!

A Big Thanks to Dick and Mel Peters for hosting this event year after year! Donations at the door were split between the WHDT and WVI... thanks to all you very generous ice cream loving Wilsonians.

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WILSONIA TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF
WILSONIA VILLAGE INC
C/O 1118 S. KLEIN AVE
REEDLEY, CA 93654-3720

SERVICE CHANGE REQUESTED

WVI Board of Directors 2013 Contact information

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Susan Doyle	Vice-President	sfaulkner@psci.net	(812) 568-7610	335-2460
Karen Carlstrom	Secretary	carlstromkaren@gmail.com	(559) 732-1928	335-2539
Neal Mixer	Treasurer-Newsletter	nealmixer@gmail.com	(559) 643-8518	335-1144 / 246-7963 cell
Uschi Hamm			(559) 643-0807	287-4803 cell
Dick Moss		rmoss@ppeng.com	(559) 798-0163	335-2460
David Brown		dbarjoc@sbcglobal.net	(559) 730-6819	335-2342

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

*It is not too late to
clean your Wilsonia yard of
needles and branches that could
become fuel for a wildfire.
Please take those items to the
NPS dump.*

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