



# Friends of Crater Lake National Park

Friends of Crater Lake National Park

Volume 13 No. 1

Winter 2010

## President's Message

**George Buckingham, President of the Board**

After taking a year off the Board, as required by our By-Laws, I'm back on the Board and serving as President. It's a role I enjoy and a cause I'm passionate about. Working with my fellow Board members and the staff of Crater Lake National Park is a real joy. So, what is the future of the Friends of Crater Lake? As we support the park, our path follows the park. Superintendent Ackerman has a message elsewhere in this newsletter. Take a look at that. We will be working with Craig and his staff to accomplish the park's objectives. We work closely with Craig to identify places in his program where this tool (the Friends organization) is best utilized. Recently I updated a history of the Friends for inclusion in our Board Member Manuals and it strikes me that some projects that

began during the first years of the Friends in the middle 90's such as the winter rim desk and various trail building endeavors are still on our agenda, while others had shorter life spans. As always, we are seeking new ways to further support and assist the park. Being flexible is a good thing. Summer before last we worked with the park during a 'Bio Blitz'. A similar project is on the books for this summer, July 24th. Be looking for the details as to when and where. If the last effort is any indication, this will be another very enjoyable and worthwhile project. The Resource Management Division is also seeking help with Bull Trout Restoration in the early spring. I'm really excited that opportunities for Friends to assist in hands-on resource projects are being found.

At our October 2009 annual membership and subsequent



Board meetings, we have added some new faces to the Board. Well, a couple of new faces and one quite familiar. These ladies add a breadth of energy and expertise to our ranks and we welcome them. Look for articles about them elsewhere in this newsletter. Larry Smith and Greg Reddell are leaving the Board as their time on the Board has expired. We thank them for their generous contributions of time, effort and expertise. Both plan to remain active as project leaders. Larry continues to run the Winter Rim Desk operation and Greg will be handling the Adopt-a-Highway program. Both projects are well entrenched and doing good things. I suspect we will see both of these gentlemen at other Friends activities as well.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Inside this issue:

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| President's Message            | 1 |
| National Parks Family Day      | 1 |
| Winter Rim Desk                | 2 |
| Superintendent's Winter Update | 3 |
| New Board Members              | 4 |
| News From Crater Lake Trust    | 4 |
| One Fire at a Time             | 5 |



**Winter Fun**

## National Parks Family Day

**Robert Marlow**

On Saturday, September 12, 2009, Robert Marlow, Gregory Reddell, and Larry Smith set up the FOCLNP information display at the ScienceWorks Hands-On Museum in Ashland Oregon as one of the many organizations participating in the celebration of National Parks Family Day. The free event sponsored

by Pacific Power, National Parks Conservation Association, SOPTV, and ScienceWorks Hands-On Museum gave enthusiastic families the opportunity to learn about national parks, monuments, and recreation areas located in southern Oregon and northern California. Information was provided about each park, monument,

recreation area, local outdoor attractions, and related natural resources (over 25) with hands-on presentations about wildlife, local culture, park history through handouts, brochures, video, visual aids, and personal interaction with rangers, sponsor representatives, participant staff, and volunteers.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Winter Rim Information Desk

### Larry Smith

The Friends of Crater Lake National Park is assisting the National Park Service with the Volunteer In the Park (VIP) staffing of the Rim Winter Desk.

This year we have 34 "Friends" signed up to work the Rim Desk. Because of the increased interest this year we are using 2 – 4 volunteers (VIPs) each weekend from December through March, and possibly into the early part of April – depending on availability of park housing.

Each volunteer, if they request, are offered free lodging for the nights that they are volunteering at the Park.

Volunteers at the Park will:

- \* Provide a valuable service to Park visitors by answering question, provide information and pass out maps and materials.

- \* Assist the Park staff

- \* Receive Visitor Services Training and learn about one of the Nation's

oldest National Park.

- \* Meet people from around the world

- \* Wear an identifying VIP NPS uniform

- \* Be provided with winter park housing – weather and scheduling permitting.

- \* Help build a stronger constituent community for Crater Lake National Park. So far this winter the volunteers have been enthusiastic about their jobs. We would like to share one volunteer's experience for New Year's Weekend.

### John White

As you know, when we arrived on January 1st, the road from the Visitor's Center to the rim was closed. I have to admit, I was a little worried that I would miss out on my first weekend at Rim Village. I was relieved when they opened the road about 3:30 that afternoon. We woke to mostly clear skies on Saturday and about 1.5 inches of new snow

(added to over 13 inches the night before). The day started slow but, before we knew it, the parking lot was full. We saw 189 people from as far away as Australia, Washington, DC



**Shirley Day Van Leuven at Winter Rim Desk**

and Virginia. There were so many people signed up for the snowshoe walk that they split it into two tours. My son, Damon, helped "bring up the rear" in Grimes' tour while I helped with Tara's. It was a beautiful day with clear sunny skies and a great view of the Klamath Basin below. The lake was visible all weekend.

We woke to nearly clear skies on Sunday so I drove to the rim to watch the sunrise. It was amazing to see the top of The Watchman turn pink as the sun rose over the lodge! The water was calm, reflecting the caldera and Wizard Island on the surface. It was much slower at the information desk as we only saw 50 people. I talked with a man from Germany who drove to Crater Lake from San Francisco on a whim and helped a man from the Bahamas get on the snowshoe tour. Debbie Ploeger helped with Tara's tour on Sunday.

The accommodations were superb. I appreciate the opportunity to volunteer at Crater Lake, it was absolutely amazing and I feel privileged to have been able to spend time there. I told my wife that this weekend ranks as one of the best ever.

## National Parks Family Day *continued from page 1*

Hands-on activities were provided for children such as setting up out door shelters, wilderness safety and survival skills, bird banding and watching, meeting fully costumed Clifford the Big Red Dog and Smoky the Bear, and working on their National Park Passports. As children visited each of the national exhibits they were given a brief overview and upon answering questions from staff given a sticker featuring that exhibit to be placed in their passport folder. They also had the

opportunity to hand rubber stamp inked images specific to the exhibit (trees, flowers, animals ...) into their folders. Visitors also had free admission to the museum to enjoy the in-door hands-on exhibits and preview selected highlights from the six part series of the documentary produced by Ken Burns with Dayton Duncan titled "THE NATIONAL PARKS: America's Best Idea" that premiered on SOPTV (PBS) in late September, 2009. The hub of the outdoor event was a covered area for

the national exhibits. The other participants and sponsors surrounding the hub formed the spokes and rim of the information wheel. The FRIENDS were centered between the exhibits of the Crater Lake Trust and Crater Lake Natural History Association. This was a good location as information about Crater Lake was given from the three organizations that work in concert to support Crater Lake National Park. While talking with many interested visitors, numer-

ous brochures were handed out to prospective new members. Even though the day was hot and unseasonably humid, attendance was well beyond expected and a good time was had by all -- a successful event.

*"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never leave you."*

**Frank Lloyd Wright**

## President's Message *continued from page 1*

These are good examples of the many ways Friends members can contribute. Membership is one method, working on a project another, leading a project yet another as well as serving on the Board of Directors. Speaking of old 'friends', retired Chief Ranger Dave Brennan has written a very interesting article for this newsletter on the Fire Management Program at Crater Lake and in particular describes what happened last summer. I have a soft spot for that activity myself, and I think he did a great job and you will enjoy and learn from his words. One of the activities of the Friends of Crater Lake is direct financial support of specific programs. You probably recall the Greg Hartell Memorial Historic Preservation Fund. That program is well established

and we continue to add to the fund. Thank you for your contributions. Every year, an intern serves and has done outstanding work. The Friends continue to build a small fund to augment hiring costs when and if needed. So far, the park has found salary money, but one never knows in the modern financial world we find ourselves in. Your continued support is appreciated and still needed. The ultimate goal is to create a self-sustaining endowment fund which we also support. Recently, the Board approved donations to build back-country ski trail signs, information signs/exhibits for the winter rim desk and support for the Artists-in-Residence program. Our strategy for choosing projects to support is simple. We ask the park staff to submit requests through

the park superintendent to the Friends Board. That way we know that the requests have been studied and vetted by the park management team; that alternative funding is not available and that these programs are of high value and high priority. The function of the Friends Board is to represent the interests of the membership and ensure the Friends remain on a firm financial basis. Thus, your thoughts on the matter are of great interest to us! The Friends of Crater Lake has moved into the modern world using the technology of the internet. Board Member Niel Barrett (who is also President of the Crater Lake Ski Patrol) is our webmaster. We are using the website Niel designed and built to convey accurate and up-to-date information to our members. We hope

to reduce paper, printing and mailing costs and to provide more and more frequent and timely information to our members. Those of you who provide an email address will receive timely notifications of recent postings, including this newsletter. Those without email addresses will still continue to receive the newsletter by mail. Check out our website at: <http://friendsofcraterlake.org> Please feel free to make suggestions and share your ideas with any of us on the Board. (George Buckingham retired in 1999 after 35 years as a ranger with the National Park Service, most recently as Chief Ranger at Crater Lake National Park. He now lives near Chiloquin, Oregon, and works as a part-time Deputy Emergency Manager and Health Department Preparedness Coordinator for Klamath County, Oregon. He can be reached at [crlaranger@centurytel.net](mailto:crlaranger@centurytel.net))

## Superintendent's Winter Update

*Craig Ackerman*

It may seem strange to be gearing up for summer when it is 20 degrees with 80 inches of snow on the ground, but the staff at the park is busily in the midst of hiring seasonal employees, budgeting and planning projects for the June through September months. Two of the most exciting and imminent projects at the replacement of the dock bulkhead at Cleetwood Cove and the construction of a new, short trail in the Anderson Bluffs area. With a little bit of luck both projects may actually see on the ground work beginning as soon as

mother nature allows. The first project will address a long standing deficiency with the bulkhead to which the docks attach to the shoreline at Cleetwood. In the past few years we have experienced problems with this very old structure caused both by age and the continual changing and shifting nature of the shore within the caldera. In fact, a couple of times within the past few years during storms or high winds the docks have separated from the bulkhead and sailed off into the middle of the lake. We are attempting to de-

velop an engineered design that will correct the problems and last for at least 50 to 75 years. An even bigger challenge will be to design a contract and construction plan that allows for continued use of the area by visitors while the work is being completed. Park staff thought it important to maintain the only public access to the lake during construction so that tens of thousands of visitors would not leave the park disappointed. While there may be some temporary total closures during helicopter and other high hazard op-

erations, groups will be allowed to access the lake and will be escorted by park staff through the construction zones. The second project is to build a trail from a point along Pinnacles Road to a waterfall near Anderson Bluffs. The environmental assessment for this project is well underway and public notices have been sent out. Funding has been secured and trail foreman Cheri Bomhard-Killam has developed a work plan that should see shovels and pulaskis on the ground this summer. After the trail is

*(Continued on page 7)*

## New Board Members

### **Beverly Paulson**

She's back again! She was on the board prior to the centennial celebration and president during the 2002 event. She believes the Friends of Crater Lake National Park is a vital link with the National Park serving as stewards of this magnificent resource in Oregon. What can be a better use of our personal time?

She and Lewis moved to Roseburg, Oregon with their two children in 1966 from Wisconsin. Lewis retired from 50 years in pharmacy in 1991. Her careers have been in education and program development as an initiator of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program & Senior Companion Program in Douglas County and until retirement at Umpqua Community College in the areas of community education and gerontology.

She is currently an active member of the League of Women Voters, The Volunteer Foundation of Douglas County and Faith Lutheran Church. She enjoys canoeing, gardening and traveling.

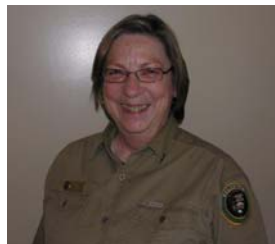


**New Board Member:  
Beverly Paulson  
(with Lewis)**

### **Shirley Day Van Leuven**

Shirley graduated from SOSC in 1978 with a Bache-

lor's in Education and subsequently taught school in Bandon (specializing in reading and general education and eventually Title I Reading and Math). She retired in 2003 and built a home in Prospect where she now lives. She is currently President of the Evergreen Meadows Water Improvement District. In the past she has enjoyed hiking and camping



**New Board Member:  
Shirley Day Van Leuven**

and outdoor education. Shirley has been an active participant of the Friends by volunteering at the Winter Rim desk for the last two years.

### **Mary White**

Mary is a lifetime resident of Klamath Falls and has worked 25 years for UPS. She has been named a candidate for the United Way Volunteer of the Year. She is currently on the board for Kiger Stadium and loves all sports. She helped originate the Gallery 803 in Klamath Falls as art is a major part of her life. She loves Crater Lake and brings people to the park to enjoy it as she does. She is eager to help the Friends of Crater Lake by being a board member.

## News from Crater Lake Trust

### **Maria Clementi, Crater Lake Trust**

The snow is falling and the sun is shining this winter up at Crater Lake. Crater Lake has some exciting opportunities we would like to share with the Friends to get you up to the lake, or at the very least out into the community sharing it with others. Crater Lake National Park Fisheries Biologist David Hering needs volunteers to help scan Sun Creek to locate and record the presence of tagged bull trout. This work requires volunteers to be physically able to ski up to 5 miles in steep backcountry terrain with a 40 lb+ pack. Volunteers are needed mostly to carry survey equipment but also will be asked to help with data collection tasks. Potential weekends include March 20-21, March 27-28 and

April 3-4th. You must provide your own gear (gear list to be distributed to interested volunteers), although food for the trip would be provided. This is an unusual opportunity to participate in important NPS research in part of the park that is rarely visited and to generate new and useful information about the winter distribution and seasonal movements of bull trout.

April 18<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting our second annual Family Snow Day up at the rim of Crater Lake. We need volunteers to help us distribute free hot chocolate, help with snow shoe races, manage parking, lead arriving

youth bus groups from the parking area to the rim, take photos, help with set up and take down and inform visitors of the ski patrol's snow shelter area. The event is from 1-3pm on Sunday and volunteers will be needed from 12:00 – 4:00PM.

April 21<sup>st</sup> we are hosting a free educational lecture at Science Works Hands on Museum in Ashland. Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will have a similar event at a venue in Portland (location to be determined). The event in Ashland is part of a week of science related topics during 'Earth Week' at

Science Works. Both lectures will be focusing on Climate Change and its potential effects on Crater Lake. A few volunteer will be needed to help hand out materials and sign up other interested volunteers, as well as help with set up and clean up. You don't have to volunteer your time to come to the event, please join us to learn more about the science of YOUR park. Both of these events will start at 5PM.

April 24<sup>th</sup> is Rogue Valley Earth Day at Science Works again in Ashland. Pear Blossom (in Medford) is April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Outreach Volunteers are needed to help

(Continued on page 5)

## News from Crater Lake Trust *continued from page 4*

aid Trust staff at both events. Volunteers will be asked to inform visitors about Crater Lake Trust as well as the opportunities for those interested in how to become more involved. We would love your help for as much or as little of the day as you can donate. In-

terested in helping out Crater Lake in a different way? We recently applied for a permit to host a Rim Ski Fundraiser event for our Ski Patrol. Donors will pay to be led around the lake March 12-15 by Brian Smith, long time resident of Crater Lake,

experienced Mount Everest climber and director of HAND (Helping Assist Nepal's Disabled). At least two volunteers are needed to help this event under the leadership of Mr. Smith. These participants will need to provide all their own gear,

although food will be provided. Know someone who might be interested in participated as a donor? Be sure to contact [maria@craterlaketrust.org](mailto:maria@craterlaketrust.org) (541-708-5125) for information on these and other opportunities at Crater Lake.

## One Fire at a Time *Dave Brennan*

Take a look around Crater Lake National Park in the middle of winter, and it's easy to see that snow and ice are important forces in shaping the park's ecosystems. These wintry forces have been around for millennia, and other than pushing a little bit of snow around with plows and shovels, we haven't done much to interfere with it. Like it or hate it, we just accept that snow is a part of the park, without trying to eliminate it.

Contrast this with another natural force in the park – wildland fire. For those same millennia, the forested ecosystems in the park have adapted to and evolved with fire. Depending on the forest type, fires returned in a natural cycle of every ten to eighty years or so. But unlike snow, we've altered the natural role of fire at Crater Lake through over a century of fire suppression. Until about thirty years ago, we considered fire a threat to the park that would destroy forests, harm scenic views, and kill wildlife. The park's goal was simple: control and exclude fire. When the National Park Service was created in 1916, Crater Lake and all other national parks were tasked with carrying out a mission: "...to

conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

As our understanding of our national parks has grown, we've learned they are dynamic ecosystems, not static museums of scenic views, tidy forests and majestic wildlife. Today's science-based park management recognizes that natural processes are part of what must be preserved unimpaired. Excluding fire has choked forests with a dense undergrowth of smaller trees, affected wildlife habitat, allowed insects and diseases to flourish, and allowed trees to encroach on meadows. And the irony is that we've been deceiving ourselves, because we can no more exclude fire than we can snow. Wildland fires are not a question of if, but when, and decades of fire suppression only mean that when fires do burn, they will burn bigger and hotter. The overall goal of fire management in the park is clear - restore the natural role of fire. The challenge comes in determining and guiding when, where and how much wildland

fire can be applied to forests where the natural fire cycle is seriously disrupted, while providing for public safety, working within funding constraints, minimizing disruption to park visitors, managing smoke impacts to surrounding communities, protecting endangered species, and gaining public support for the role of fire. The park's Fire Management Plan (FMP) provides guidance for making decisions on wildland fires by setting goals and objectives for how fire will be managed. Human caused fires, which are rare at Crater Lake, are the simplest: they are always suppressed immediately. Natural fires, which at Crater Lake are virtually all caused by lightning, are evaluated with respect to the plan's goals and objectives. Considerations include potential threats to life and property, potential size and rate of spread of the fire, benefits to forest health, impacts to threatened or endangered species, other local or regional wildland fire activity, the availability of firefighting personnel and equipment, smoke effects on park visitors and nearby communities, cost estimates, and public acceptance. Adding to the complexity of decision-making, these factors must be consid-

ered well out into the future, since fires can burn for weeks or even months until extinguished by fall rains. Fire managers determine a strategy for each fire that will best accomplish FMP goals, with a spectrum of options ranging from full and immediate suppression, to allowing the fire to burn naturally within a limited and defined area, to allowing the fire to burn freely without limiting its spread. The choice of available tools is the same regardless of the management strategy – it's just a question of when, where and how aggressively they are used. Firefighting crews on the ground build fire line by clearing trees and ground fuels. Helicopters drop water from buckets to cool flare-ups and support firefighters on the ground. Airplanes drop fire retardant slurry to slow the fire's spread and buy time for ground crews. Pumps, hoses, and sprinkler systems may be used to cool areas and reduce the need for fire line construction. No matter which tools are used, the park emphasizes tactics

*(Continued on page 6)*

## One Fire at a Time *continued from page 5*

and methods that minimize the impact to plants, wildlife, soils and streams. For some insight into how these decisions are made, let's take a look at the park's 2009 fire season. During a July 2 thunderstorm, lightning ignited a fire on Desert Ridge in the northwest part of the park. Starting on a ridge top in a remote, undeveloped area, the fire burned slowly downhill toward the natural fire barrier of flat, barren Pumice Desert. It lent itself to being "herded" down slope as it burned in mountain hemlock, red fir, and lodgepole pine forests. At this early stage in the fire season, long-range predictions called for an average fire season, and sufficient crews and equipment would be available to manage the fire in the weeks ahead. Prevailing winds were expected to carry most of the smoke to the northeast, away from nearby communities. No endangered species were at risk from the fire. The decision? Define a maximum area for the Desert Ridge fire to burn within and allow it to burn naturally, while using natural fire barriers and constructed fire line to keep the fire within this area. A month later, the fire had backed down slope to the edge of the Pumice Desert, where it slowly extinguished itself due to a lack of continuous fuels. In all, the fire burned 276 acres in a mosaic-like pattern of varied intensity that is typical of fires in the high southern Cascades. The

mountain hemlock-red fir forests saw mostly low-intensity understory burning of small trees, logs and branches on the ground, and needle litter. The fire was more intense in lodgepole pine forests, with pockets of crown fire, particularly in areas where bark beetles have killed large numbers of trees. Although only a mile away, the different circumstances of the Whitney Fire led to a different decision. This fire started from the same lightning storm that began the Desert Ridge fire, but it was not detected until July 17. During those two weeks, it crept and smoldered, not producing enough smoke to be seen. But those two weeks were among the hottest and driest of the summer, with conditions ripe for rapid fire spread, and on the same day it was discovered the Whitney Fire grew to 90 acres. Because of its rapid growth, drier fuels in the beetle-killed lodgepole pine forests, and its proximity to two adjacent national forests, a full suppression management strategy was adopted. Crews of firefighters worked on the ground, supported by helicopters and planes dropping water and fire retardant, and the fire was contained. The first two days of August brought the next set of challenges, when some 500 lightning strikes in the park ignited 22 new fires. In assessing these fires, park staff considered that it was now the peak of summer, forests were very dry, severe to extreme fire behavior was

anticipated, and it was unlikely that the personnel and equipment needed to manage these fires for weeks on end would be available. A complicating factor was that three of these fires were along the popular Cleetwood Cove Trail, with the potential to impact access to the lake and the popular interpretive boat tours. The decision to suppress all of these fires, helped by an inch of rainfall, kept them all at less than 1/3 of an acre. The final fires of the summer were started by lightning on September 12, when six more fires occurred near Union Peak area in the park's southwest corner. Fire managers decided that all six fires would be immediately suppressed, primarily due to concerns about smoke impacts to the Rogue Valley. Allowing these fires to burn naturally and grow in size would have contributed to a healthier forest ecosystem, but the potential smoke impacts were deemed unacceptable to Rogue Valley residents weary from the smoke of the Middle Fork fire, which burned over 20,000 acres in and adjacent to the park's southwest corner in 2008. In addition to naturally ignited wildland fires, the park uses prescribed fire to jump-start the reintroduction of fires to forests. In particular, the lower elevation ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests lend themselves to these treatments. Under specific weather and fuel moisture conditions, crews light fires in defined blocks of forest protected by fire lines and natural barriers. Pulling off a successful prescribed burn can be a

difficult task, requiring a convergence of weather conditions, funding, and firefighter availability. Strict contingency plans require that sufficient firefighters be present to contain and suppress any fire that escapes from the burn unit. Try to burn too early in the summer and you end up with a smoky, charred mess that may make things worse rather than better. Burn in the peak of summer and the fire could escape to burn unintended areas. Waiting until fall means taking the risk of being shut down if winter weather suddenly sets in. In 2009, it was this fall weather window that slammed shut, canceling the planned 1300-acre Phoenix prescribed fire in the park's northeast corner. Looking ahead to 2010 and beyond, the park's overall fire management goal will remain the same: continue the slow process of reintroducing the natural role of fire to the park. Through a process known as adaptive management, the park will update and revise its 2005 fire management plan to incorporate accomplishments and lessons learned from the past five years. The next five years of prescribed fire projects will be laid out. The revised plan will likely continue to call for some combination of the same fire management strategies now in use: allowing some fires to burn, suppressing others, and using prescribed fire. The park will also face some new challenges in the coming years. Lodgepole pine forests in the northern part of the park, which historically have

*(Continued on page 7)*

## One Fire at a Time *continued from page 6*

been subject to high-intensity fires about every eighty years, now have large areas of dead trees as a result of bark beetle infestations. Fires spread quickly into the canopy of these dead forests, burn hotter, and move faster. Fire managers will have to adapt to the effects of long-term climate change, with the expectation that fire seasons will grow longer and drier as the earth's climate warms, and the unknown effects on ecosystem resiliency.

Smoke from wildland fires in the park can impact visitor's experiences and affect air quality in adjacent communities, so the park will need to collaborate with air quality specialists and com-

munity leaders to address concerns and build support. Some parts of the park, such as the ponderosa pine-mixed conifer forests of the Panhandle, are now so choked with dense, small trees that trees may need to be thinned before prescribed fire can be used.

Accomplishing the mission of the National Park Service has always been a delicate balancing act, and decisions on how to manage wildland fire in our parks are among the most difficult, controversial and time-consuming. It took us a century to get to this point, and it may take a century of patience and persistence to get things back to normal. Educating the public and gaining their support is also a gradual process, and a crucial

one. The funding for an ambitious fire management program must be eked out of a strapped federal budget.

But we've seen some success in the last four years, with fire in nearly 6000 of the park's 183,000 acres, either by wildland fire or prescribed fire. How will we know when we've reached our goal? When the fire managers of the future must have a compelling reason to put a natural fire out instead of letting it burn. And when future generations of visitors to Crater Lake look forward to seeing the pristine lake and caldera surrounded by forests thriving with a healthy, natural fire regime.

(Author's note: My thanks to Greg Fundberburk, Fire Management Officer at Crater Lake National Park, for his time and assistance in providing information for this article.)

(Dave Brennan retired in 2007 after 27 years as a ranger with the National Park Service, most recently as Chief Ranger at Crater Lake National Park. He now lives in Ashland, Oregon, and can be reached at [daveb@mind.net](mailto:daveb@mind.net)).



**Fire burning in beetle-killed forest, July 20, 2009.**

**Desert Ridge Fire, Crater Lake National Park.**

*Photo by National Park Service.*

## Superintendent's Winter Update *continued from page 3*

set plans will proceed for an improved small parking area and a number of interpretive wayside along the route. We are working with the Klamath Tribes to help identify appropriate Native American terms that may have been used for the falls or features in the area. Some other issues on the horizon are continued evaluation of commercial air tours over the park and a proposal by Verizon, Inc. to locate two cell phone antennas in the park: one at the dorms in the Mazama area and the other near the Rim Dorm. You can be assured that we will closely scrutinize these requests and engage public input on any design alternatives so as to insure that safety and communication needs are

met but aesthetic and resource concerns are not compromised. We also hope to begin planning on the three conceptual designs for the Cleetwood parking area, North Junction site and Sun Notch visitor service improvements.

### **Personnel and Staff Changes**

Many of you have already met the "new" Chief of Maintenance for the park, Don Tyree. Don came onboard from his previous posting as Facility Manager at White Sands National Monument in New Mexico. He is highly personable and results oriented. You will find him to be very collaborative and helpful in addressing any needs that the Friends may have. Effective January 1, 2010, Chief Ranger Marshall Neeck moved

on to a new challenge as Chief Ranger at Redwood National and State Parks in Crescent City, California. While a great gain for Redwood, Marshall will be sorely missed here. His collaborative style, exceptional demeanor and leadership abilities will be difficult to replace. The park is currently recruiting for a replacement. There has been significant interest in the job from across the country and we expect to receive a very competitive and highly skilled list of candidates from which to make a selection.

### **Budget and Funding**

Although there was much ado about major projects and funding to be received from the parks from the

Recovery Act programs, the park's operating budget remained relatively flat this year. We will continue to benefit from additional funds under the Centennial Initiative for summer rangers in interpretation, resource management and protection. The challenges we face is in maintaining all of the positions outside of the Centennial program in that for the first time in many years we have most positions occupied. Extra funding that was available in the past from the vacant positions will not be able to be used for additional seasonals or other programs. Still, visitors should continue to see a wide array of programs and services made possible by the increase received over the past few years.

**Friends of Crater Lake  
National Park**



Friends of Crater Lake National Park  
P.O. Box 88  
Crater Lake, Oregon 97604  
Website: [friendsofcraterlake.org](http://friendsofcraterlake.org)  
Email: [friendsofcl@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofcl@yahoo.com)

**Check out our website:  
[friendsofcraterlake.org](http://friendsofcraterlake.org)**

## Event Calendar 2010

| <b>Item</b>     | <b>Date</b>                                                                                                                | <b>Contact</b>                    |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Winter Rim Desk | December through April                                                                                                     | Larry Smith<br>541.899.7402       |
| Project Weekend | August 20-22, 2010<br>(tentative)                                                                                          | George Buckingham<br>541.783.3136 |
| Adopt-a-Highway | Weekends before: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Memorial Day,</li><li>• 4th of July</li><li>• Labor Day</li></ul> | Greg Reddell<br>541.882.6257      |
| Annual Meeting  | October 2, 2010                                                                                                            | George Buckingham<br>541.783.3136 |

### **Board Members:**

*George Buckingham:* President

*Mary White:* Vice President

*Larry Filosi:* Secretary

*Beverley Hartell:* Treasurer

*Judy Buckingham:* Membership

*Niel Barrett:* Ski Patrol & Webmaster

*John Salinas:* Member

*Shirley Van Leuven:* Member

*Beverly Paulson:* Member

### **Non-board member positions:**

*Leslie Buckingham:* Newsletter & flyer editor

*Marsha McCabe:* Park Liaison