

THE VOLUNTEER

Force



Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

Summer 2009

Volunteers shine at Fort Stevens big events

Outstanding park hosts awarded!

SEE PAGE 7

By Jim Forst, Friends of Old Fort Stevens

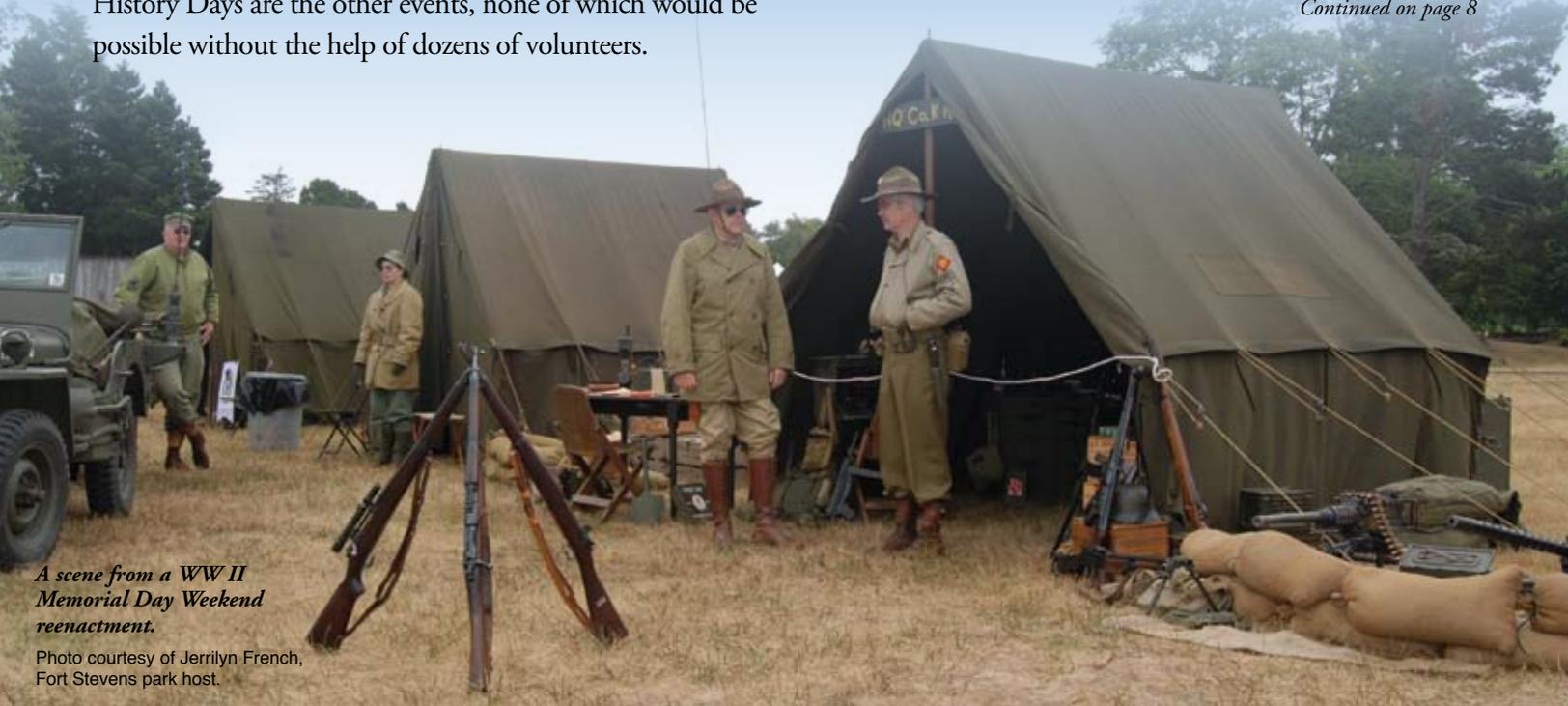
Early morning sunlight slices through the smoke from scores of campfires, illuminating rows of white tents of the Confederate Army. As soldiers awaken and prepare for the day's battle, the sound of drums and fifes drift through the air. While this scene could be set in Gettysburg or Vicksburg, it takes place every Labor Day Weekend at the Fort Stevens State Park Historic Area. It's also a scene viewed not by the general public, but by volunteer hosts who show up for their early shift working the reenactment.

Sponsored by Fort Stevens State Park and the Friends of Old Fort Stevens (FOOFS), the Civil War Reenactment is one of three major events that takes place every year at the historic area. July's World War II Battle Reenactment and the Memorial Day Weekend Old Soldier's Trail Living History Days are the other events, none of which would be possible without the help of dozens of volunteers.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, the Civil War Reenactment featured 600-800 reenactors split among Union, Confederate and Civilian encampments. Other attractions included cavalry, artillery and infantry units; as well as old-time fashion shows, music and hospital demonstrations. Last year 4,000 visitors attended the three-day reenactment. For the event to run smoothly, volunteers perform about 10 different duties ranging from selling admission tickets to parking cars to transporting visitors with disabilities to the battlefield site.

This is a far cry from the first Civil War Reenactment in 1989 when only 50 reenactors participated, according to Fort Stevens State Park Historian Gale Hemmen. There were no cannons or cavalry but plenty of gun and rifle fire on the small battlefield. Close to 100 visitors watched

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A scene from a WW II Memorial Day Weekend reenactment.

Photo courtesy of Jerrilyn French, Fort Stevens park host.

Steve [Janiszewski]:

Thanks for taking the time to talk to the Leadership Oregon group yesterday. It was informative, interesting and you even ordered good weather!

Carl and Brad were great teachers, in spite of the marginal students they were stuck with. I appreciated getting to see how things were done back in the day, and it gave me a whole new appreciation for restoration work. They both seemed very much into the process and the results. I hope our group did not set them back too far.

Thanks again. I will look forward to my next visit to Silver Falls with a little different level of understanding about the history and the current operation there. Take care.

Keith Andersen
*DEQ Interim Western
Region Administrator*

Leadership Oregon restores Silver Falls history

By Steve Janiszewski, Cascades District manager

Silver Falls State Park staff and Friends of Silver Falls volunteers welcomed 35 state managers to a training focused on OPRD's community partnerships and networking efforts. The April 16 training was part of Leadership Oregon, a program that expands managers' awareness of state government and promotes pride in public service.

Park Rangers Vicki Sink and Dorothy Brown-Kwaiser and Statewide Volunteer Coordinator Jill Nishball gave managers an inside look at how the department recruits, trains and recognizes our hosts, friends groups, service project volunteers, youth groups and AmeriCorp volunteers. Their presentation was followed by a Silver Falls cultural history walk led by Friends of Silver Falls President Lou Nelson.

Befitting the park's history, a lunch viewing of an OPB's Oregon Experience detailed the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. The show focused on how the CCC transformed the state through site restoration work and construction projects—notably their feats in Oregon's state park system.

The group also made a special volunteer contribution at the restored stone kitchen shelter in the South Falls Historic District. Managers learned more about CCC workers, their hand tools, and what they built in the park. Park Ranger Supervisor Carl Shepherd and Park Ranger Brad Chandler then led the hands-on portion of the session. Rotating through four work stations, small groups did the finish work on a large log bench cut from a 12-foot by 4-foot log, constructed traditional half-log benches to be installed in the park amphitheater, peeled logs for benches and signs, and built the cradle logs and hand-carved sign for Winter Falls. The impressive log bench is a reproduction from CCC blueprints of an original furniture piece. The raw material came from a hazard tree removed from the edge of the kitchen shelter.

By mid-afternoon, piles of wood chips and bark testified to the work accomplished and a job well done! ●



State parks aiming for 2010 rate increase

By Chris Havel, associate director

Just got off the phone with a camper from Boise looking to score an August campsite on the coast. Yes, she sounded like one of those brightly optimistic people who happen to hit lucky streaks far more often than the rest of us. She'll probably find a site.

Her real luck, though, isn't proven by finding a summer campsite, and it's not the kind of luck that's rare. She will pay a mere \$20 per night or so. It's the same \$20 per night the Oregon state park system has charged for the past 13 years. Every one of our two-million campers a year experiences that kind of luck. She understands how lucky she is to find such wildly low campground rates (especially since her alternative, according to her, is \$50 a night in a popular north coast town that rhymes with Dannon Bleach). But no lucky streak lasts forever, and this one probably will end in 2010.

Since we started offering camping in 1951, park visitors have been the backbone of the park funding philosophy. Together with smaller amounts provided by a share

of recreational vehicle registrations and the Oregon Lottery, park visitor fees used to account for nearly three-quarters of the funding to keep state parks open every day. Because fees have been flat for more than a decade, and costs have increased, their share of the pie has fallen steadily. Today, they pay just barely more than half the bills.

As Oregonians are discovering now, in this time of economic trial, state parks are our recreational comfort food. Near-record numbers are turning out to camp, hike, picnic and relax. For parks to continue to fulfill this important role, they need balanced funding. RV registrations can swing wildly with the economy. Lottery money could vanish in 2014. But they have never been more than supplements, anyway. The park visitor is the key to keeping parks open, and rates have been left untouched for too long. People will understandably have questions—such as the ones below—and we need to have answers ready.

What park visitors need to know about the rate increase

1. Are state park camping and day-use fees going to increase?

They might, starting in January 2010 for day-use fees, and summer 2010 for camping.

2. Why raise fees?

Because the cost of operating the parks keeps climbing, and revenue from two major sources is dropping. Oregon State Parks does not receive a dime of tax (i.e., general fund) dollars. Almost all of our funding comes from user fees, a portion of RV registration dollars, and Lottery. Revenue from RV registrations is split with Oregon's counties, and

State Park's share decreased in 2008. Overall registration has dropped dramatically, as well. Projections for Lottery revenue are far below those of recent years. We have not raised rates in 13 years. A typical campsite in 1996 cost \$20, and it still does today—even though that \$20 is really only about \$15, when adjusted for inflation (\$20 in 1996 should be about \$26 today). Our camping and day-use rates are now far lower than the market average. Park fees help parks stay open. Back in 1996, park visitors paid

72 percent of the cost to run parks. Today, park visitors cover only 55 percent of those same costs.

3. How much could fees increase?

Prime (Summer) Season	Rates* since 1996	Proposed rates starting in 2010
RV sites	\$20	\$24
Tent sites	\$16	\$20
Rustic Yurts	\$27	\$36
Rustic Cabins	\$35	\$39
Deluxe Yurts	\$65	\$75
Deluxe Cabins	\$65-80	\$75-85
Boat moorage	\$7	\$10
Reservation fee	\$6	\$8
Day-use fee, per carload	\$3	\$5
Day-use 12-month pass	\$25	\$30
Day-use 24-month pass	\$40	\$50

*Rates vary slightly by park. This is an example only, and it doesn't include lodging tax. Rates drop in Discovery Season (October 30-April 1)

Program ANNOUNCEMENTS

Park volunteers bring new Champoeg exhibits to life

By Mark and Donna Hinds, interpretive hosts

“Welcome to Champoeg!” hails an enthusiastic interpreter wearing a costume from centuries ago. It may be Richard Cassidy portraying a French trapper, Tim Drake as a cooper, or Jim Ballard as a Champoeg businessman.

Other interpreters dressed in period clothing include Tyler Cone as a young man about town, and his sister Sarah, the milliner. Ellen Grivala shows off sketches in her journal, and Janet Land wears the moccasins of a Native American wife. Emily Arnold speaks as a French trapper’s daughter, and Daniel and Andrew Cone share glimpses of pioneer boyhood. Nancy Ballard brings her knowledge of literature to her interpretations and Teresa Arnold excels at the scientific. Marla Proctor explains how women dressed, and Kim Martin looks the part of the baker’s wife with two aprons and sleeve protection.

Costumed interpreters tell stories

Fifteen volunteers are helping visitors discover Champoeg history at the park’s visitor center this year. Champoeg park staff, working with the Friends of Historic Champoeg (FHC), developed a plan to have volunteers, called costumed interpreters, interact with visitors in the exhibit area this year. New exhibits funded by the Oregon State Parks Trust were installed in late 2008 just in time to celebrate 150 years of Oregon statehood.

The Friends created a training program for the volunteers with grant funds awarded by the Helen E. Austin Pioneer Fund. FHC volunteers Mark and Donna Hinds coordinated



Richard Cassidy, costumed as a French fur trapper, shares a story with Champoeg visitors.

the training under the direction of Public Programming Manager Kim Martin. Volunteers spent 25 hours practicing OPRD interpretive skills, taking field trips to nearby historic sites, studying the new displays, and learning the stories of real people and events. By Feb. 14, Oregon’s 150th birthday, the interpreters were ready to go. More than 300 visitors were escorted by the interpreters through the exhibit area that one afternoon.

Visitors like it!

The response to the program is overwhelmingly positive. Visitors cite the quality and message of the exhibits and compliment the clear portrayal of Champoeg’s rich history. They praise the volunteers for sharing the “rest of the story.”

From one recent thank-you letter: “A very nice gentleman gave us a detailed and private interpretive tour throughout the entire exhibit. My wife and I learned so much more than if we went through without any explanation or guidance.” ●

Costumed interpreters gather in front of the “Winds of Change” display. Back row: Jim Ballard, Tyler Cone, Donna Hinds, Andrew Cone, Ann Cone, Mark Hinds. Center row: Tim Drake, Daniel Cone, Ellen Grivala (in stripes), Teresa Arnold, Sara Cone (green hat ribbon), Janet Land. Seated: Nancy Ballard, Kim Martin, Emily Arnold. Not pictured: Richard Cassidy and Marla Proctor.



Interpretive plans complete for parks in Clyde Holliday Management Unit

By Curtis Smith, Southeast District manager

Ever wonder what it would be like to create an interpretive plan for your favorite park? I can say that it is an enriching experience to learn more about the treasures in our parks and to help build a plan to guide us for the next 10 years.

If you ever get a chance to participate in this kind of project, don't pass it up. We recently completed Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site, Sumpter Dredge State Heritage Site, Clyde Holliday State Park and Unity Lake State Park.

Both the Kam Wah Chung and Sumpter Dredge plans include exciting new concepts for the park, including lighting, audio and podcasting style self-guided tours. The plans also call for new exhibits and interpretive panels in the small, temporary interpretive centers, as well as researching the need for new, permanent centers.

Focusing on themes

Identifying the interpretive themes and subthemes for all the plans kept us on track. It's natural to want to tell every aspect of every story in your park, but it's quite easy to bury your message with unnecessary facts.

We (park staff and volunteers) wanted to jump to design first, because we've waited so long for the chance. Besides, we're the experts, right? Whoa, slow down, first things first...what does the visitor expect, want and need?

Consultant Dave Bucy of Bucy Associates put us on the right track. His approach to the visitor experience drives the plan, first considering how people decide where to visit. It's important to consider your message and material at this stage, because people will decide to visit based on available time, travel costs, and attractions at your park and in the area. He calls it the 4-to-1 Rule—people want four hours of activities for every hour of travel.

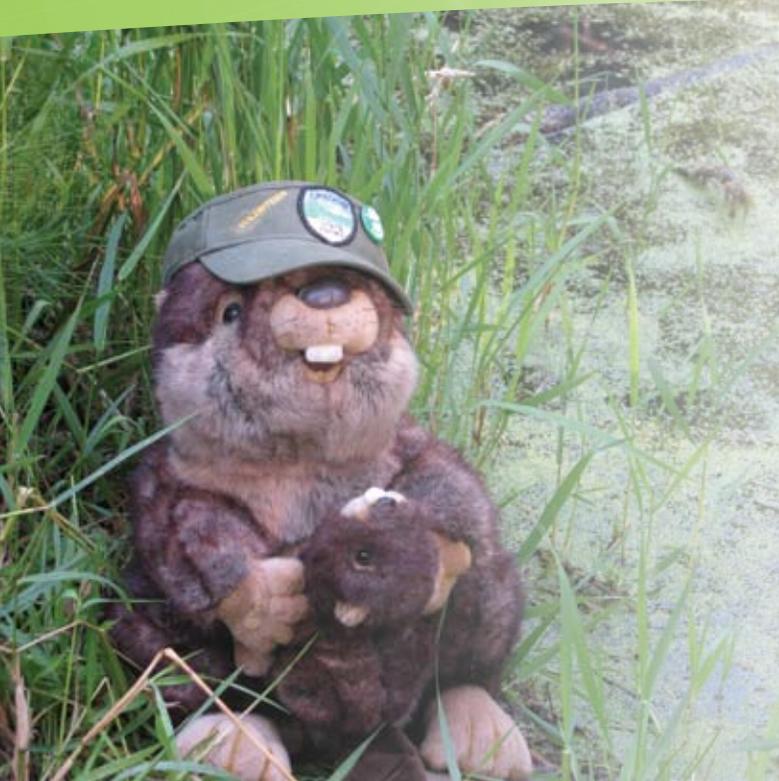
The visitor experience also includes finding information easily, seeing clear directional signs leading to your site, and arriving to find restrooms close to the entrance. After the visit, the visitors' interest should be kindled and they should want to learn more.

Involving the community

An advisory group and a working committee supported our work. The committee helped determine themes and storylines, as well as researched materials and found photos and artifacts that supported the stories. A lot of great brainstorming occurs in these meetings.

The advisory group reviewed the draft plan. Members included community leaders, subject experts, teachers, OPRD interpretive coordinator, neighbors and others who had a stake in the outcome. Special thanks go to the Friends of the Sumpter Dredge and the Friends of Kam Wah Chung, Park Manager Dennis Bradley, KWC Museum Curator Christina Sweet and Sumpter Valley Park Ranger Miranda Miller for their valuable comments and time. ●





How to lose 50 or 60 years and be a “kit” again!

Interpretive hosts enjoy Stub Stewart State Park and the beaver pond

*Using our stuffed toy beaver holding her kit in tow—we’ve named them Castoria and Castor after their scientific name *Castor Canadensis*—we rove the campground to create interest in the topic. Beavers are Oregon’s state animal and act as our goodwill ambassadors.*

By Ric and Donna Newton, interpretive hosts

Do you know why beavers have kits instead of kids? The answer is easy—they can’t pronounce the letter “D!”

Bad jokes aside, we are privileged to have two honest-to-gosh beaver ponds at Stub Stewart State Park. Using one pond as the focus of our program, we not only have discovered an invaluable park resource, but we also have rediscovered the “kit” in us. A quiet habitat only ¼-mile from the main camping loops and next to the Banks-Vernonia State Trail, the beaver pond has proved its worth time and time again.

We added the insights we gathered from the pond to a program our interpretive ranger developed, and now present “Where does JR Beaver Live?” to our visitors. We enjoy sharing the habitat, life history and other aspects of the pond, and it just so happens that the inner youth we’ve found tends to be contagious. We see the spark of discovery in children and adults when they count the rough-skinned newts in the water, see the beaver slides across the pond or discover the second, hidden beaver dam.

The program runs over its allotted time frequently, but no one seems to mind. We spend extra time pointing out new and interesting things and let visitors sit in the quiet to absorb it all. When we hike back, everyone is grateful for the time at the pond. Many slip back during their stay.

So much potential exists for this space, whether we use it to introduce people to wildlife or help them have a great time. Either way, for a short time, we get to be young again.

Perhaps when it’s all said and done, volunteering is like discovering a Fountain of Youth. Surely, we are at the very least revitalized, encouraged and respected by the next generation of explorers. Our ultimate goal? One day, some middle-aged person will remember a happy time spent examining a pond with two old children and stuffed toy beavers.

Does it really get any better? ●

2008 outstanding park hosts named!

By Jill Nishball, Volunteer Program coordinator

Then enthusiastic and dedicated park host couples were nominated for their volunteer service in 2008. The judging team made their decision this summer to award our three finalists the “Gen” Angdahl Memorial Outstanding Park Host Award.

GARY & JERRILYN FRENCH



Gary and Jerrilyn have racked up more than 2,500 hours each since 2002 working at five of our busiest coastal parks. Their nomination came from the park where most of that

service took place: Fort Stevens. Park Historian Gale Hemmen wrote a glowing nomination for the couple citing their commitment to the Oregon State Parks image.

Always eager to assist, the Frenches often volunteer for extra duties and approach each task with a great attitude. Their favorite job is serving as “environmental engineers,” a title they jokingly give themselves when picking up bags and more bags of trash during the summer’s many special events.

“The Frenches are quick learners and hard workers and give the best that is in them. They are credible and fair people and have good relationships with other hosts. They are model campers to our park visitors,” Gale says. “Furthermore, they are like family to the crew. We love to see them come and hate to see them go. Both Gary and Jerrilyn have been an inspiration to many of us. They are people we call friends.”

JOHN & SANDRA ACOCELLA

Memaloose Park Ranger Supervisor Diane McClay consulted with her own staff and the staff at Silver Falls to nominate these outstanding hosts. The Acocellas’ service began in 2002, and they have served at five parks—those



mentioned above and Fort Stevens, William Tugman and Nehalem Bay.

Each has contributed more than 4,500

hours of service. Given their enthusiasm for spreading the word about park events and programs, the Acocellas were an obvious selection to play the part of Northwest Ambassadors at a recent training.

Diane’s nomination boasts ample reasons that the Acocellas are named outstanding hosts, but staff comments capture their volunteer ethics.

“When John and Sandee Acocella drive into Silver Falls to start their season, ranger staff says ‘YES!’ We *know* the campground and campers will be well cared for. We feel very fortunate to have their volunteer services and their easygoing, flexible, supportive, CAN-DO attitude.”

—Vicki Sink, Cascades District Interpretive Coordinator

BILL & KATHY FAST



Known as the couple who can “weather the weather,” the Fastes have decided that hosting exclusively at Detroit Lake is the way to go for them. Not only do

they choose to host during the fair Cascades mountain weather, they made a commitment for the past five seasons to show up in March when the snow is still flying. For the past two years, they’ve stayed all the way to October—now, that’s committed!

Their nomination came from the Detroit Lake crew, because everyone agrees on just how hard the Fastes work!

Continued on page 8

Host TO HOST

2008 outstanding park hosts named *Continued from page 7*

They have contributed nearly 4,000 hours each since they began hosting in March 2005. Working side by side with the rangers in the spring to ready for a busy summer, the Fasts clean buildings, clear and haul debris, and make repairs caused by winter storms.

The campground has become like a second home to the Fasts. They even bring their own golf cart, which frees up the park's carts for other hosts and staff—yet another valuable contribution!

Every park host provides dedicated service

The seven other amazing nominees' talents, enthusiasm, initiative and service contributions should not go unrecognized. They are:

Michael and Pamela Blakeslee for service at Bradley Wayside. Nominated by Park Ranger Barbara Webb.

Franklin and Joan Blauvelt for service at Bullards Beach. Nominated by Park Ranger Pam Stevens.

Rich and Linda Crooks for service at South Beach. Nominated by Ranger Supervisor Mike Rivers.

Mike Garrison and Leeann Cotton for service at Fort Stevens. Nominated by five park rangers.

Bob and Carole Pate for service at Collier Memorial. Nominated by Park Manager Jim Beauchemin.

Robert and Gay Treadwell for service at Tumalo. Nominated by Park Ranger Josie Gallagher.

Jerry and Kathleen Williams for service at Farewell Bend. Nominated by Park Ranger Joe Kenick. ●

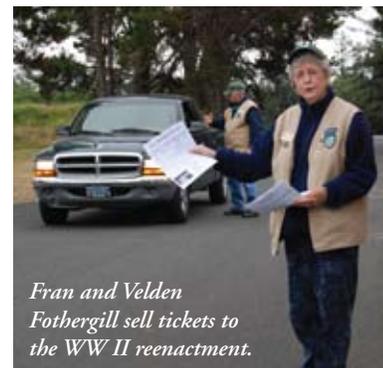
Volunteers shine at Fort Stevens big events *Continued from page 1*

each battle from behind a rope across a road separating them from the action. The event was so small that no volunteer hosts were involved. "No one could have guessed how big the event would become," says Hemmen.

Among the many volunteers are camp hosts Gary and Jerrilyn French, who are in their eighth year of volunteering for Oregon State Parks. After helping at other park events in the past, last year they finally got the opportunity to work the Civil War reenactment and had a wonderful time.

"Since our hobbies include photography and genealogy, and we have ancestors who actually fought in the Civil War and World War II, we enjoyed the history lesson with authentic clothing, housing and military equipment," says Jerrilyn. "And, we have a collection of photo memories we love to share."

Late in the afternoon on Labor Day, when all the soldiers and horses, cannons and rifles, tents and campfires are gone, the volunteer hosts remain and help with the cleanup. Satisfied with a successful weekend, they look forward to the evening's FOOFS pizza party and slide show, thanking them for a job well done. ●



Fran and Velden Fothergill sell tickets to the WW II reenactment.



A scene from the Civil War reenactment. Photos courtesy of Jerrilyn French, Fort Stevens park host.

A regular day at the HABBIC

Cameron Rauenhurst considers the Historic Alsea Bay Bridge Interpretive Center (HABBIC) his home away from home. "I have been a seasonal Oregon State Park ranger here for four years now and I can't see myself anywhere else in the world."

He and a crew of seven volunteers make sure the center is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m., seven days a week throughout the summer. A typical day starts at 8 a.m. when Cameron or one of the volunteers arrives to vacuum, wash windows, clean displays, and pick up litter in the parking lot. They also raise the flags, set the bridge DVD to play and turn on the bridge design computer.

Marry Davis is usually next to arrive. The volunteer coordinator since 2004, she makes sure that the shifts for the center are covered. She also takes care of the brochures and other traveler information. Some say the HABBIC has one of the best-stocked visitor centers on the coast, thanks mainly to her.

Cameron says all the HABBIC volunteers are wonderful, friendly and easy to talk to. "Anyone who walks into our center on any given day will realize this," he says. "We usually see about 100 visitors every day, speak with them and try to help out the best we can."

Meet the volunteers

Mary Ann Scheele thinks the highlight of volunteering at the center is greeting all the smiling faces of young guests. The children appreciate getting a free agate. The adults enjoy the history of coastal transportation, which is the main focus of the center. "A sense of pride warms my heart when visitors leave feeling they are ready to explore our beautiful area," she says.

Clair Johnson and her husband Earl have tag teamed their shift for the past nine years. Clair said that she meets people from all over the world. "It is very gratifying to be able to make their stay in Oregon an enjoyable experience. We can't count the number of photos that visitors have taken of us. Recently, I met a lady from my parents' native Poland. We became 'kissing cousins' before she left."

David Moffitt grew up in Waldport and spent many hours on the beach searching for agates with his dad and fishing with his grandfather and friends. David said he will live here for the rest of his life. He jumped at the chance to volunteer at the center and will continue as long as he can. "Volunteering is an important part of a person's life. I have grown to understand and appreciate all volunteers' dedication and time well spent."

Jo Jaster loves to say that people call her Miss-Information.

Betsy Maxfield was born in Waldport. "I love the scenic beauty and the peace and quiet of this little town. Volunteering here is the highlight of my week." ●

Save the Date
Week of April 26, 2010

THE HOST RENDEZVOUS

Location to be announced

**What do you want
from next year's Rendezvous?**

Check our website in October for a link to our online survey.

We want your ideas for how we can make this
the best ever Host Rendezvous.

Visit www.oregon.gov/OPRD/VOL/ for more information.

Rate increase *Continued from page 3*

4. How much revenue would this proposal bring in?
Approximately \$4.3 million between January 2010 and June 2011.

5. After a public comment period, what happens next?
After a public comment period, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission will meet this fall to consider the results and vote on whether to adopt the new fees. If approved, new rates would go into effect as early as Jan. 1, 2010 for day-use, and as early as May 1, 2010 for camping. ●

Greeting friends and preparing for a park at the 2009 Bates Reunion

By Gregg Smith, Friends of Bates State Park

The Friends of Bates State Park hosted their 15th biennial Bates Reunion July 24-26, 2009. More than 300 people, some coming from Alaska and Colorado, converged on the mill site to see former neighbors and reminisce about life in the once-thriving lumber town.

The Oregon Lumber Company built the mill in 1917. The neighboring community of Bates became home to nearly 400 people who worked at the mill. Business peaked in the 1950s-1960s. The mill closed in 1975 and the buildings were dismantled and sold. Some of the houses were sold for \$1 each to the occupants, and the buildings were moved to John Day, Prairie City and other places.

Reunion sparks park idea

The former residents of Bates held their first reunion in 1979, and decided to hold biennial reunions in the following years. People began talking about making the Bates site a park during the 1983 reunion. The reunion tradition continues and so have plans for the park. After a series of land transfers, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) purchased the land in 2008. Later that year a citizens group, the Friends of Bates State Park, became a cooperative group supporting the activities of OPRD at Bates.

The Friends have been busy raising funds. Before the reunion, they produced a Bates Ladies' Club Cookbook. They also ordered coffee and travel mugs featuring photos of Bates. These popular items are now on their third production



run. A local artist painted a picture of the Bates mill offered at auction. The group's efforts earned more than \$5,000 at the reunion, earmarked for Bates park activities. The Friends also planned to staff a booth at the Grant County Fair and sell the Bates cookbooks and mugs. The booth was designed to look like a Bates State Park entrance gate.

This year's reunion was held in conjunction with OPRD planning meetings. An advisory committee met July 24 in nearby Prairie City, followed by a public hearing on the Bates State Park Draft Master Plan. OPRD staff, Grant County commissioners, and Friends of Bates State Park members also presented information at the reunion community potluck July 25.

The 131-acre park is scheduled to open in 2011. ●



From THE MAILBOX

July 2008

This letter is a thank you to our Catfish Loop hosts at Farewell Bend.

Our camp hosts, John and Donnie Butera, made my June 14-28, 2008 stay at Farewell Bend State Park much more enjoyable. What really stood out was their ability to connect with the campers through their daily enjoyment of life and friendly gregariousness.

Sincerely,
Mike Walker

During the period June 21 through June 28, my wife and I and thirteen of our friends stayed in Sunset Bay State Park in seven camp sites. We have stayed at Sunset Bay several years. Many of our friends have been staying there for 25 years or longer. We have always enjoyed our stay. That is why we return each year.

This year there was one woman staying in the park who was rude, obnoxious, and confrontational with my wife and one of the other women in our group. She complained about our entire group to the camp host named Pete [*Guldenzopf*]. Our group wants you to know that Pete handled the woman's unfounded and unreasonable complaints in an exemplary manner. Pete acknowledged to us that our group was in compliance with the requirements of the park regarding all rules including, without limitation, noise and quiet time. After Pete discussed the matter with the complainant, we had no further problems with her.

We hope that this communication will be transmitted to Pete. We already thanked him for his help and professionalism. We also want to thank the state of Oregon for having volunteer hosts of the quality of Pete. Keep up the good work!

Don Selke

Editor's Note: Pete and Leslie Guldenzopf have hosted at Sunset Bay and Shore Acres for at least seven seasons and always provide excellent service. They were awarded Outstanding Host honors in 2005.

Do you have a question, comment or just want to share your experience as a volunteer?

Send your letter or e-mail to:

Tammy Baumann, Volunteer Coordinator
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer St. N.E., Suite C
Salem, Oregon 97301
Tammy.Baumann@state.or.us

September 2008

My husband and I have hosted at different Oregon State Parks thru the past years and have always enjoyed it very much. The rangers, other hosts and especially the campers have made it a pleasure each summer. This year we felt we had to write you about a special ranger.

Karen Edmonds, our supervisor while hosting at Hilgard Junction State Park, made August the best month hosting we have experienced. She explained what was needed, was always available to help or solve any problem, and had a wonderful rapport with the campers.

We had a strong wind storm which damaged many trees; she was quick to respond and her first concern was the campers, then making our campground a safe and clean place for them.

We usually only host one month each summer, but are very glad they called us to fill in and have the chance to work with Karen. Maybe we will consider a second month again if it would be as enjoyable as we had in August.

Sincerely,
Fred and Barbara Lilienthal

Excerpt of a letter sent to Volunteer Services

What a delightful surprise to get your warm letter and pin showing 1,000 hours of volunteer service. I didn't realize we had been at it for that long. Time flies when you're having fun, they say. And we are definitely having fun working with folks like Angela Stewart, Pam Stevens, Deane Roppe, Dave Neighbor and Dave Ledig of USF&W. It is an honor to be a part of a cast like that. We have learned so much from these and others over the years, and I believe our contribution is more effective each year because we are building on a broader base of information and experience.

As we travel through many parts of our great country, we are envied by the friends we meet as we proudly tell them we do volunteer work on the rugged and beautiful Oregon Coast for state parks and US Fish and Wildlife. It is truly a wonderful assignment.

Paul Jennings





Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

725 Summer St. N.E. Suite C

Salem, Oregon 97301

Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

The Friends of Cape Meares Lighthouse & Wildlife Refuge donated a new sign for the Octopus Tree

OCTOPUS TREE

The forces that shaped this unique Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) have been debated for many years. Whether natural events or possibly Native Americans were the cause remains a mystery.

The tree measures more than 46 feet in circumference and has no central trunk. Instead, limbs extend horizontally from the base as much as 16 feet before turning upward. It is 105 feet tall and is estimated to be 250 to 300 years old.

Designated an
OREGON HERITAGE TREE

April 2009

Sign Donated by
The Friends of Cape Meares Lighthouse & Wildlife Refuge