

# THE VOLUNTEER

Force

Winter 2011



Nature  
HISTORY  
Discovery

## Volunteers help open another state park

*2010 highlights include unveiling Beaver Creek State Natural Area*

Volunteer time, talent and dedication made a difference in opening OPRD's 2010 "Park a Year."

Beaver Creek State Natural Area benefited greatly from the hands that helped prepare the park's visitor center, inside and out, for a gala opening-day ceremony.

Volunteers helped build an all accessible observation deck, trimmed shrubbery, moved equipment, painted, cleaned the center and its surrounding grounds, and took on other tasks needed before the big day.

Volunteers of all ages contributed more than 900 hours. Teams of young people ages 16 through 24 from the Angell Job Corps dedicated 200 hours to tree trimming and removal and another 200 hours painting the welcome center. Job Corps is a no-cost education and career technical training program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor. The Angell Job Corps center, which is located in Yachats, is operated by the U.S. Forest Service.

Park hosts applied their carpentry skills to a sign kiosk as well as the observation deck. Park hosts Larry and Lola Samuelson, Ken Bennett, and Mike and Karen Salmonson spent significant hours building and cleaning.

Ricardo and Mary Small, a non-host individual volunteer team, got a head start on the preparations. Beginning in May 2010, the couple snapped a series of photos for park displays and interpretive signs, logging 110 hours of service and 618 road miles travelling between their Albany home and the coastal park.



*Continued on page 2*

*Volunteer kayaking guides Ray and Jo Ann Fowles, who have led paddlers up Beaver Creek for eight years, gave opening-day tours.*

## Volunteering can be for the birds

OPRD keeps adding to the list of different ways volunteers can lend a hand. Now add counting birds to the list.

Every Saturday since 2011 began, expert and amateur birders have been volunteering at Beaver Creek State Natural Area. They hike the park's trails, listening and watching for chances to check off one of the 169 possibilities listed on a census checklist, and possibly add more.

The goal of the Beaver Creek bird census is to gain a better idea of how many different species of bird life use and nest in the natural area.

OPRD interpretive coordinator Jamie Little says it doesn't matter if you know the difference between a bufflehead and a northern shoveler. Novices are placed in groups led by experts. "A beginner can make sure an expert doesn't miss a sighting by just asking something like, 'What's that bird with the red-tipped wings over there?' Meanwhile, it's a great chance for beginners to learn and have a lot of fun."

The census will continue every Saturday, beginning at 8 a.m., through the rest of the year. The counting officially lasts until around noon.

Interested? Park Ranger Brian Fowler is the census coordinator. Call 541-563-6413. ●



*Great Egret*



*Great Blue Heron*

## Volunteers help open another park

*Continued from page 1*

At the opening-day ribbon-cutting ceremony, Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Davis Moriuchi complimented the work of park staff and volunteers and spoke about the importance of Beaver Creek. "Parks are not truly parks until they are used by people," he said. "When we, as visitors, connect with a park like Beaver Creek, we do more than take away our memory of the experience. As park visitors, we commit to protect and support the importance of a park, and ask our public servants to reflect this commitment through the diligence of their work. It is this very relationship that protects and builds on the richness of any park, and it is especially true here."

Former Governor Ted Kulongoski, who challenged OPRD to open a "park a year" during his first term in 2004, helped cut the ribbon and also spoke at the ceremony.

Other opening-day activities included volunteer-led kayak tours up Beaver Creek. The tour guides were Ray and Jo Ann Fowles, who have led Beaver Creek tours for the past eight years. Students Robert Ewart and Willis Mullen from Waldport High School's Kayak Shack volunteered to carry kayaks from the landing back to the launching site.

Before the Oct. 1 grand opening, OPRD recognized its many volunteer and staff contributors to the park's opening at a September barbecue and sneak preview. OPRD Director Tim Wood stated at the time, "This effort is another great example of how this agency and its volunteers can come together to make a vision a reality. A lot of people had a piece in this one, and the results are incredible. We have a first-class place where we can introduce visitors to the outstanding natural values of Beaver Creek." ●

## THANK YOU Volunteers for making a difference

By Tammy Baumann  
Statewide Volunteer Services Coordinator

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is very proud and humbled to be the place of choice for so many volunteers. Volunteer engagement is a critical component of our success, and it shows.

We have an interesting formula for measuring success. We consider visitor comment cards, surveys, letters of praise and concern, comments from volunteers, and sheer numbers.

The generosity of our legion of volunteers is astounding. Their donations include talent, money and their most precious resource—TIME. Our numbers show that more than 7,000 volunteers generously gave almost 460,000 hours of service to benefit parks around the state in 2010.

Many volunteers made a difference working in groups. We had 2,197 volunteers in 68 different groups contribute 11,026 hours of service. Youth groups donated

almost half of those hours (5,186). Representatives of community businesses, neighborhoods and other organizations donated another 4,218 hours, and nine Adopt-a-Park partners logged 1,622.

More than 1,200 individual volunteers contributed an astonishing 406,696 hours. They included 1,153 contributors from our highly regarded park host program.

Volunteer opportunities presented by seven special events attracted 615 helpers, who donated a combined 3,264 hours.

OPRD is privileged to have 16 non-profit cooperative association partners, who consistently have up to 3,000 volunteers contributing nearly 40,000 hours. Co-op volunteers raise funds to support park interpretive programs.

To our past, present and future volunteers, thank you for your generous contribution of time and talent. ●



## 'Let's Go Camping' taps volunteer experience

Volunteers will again have key roles in opening the world of camping to beginners in the 2011 OPRD "Let's Go Camping" series.

More than 25 state park volunteers shared their expertise with outdoor novices in 2010. As a result, almost 200 beginners experienced a night in the great outdoors, potentially becoming new state park campers in the process.

With free gear rentals, hands-on lessons and nature hikes, "Let's Go Camping" shows how camping can be easy, inviting and fun for the entire family. The 2010 participants included toddlers, grandparents, and novices of all ages in between.

*Continued on page 7*



*AmeriCorps intern Kevin Farron demonstrates the art of Dutch oven cooking.*

## OPRD tries a new way to welcome hosts

By Jill Nishball  
Volunteer Services Coordinator

The 2010 park host orientation had a new, more intimate twist. Instead of bringing 200 experienced and novice volunteers together for a week-long Host Rendezvous, our New Host Orientation last April prepared 41 hosts for their first experiences.

Scaled back by budget reductions, the two-day orientation was designed to train small groups of volunteers who were preparing for their first host assignments, or who had recently applied and were waiting for that first call. The orientation took place at the Oregon Exposition Center in Salem.

The main purpose remained the same—to create a face-to-face opportunity for new hosts to learn about OPRD’s culture and values, and to emphasize the critical role hosts play in helping us carry out our mission. Attendees learned about our many sites and assignments, our expectations for on-site volunteers, and how to navigate through recruitment, scheduling, paperwork, and on-line safety training. Host coordinators Mike Niss from Champoeg and Heather Murphy from Stub Stewart reviewed day-to-day park operations, and described what happens in the parks before hosts arrive, during their stay and just before they leave to go to another park or return home.

The traditional host potluck kicked off the orientation, followed by Silver Falls interpretive park ranger

Dorothy Brown-Kwaiser’s engaging “Lions, Rangers, Hosts and Bears, Oh My!” presentation. Dorothy’s tongue-in-cheek presentation explains just why it is that rangers and hosts, together with mountain lions and black bears, are not nearly as scary as they may first appear.

Columbia Gorge District Manager Kevin Price and Silver Falls Park Manager Kevin Strandberg led a six-hour verbal judo training session. They had no problem keeping the group captivated with their stories, videos, and practical tips for communicating with park visitors.

Another tradition, the annual “Gen” Angdahl Memorial Outstanding Host awards luncheon, honored 11 host couples for their excellent work. We were able to personally thank eight of the couples and these four award finalists:

- Larry and Sandra McGinnis, nominated by Fort Stevens Park Ranger Barbara Webb;
- Jim and Nancy Moore, nominated by Deschutes River Park Ranger Tom Peterson;
- Duane and Dorothy Springer, nominated by park rangers Lisa Midlam of the Columbia River Gorge parks team, Bonny Shepard of Willamette Mission and Shawn Dutcher of Wallowa Lake;
- Steve and Pat Wright, nominated by the Silver Falls parks crew.

*Continued on page 5*



*The 2010 “Gen” Angdahl Memorial Host Award recipients.*

# Host HIGHLIGHTS

## OPRD tries new way to welcome hosts

*Continued from page 4*

The other nominees were Hank Betterly and Mary Murphy, Stub Stewart; Wayne and Roxie Dingman, Jessie M. Honeyman; John and Jeanie Hoyle, Thompson's Mills; Doss and Fran McKinney, Stub Stewart; Dan Emerson and Virginia Smith, Champog; Ray and Vicki Strickland, Joseph Stewart; Walter (Nick) and Judy VanderBruggen, Beverly Beach.

An eye-opening "host-to-host" session bringing together new and experienced hosts concluded the orientation. Our experienced hosts shared many personal stories, tips for success and the reality of job challenges. We encouraged our new hosts to get all their curiosities and worries about the job out in the open. It was wonderful to see our veteran hosts offering inspiration to our newcomers.

The New Host Orientation was a smashing success and something I'd like to do every year from now on. Many of the new volunteers said the event was a fun and valuable experience, and that it helped them approach their new jobs with a lot more confidence. ●

## Sunset Bay hosts give helping hand to Safety and Risk staff

Thanks to a helping hand from Sunset Bay parks hosts, OPRD's Safety and Risk Management staff is streamlining the way it retrieves information from compliance request forms submitted by the field.

OPRD uses the forms to document park incidents that do not rise to a citation, incident analysis or park exclusion. The documents can contain confidential data.

CoCo Sutton, a former region office administrative assistant on the south coast, became involved in revising the processing of data from the compliance request forms after moving into her new role as a Safety and Risk management assistant in the Operations Support Division in Salem. Confronted by more than 6,000 documents, she asked if any of the hosts working at the Sunset Bay Management Unit could help sort the forms, collect data on an input sheet and then help properly destroy the forms after they were done. Interpretive hosts Larry and Kolette McClurg and Joseph and Margaret Lozar came to her rescue.

While executing their other duties, the two host couples whittled CoCo's batch of documents into a usable number for data entry. "Their help made it possible for us to finish the first phase of the project a lot faster than normally possible," says OPRD Safety and Risk Manager David Solomon. "Now we can focus on finding a more efficient way to obtain compliance request data from the field." ●

## Hosting careers reach an end

Can park hosts retire?

Unfortunately for OPRD, they apparently can. Four long-time host couples have moved on to new adventures after providing years of excellent customer service to park visitors. These couples are:

**Jerry and Bev Alexander**

(more than eight years of service);

**Jan and Verne Waldner**

(more than eight years);

**Harold and Gloria Bartol**

(more than six years);

**Bill and Connie Easterbrook**

(more than five years).

"They are gems, and we're going to miss them," says Jill Nishball. ●



*Interpretive host Kolette McClurg, with her husband, Larry, measures the pile.*

## 2010-2011 Interpretive Services grants awarded

The Friends of Historic Champoeg (FHC), Friends of Yaquina Lighthouses (FoYL), and Friends of Silver Falls (FoSF) are the latest recipients of OPRD Interpretive Services grants.

The three cooperative associations are sharing \$42,000 in grant dollars—funding that is intended to help spur growth in park interpretive programs. “Our long-term goal is to enable them to fund their interpretive staff on their own, freeing this limited funding source to help other park interpretive programs throughout the system,” says Interpretive Services Coordinator Jamie Little.

Grants are awarded annually. The Interpretive Services program accepts applications from January until late March.

Interpretive Coordinator Carol Vanderwall will use some of the FoSF grant to help Silver Falls staff offer roving interpretation on the Canyon Trail during the peak summer season. Along with developing and presenting interpretive programs, Carol also assists with educational displays, written materials and the park’s newest event, Historic Silver Falls Days.

FHC employs two part-time, year-round program coordinators. Kim Martin reaches more than 3,000

visitors directly through programs such as the popular FHC costumed interpreter program, the annual Founders Day celebration, and a series of Saturday living history demonstrations throughout the summer. Janie Malloy enrolls more than 4,000 students for on-site programs, including the award-winning Champoeg Promise School, and coordinates four separate Champoeg Legacy programs for life-long learners.

FOYL is continually expanding interpretive programs at Yaquina Bay, a park with a high interpretive value level that is not staffed full-time by OPRD rangers. FOYL Interpretive Coordinator Amy VanDyke coordinates guided tours through the lighthouse and living history demonstrations by staff and volunteers. She also has built partnerships with local organizations and schools to support interpretive events and educational activities at the lighthouse. The friends’ group contributed \$6,000 to match the grant.

Grant applications for 2011-2012 are now available. Contact Tammy Baumann (email at [tammy.baumann@state.or.us](mailto:tammy.baumann@state.or.us); phone: 503-986-0751.) ●

## Banks-Vernonia State Trail: A dream comes true

October 29, 2010 was a banner day for the Friends of Stub Stewart State Park and Banks Vernonia Rails to Trails. The Banks Trailhead was dedicated on that date, fulfilling a dream that started almost 20 years ago.

A group of local citizens primarily interested in horse trails got together August 4, 1991 and founded the Friends of Banks Vernonia State Trail. “That occasion was the start of the dream,” says Ron Johnson, the group’s president emeritus. “Now it has come true with the dedication of the last trailhead.”

In 2008, the friends’ group embraced Stub Stewart State Park, which is crossed by a three-mile stretch of the trail almost halfway between Banks and Vernonia. “We are looking forward to the opportunities both parks present as their use increases,” says Johnson. ●



*A crowd gathers for the dedication of the Banks trailhead on the Banks-Vernonia State Trail.*

## Grants from outside sources aid Friends' interpretive work

Grants from distinguished outside sources in 2010 are boosting the interpretive work of the Friends of Sumpter Valley Dredge, the Friends of Kam Wah Chung and the Friends of Tryon Creek in 2011.

The Friends of Sumpter Valley Dredge are executing an interpretive plan to expand as well as preserve the heritage of the dredge, thanks to a \$4,000 grant from Oregon Cultural Trust. The grant supports installing two signs directing visitors to the park, developing a discovery trail guide map and updating the Friends' website. The \$15,500 budget also is funded by grants of \$7,000 from the Oregon Heritage Commission and \$3,500 from the U.S. Bancorp Foundation.

A \$114,644 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services will help fill the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site's interpretive center with exhibits when it reopens in May. The Friends of Kam Wah Chung have donated \$15,000 toward the project, which includes the design and production of exhibits identified in the Kam Wah Chung interpretive plan.

A \$20,000 grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust is allowing the Friends of Tryon Creek to conduct comprehensive strategic planning in 2011. The group's executive director, David Cohen, says the planning will help clarify "the most relevant and meaningful role we can play as an evolving regional environmental organization." ●



*The dredge at Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area*

### 'Let's Go Camping'

*Continued from page 3*

Thanks to the program's many sponsors, the 2010 series was offered at very little cost. The \$20 per family charge included free gear rentals, overnight costs, parking, Dutch Oven decadence and all the S'mores campers could eat. Once registered, the rookie campers received a welcome packet full of meal ideas and a comprehensive list of items to take along.

"Let's Go Camping" owes its start and success to volunteers. The Friends of Tryon Creek launched the first camping orientation as a one-night, overnight experience for "at-risk" urban youth in 1998. Milo McIver was the original site for the program, which expanded to three introductory sessions in 2007. The friends' group helped OPRD turn it into an eight-park program in 2009. Funding from the Oregon State Parks Trust and the continuing support of OPRD's Tryon Creek co-op

partner enabled OPRD to expand the program to 12 parks last year.

Kevin Farron, an AmeriCorps volunteer, served as the 2010 program coordinator. Kevin depended on three to five volunteers to help teach several "Let's Go Camping" fundamentals, including Dutch oven cooking, fire building and safety, the 10 essentials of camping, and the leave-no-trace ethic.

To prepare for the events, volunteers attended a one-day orientation at Silver Falls State Park in May. The benefits included two free nights of camping, gas reimbursements to and from the events, and chances to change a family's perspective on camping.

Volunteer to share your joy of camping now by contacting Jill Nishball ([jill.nishball@state.or.us](mailto:jill.nishball@state.or.us), 503-986-0752). ●



## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

725 Summer St. N.E. Suite C

Salem, Oregon 97301

*Nature*  
**HISTORY**  
*Discovery*



Join us in Newport for the next

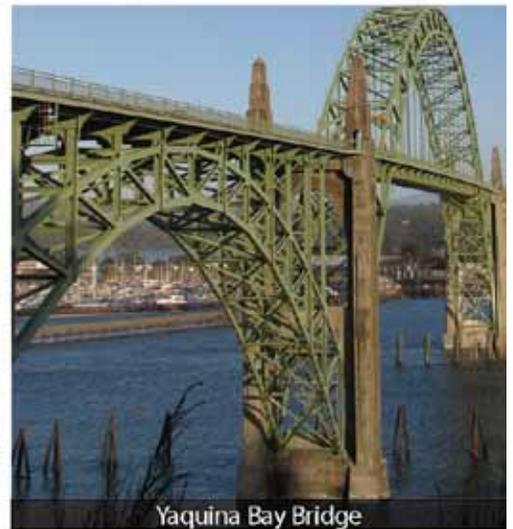
## Cooperative Association Conference October 7-9, 2011



Beaver Creek State Natural Area



Yaquina Bay Lighthouse



Yaquina Bay Bridge

**Featuring Friends of Yaquina Lighthouses and Yaquina Bay State Recreation Site,  
and introducing Beaver Creek State Natural Area**

[www.oregon.gov/OPRD/VOL](http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/VOL)