



FRIENDS OF BOGGS MOUNTAIN

P.O. BOX 735 ~ COBB, CA 95426-0735

www.boggsmountain.org

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3, AUGUST 2005

HOT SUMMER DAYS !

As the temperature continues to reach well into the 90's everyday, unless you happen to be in the forest early in the morning or towards sunset, you probably won't see many **Boggers* on our dusty trails. Even the lizards look parched from the heat. However, one resident species of Boggs doesn't seem to mind the heat. Rattlesnakes are currently very active. Our Sightings and Observations sheet on our kiosk in the parking lot reports one being spotted along the Creek Trail, another on Road 500, and a third was discovered napping right behind the Forest Office. It's a good idea to keep that in mind as you Bogg along.

One other thing to be aware of this time of year, poison oak, is growing along the trails in many areas of the forest, and is at its peak.

**Bogger*: One who enjoys jogging, hiking, mountain biking, birding or horseback riding on our forest trails.

Summer Series kick off a big success!

We hosted our first BOGGS TALKS on July 9th, featuring guest speaker Don Emerson, one of Cobb's most prominent and colorful residents. The crowd of 45 seemed spellbound at times listening to stories about Boggs Mountain becoming a State Demonstration Forest, the development of the Cobb Mountain sub-divisions, the building of the (Rob Roy) golf course and humorous tales of some pretty eccentric locals and summer visitors he has

encountered over the years. We are hoping to have him return next year with more tales to titillate you, and we're sure he has lots of them to share.

Our next monthly Saturday morning TALKS will feature Boggs Forest Manager Wayne Connor on August 12th, followed September 10th with a presentation of A Native American Interpretation Of The History Of The Boggs Mountain Area, and on October 8th, wrapping up our series, will be A Closer Look At The Archaeology Of The Boggs Mountain Area.

BOARD MEETING CHANGE

We normally have our Board of Directors meetings monthly, but since we are now having monthly Saturday membership meetings at our ***BOGGS MOUNTAIN TALKS summer series***, we have decided to have quarterly Board meetings for a while, to see how that works. The next Board meeting is in October, and the date will be announced soon.

~THE COFFEEBERRY SHRUBS OF BOGGS~ by Darlene Hecomovich

Coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*) is one of the three most common shrubs to be found throughout Boggs Mountain State Forest. The other two shrubs found in abundance in Boggs are Ceanothus (California Lilac) and Manzanita. Coffeeberry is a native and is found from the Oregon Coast Ranges through most of California and into Arizona and Baja. It is a member of the Buckthorn family as is Ceanothus, and it's Latin name *Rhamus* is an ancient Greek name for buckthorn.

Coffeeberry is an upright evergreen shrub that grows to 6 to 8 feet and has shiny, dark green elliptical leaves, the edges of which curl under during dry summers to conserve moisture. The tiny greenish-white, star-shaped flowers form clusters at the tips of branches from May through June. The flowers give way to clusters of berries beginning green in July, ripening to orange/red in August and finally black in September and October. The berries are a popular food for our fruit-eating birds. The young stems are a reddish purple, then turning brownish-gray as they age. Look for and enjoy the many faces of Coffeeberry as you walk, hike or ride the trails of Boggs.

The plant was named because the ripe berries resemble coffee beans, and early settlers mistook the plant for coffee. It was once thought the berries could be grown commercially to make coffee, but the attempt was a failure. Native Americans used the berries to make teas which they drank to offset the digestive effects of an acorn diet. Coffeeberry bark has been a popular herbal remedy for chronic constipation, but the laxative effect is very severe and it should be considered toxic. It is highly recommended that people do not consume any part of it in any form.

MAINTAINING OUR 20 MILES OF TRAILS by Tom Smythe

The primary goal of the Friends of Boggs Mountain (FOBM) is to enhance the experience of our visitors. The majority of the users experience the Forest via the trail network. By maintaining and improving the trail network, the FOBM

enhances the experience of these Forest users. We endeavor to have a self-sustaining trail system that gets people where they want to go, and provide a fun place to hike and ride.

The FOBM sponsors a Trail Work Day on the last Saturday of every month to maintain and improve the trail system. The volunteers meet at the heliport at 9:00 am during the summer and 10:00 am in the winter for approximately two hours of trail work. Trail work varies from building reroutes, doing simple drainage work, and trimming vegetation. Since our first workday in August 2003, we have performed more than 250 person-hours of trail work. Thanks to all of those who have helped. We have addressed many of the trail problems, but several remain to be fixed. Topping the work list is the newest section of Gail's trail (southeast of Road 400 to Road 540), which was put in as a firebreak, and needs to be completed.

Our next trail workdays are 9:00 am August 27, 9:00 am September 24, and 9:00 am October 29. We hope to see you there.

I'M YOUR NEW FORESTRY AIDE by Marli Lombardi

My first week at work for CDF ended with my 24th birthday and a surprise "safety meeting" with the rest of the crew at Boggs. Joey and Wayne gave me a really sweet card with a phrase that has stuck in my head ever since: "Welcome to the best kept secret in California!" WOW I thought, I guess I am pretty lucky to be working here at Boggs! However, I wasn't feeling especially thrilled my first week when I started my exercise regime which includes jogging in the morning, well... trying to at least. Since I am used to living on the coast (in Arcata), the 3,000-foot elevation really got to me, as did running uphill the whole way. Then there was working outside in the 100-degree heat everyday, getting stung by yellow jackets, and freezing at night. I really was missing Arcata. It has now been almost 2 months, and I am starting to realize that I really am working in the best kept secret in California-and I love it! I am getting used to the heat, the bees, the altitude, the hills; as well as the great people I get to meet everyday and the beautiful terrain I get to explore. Not to mention I have a great boss, I get to wake up and do yoga overlooking Cobb Mountain every morning, and a bunch of cute firefighters work next door!!

My job as Forestry Aide for BMDSF will continue through November, and I am looking forward to spending the fall season here (can't wait for the rain!). My primary responsibilities as Forestry Aide are to assist Wayne in the general monitoring and maintenance of the forest and office, be a resource for recreational visitors, and carry out various projects forest wide. These include inventorying the permanent growth and mortality plots, up dating the road management plan, producing a forest type map, and helping with the implementation of timber harvest plans. I am also enthusiastic about working with CDF and the Friends of Boggs Mountain to implement more of an ecological and interpretive aspect to recreation users here. This could include a self-

guided nature hike, an interpretive center, various demonstrations and educational walks, children’s programs, or simply informative signs on the kiosk. Another goal of mine is to explore more of the forest by hiking, mountain biking, and hopefully horseback riding (let me know if anyone has horses!). I appreciate how welcoming and friendly everyone has been to me, and I look forward to working with you all in the future.

DID YOU KNOW?.....

Geologically, Boggs Forest is complex. Volcanic rocks are exposed over much of the forest. Andesites and basalts are visible as outcrops and are easily spotted along the roads over most of the upper elevations, with the lower slopes of the northwest portion having volcanic rocks, cap sandstones and mudstones.

MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE POPULARITY GROWING

This summer was the busiest ever for racing enthusiasts. Promoter/organizer Ken Goldie and his *Billy Cross* events drew participants from all over the Northern California area. His series of 4 races for the season ended on July 31st, with 31 entries. If you are interested in participating in the next one, let us know and we will have him get in touch with you.



Have you checked out our website lately at www.boggsmountain.org ? We have recently updated our Multi-use Trail Etiquette Rules and you might find a few other interesting things to read. Our thanks to Norm Benson for managing our website and keeping it updated as we keep sending him things to post. If you would like to contact us, we can be reached at the above address or at www.friendsofboggsmountain@earthlink.net We are always grateful for your comments, ideas and suggestions.

This newsletter is sent to our members quarterly with the next issue in November, then February, May and August.

MEMBERSHIP DUES DUE...WHEN?

If the number after your name on our correspondence to you comes before **8-05....**

PLEASE DO RENEW

IF YOU ARE PAST DUE, so we can keep doing what we do for you

Thank you!

This newsletter has been compiled, edited and sent to you by Boone Lodge.