



FRIENDS OF BOGGS MOUNTAIN

P.O. Box 735 ~ Cobb, CA 95426-0735

www.boggsmountain.org

NEWSLETTER

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SATURDAY SPEAKER

This Saturday, August 19th at 9 a.m. we are pleased to welcome back Archaeologist Chuck Whatford. A professional Archaeologist for 13 years, his research and knowledge of the Boggs Forest spanning 10,000 years is remarkable. Chuck is an Associate State Archaeologist with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, a 4th generation Californian and has been digging around in this area of the state all his life.

Bring a folding chair or a cushion to sit on and join us outside across from the main parking area.

We'll have coffee, tea, and sweet treats, so come early and get comfortable for an interesting 1-hour presentation.

FYI ~ The crest of Boggs Mountain is the divide between the Putah Creek watershed and the Kelsey Creek watershed. Putah Creek flows into the Sacramento river approximately 45 miles to the southeast of Boggs Mountain, and the Kelsey Creek flows into Clear Lake about 10 miles north of the mountain. Clear Lake empties through Cache Creek into the Sacramento River!

FRIENDS OF BOGGS MOUNTAIN UPDATE: by Boone Lodge

As soon as we get an estimate on the expense of building our new informational kiosk and an O.K. from State Forest Manager Wayne Connor, we will be sending out a plea for volunteers to help us get it built. We would like to have it completed by late fall. You'll be seeing our new updated and improved trail maps soon, thanks to Tom Smythe and his computer skills. The new maps will have more contour lines and creek definition, defined residential areas on the perimeter of the forest, the extension of Gail's Trail and the length of each trail listed next to the trails difficulty symbol.

Our Interpretive Trail project is moving along. We're fine-tuning the text to fit into the amount of space we will have on each sign with a more elaborate description of each species to include in the brochure. We are doing the botanical illustrations for each sign ourselves using black and white photographs that are then imposed into the metal sign along with the text. We'll be ordering signs this week and plan to begin installing them after the rain begins and the ground softens. The area we are using for our summer TALKS now has a temporary speaker's platform and service table made with wood from our forest and milled by CDF just a few feet away. Thanks to Board member David Thiessen for cleverly putting it all together, literally.

**THE STATE OF THE FOREST
BY THE STATE FOREST MANAGER ~ WAYNE CONNOR**

The heat wave must have sent everyone toward the local lakes and streams because it's been fairly quiet on the forest this summer. We had a rash of nightly vandalism at both campgrounds beginning the second week of July. CDF Prevention Officers have been active collecting evidence and conducting weekend patrols. Identifying the perpetrators has been made a lot easier, since one person left their wallet at the scene and another lost the keys to his truck.

Thanks to the diligence of Prevention Officer Chris Vallergera, we have had several successful prosecutions over the past few months.

Three of the Boggs Helitack firefighters grew up in the Cobb area and take a lot of pride in our forest. They, and pilot Peter Ongoy, have been a big help with cleaning up after those who would destroy the place. Kudos to FF1 Justin Galvan who promptly rebuilt the Calso Camp outhouse door after it was ripped off of its hinges. Peter comes to us from the Howard Forest Helitack Base in Mendocino. During his tour of duty, the entrance to Howard Forest was transformed into a showplace. It's good to have Pete and the local boys on board here at Boggs.

Marli has been doing a stellar job of conducting the Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI). The project involves re-measuring established inventory plots at five year intervals to track how the forest is growing. The project is on schedule for completion in September.

The future is looking somewhat brighter for the forest in terms of funding and staffing. Boggs has traditionally been the least staffed and least funded of the state forests. Beginning this fiscal year a significant increase in funding has been proposed to carry out much needed infrastructure projects, such as upgrading the road system and recreational facilities. Gee...we might even be able to print our own maps! There has even been talk of hiring an Assistant Manager to help with all of the great things that are planned. Funds will be allocated to each forest based on the potential to reimburse the "Restoration Fund" through timber management activities. Of course the fate of Boggs (and the other forests) is linked with the fate of our flagship, Jackson. The certification of Jackson's EIR by Board of Forestry may not happen until November, so we're not on a spending spree quite yet.

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FYI~ Depending on the ethnographic source, the Boggs forest was within the territory of one or more of the following three Native American groups: the Lake Miwok, the Habenapo Pomo and the Wappo.

A SPRING AFTERNOON DISCOVERY: by Bill Laws

On the last weekend of May my wife and I were appreciating the blue and white "tusks" of flowers from the Ceanothus bushes that are in bloom along the fire roads on Boggs Mountain. The showy blue and white flowers belong to large bushes that like the sunlight and attract numerous types of insects. On some of the flowery spikes or "tusks" ants have staked their claim; on others spiders have set up a vigil. In other years I have seen so many insects competing for space on these flowers that the smaller bugs seem to form a mist or halo over the display.

On this last weekend in May, however, the most interesting discovery had to do with a long-horned flower beetle. This type of beetle is easily classified by its long antennae (or horn) which is usually over half as long as the length of the sometimes very colorful beetle.

The long-horn observed by my wife and I was buried in the middle of the blue series of small flowers that makes up the floral display of the "blue" species of Ceanothus. In fact, the beetle, about a half of an inch long, was buried so deeply in the flowers that it appeared at first to be a grey smudge or discoloration. As the famous naturalist David Attenborough explains in his book THE LIFE OF PLANTS, beetles have been an ancient consumer of plant pollen. As he explains, in the process of eating pollen, beetles, as well as other insects, inadvertently spread some of the pollen rubbed off onto their bodies to other flowers. In this way, beetles are an example of insects playing a role in the ancient sexual (and frankly, hermaphroditic) development of plants.

On a strictly intuitive level, the long-horned on extraction from the flower appeared sluggish and saturated by his meal of pollen. Before disturbing his dormancy though, in the middle of the blue flowers, this insect was just barely visible --it's own bright blue and red colors and shape were quite camouflaged by the azure flowers. One wonders, moreover, if such a distinctive beetle could have found the same level of protective coloration from the nearby white species of Ceanothus.

This is a contemplation which will serve as a point of interest for many more spring sortees on Boggs. One wonders whether this long-horn, with its distinctive bell-shaped pronotum or middle part, is a primary pollinator of the blue species which seems (except for the size of the leaf) mysteriously so similar to the white flowered species.

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NEW MEMBERS:

**Eric Callies ~ San Rafael/Cobb
Jan and Milt Andreasen ~ Cobb**

RENEWING MEMBERS:

**Joanna and Jerry Mann ~ LosAngeles
William Lincoln ~ Hidden Valley
Daniel Desmond ~ Placerville**

FYI ~ There are 2 reasons why we don't see more deer in the Boggs Forest: The vegetation is principally a single-community type dominated by pine species, with an absence of widespread grassland and a restriction of variety of food and cover available to animals and the second reason being the generally dry conditions through much of the year.

Fire Activity Up Significantly From Last Year: by Marli Lombardi,

State Forest Aide

It has been a busy fire season so far, even here in our local communities. For those of us who live here, we have undoubtedly noticed the smoke and/or fire engines from four major fires that have occurred in the surrounding area.

The first became known as the “29 Incident” and got started just off the highway heading south from Middleton on the afternoon of July 17th. The fire was started by a faulty catalytic converter on an automobile which created sparks as it traveled and ignited several small fires along the road. The highway was closed just several hours later due to smoke and safety concerns. The fire ran through a mobile home park and continued up heavy brush covered slopes toward the East. A total of 550 acres were burned, one residence and 4 outbuildings were destroyed. 364 total personnel were assigned to the incident, including 12 engines, 22 crews, 6 helicopters and 6 dozers. The fire was mostly contained by July 7th, but light spotting continued, accompanied by smoke.

Then on Wednesday, July 26th another fire started off of highway 29 just south of Lower Lake. This became known as the “Murphy Incident”, as it was located near Murphy Springs Road. The Murphy fire burned a total of 135 acres, the fuel type being mostly tall grass and some timber. Resources committed included 1 USFS Helicopter, 8 CDF Crews, 19 Engines, 3 CDF Dozers, 2 County water tenders, and 8 support staff. The fire threatened 20 residences and 5 outbuildings, but none were damaged or destroyed. Concerns during this incident were significant spotting and dangerous rate of spread. The fire was contained on the following morning. The cause of the fire is still being investigated.

While resources were still moping up and patrolling the Murphy Incident, another fire started on the afternoon of July 27th in the Calpine Geysers Complex in Sonoma County. This became known as the “Geysers Incident” and burned a total of 75 acres, primarily 2 foot brush on the back side of Cobb Mountain. Resources committed included 3 helicopters (1 CDF, 2 other-including a Chinook flown by the National Guard), 5 CDF crews, 15 engines, 5 CDF dozers, 2 water tenders, and 15 CDF support staff. One commercial property was threatened, but remained secure. The fire was contained by the following morning. Many local residents were concerned about this fire because an easterly wind was blowing and filled Cobb Valley with smoke.

On July 31st at approximately 3 pm, another fire started on Highland Springs Road between Kelseyville and Lakeport, which became known as the “Highland Incident”. The fire was in a remote area, and heavy brush and steep terrain made access very difficult. 222 total personnel were assigned to this incident, including 7 crews, 4 helicopters, 4 engines, 5 dozers, 2 water tenders and 5 support staff. A total of 200 acres were burned and the cause is still under investigation. The fire was contained on August 2nd

The combination of these four fires and approximately 200 lightning caused fires in the Mendocino National Forest made it very smoky here in the Cobb Valley!

This newsletter has been compiled and edited by Boone Lodge. My apologies for any errors or omissions.