

Boggs

QUARTERLY

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*Convergent Ladybugs
cluster on invasive
Himalayan Blackberry
in the Golf Road area of
Cobb just after the
mid-October rains.*

Photo: D. Hecomovich

Dear Friends,

Touring Boggs in November with Peter Leuzinger and Jeremiah Steuterman brought to mind images of Dante's Inferno more than the Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest that helped to lure me to the Cobb area some 14 years ago.

School bus-sized mountains of slash amid smoking piles of forest debris yielded to yawning views of southern Lake County. The task Peter and his team have taken on is formidable and must seem Sisyphean in many respects. That said, I can truly say that they approach the job with professionalism, optimism and the ability to take the long view.

Everywhere you look you see new growth, some mature growth and small oases of trees that survived the fire but also with the subsequent pine beetle infestation.

There is hope and anticipation for a new Boggs: though there will be patches of shade, we'll appreciate an open feel that didn't exist before. It's easy now to observe the landscape and envision new trails following a contour line along the hillside or snaking up a mountain to the summit with an expansive view to the edge of the horizon.

With your help, the Friends of Boggs Mountain will play a role in restoring Boggs to the magical place it once was. Yes, it will be a different place than we remember - but no less inviting, I hope. And to the next generations, we will leave a better, more sustainable working forest.

As I drove away it occurred to me it wasn't Dante's Inferno I had just witnessed but the rise of the Phoenix from the ashes.

Happy Trails & Blessings for 2017,

*David Thiessen
Board President*



[Click here to join !](#)

FOBM, its partners and members are helping CAL FIRE plan and build a more sustainable trails system involving design, trail building, signage, and mapping over the next several years.

Please join us in restoring Boggs' trail system with a tax-deductible donation (Tax ID: 56-2309457). Click on "Donate" on the left or mail your check to: FOBM, PO Box 735, Cobb, CA 95426.

Thank you for your generosity!

THE NATURALIST'S CORNER

By Darlene Hecomovich



Convergent Ladybugs cluster on invasive Himalayan Blackberry in the Golf Road area of Cobb just after the mid-October rains.

Photo: D. Hecomovich



LADYBUG LADYBUG, FLY AWAY HOME

... and, so the nursery rhyme goes, and Cobb is one of the homes to which they fly. The ladybug most likely to be found in Cobb is one of the most common ladybugs in North America, the Convergent Ladybug, *Hippodamia convergens*. It is so named because of the two white converging lines on the black pronotum, the body part that is between the head and the wings. It is such markings on the pronotum that are most often used to identify ladybugs together with the variable pattern of spots, streaks, bands, blotches or sometimes nothing at all on the red or orange wings.

The Convergent Ladybug has an oval rather than a rounded body with 13 or fewer spots and is, occasionally, even spotless. Typically, the number of spots is 12 with 6 on each wing. The legs, head, and underside are black.

Contrary to popular belief, ladybugs are not bugs at all but beetles, but “ladybeetle” would not sing so well in a nursery rhyme. Both bugs and beetles are groups or orders in the insect class.

(continued next page)

LADYBUG, continued

One of the distinctions between the two orders is that bugs eat a diet of nectar, sap, or animal fluids which they obtain with their piercing-sucking mouthparts, whereas beetles have chewing mouthparts and can eat anything from hardwood to insects to rotting fungi. The other misnomer is that both male and female ladybugs are called ladybugs, a reverse example of sexism.

Aphids form the main part of their diet, but when aphids are scarce they can consume pollen, nectar, and the soft parts of plants. It is aphids, however, that they must eat in order to reproduce. They choose the coast and low elevation valleys where aphids are plentiful to lay as many as 200 to 300 eggs in the spring and early summer. Upon hatching the larvae may start eating the unhatched eggs which provide energy for them until they, too, find aphids developing into adults one month later.

It is when the aphid-feeding season ends in late summer that Convergent Ladybugs migrate to higher elevations. During migration they will occasionally land on the ground to consume pollens and nectars in order to fatten up their bodies to survive their long period of hibernation.

The mountain-bound ladybugs are not usually in swarms during these migrations, but once they achieve their goal they tend to congregate en masse and form colonies. The Sierra Nevada is well known as a favored

location for adults to cluster, but they fly away home to Cobb as well where they will gather under leaf litter, bury themselves under decaying logs, or even go indoors and lodge inside the walls and attics of houses. They can remain in this state of dormancy for as long as nine months. Both sunshine and rain can initiate periods of activity which will cause the ladybugs to emerge.

The ladybug photos in this newsletter were taken in the Golf Road area of Cobb just after the mid-October rains this year. They may have just migrated, or more likely, they were in winter hibernation, and the rains disturbed their inactive state and caused them to seek sunshine before returning to their hibernation. When temperatures become warmer during late winter and early spring, the ladybugs emerge from hibernation to begin their trek back to the aphid-feeding areas at lower elevations to reproduce, restarting the cycle once again.

It is always a delight to encounter Convergent Ladybugs. They can be found just about anywhere including gardens, fields, and forests. Although I have found them in several areas in Cobb, I find it remarkable that I never did see them in Boggs Mountain State Forest, but they could very well have been there unseen hibernating under the leaf litter or a decaying log. 🐞



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Boggs Photo Essay

November 2016



Grove of ponderosa pines killed by the relentless western pine beetle.
Photo: G. Stahl

Prologue

The photos in this section were taken by Deb Bloomquist, Gigi Stahl and David Thiessen on Nov. 17, 2016. We were fortunate to have had another guided tour of the area, this time with new Forest Manager, Peter Leuzinger, and Assistant Forest Manager, Jeremiah Steuterman, whom many of you may know was a seasonal forest aide at Boggs back in 2013-2014.

Many of us are disappointed that an opening date or window is difficult for CAL FIRE to ascertain. However, the scale of clearing operations, fire and logging hazards, repair and rebuilding of recreational amenities are so extensive that an accurate forecast for re-opening is impossible at this time.

As recently as Dec. 8th, CAL FIRE issued a [press release](http://www.record-bee.com/general-news/20161208/boggs-state-forest-remains-closed) [http://www.record-bee.com/general-news/20161208/boggs-state-forest-remains-closed], informing the public of ongoing burning, clearing and logging activities, and most importantly, “*respecting and honoring the State’s decision to close the Forest to public use*”. The closure enables CAL FIRE staff to focus on work plans that can expedite re-opening, rather than have them enforce the closure.

On the upside, there has been significant progress in clearing operations which we are happy to share with readers in this issue. For a more detailed account on the changes happening at Boggs, view the article on “[Boggs Peek](#)” written by FOBM member Davis Palmer in our last issue.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) for updates or questions!



The silhouette of a raven against a forest determined to rebound.
Photo: D. Bloomquist

Large sections of **trails** are beyond repair. Under Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest (BMDSF) oversight, we hope to work with expert trail builders and stakeholders to develop a Trails Master Plan for a network that can improve on the previous system. We hope to kick start brainstorming sessions in 2017.



Trunks 6" or less in diameter are left behind in "top piles" by timber harvesters.

Photo: D. Bloomquist

Salvage logging activities are slowing down due to recent and much-needed rains. As of the end of October, there was only one timber operator active in the forest. Logging may continue into the spring, and hazard tree removal will be ongoing. So far, BMDSF has netted \$1.5M on timber sales which will be used for continuing recovery and other forest operations at Boggs.



Typical condition of forest grounds as of November 2016.
Photo: G. Stahl

In some areas where infestation was severe, trees attacked by the western pine beetle have reduced the value of timber to zero.



Assistant Forest Manager, Jeremiah Steuterman, stands in front of one of several massive burn piles. He explained CAL FIRE's challenge in disposing unmerchantable timber. For now, only individuals with commercial timber licenses are allowed to take fallen wood.

Photo: G. Stahl

Some timber, such as sugar pine, have found a local market (you may have seen Boggs lumber sold at Middletown Hardesters). In addition, a non-profit, "[Trees as a Community Resource](http://www.thetreesproject.org/)" (<http://www.thetreesproject.org/>), is working with CAL FIRE to help provide building material grants to Valley Fire survivors. At the moment, collecting downed wood and/or milling is not allowed in the forest.



Panorama of burn area taken from Road 100.

Photo: G. Stahl

Only about 1-1.5 MMBF of trees have survived the fire (MMBF = million board feet; According to the Idaho Forest Products Commission, 1 MMBF could provide framing lumber for about sixty-two 2,400 sqft homes). This estimate of standing trees is distressing, and many will continue to be attacked by bark beetles as we move into warmer weather this spring.



View from Road 300, crews are hard at work burning slash piles Photo: D. Thiessen



The sheer amount of slash from clearing and logging operations necessitate burning which will continue through the winter.

Photo: D. Thiessen

While ponderosa pine and doug fir are the primary trees for replanting, hardwoods like black and live oak, madrone, and dogwood will self-seed. Many have already emerged from surviving roots. BMDSF will target a hardwood population of about eight 18"-diameter trees per acre (in forestry terms, ~15sqft of basal area/acre).



There are several research plots of about 8-9 acre blocks in the forest. Forest management hopes to use some of these areas as demonstration exhibits for the public - for instance, a comparison of areas that have been actively managed vs. those that have been left untouched since the fire.

Post-fire Boggs will have new vistas such as this section on Road 400 which looks east over Hidden Valley Lake.
Photo: D. Bloomquist



The western edge of Horse Camp was severely hit, but a few large pines still remain.
Photo: D. Thiessen



Area near "Crawler Camp", Road 100. Photo: D. Bloomquist



Old, rusted culverts have been replaced to manage flooding and runoff during the winter.
Photo: G. Stahl



Quarried rocks are used as riprap to trap sediment at the entry of a new culvert.
Photo: G. Stahl



A healthy coffeeberry shrub flanked by bracken fern emerges in a field of slash.
Photo: G. Stahl



Bracken fern and live oak dot a landscape of slash and denuded trees.
Photo: G. Stahl

Herbicidal treatment is needed to suppress regrowth of shrubs such as scrub/live oak and manzanita. Live oak, in particular, has shown aggressive succession growth in the forest, and they need to be held back to give pine seedlings a chance to thrive.



Photo: G. Stahl

Vastly-improved roads to accommodate the volume of trucks and heavy logging machinery have been one of few consolations from the Valley Fire. About \$1.2M has been spent on road upgrades – a benefit to visitors when the forest re-opens.

An unfamiliar landscape. The photo above shows the intersection of Roads 500, 530 and 400 that once was densely wooded. Road 400 continues on the left; Road 500 on the right, and the horse camp is further to the right (not shown).



Road 300

Photo: G. Stahl



A tree previously tagged yellow to be left standing, was subsequently marked in blue – sadly, it was attacked by the WPB, and will have to be removed. Photo: G. Stahl

The Western Pine Beetle produces a pheromone that attracts other beetles to the tree, resulting in a "mass attack" which often kills surrounding trees.

Other destructive pine beetles at Boggs include the Red Turpentine Beetle [<http://calfire.ca.gov/foreststeward/pdf/treenote9.pdf>] and Ips Beetle [<http://calfire.ca.gov/foreststeward/pdf/treenote28.pdf>]; however, these are not as widespread or deadly as the WPB at Boggs.



Photo: G. Stahl

Two years ago in our October 2014 newsletter, we featured an [article on the Western Pine Beetle \(WPB\)](#) written by Forest Aide Jeremiah Steuterman. At the time, the WPB was being monitored closely, and trees with evidence of WPB attacks were removed. But with the persistence of drought conditions (hopefully we're getting relief this winter) and trees weakened by the fire, the WPB is sweeping through the forest as in many parts of California.



Large pitch tube from a Red Turpentine Beetle (RTB). RTBs generally attack around the base of a pine, but do not usually kill trees. Photo: D. Bloomquist



Pitch tubes indicate areas where pine beetles bore into tree bark. The tree defends itself by releasing pitch; but in drought conditions, trees do not have the ability to release a continuous flow of pitch, thereby allowing the beetle to overcome the tree.

Scores of WPB pitch tubes on trees weakened by drought and fire.
Photo: G. Stahl

Tree [die-off from pine beetles](#) has been staggering: over 102 million trees have perished in the state of California since 2010. About a third of that figure was attributed to mortalities just in the past year!

See <http://www.record-bee.com/general-news/20161118/cal-fire-battled-tree-die-off>



Forest manager, Peter Leuzinger, shows the distinctive network of tunnels in the inner bark where the WPB females lay their eggs.
Photo: G. Stahl



Evidence of woodpeckers feeding on pine beetles that have killed this ponderosa pine. Alas, the woodpeckers arrived too late to save this tree.

Photo: G. Stahl

TREE PLANTING UPDATE

About 300,000 seedlings (largely Ponderosa pine) will be replanted in the early spring. A 40-foot semi-trailer truck will have to make two trips to deliver 70 pallets of seedlings.

Forest Management anticipates that the location of the first planting (~1,250 acres) will be on the northern ridge line areas (Roads 100, 300) which were the most devastated from the fire.

Mortality rates of new plantings is generally 10-20% for Ponderosa pine, and 35-40% for Doug fir. The second planting is anticipated in 2018 for 500,000 seedlings. A third planting may be indicated depending on mortality rate.

CAL FIRE will be using tree planting contractors to conduct the work. In our conversations with forest management, planting trees is hard labor involving repetitive digging and hauling heavy loads up and down steep slopes.

At this point in time, there still are no specific plans to utilize volunteers for replanting efforts, but small areas at Boggs that are easily accessible to the public might be set aside for this purpose. 🐼



Replanting by contractors is planned for spring 2017.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Trail work behind Cobb Elementary is **temporarily put on hold** due to burning activities. We will inform you of future trailwork opportunities behind the school by email and through local newspapers.

FOBM would like to acknowledge Mark Bredt for his expert advice and the cover design in this edition. This newsletter was edited by Gigi Stahl. We apologize for unintended misspellings, errors, exclusions. Please send corrections and comments to fobmtn@gmail.com.



COMMUNITY NEWS

By Cindy Leonard



The Cobb Area Council (“CAC”) was formed in the summer of 2016 as a Municipal Advisory Council to support and advise the Lake County Board of Supervisors (BOS) on the specific needs of Cobb Area residents.

Following the Valley Fire of 2015, it became apparent that the Cobb communities needed a **forum for public discussion**, with the capacity to bring urgent needs to the County government.

On June 9, 2016, the community voted unanimously to pass the resolution to create the CAC. A few weeks later, the BOS approved the resolution. Members are Eliot Hurwitz - Chair, Barbara Flynn - Vice Chair, Jessyca Lytle - Secretary, Gary Prather- Treasurer, Jessica Pyska - Communications Officer, Cindy Leonard - Alternate.

Current committees include reports on the Hoberg's abatement activities and disaster preparedness. Past meetings have included presentations on fire-safe rebuilding, information on programs including chipping and tree removal, as well as updates on Boggs Forest. Please visit the CAC Website, cobbareacouncil.org for more information.

All Cobb Area residents are welcome to attend and participate in the town-hall meetings. CAC meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of the month, 6pm, at the Little Red School House on Bottlerock Road, Cobb. For more info: <https://www.facebook.com/CobbAreaCouncil/>

The Lake County Resource Conservation District (LCRCD) and Cobb Mountain Elementary School are working together to create an **educational display** at the Cobb School Nature Trail portion of Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest. It is the product of research done by former Cobb Elementary student, Jack Shrive, with technical assistance from Bill Lincoln, LCRCD Board member, and input from Cobb Elementary staff and the Friends of Boggs Mountain.

The display will feature a map of the **Putah and Cache Creek watersheds** that drain Cobb Mountain with a narrative that briefly explains what a watershed is and how and why we should protect our watersheds.

The LCRCD is dedicated to locally-led, sustainable conservation and stewardship of natural resources and agriculture in Lake County. Current LCRCD projects include:

- Post Fire Reforestation
- Valley Fire Chipping Program
- Indian Valley Wetland Restoration and Water Conservation

The RCD also has several educational programs that include: Meisenbach Scholarship/Internship, Field Days in the Creek, Trout in the Classroom and Invasive Weed Tour. The Frank Meisenbach Scholarship provided a stipend for the work done by Jack Shrive in creating the watershed display.

Further information about LCRCD can be found at their website at www.lakercd.org.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

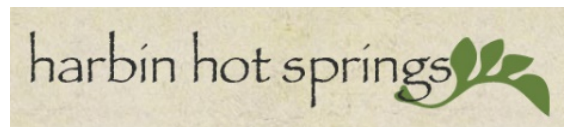
FOBM is grateful to acknowledge the following new and renewing members:
Bev and Larry Blevins, Michael Jordan, Joe Martin,
Joanne Noce (lifetime), Carolyn Spears and William Jackson, John and Susan Wilms



Follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FOBMCA/) for updates!
<https://www.facebook.com/FOBMCA/>

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Please support fellow members when possible. Thank You!





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

[Click here to join !](#)

Name _____ Email _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

My interests at Boggs

☐ hiking/jogging ☐ dog walking ☐ birding ☐ hunting ☐ target shooting ☐ horseback riding
☐ mountain biking ☐ camping other _____

How often do you visit Boggs? _____ How long do you usually stay? _____

Suggestions / ideas _____

I'd like to volunteer in

☐ trail maintenance ☐ interpretive activities ☐ organizing events other: _____

Please write your check to "Friends of Boggs Mountain"

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

☐ \$20 Individual ☐ \$35 Family/Supporting ☐ \$100 Patron ☐ \$500 Lifetime

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

Business members receive a free ad on the Friends of Boggs Mountain website, newsletter, and main kiosk. Over 10,000 visitors come to Boggs each year, and at least three-quarters reside in Lake County and the Bay Area.

Business Name _____

Main Contact _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____

State _____ ZIP _____ Email _____

Membership levels with respective kiosk ad sign dimensions

☐ **\$35 Bronze** includes business card-sized ad 2"x3.5"

☐ **\$60 Silver** 4" x 6" ☐ **\$100 Gold** 5.5" x 8.5" ☐ **\$200 Platinum** 8.5" x 11"

☐ **\$1000 Lifetime business sponsor** includes permanent plaque mounted on wood

FOBM will laminate your ad and post it on the kiosk. Please allow at least 1/8" margin on all four sides. Ads can be vertical or horizontal. FOBM reserves the right to reject any advertisement.

The Friends of Boggs Mountain is a non-profit corporation formed to enhance the visitor's experience through recreational, interpretive and educational activities at Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest.

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