



## Friends of Boggs Mountain

P.O. Box 735 ~ Cobb, CA 95426

[www.boggsmountain.org](http://www.boggsmountain.org)

### NEWSLETTER

Volume 8, Issue 4

March, 2012

#### **SPRING SNOW ATTRACTS SOME UNWANTED VISITORS**

Our beautiful early spring weather took a turn just as winter ended, bringing us some much needed rain and even a decent amount of snow, up to 10" or more in places. As expected, with the snow came carloads of excited kids looking for the perfect place to sled. A few of the hardy hikers were also out making tracks through the fresh snow, marking the trails for those who follow. All seemed beautiful and idyllic in the forest... until along come a few fanatic 4-wheelers, looking for any areas that look challenging or inviting! So off they go, racing around on and off the forest roads, through the campsites, down hiking trails, spinning and sliding around as the mud flies and the small trees and shrubs are smashed into the ground. Some even bring their kids along to experience the thrill and to teach them, by example, how to have fun when it snows. After their vehicles are covered in mud and the snow is chocolate brown, they leave their mess behind and drive off looking as though they have just completed a marathon!

One can only hope that someday CalFire will start closing the gate beyond the parking area when the existing conditions make BMDSF so vulnerable, to avoid this type of senseless destruction to our beautiful forest. *This is the personal opinion of Boone Lodge and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of FOBM ☺*

#### **NEW FIRE RINGS FOR CALSO CAMPGROUND**

The Friends of Boggs has purchased 9 new iron fire-rings (with a handy grill attachment) for the campsites at Calso Campground. The current rock fire pits are in bad condition, they are hard to keep clean and some have even become a fire hazard. We are hopeful that the new fire rings will be installed and in use sometime in April, in time for the large events that CalFire has scheduled for this summer.

#### **KIOSK MAP REPLACEMENTS AND SIGN UPGRADES**

New trail map enlargements are being made for the kiosks that will hold up better under the varied weather conditions and we're also working on replacing/repairing trail sign posts throughout the forest. The fiberglass posts seem to be very attractive to shooters for target practice as they are driving around the forest, unfortunately. If you know of any trails where signs are needed or might be misleading, now is the time to please let us know.

#### **TRAIL MAINTENANCE 2<sup>nd</sup>. SATURDAYS**

Beginning in April, trail maintenance will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month at 9 a.m. This will make it easier for everyone to remember and we're hoping more volunteers will show up. For more information about trail maintenance, please check our website or call Boone at 928-5819.

Our gratitude to the most recent volunteers: David Thiessen, Boone Lodge, Peg Landini, Gigi Stahl, Joleen Krueger, Darlene Hecomovich, Karen Rhoads & Bill Sullivan.

## RESTROOM PROJECT REVIVED 👍

Funding for a large portion of the cost of building a restroom for the parking lot may be forthcoming. The Calpine Community Fund Committee had a meeting recently and the response to our re-application was favorable, however, they didn't have a quorum, so we won't know more until they have their next meeting. We will be funding about 16% of the cost of the project. We applied for funds last year but didn't qualify, so we're hopeful that our financial contribution to the project will convince the committee of our determination to have a restroom in the Boggs parking lot that will benefit the community and all visitors.

### MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION

To our renewing and new members, we thank you very much for your support.  
Richard Reynolds, Middletown; David Thiessen, Cobb; Mike Kasper, Cobb; Michelle Gonzalez, Kelseyville; Susanne & Lyle LaFever, Middletown; Dorothy Emerson, Napa;  
Kathy & Vinny McEvoy, San Francisco; Karen Rhoads, Cobb;  
Mountain High Coffee, Cobb/Hidden Valley; Bikemonkey, LLC; Santa Rosa;  
Reynolds Systems, Middletown.



### A Little Bird with a Big Voice

by Darlene Hecomovich

Illustration by John James Audubon

The Pacific Wren is considered rare in Lake County, so we are fortunate to have this diminutive bird as one of the denizens of Boggs Mountain State Forest. Formerly, known as the Winter Wren, it recently experienced a name change to Pacific Wren when the former species was split into the new name of Pacific Wren for the western wrens and the eastern birds retaining the name of Winter Wren.

It is one of the smallest birds of North America only 3 to 4 ½ inches in length and weighs only 3 to 4 ounces. It's a small round brown bird with a short stubby tail and a short and thin bill, and it creeps mouse like among the leaf litter and brush tangle on the forest floor often skipping along and hopping from twig to log to bramble in the undergrowth.

His cryptic barred and spotted feather pattern makes him difficult to find, and he is more often heard than seen. He has a glorious bubbling song that per unit weight he delivers with 10 times more power than a crowing rooster, and Teddy Roosevelt wrote about hearing it *pour forth its gushing, ringing song, so wonderfully loud for so small a creature*. His song is described by many to be one of the most thrilling sounds in the world of birding.

He likes his preferred habitat of brush and bramble to be along streams which is why in Boggs Mountain State Forest, he can be found or more likely heard on the Interpretive Trail either in the boggy area of the Unseen Animals sign or at the Creek crossing. Listen for his double click "chip" note, and now that it is Spring you may well be treated to his full glorious song. Do this soon as the Pacific Wrens will be heading further north and into Canada to nest. We are not too far from the southerly point of its normal breeding range, so I am hoping one year to discover a nesting pair right here in Boggs Forest.

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# **TAKE A HIKE !**

*with Friends of Boggs Mountain*

**Sunday, April 8 at 9 a.m.** – 6+ mile moderate-paced hike with Boone on various Boggs trails. Bring water, a snack and wear sturdy shoes. We meet in Boggs parking lot. Neutered/spayed dogs on leash welcome. Questions? [fobm@mediacombb.net](mailto:fobm@mediacombb.net) or 928-5819.

**Saturday, April 14 at 9 a.m.** – 2.9 mile casual-paced hike with Darlene on various Boggs trails. Bring water, a snack and wear sturdy shoes. We meet in the Boggs parking lot. Questions? [heco@mchsi.com](mailto:heco@mchsi.com) – 928-5591.

**Saturday, April 21 at 7 a.m.** – 7-8 mile fast-paced hike with Carol on various **Highland Springs** trails. Bring water, a snack, wear sturdy shoes. Prior long distance hiking experience necessary. Neutered/spayed dogs on leash welcome. **Reservations are required:** [c.magill@mchsi.com](mailto:c.magill@mchsi.com) – 928-5423.

**Sunday, April 29 at 9 a.m.** – 4-5 mile moderate-paced educational hike with special guest, Botanist Ed Dearing. Learn about the variety of wildflowers in bloom and more from our local expert. Bring water, a snack and wear sturdy shoes. We meet in Boggs parking lot. Questions? [fobm@mediacombb.net](mailto:fobm@mediacombb.net) or 928-5819.

**Sunday, May 6 at 7 a.m.** – 8-10 mile fast-paced hike with Carol on the **Oat Hill Mine Trail**. Bring water, a snack and wear sturdy shoes. Prior long distance hiking experience necessary. Neutered/spayed dogs on leash welcome. **Reservations are required:** [c.magill@mchsi.com](mailto:c.magill@mchsi.com) – 928-5423.

**Saturday, May 19 at 7 a.m.** – 7-8 mile fast paced hike with Carol on various Boggs trails. Bring water, a snack and wear sturdy shoes. Prior long distance hiking experience necessary. Neutered/spayed dogs on leash welcome. We meet in the Boggs parking lot. **Reservations are required:** [c.magill@mchsi.com](mailto:c.magill@mchsi.com) – 928-5423.

**Saturday, May 26 at 9 a.m.** – 5-6 mile moderate-paced hike with Boone on various Boggs trails. Bring water, a snack and wear sturdy shoes. We meet in Boggs parking lot. Neutered/spayed dogs on leash welcome. Questions? [fobm@mediacombb.net](mailto:fobm@mediacombb.net) or 928-5819.

**Wednesday, May 30 at 9 a.m.** – 1.75 mile casual-paced hike with Darlene on various Boggs trails. Bring water, a snack and wear sturdy shoes. We meet in the Boggs parking lot. Questions? [heco@mchsi.com](mailto:heco@mchsi.com) – 928-5591.

**Saturday, June 9 at 7 a.m.** – 7-8 mile fast paced hike with Carol on various Boggs trails. Bring water, a snack and wear sturdy shoes. Prior long distance hiking experience necessary. Neutered/spayed dogs on leash welcome.. We meet in the Boggs parking lot. **Reservations are required:** [c.magill@mchsi.com](mailto:c.magill@mchsi.com) – 928-5423.

**Sunday, June 17 at 9 a.m.** – 6-7 mile moderate-paced hike with Boone on various Boggs trails. Bring water, a snack and wear sturdy shoes. We meet in Boggs parking lot. Neutered and spayed dogs on leash welcome. Questions? [fobm@mediacombb.net](mailto:fobm@mediacombb.net) or 928-5819.

**Sunday, June 24 at 9 a.m.** – 2.9 mile casual-paced hike with Darlene on various Boggs trails. Bring water, a snack and wear sturdy shoes. We meet in the Boggs parking lot. Questions? [heco@mchsi.com](mailto:heco@mchsi.com) – 928-5591. We meet in Boggs parking lot.

*This newsletter has been compiled and edited by H. Boone Lodge*