FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

Californians became acutely aware of their State Parks in 2012 when a list of park closures was published in response to funding shortfalls. Your Sierra State Parks Foundation began working to save our local Lake Tahoe-Donner State Parks and reshape the way partners, like ourselves, work with the State to operate and manage our park units. In a world of economic indicators, there is no agreed upon method to measure the specific value of a park experience. Our parks serve as an outdoor museum of natural and human history, a laboratory, a field classroom, and are also wonderful places to recreate. But the greatest benefit of our parks is the inspiration, beyond measure, that we experience when we visit them.

Recently, SSPF participated in Park Advocacy Day in Sacramento. We met with several legislators and lobbied for the importance of parks to our membership and how to best provide a future State Park system with stable funding. Much of our focus was on specific park bills designed to put a dent in the $3.1 billion deferred maintenance backlog within State Parks. Missing, was a real discussion of sustainable funding for our parks. We all protested when the gates of parks were scheduled to close. Our generous donors have stepped up to the plate providing Sierra State Parks with funds to continue school tours, natural and cultural restoration projects, interpretive projects and more. Without you, these programs would not exist.

Parks can become a model of health in our society. You cannot have a healthy park system if society is sick. In fact, embedded in the mission of State Parks is, “to provide for the health...of Californians.” Parks are the canary birds of our society. Your Sierra State Parks Foundation is dedicated to creating a healthy park system in the Lake Tahoe-Donner area.

As we enter the magnificent summer season, please join me in experiencing our parks. Hike a trail, kayak the shoreline, explore a visitor center, or attend one of the many interpretive programs we sponsor. You can also help by making a donation. Most important, take the time to be inspired by our parks and discover the many wonders they contain!

Yours in parks,
Heidi Doyle, Executive Director

SUPPORT YOUR SIERRA STATE PARKS & GET INVOLVED TODAY!
Volunteer, donate, or visit the Sierra State Parks.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT OF THE SIERRA STATE PARKS

Find us on Facebook
Heidi Doyle, Executive Director

...educate, interpret, restore & preserve
SierraStateParks.org
Phone: 530/583-9911

The Sierra State Parks Foundation, believes that Lake Tahoe and Truckee area California State Parks are unique treasures worthy of our support today and for generations to come. We provide critical program, volunteer and financial support to our valued cultural and natural resources. Because of our work, our parks will continue to be places of education and inspiration for generations to come.

Join us in supporting our Lake Tahoe & Truckee area California State Parks.

Become a Member Today!
at www.sierrastateparks.org
Welcome, Dave!
Can you tell us a little bit about your work with Native Sons of the Golden West and what they do?
The Native Sons of the Golden West is a fraternal historical society, which was established in 1870. Its primary goal is to promote an understanding of California history and to protect and preserve sites associated with that history. The Native Sons are responsible for maintaining a significant number of California State Parks, three of which are Donner Memorial State Park, Discovery State Historic Park, and San Clemente State Historic Park. I am the current Chairman of the Historical Preservation Foundation of the Native Sons of the Golden West.

The Pioneer Monument is a symbol of the strength and determination of the California pioneers who trekked the Sierra Nevada mountains on their westward journey in search of a better life, a land where the wealth and beauty was under one sky. The Pioneer Monument was erected on June 6, 1918, to honor the pioneers who crossed the Sierra Nevada mountains and reached California. It is an incredible story that park visitors should understand and appreciate.

Who maintains the Pioneer Monument and what are its present preservation and restoration issues?
California State Parks is responsible for the maintenance of the Monument. After almost 100 years sitting in a very severe site, the monument, the base of the monument and the statue itself are in urgent need of repair. Can you give us an idea of what a major restoration project of the monument would involve and how much it would cost?
When the final assessment report is completed toward the end of the year, the costs and extent of the work will be known. We would like to thank the Sierra State Parks Foundation for their generous contribution of $33,000.00 to the California State Parks to initiate the assessment report process for the Pioneer Monument. SSPF has been an invaluable partner that supports our efforts to preserve this magnificent monument at Donner Memorial State Park.

In what ways do you feel the Pioneer Monument can best be appreciated and enjoyed by park visitors?
I always have thought that if you just sat by the monument, cleared your mind and tried to transform yourself back 170 years, long before the conveniences you have today were invented, you would begin to comprehend even in a very small way the struggle, strife and difficulties the early pioneers faced on their westward journey over the Sierras to reach California. It is an incredible story that park visitors should understand and appreciate.

Your support of our State Parks is vital!
www.SierraStateParks.org

A NEW COMMUNITY PARTNER
The Sierra State Parks Foundation is pleased to present our new community partner, Big Blue Adventure, a vital organization that produces exciting competitive athletic events in our area. Currently, Big Blue Adventure is organizing the Lake Tahoe Triathlon and the Emerald Bay Rubicon Trail Run where a significant portion of these events occur in the California Sierra State Parks of the Tahoe-Truckee region. Big Blue Adventure has created a donation structure for these two events whereby each registrant can either opt in or out to donate $1.00 of their registration fee to the Sierra State Parks Foundation.

The support of Big Blue Adventure will help the Sierra State Parks Foundation to provide critical program, volunteer and financial support to the Tahoe-Truckee California State Parks. Because of our work, our parks will continue to be places of education and inspiration for generations to come. SSPF looks forward to a great summer working together with “Big Blue” for our noble cause.

WE HAVE (A) 20/20 VISION!
After months of planning, SSPF is pleased to daylight our new Strategic Plan: “20/20 Vision for Partnering the Lake Tahoe-Donner California State Parks.” Carefully crafted by our dedicated and skilled Board of Directors, with input from many members of our community, this plan is a finely tuned blueprint that defines SSPF’s goals as well as the objectives to achieve them through the year 2020. Its purpose is to provide direction and guidelines that will further our success in supporting and preserving our magnificent and irreplaceable Sierra State Park treasures.

The seeds for the creation of the Sierra State Parks Foundation began in 1968 when a group of citizens formed a committee in response to plans by the Department of Parks and Beaches to replace the Helmian-Ehram Mansion with a lakeside campground. Through advocacy and collaboration with the State of California, the committee was able to protect one of the most spectacular historic homes on the shores of Lake Tahoe.

As we look towards the future, our commitment to our vision and values is the foundation from which we developed the following strategic goals:

- **Partner with State Parks to complete projects**
- **Develop advocacy platforms supporting State Parks**
- **Strengthen organizational structure**
- **Strengthen financial sustainability**
- **Develop and implement a Marketing Plan**
- **Establish a Fundraising Program**

SSPF is passionate about preserving the legacy of our State Parks for many generations to come. We are hard at work implementing these strategic goals to ensure and protect a future of health and vitality for the Lake Tahoe-Donner California State Parks we love. Let us know what you think and ask how you can help us achieve our goals.

The Pioneer Monument at Donner Memorial State Park

The Pioneer Monument and the 11 acres surrounding the monument were given to the State of California by the Native Sons of the Golden West in 1928.

What does the Pioneer Monument mean to you and why do you feel it is important for visitors to understand its significance?
It represents the beginning of the modern era in California.
After two years of planning, fundraising and implementation, the Historic Landscape Reports of Vikingsholm and the Hellman-Ehrman (Pine Lodge) estates have been completed! While they may not sound exciting, these reports will serve our historic properties for the next 100 years. The reports provide analysis and recommendations to reconstruct the garden areas around these historic buildings so they will resemble their original design and plantings as much as possible.

This extensive research project originated through a partnership between the Sierra State Parks Foundation (SSPF) and the California State Parks, with $37,000.00 provided by the SSPF for the cost of the reports. Bill Lindemann, Sierra District Interpretive Specialist, was the project manager working with Janet Gracyk, Landscape Architect of Terra Cognita Design and Consulting, who conducted the landscape study of these historic gardens. Research assistance was also provided by Dr. Helen Henry Smith, longtime advocate of Vikingsholm and Heidi Doyle of the Sierra State Parks Foundation.

The purpose of the reports is to document the past and present garden landscapes at Vikingsholm and Pine Lodge. SSPF’s funding of the Historic Landscape Reports is a significant accomplishment towards realizing this goal as well as a testimony to our dedicated and continuing support of the California State Parks of the Tahoe-Donner region. We thank all the individuals who contributed their valuable time and resources to this important project.

Restoration of the gardens has already begun! This summer we will be focusing on the rehabilitation of the lawns and front porch flower garden of Pine Lodge. Work will also be continuing with the restoration of the sod roof at Vikingsholm by planting wildflowers in the sod. Be sure to visit the parks and see for yourself! The cost of the restoration work will be significant and is not part of the current SSPF budget. At this time, we are seeking donations to support this phase of the garden project. We invite you to visit our website at www.sierastateparks.org to make your contribution today.

At Vikingsholm, the report focus involves the area surrounding the house, including the lakeside meadows and planting beds in the courtyard. At Pine Lodge, the areas addressed are the borders around the main house, the “fish pond” planter by the gazebo, the rock edged garden in the lower lawn by the shore of Lake Tahoe, the Children’s House, Tennis Court, Kitchen Garden, and the Tank House next to the Visitor Center.

The Sierra State Parks Foundation’s goal is to preserve and maintain the historical features and characteristics of the garden landscapes at Vikingsholm and Pine Lodge. SSPF’s funding of the Historic Landscape Reports is a significant accomplishment towards realizing this goal as well as a testimony to our dedicated and continuing support of the California State Parks of the Tahoe-Donner region. We thank all the individuals who contributed their valuable time and resources to this important project.

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WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME KATE SHAW TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADVISORY GROUP

The Sierra State Parks Foundation shines its spotlight on Gael Craft, volunteer extraordinaire! We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Gael for her over 10 years of outstanding volunteer service to the Sierra State Parks Foundation and the California Sierra State Parks.

Gael grew up and went to school in San Mateo California. She met Warren (Bud) Craft when she was a high school senior and married him in 1953. Eventually, the young couple moved to Tacoma, Washington, where they raised eight children. The Crafts fell in love with the Tahoe area when they first vacationed here with their family in 1963. They have spent every summer at Tahoe since that time. In 1978 they realized their dream and built a cabin of their own at the lake. Gael was active in many organizations in her own community while raising her children. After she and her husband retired, she continued that tradition and brought her skill and experience to the California Sierra State Parks. Gael and Bud began as Ambassadors by greeting visitors at the Sugar Pine Point State Park Kiosk. From there Gael went on to volunteer for SSPF’s Living History Day, chairing the raffle, silent auction, and a variety of special events over the years. Last summer, she became a docent, leading tours of the Hellman-Ehrman (Pine Lodge) Mansion which Gael says has been a wonderful experience. Gael has enjoyed meeting interesting people and appreciates the important work SSPF does to keep our parks open for all to enjoy. In her “spare” time, Gael now assists with the review and editing of many SSPF publications and announcements. We are indebted to Gael for her generous volunteer effort that has made such a positive difference for so many park visitors.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

SSPF is gearing up for a very busy summer! We are looking for volunteers to help us make it the best season ever. If you are interested in helping out at any of our exciting special events (including Living History Day), explaining the fascinating history of the Sierra State Parks as a docent or helping out at one of our visitor centers, contact Vanessa Tracy at volunteer@sierastateparks.org. Enrich and enjoy your summer as a volunteer. Contact Vanessa today! The heart of a volunteer is the strongest heart of all!
SSPF UNVEILS A NEW MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

This season, the Sierra State Parks Foundation Rollout program designed to encourage a larger and diversified membership. The new membership program will apply to current members at their time of renewal.

Please take this great opportunity to encourage your friends to become members of the Sierra State Parks Foundation.

The new membership levels and additional benefits provide options that better connect our members to the parks we serve. Our new membership program is summarized in the table below.

Please take this great opportunity to encourage your friends to become members of the Sierra State Parks Foundation now!

Take advantage of our membership pricing for many of the upcoming summer events listed in this issue.

Annual Membership Levels & Benefits

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Please accept my donation of $__________

Join Us! Working together we can continue to support these precious natural Sierra resources.

Learn about the unique characteristics of our Lake Tahoe black bear from a State Park Interpreter. Enjoy jazz, coffee, and “bear” dances. View bear artifacts at this interactive presentation. Fun for all ages, 4 person limit, $10 Adults, $5 Kids and under 12. Free.

June 23 – July 23

An Evening at the Children’s House, Sugar Pine Point State Park

Learn about the unique characteristics of our Lake Tahoe black bear from a State Park Interpreter. Enjoy jazz, coffee, and “bear” dances. View bear artifacts at this interactive presentation. Fun for all ages, 4 person limit, $10 Adults, $5 Kids and under 12. Free.

June 30 – July 30

A Bear Affair at the Children’s House, Sugar Pine Point State Park

An annual signature fundraising event to support Sierra State Parks Foundation. Enjoy an evening of tall tales, libations, and unique cuisine while cruising the fabulous Tahoe black bears from a State Park Interpreter. Enjoy jazz, coffee, and “bear” dances. View bear artifacts at this interactive presentation. Fun for all ages, 4 person limit, $10 Adults, $5 Kids and under 12. Free.

June 30 – July 30

An Evening Soiree at Pine Lodge Raffle

Reservations required for most events. Space is limited. SSPF members get discounts. For more information, tickets and applicable tour times call 530-583-9911, or visit www.SierraStateParks.org

Tickets on sale now at www.sierrastateparks.org