FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

As much as things change around us, our seven amazing California State Parks at Lake Tahoe and Donner are a constant, along with the knowledge that Sierra State Parks Foundation supports them. Thanks to our donors, volunteers, and members, SSPF has achieved significant milestones for our parks: an SSPF sponsored State Park Interpreter at Lake Tahoe provides year-round educational programming, the State Park volunteer program at Donner Memorial thrives and grows, numerous restoration projects are complete while many others are underway (see page 5), and almost 30,000 visitors learned about local history on tours operated by SSPF at Vikingsholm and the Hellman-Ehrman Estate. Ensuring this momentum continues means taking the next step.

The biggest concern for stewards of our parklands is not necessarily the challenge of inadequate budget and maintenance backlogs. Our parks have a diversity problem of age and color. We need diversity amongst park users to ensure adequate future funding, volunteers, and advocacy. Only by making these special places relevant and vital to the next generations, as well as persons of color, will they learn to care for and support parks. Attracting advocates and users of our parklands is required for a solid future of our State Park gems. Jonathan Jarvis, director of the National Park Service noted, “At a time when nearly one in four Americans is under the age of 18 and half the babies born are racial or ethnic minorities, most park visitors are older and white.”

SSPF’s board members have been pondering this dilemma and considering ways to make our parks more welcoming. To that end, we are embracing two solutions to remove barriers to visiting and enjoying the parks. The first is the development of a Lake Tahoe-Donner State Park “app.” Taking advantage of recent State Parks infrastructure improvements to provide public internet service at the Sierra State Parks, SSPF is raising funds for the development of a mobile application which will guide visitors to trails, park programming, tree identification, and much more. This free app will be developed on both Android and Apple platforms. Studies show today’s Millennials are more separated from the natural environment than any other generation before them. We want to take full advantage of the interests of the “selfie generation” to better engage them as park users. The use indicators of this platform at other parks around the country demonstrate that apps are a popular idea, embraced by young people.

The second solution is our plan to sponsor disadvantaged families to visit our parks. A modest $25 donation will sponsor two families to enjoy a day in the state parks we support. Working with the local schools and other resources, we will issue parking vouchers and welcome packets for use this coming summer…hopefully removing a barrier to park attendance and engaging a new generation of park supporters. We want the face of our park users to reflect the diverse face of California. Won’t you help us by donating a sponsorship?

Let’s be forward thinking and clear the way for positive change. Together, we can.

Yours in parks,
Heidi Doyle, Executive Director
INTRODUCING MARK ERNST
PARK MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR
LAKE TAHOE SECTOR, CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Hello, my name is Mark Ernst. I am the Park Maintenance Supervisor for Sugar Pine Point, D.L. Bliss, and Emerald Bay State Parks. I’m 37 years old and originally from eastern Pennsylvania. I moved to Lake Tahoe in 2001 and started my State Park career in 2002. I spent my first three seasons building and maintaining trails throughout the Sierra District. I spent the next nine seasons working with the District’s Forest Management Crew, first as a Squad Boss and then as the Crew Leader. My crew and I worked hard to protect the parks’ cultural and natural resources through the process of hand thinning and prescribed fire. I began to understand how important and unique the state parks are and the enormous challenges they face. Consequently, I decided to spend my career with California State Parks. In 2013, I promoted to Park Maintenance Supervisor and embraced the task of maintaining three parks with nearly 600 campsites, 30+ restroom facilities, three day use areas, two historic complexes, and dozens of buildings.

This year, with financial support from Sierra State Parks Foundation, we have tackled many long-due and much needed projects. We began the process of restoring the irrigation system at Sugar Pine Point, aerating, thatching, fertilizing, and re-seeding the expansive lawn in front of the historic mansion. We began triannual treatments for carpenter ants at all of our historic buildings. We developed historic landscape reports for the grounds at Vikingsholm and Pine Lodge (the Ehrman Mansion) for the purpose of restoring these areas to a more historically accurate condition. We hired an engineer to study the cause of cracks in Vikingsholm’s exterior walls, in order to repair them correctly. We started restoration of the storm-damaged South Boat House at Sugar Pine Point, home of the vessel Mercury. The compromised foundation was removed and replaced, and a new set of marine rails will soon replace the bent ones.

These projects would not have been accomplished without funding from SSPF. Other projects have been funded as well; too many to list! I thank SSPF and its members for all the support, and look forward to working together to preserve these great parks for future generations.

2017 FULL MOON SNOWSHOE DATES

Few experiences are as magical as snowshoeing by the light of a full moon along the snow-covered Tahoe shore! State Park Interpreters will be leading Full Moon Snowshoe Tours exploring the natural and cultural history around the Hellman-Ehrman Estate in Sugar Pine Point State Park. For those new to snowshoeing, there will be a beginner’s clinic at 6:30pm. The Full Moon Hike starts promptly at 7pm.

The program lasts approximately 1½ hours and costs $30 per person for adults. Children 12 and under are $15. SSPF Members at the Park Supporter level and above receive a $5 per ticket discount!

The cost includes tour, park entrance fee and snowshoe rentals. This event is generously sponsored by West Shore Sports, and all proceeds from the tour benefit the Sierra State Parks Foundation’s educational programming.

2017 Dates: Saturdays January 14, February 11, March 11

Tickets are now available at www.SierraStateParks.org or by calling our office at (530)583-9911.
TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS JOIN SIERRA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION

The Sierra State Parks Foundation proudly welcomes Greg Palmer and Barb Hawn as new members of our Board of Directors.

Greg Palmer has lived in the Tahoe/Truckee area for 28 years. He started working as a volunteer history guide with the Donner Party Hike in 1992. He just completed the 24th annual hike last October. In addition to the Donner Party Hike, he has worked over the years as a Historian and Docent/Guide for Donner Memorial State Park, the Big Bend Visitors Center and Thunderbird Lodge. His interests and skills focus on local regional history. SSPF is excited about the wealth of knowledge Greg brings to our Board of Directors table.

Barb Hawn is honored to join the Sierra State Parks Foundation Board and to work with such committed and dedicated patrons of state parks. She says, “I look forward to sharing the mission of state parks and Foundation opportunities to the Northern Nevada community.” Barb was introduced to SSPF by attending an event at the Vikingsholm mansion. From that experience she became a member and volunteer for our Foundation. Her family has many treasured memories of times and celebrations spent at Sierra State Parks.

SSPF looks forward to a great new year working with our new board members.

Welcome aboard, Greg and Barb!

Hot Off The Press!

SSPF’S NEW WEBSITE UNVEILED!

Sierra State Parks Foundation’s new site features a streamlined information flow, responsive design, and a beautiful new online store. On the admin side, the new platform helps Foundation staff consolidate processes with new credit card processing systems and the ability to directly manage content. Information is fewer clicks away, and the site features more of what is important to SSPF and our local park visitors.

Margie Reynolds of Tahoe City was the project lead developer. “As an outdoor lover, I particularly enjoyed working on this project with the fantastic staff at Sierra State Parks Foundation. Learning more about the individual parks and the work the Foundation does was an added bonus,” Reynolds stated. “It’s an ongoing process; we will evaluate and make changes to keep improving the site.”

The store and other select photos were provided courtesy of Cindy Hoover. Programming support was provided by Pete Reynolds.

Please take a moment to visit our new website at SierraStateParks.org. The online store features many new items just in time for your holiday shopping!
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With appreciation and gratitude, the Sierra State Parks Foundation would like to acknowledge the many individuals and organizations that have contributed to our cause from May through November 2016. Your contributions have made a significant difference in enabling us to achieve our goals in support of California State Parks in the Tahoe-Donner region.

Steven Merrill
Jody Lindell
Richard & Louise Wiesner
Larry & Cheryl Boerner
Bill & Farida Briner
Ernie Grossman & Margaret Lewicki
Gordon & Janet Tsuchiya
Theodore Brown
Jordan & Kathleen Knighton
Brian & Kathy Kriegler
Garth Jolly
Cristene Sellers & Robert Buckholz
Rosalee Smith & Don Songey
Breeze & Ruth Cross
Gayle Blair
Patience Lewis
Sherina Kreul
Stephanie Oliveri
Karen & Carl Von Barger
Dave Allen
Emily Vitas
Larry & Cathy Bienati
Ed Matthews
Osvaldo Ancinas
Jerry & Kay Blackwill
Tom & Pam Hobday
Janet & Harry Chapman
Ken & Wanda Brent
Michael & Gail Flynn
Ray & Kathy Holstead
Donna Langenderfer
Ken & Emilie Corcoran
Stephen & Cheryl Caplan
Tim & Judy Tweedie
Earl & Susan Burton
Jackie Harrison
Robert McClintock
Nancy Shilliss
Barry McCoy
Bob & Paula Boldt
Bruce & Pattie Jenkins
Charles & Carol Fagen
Chris & Jan Lynds
David & Florence Stronck
Dennis & Noraee Arena
Dorothy Walsh
Gary & Donna Vliet
Larry & Teresa McNally
Les & Karin Wright
Martha Markham
Michael & Sharon Buss
Michael Keefe
Missy Sandeman
Nancy & Chilton Lee
Rhiannon Haush
Richard Solo
Stan & Denise Moore
Steve Trimmerber
Terry & Bill Krivan
Tom McGowan & Barbara Churchill
Susan & Lewis Grove
William & Barbara Richardson
Bonnie Turnbull
Bruce & Stefan Barton
Bruno Francia
Dean Prigmore & Patrice Taylor
Dick & Glo Read
Everett & Clara Kalin
Janice Kerr
Linda Cashion
Melinda Daugherty
Nancy & Owens Wallis
Pam & Gordy Stroud
Patricia Pelfrey
Barbara Riley
Tom & Heidi Doyle
Tom & Maureen Carroll
Traci Verardo Torres
Mark Appel
David & Cindy Nelson
Frances & Herb Pierce
Ross Millie
Andrea Edge
Anne Artoux
Connie Williams
Donna & Cornell Limerud
Elizabeth & Bob Brown
Elizabeth McDevitt
Gary & Janice Paolinelli
Gayle McCallum
Irna Glazer
Jeff & Pam Plant
John & Kathy Foster
John Metras & Kathy LeBerge
Joyce Grunauer
Ken & Judi Mordoff
Kenny & Christine Warde
Laura Rubin
Ludwig Spolyar
Marcie & Art Jacikas
Robert H. Dever III
Warren & Gael Craft
Bob & Barbara Johnson
Christine Knight
Betty Beck
Rob Weston & Sally Taylor
Barry Trute
Don & Suellen Rottiers
Eleanor Goldstein-Erickson
Kathleen Allwein
Lori Walmand
Margie Reynolds
Patricia Osborn
Richard & Stephanie Arri
Terry Davis
Victoria Von Roth & Roger Allen
Gloria Maffeo
Gary Davis Group
Vista Truckee Tahoe, LLC
Jamba Juice

IT’S EASY BEING GREEN!

SSPF is really excited that our Green membership program is growing! We salute all of our wonderful supporters who have become “green.” Our Green program allows people to purchase their memberships using an automated monthly payment plan. This system is convenient, efficient and affordable. An important bonus is that becoming a Green member contributes to SSPF’s support of our environment’s natural resources. Please visit our website at www.sierastateparks.org for more information on the Green Membership Plan and Go Green today!

Sierra State Parks Foundation 2016 Green Members

Mark Appel
Susan Boyette
Emilie & Ken Corcoran
Warren and Gael Craft
Heidi and Tom Doyle
Susan & Lewis Grove

Bob & Barbara Johnson
Christine Knight
Donna Langenderfer
Sue & Jack Marquis
Barry McCoy
Lynne Paulson

Frances & Herb Pierce
William & Barbara Richardson
Barbara Riley
Dan Rosovich
Nancy Shilliss

Rob Weston & Sally Taylor
Barry Trute
Gordon & Janet Tsuchiya

As we approach the Holiday season, please consider the Sierra State Parks Foundation as part of your annual giving plan. Your contributions will make a tremendous difference in supporting your favorite California Sierra State Parks at Lake Tahoe and Donner. We have a lot of work to do. Together, we can "move mountains"!
LOOK AT WHAT YOU HAVE HELPED US ACCOMPLISH IN 2016….  

- 26,774 people went on historic house tours provided by SSPF.  
- 2,513 school children were provided free historic house tours.  
- Over 100,000 visitors had a more enriched park experience visiting SSPF supported Visitor Centers.  
- Completed the design and fabrication of 14 interpretive panels to be placed along trails at DL Bliss, Emerald Bay and Sugar Pine Point State Parks.  
- Historic Landscape Reports for Vikingsholm and the Hellman-Ehrman Estate are complete.  
- 121 SSPF supported volunteers provided 2,220 volunteer hours in our parks in tasks ranging from leading star gazing programs to invasive weed removal to event assistance to maintaining our trails.  
- Provided funding to hire a permanent State Park Interpreter for our parks at Lake Tahoe.  
- SSPF funded Lake Tahoe seasonal interpretive positions provided 65 programs to 1472 visitors in 2016.  
- Provided funding for staffing and materials for the landscaping maintenance and improvements in the Historic Zone at Sugar Pine Point SP.  
- Provided funding for a seasonal maintenance restoration specialist at Vikingsholm to complete many critical deferred maintenance projects.  
- Commissioned for an updated assessment of the Pioneer Monument at Donner Memorial SP and have entered into a collaborative agreement with the Native Sons of the Golden West for the Donner Project to include the monument restoration, landscaping and the construction of an outdoor group pavilion.  
- Commissioned for an engineering assessment of the South Turret at Vikingsholm to determine the cause of cement cracking and building separation.  
- Commissioned for the replacement of historic curtains from the Chieftains Room at Vikingsholm.  
- Completed the repairs to the South Boathouse at Sugar Pine Point and working to complete the rail repairs and Mercury return in 2017.  
- Produced Living History Day at Sugar Pine Point SP with attendance of 1,200.  
- Completed the development and production of a Teacher’s Guide for Donner Memorial. We will be distributing 50 free manuals to local school this coming year.  
- Hosted a booth at the 2016 Lake Tahoe Summit with over 7,000 in attendance.  
- Directly provide grooming and volunteer support to maintain the Olympic Snow Trails at Sugar Pine Point SP.  
- Sponsored interpretive programming at Washoe Meadows SP.  
- Commissioned for the development of an Underwater Interpretive Trail in Emerald Bay to include 4 panels and dive card.  
- Supported the research of the underwater archeological features in Emerald Bay.  
- Paid for rodent and insect eradication for the historic buildings at Sugar Pine and Emerald Bay State Parks.  
- Installed fire and intrusion alarm systems at Pine Lodge (plus 3 other buildings) and Vikingsholm (plus the Visitor Center).  
- Working with State Parks for the development of the General Plan for Kings Beach SRA.  
- Launched a new dynamic web page and on-line store.  
- Greatly increased our social media presence on Facebook, Instagram and E-Newsletters.  
- Produced a free self-guided tour for the Historic Zone at Sugar Pine Point SP.  

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT  

The Sierra State Parks Foundation shines its light on Donna Langenderfer, whose outstanding volunteer efforts helped to make this past summer the best season ever! Donna is a high school statistics teacher from a suburb outside of Cleveland, Ohio, who first fell in love with Tahoe on a visit over 10 years ago. In between hectic school years in Ohio, she now comes to spend every summer in her cabin in Tahoma and hopes to retire there someday soon. One of her favorite parts of the west shore is Sugar Pine Point State Park and she often walks down to the pier there to enjoy the early morning quiet, and sometimes comes back in the evening to enjoy some time on the porch.  

Donna first got involved with the Sierra State Parks Foundation 3 summers ago when she saw a sign at Sugar Pine one morning asking for volunteers. She has helped out at numerous events at Sugar Pine, Vikingsholm, and the Donner Visitor Center Museum. For the last two summers she has chaired the Silent Auction and Raffle committee for Living History Day. She considers herself very fortunate to be able to spend time in the beautiful Tahoe area and really enjoys helping support the parks through SSPF. She is looking forward to volunteering for many years into the future!
SOUTHWEST BOATHOUSE PROJECT UPDATE

In cooperation with our California State Parks partners, Sierra State Parks Foundation is delighted to announce the stabilization repair of the South Boathouse at Sugar Pine Point State Park has been completed. During the winter of 2012, a heavy storm inflicted serious damage to the marine rail system and foundation of the historic boathouse. Constructed in 1903 as part of the Hellman-Ehrman Estate, the building housed the historic boat Mercury. Damage from the storm forced relocation of Mercury until repairs could be made. Due to SSPF’s generous donors and the Liar’s Cruise fundraising event, the initial engineering reports, permits, and construction of a new concrete foundation have been completed. The next phase will be replacement of the marine rails. SSPF is still seeking donations for this phase. You can help at www.sierrastateparks.org/donate.

“Lots of thanks to State Parks and the Sierra State Parks Foundation from Sierra Gold Construction and the entire crew,” says project manager Dave Eichenberg. “We appreciate the opportunity to work on these historic buildings and help preserve them for years to come.”

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS “REPAIR THE RAILS” DONORS

| Tahoe Yacht Club | Ginny Flores |
| Antique Classic Boat Society | Lynne Davis |
| John & Lindsay Harbison | Perla Parra |
| Jacque Mieke | Richard Klein |
| Gary Davis Group | Ed & Carol Scofield |
| Frances Dinkelspiel | Daniel Rossovich |
| Anne Villeneuve | Barbara Churchill |
| Melinda Daugherty | Mike Levin |
| Anonymous | Janette Royal |
| (San Francisco Foundation) | |
| Steven Merrill | |

Ginny Flores
Lynne Davis
Perla Parra
Richard Klein
Ed & Carol Scofield
Daniel Rossovich
Barbara Churchill
Mike Levin
Janette Royal

A frame bracing supports the front of the boathouse while the foundation replacement is in progress.

Dave Eichenberg removing a section of the damaged marine rails.

The Mercury returning to the South Boathouse 2010.
As the leaves turn and temperatures drop, memories of summer linger. Sierra State Parks Foundation and our incredible volunteers had the great pleasure of creating those memories for guests who attended our many summer events. Kayaking on Lake Tahoe at our Full Moon Kayak Tours at Sugar Pine Point State Park, listening to classical concerts during Music At the Castle at Vikingsholm, laughing and cheering aboard the Tahoe Gal during the Liar’s Cruise, and sporting pioneer attire at Donner Memorial State Park during A Night At The Museum were all part of SSPF’s superb event palette. Old friends and new, our volunteers gave us over 2,200 volunteer hours! SSPF is incredibly thankful for the commitment our volunteers displayed to make our summer events and programs top notch.

Now, we are looking ahead to winter and next summer. Guests can expect our long-time favorites like winter’s Full Moon Snow Shoe Hikes and summer’s Conversation with History in the courtyard at Vikingsholm to return for 2017 along with new events at both Donner Memorial State Park and Sugar Pine Point State Park. The funds raised are critical to enable us to achieve our mission of supporting restoration, education, and interpretation at the parks we love.

Connecting people with parks and offering a unique, intimate look at the history of Lake Tahoe and Donner California State Parks is what we strive for each year with our interpretive and fundraising events. We hope to see you in the Parks in 2017! Be sure to check our website at www.SierraStateParks.org for upcoming schedules.
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