

TAHOE HERITAGE FOUNDATION



...preserving a window to the past

Volume 12, No. 2

Fall 2009

Summer 2009 has come and gone, and a wonderful time was had by all

RECORD NUMBERS OF VISITORS ENJOYED TALLAC HISTORIC SITE AND TAYLOR CREEK VISITOR CENTER

Tahoe Heritage Foundation started summer to news of economic problems and regional concern about visitation. We ordered merchandise cautiously and prepared to scale back tours and activities. To our delight, our sites and programs were “just what the doctor ordered” for families struggling to find entertaining and educational vacations that were affordable. Visitation was at an all-time high as were merchandise sales and revenue-producing tours and classes.

Some exciting programs featuring Generation Green students were in place at the Taylor Creek Visitor Center; fire-safe talks entitled Smokey Bear Live were held on every Saturday, and on October 17th, a Streamside Interpretation in Español for Hispanic Heritage Month was the effort of over a dozen of the Generation Green students. Generation Green Team is a group of students who are hired by the Forest Service to assist with summer programs. Many Team members are also members of the Generation Green Club at South Lake Tahoe High School that provides volunteers for weekend activities throughout the year.

For the Smokey Bear Live talks, the Generation Green students set up a display of fire-fighting clothing and equipment and selected a child from the audience to be dressed as a firefighter. There were games where visitor skill at shooting water at fire were tested and Smokey made an appearance. For the Streamside Interpretation in Español, there were six interpretive locations along the Rainbow Trail ending at the bicycle bridge. Visitors learned how the Kokanee got there, where they spawn and die, about scavengers such as crawdads, coyotes, and raccoons that eat the dead fish and bears that eat the live fish, about how and why fish school and migrate at night, about the predatory ducks, the mergansers that dive and eat fish whole and the mallards that dig up the eggs, and ended with a lesson on clean and healthy water.

The Special Events during the summer were so successful that some had to be offered twice...and still were given to packed crowds. Wild Things brought to the stage a Bald Eagle, a rattlesnake, a bear, a vulture, and a beaver to the oohs and awhs of those watching. In Pollinators and the Pollinated Karen Wiese explored the relations between the flora and fauna that sustain each other and the beauty that results. In Search of Butterflies was led by entomologist, Jim Mori, who introduced the butterflies of Lake Tahoe. The perennial favorites, Bats: Winged Fliers of the Night and An Evening with Mark Twain, were each presented twice and packed with delighted listeners.

The 20th annual Kokanee Salmon Festival featured such favorites as the Salmon Feed, 5K, 10K and 1/2 marathon trail runs, the 1/2 mile Tadpole Trot, sale of the annual collective T-shirt, and creek-side interpretive programs. This year was the last appearance of Sammy the Salmon who will be replaced next year by Rocky and Sandy Salmon.

As this Newsletter goes to press, the Visitor Center staff is anxiously preparing for and awaiting the Winter Trek program which exposes 5th-grade students to winter on the mountains in the Sierra.



*Generation Green Team member,
Jose Gomez, with emerging fire fighter*

New Winter-Program Partnership has been formed...

In a very exciting advancement, the US Forest Service, Tahoe Heritage Foundation, and the Tallac Historic Site, in conjunction with the Lake Tahoe Historical Society are creating and implementing elementary classroom cultural history activities for the 3rd graders of South Lake Tahoe. For the first time students will have the ability to benefit from hands on cultural history education during the winter months. Previously both the Tallac Historic Site and the Lake Tahoe Historical Society have only been open infrequently during the school year; this limited field trip opportunities. This year however, students will be able to enjoy the Historical Society's Museum and learn from trained historical professionals. The impact to students will be substantial; potentially 12 public third grade classes will be involved, as well as up to 3 private third-grade classes.

Preliminary plans include doing in-class presentations on recreation in the Tahoe Basin. This program is entitled, "They Came to Play: 200 years of recreation in the Tahoe Basin." It will focus on photos and oral histories in order to bring local history to life for these students. After these in class presentations the students will visit the museum the following day to reinforce the topics talked about previously. This "double dose" of history will provide the best possible environment for making an educational impact.

Providing more "hands on" cultural history information to students has long been an objective of the Tallac Site. Now with the help from the Lake Tahoe Historical Society this goal will become a reality. For more information please contact Jackie Dumin at jdumin@fs.fed.us

The partnership is still trying to secure funds to help pay for bus travel for the students, office supplies, and salary for Tallac Site personal. Without additional funding the proposed project will have to be dramatically scaled back. Please consider helping the Tallac Site provide cultural heritage education to the community.

A Unique Opportunity to Own a 12-Poster Set of the Gatsby Festival!



If you have been admiring the beautiful Gatsby Festival posters, now is your chance to own a complete set of the past 12 years at a special price. Eleven Gatsby Festival posters in the series were created by South Lake Tahoe illustrator Darcie Park. Darcie is known for her research and historically correct renderings. If you look closely you might even recognize some of her subjects. Roy E. Dryer created the 2001 poster. Roy is known for commemorating the Tahoe City annual wooden boat concourse de elegance. The 2009 poster includes the "new" Model A Ford Roadster donated to Tahoe Heritage Foundation by Roy Classen.



To purchase posters individually would cost \$495 but while supplies last we are offering all twelve for \$295 plus sales tax and postage. They come rolled in a heavy duty mailing tube. Call Joyce Harris at 530-544-7383 to order.



Tallac Historic Site Has a New Roadster...BY JOHN SHILLING

Roy Classen of Zephyr Cove donated his 1931 Ford Model A Roadster this summer to the Tahoe Heritage Foundation. The roadster had its public debut the week before the Gatsby Festival and received lots of attention as it took its place of honor in front of the Baldwin Museum. The roadster is prominent in this year's Gatsby poster by Darcy Park, herself an antique car owner.

Roy, a retired Pan-American Airlines captain, when assigned to Berlin, had the car shipped to Germany after having a balanced crank shaft installed so he could drive at autobahn speeds. Roy has been very generous to THF, having loaned his collection of antique motorcycles and fire truck to the annual Gatsby Festival. This year he also donated a Cushman Highlander motor scooter.

The roadster had been stored for some years and needed maintenance. Bill Ramay, 3rd year RV volunteer, removed, cleaned and sealed the gas tank, a major undertaking as well as rewiring the ignition and lights. Bill has a 40 year history in the trucking industry and has been building hotrods and dragsters his entire adult life. THF insured and licensed the Roadster so it could be driven on the highway. The plan is to use it to promote the Tallac Historic Site.

The California Automobile Museum in Sacramento provided advice on how to accept the donation. Ken Woods of the Hangtown Model A Club explained how to remove the cowl-mounted gas tank.



1931 Model A Roadster with donor Roy Classen

The Arboretum...BY JACKIE DUMIN

As anyone who has had the opportunity to stroll through the Pope House grounds this summer has noticed a lot of work has been going on in the arboretum! Our dedicated local volunteer gardeners and our RV volunteer gardeners have been hard at work bringing the arboretum back to its historical roots. Thanks to some pictures donated to the Tallac Site by Pope family members we have been able to replicate the look and feel of the arboretum from decades past.

Efforts during the summer of 2009 have helped the restoration process along; however, we are still far short of our goal. New flowers and shrubs were planted along the edges of the pond and our drip-system was finalized. Our partner in this restoration process, Aspen Hollow Nursery has been an invaluable resource.

In order to finish planting the areas around the pond and along the fence to the paved path, another \$3,000 will be required. Additionally we wish to plant some trees that will both thrive in the arboretum and provide an historically accurate appearance. A Larch, a Western Hemlock, an Engelman Spruce and a Western Red Cedar are slated to be purchased; to do so an additional \$2,000 is needed. While these amounts may seem high, they are just the cost of the materials. The labor will all be provided by our volunteers and essentially triples the overall value of the project. Please consider helping the Tahoe Heritage Foundation complete the arboretum restoration project.

You may donate generally to the Arboretum restoration project, or may prefer to underwrite a specific tree or area. If you would like more information, please contact the Tahoe Heritage Foundation (530) 544-7383 or Jackie Dumin at jdumin@fs.fed.us.

Letter from the President

I am always sad to see the end of summer. Although fall in Lake Tahoe is beautiful, the thought of what I failed to do haunts me for another winter until spring renews my spirit and hope of accomplishing more.

On my wish list this year (and for many previous years) I wanted to tour the Pope House. I wanted to spend more time at the Tallac Site. I was asked if I wanted a tour of the Fredericks Cabin. I wanted to hike to Glen Alpine and beyond. There were of course other benchmarks that I failed to attain, these are but a few of my missed opportunities.

Do you also find yourself wishing and hoping that you could have done those things on your to do list? It seems to be a dilemma that afflicts us all.

The people that live and work in Lake Tahoe are among the luckiest few to see the beauties that nature has to offer each day. The visitors who come to Lake Tahoe to enjoy our area are also blessed in coming to one of the most beautiful sights in the world. Some of the people visit the Tallac Site, the Visitor's Center and the surrounding areas that the U.S. Forest Service allows us to use.

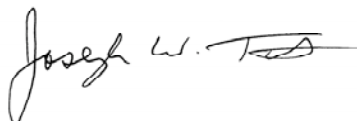
This year, the Tahoe Heritage Foundation was again very fortunate to work with the USFS in partnership to entice visitors and locals alike to visit the sites. With the employees of the USFS, the volunteers and my fellow board members working diligently to make your visits as enjoyable as humanly possible, my job, as president of THF, was easy.

With each meeting after the first of the year, we work in tandem toward the opening of the site in May (weather permitting), then on to the Great Gatsby Festival and Tea as well as the annual Kokanee Festival at the Taylor Creek Visitor's Center. With the spectacular assistance of all involved, these were carried out almost to perfection. Like everything in life, there is always room for improvement. The meetings that follow these events are meant to make next year more enjoyable for all who visit.

The economy also played a part in the traffic count at the sites and Visitor's Center. Since there is no charge (a donation will always be accepted) for admission to the sites, and the surroundings are so beautiful, the visitor is truly treated to a great deal.

As I compose this message, I am once again adding to my to do list for next summer, to tour the Pope House, to visit the Fredericks Cabin and to hike more. You must ask yourself, are any of these on my list of things to do? If so, join me and thousands of other people next year and let us enjoy the beauty and grandeur of the Tallac Site and the Taylor Creek Visitor's Center, as well as Lake Tahoe in general. I'll guarantee the people returning and those newcomers like myself, that the experience and the people you meet will be worth the price of admission.

Sincerely,



Joe Tillson, President
Tahoe Heritage Foundation

Look for us on our web site: www.tahoheritage.org which will be updated early next year.

Tahoe Heritage Foundation • P.O. Box 8586, South Lake Tahoe CA 96158 • voice 530.544.7383 • fax 530.544.7778
www.tahoheritage.org e-mail: thf@sbcglobal.net

