Honoring Donors and Volunteers....

In 2000, under the leadership of Bill Schatz, we created a set of donor logs on the Baldwin site, from a tree that had fallen on the site, to recognize our wonderful volunteers and donors. We are sad to say that these logs are out-of-date. Many name tags have broken and fallen off, and as we commit to replace and update them, we recognize that our donation lists are not accurate. How could we have let this happen? Well, in 2007 there was a major fire and many of our records were destroyed. Each year we collect new data, but are not sure of the starting point; so we just put it off. We are committed to have the logs back accurately honoring our wonderful volunteers and donors by the beginning of the 2013 season. For this we need your help. Included in this newsletter is a “best guess” list. But, before we make new name tags and position them on the logs, we ask that you look over the list and let us know if you are either missing or not properly recognized.

Volunteers and donations are the life-blood of the Tahoe Heritage Foundation. Our volunteers put in approximately 12,000 hours a year restoring and maintaining the gardens and buildings at the Tallac Historic Site, leading interpretive programs such as Pope House Tours and Kitchen Kids, helping with visitor activities like the Kokanee Festival, putting on fund raisers like the Gatsby Tea, providing interpretive materials such as the re-published Baldwin book, the soon to be completed “Wildflowers of Taylor Creek” and signage at Fallen Leaf Lake and Glen Alpine Springs, restoring Tahoe landmarks such as the Fire Lookout on Angora Ridge and the Rubicon Point Lighthouse at D. L. Bliss State Park, and helping with education programs like Winter Treks where local third grade classes go out on snowshoes to learn about wildlife in the snow. We raise funds through sale of interpretive materials at the Taylor Creek Visitor Center, the Supervisors Office and the Baldwin Museum. We solicit donations for specific projects and to support the USFS staff and activities at the Taylor Creek Visitor Center and at the Tallac Historic Site. Without our volunteers and donations the Tallac Historic Site and Taylor Creek Visitor Center could not operate and other restoration, interpretation and education programs and projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin would cease to exist.

We ask you help, not only in assuring the accuracy of our donor logs, but also in continuing or increasing your support. In this time of declining government budgets for our precious Lake Tahoe projects, the role of Tahoe Heritage Foundation is more important than ever.
Many Changes...

Staffing Changes at THF and in the Forest Service...And Sad Losses

This has been a year of change for THF. Last year we hired a CPA consultant, Jaymi Hardy, to help us bring our office and accounting systems into the 21st century, and said goodbye to Office Manager, Joyce Harris, who had served us so faithfully under the old system. With an appropriate new system in place we moved to tailor our staffing to match the tasks at hand. In March we hired Jenny Leonard to become our bookkeeper and in June added Christian Simental to assist the Board and oversee day-to-day office activities. We also added Carolyn Grubb to the Board as Corresponding Secretary to take over the thank yous and advise on interaction with the Tahoe Tallac Association where she is Executive Director. All was going very well until September when Jenny was sadly killed in a motorcycle accident. Christian is picking up some of Jenny’s duties and Shawn Cullen has been hired to assist with others. Please take a moment to introduce yourself when you call the office as they are learning about you as you learn about them.

At the same time the United States Forest Service is making many changes in its staff that work directly with the THF. Joy Barney writes, “I’d like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and let you know about some changes that are taking place at the Forest Service main office, the Tallac Historic Site, and the Taylor Creek Visitor Center. ...I have been the Conservation Education Program Director at the Lake Tahoe Basin for the past five years. I have a strong background in Interpretive Services from the Stanislaus National Forest.... The Tallac Historic Site and the Taylor Creek Visitor Center are unique showcase sites for the Forest Service and it is my passion to continue to serve the public and educate children in ways that connect them to their public lands. ...I will be taking on leadership of the Interpretive Services Department. It is a big challenge, but I have an amazing staff to work with and I am confident that we are looking forward to another successful summer in 2013...Jackie Dumin and Lindsay Gusses will see their roles expand...and Tami Africa will reprise her role as an assistant at Tallac during 2013.” Joy and the entire THF group thank Jean Norman for her nine years of service to the Taylor Creek Visitor Center as she moves on to her permanent position at the Front Desk of the Forest Service Office.

Tahoe Heritage Foundation has three board members, Judy and John Shilling and Jane Mitchell, who are actively involved at the Tallac Historic Site. As the staffing at the Visitor Center is adapting, it is increasingly important for the Tahoe Heritage Foundation to have a Board member who focuses on Visitor Center issues and activities. If you know anyone who might want to become the laison to the Taylor Creek shop and activities...helping select materials and programs...please let us know.

Hangtown A’s provide help for 1931 Model A Ford.....

Last fall the Tahoe Heritage Foundation sent the following letter to the Hangtown A’s....

The Tahoe Heritage Foundation has a beautiful 1931 Model A Ford Deluxe Roadster. The car is a feature of the Tallac Historic Site. Members of the Hangtown A’s saw it a few years ago when they came to the site on a road trip. We, unfortunately, lost our volunteer mechanic two years ago when he moved to Texas. Our Model A needs work. We can not figure out what is wrong nor do we have the skills to get it running. Tahoe Heritage Foundation is asking Hangtown A’s to help us as a partner.

In August of this year the United States Forest Service offered the following thank you to the Hangtown A’s...Members Claude Sipe, Augie Archer and Ernie Gunderson, of the Hangtown As, visited the Tallac Site at Lake Tahoe to put the Tahoe Heritage Foundation’s 1931 Model A Ford Deluxe Roadster in top running condition in preparation for last weekends Gatsby Festival. The roadster was used for rides and classic old-time photographs. Members of the Hangtown As made three trips to diagnose and correct a variety of electrical problems.

Tahoe Heritage Foundation wants to also offer its thanks. It is partnerships like this that make our work worthwhile.
Hazard Trees No Longer Threaten Historic Buildings

Last year in our newsletter we warned that Hazard Trees Threaten Historic Buildings. We requested donations for the removal of five serious hazard trees. This year we are happy to report that hazard trees no longer threaten the historic buildings. Specific donations, the allocation of some THF unrestricted funds and generous pricing of local tree removal expert, Ed Cook, enabled the removal of the five worst trees plus an additional one that was becoming more dangerous each year and could be removed more cost-effectively when combined with the removal of the others.

One of the most dangerous trees was located in the entrance to the Baldwin Museum and the raised roots made the entrance dangerous and almost impassible to the handicapped. Over the years THF has received several donations for handicap projects and those will be used to rework the entrance to the museum to be handicap accessible and more inviting to visitors at large.

Wildflower book being prepared for summer sales ---

Last year the Tahoe Heritage Foundation reprinted Lucky Baldwin: The Story of an Unconventional Success. The book was very well received and has enabled many to learn about the remarkable Lucky Baldwin who owned the land on which the Tallac Historic Site is currently located.

Following that success, we have this year worked with the United States Forest Service to convert the Taylor Creek Visitor Center desk binder of plants and wildflowers at Taylor Creek into a guidebook for sale. Each tree, bush and wildflower has a page with photos, habitat description, common and botanical names, plant description and “Fun Facts.” So often a plant behaves very differently in different habitats. The book features local plants and how they look and grow at lake level elevation. The goal is to enable visitors to recognize and enjoy our local plants in our local environment. This book should be on sale when the site opens Memorial Day 2013.

Generation Green Project receives funding

El Dorado Community Foundation has selected THF as a 2012 Grant Recipient for the SLT Endorsement Fund Grant in the amount of $3,000 for the FS Generation Green Project. This grant is in response to a grant request submitted by Jackie Dumin. The program targets non-traditional forest users, often from low-income and diverse backgrounds. 21 to 24 students each year spend 8 summer weeks working, and learning about the complexities of managing natural resources and becoming future land stewards. USFS monies for the Generation Green Project can only be used for salaries. Funding to provide the personal safety and protective equipment necessary for the students is still hard to find, and is where the Tahoe Heritage Foundation (THF) steps in to help. This year the El Dorado Foundation is providing the funds to THF to support this project.
Letter from the President

Greetings to the Board of Directors of Tahoe Heritage Foundation, Volunteers, United State Forest Service Employees and all those interested in the welfare of the Tallac Historic Site and Taylor Creek Visitor Center. I hope that you all had a Happy New Year and Merry Christmas. 2013 is upon us and we are all looking forward to another successful year.

Every Newsletter you get a long winded message from me telling you of the splendor and beauty of Lake Tahoe and the wonderful people who work with Tahoe Heritage Foundation during the year. I seem to overlook the simple fact that you know this already, so you don’t need my letter to remind you of this. The group of people that I work with at THF (and I have said this before) makes my job easy and effortless. Every year I try to find new adjectives to show my appreciation. I still can only say thank you for all your hard work and the time given.

The staff of THF and the board are always trying to find ways to aid the USFS and the volunteers in making the public’s visit to the Historic Site and/or Taylor Creek an enjoyable one and a visit they will repeat and tell their friends and associates about. This year is no different.

The Newsletter will give you the insight into what has happened and what will happen at the site. You will hopefully see new things at the Site this year as well. With your help and support, the hard workers, both paid and volunteer, will again sweep away the effects of this winter and spring to make your visit enjoyable.

One simple message comes out in this letter. We continue to need financial support from the visitors and public at large in order to carry out our mission. Our mission as stated in the bylaws is as follows: To raise, gather, and collect monies, real estate, donations/artifacts, bequests and other assets to be used toward the support, enhancement, restoration, and enrichment of Tallac Historic Site and Taylor Creek, federally owned and managed property, and other heritage resources in the Lake Tahoe Basin within the meanings set forth in ‘170(c) and ‘501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

Thank you again for your support of our work and we will again try to make 2013 an enjoyable experience for all those who go to the Tallac Site.

Joc Tillson, President

LUANA HAMMETT

Luana, known by many as the Lady with the Rake, was a fixture at the Tallac Historic Site. Those who wandered the Site found not only clean paths, but also clean grounds under the towering pines. She took pride in the forest on the Site and not only raked, but donated funds whenever a tree needed trimming. Sadly Luana passed in 2012. She will be sorely missed. There have been several donations in her honor. The THF Board will work with her family to decide on an appropriate memorial project for those funds. Anyone wanting to participate, please so mark on your donation card. Thank you Luana for your many years of service to the trees of the Tallac Historic Site.

Look for us on our web site: www.tahoeheritage.org which will be updated before summer.
President