Tahoe Map Project becomes a reality....

TAHOE HERITAGE FOUNDATION/XPLORER MAPS PARTNERSHIP FLOURISHES

We mentioned in our Newsletter last fall that Tahoe Heritage Foundation was planning to partner with Xplorer Maps to produce a hand-drawn map of Lake Tahoe. That partnership flourished and the map is now a reality. We are very excited about it.

The Xplorer Maps website describes its maps as follows, “These high quality and unique maps are rendered using an antique, old-world style mastered by the artist, Chris Robitaille. Originally designed to pay homage to the early cartographers, these maps are interpretive, educational, culturally and historically relevant and are attractive as fine art framed for home, office or hotel décor. These beautiful illustrations are geographically accurate, intricate in their attention to detail and aesthetically pleasing.”

As Xplorer Maps’ partner in the Lake Tahoe Basin, it was important for Tahoe Heritage Foundation to work with them in identifying appropriate landmarks and natural resources to best represent the heritage of Lake Tahoe. We selected Kristi Roberts, who worked as an intern at the Baldwin Museum last summer and is currently, to be our guardian of the Historic Register and cultural identity—to identify those places that have been and remain significant throughout the history of the Tahoe Basin. We then selected Lindsay Gusses, who is the seasonal employee of the United States Forest Service leading the activities at the Taylor Creek Visitor Center, to identify those plants and animals that are most recognized throughout our watershed. Each has worked diligently with the lists for and layout of the map. There have been artistic trade-offs where an item that we might have wanted just did not fit. However, we are all sure that this map is a special reflection of all that is wonderful about Lake Tahoe, and that homeowners and visitors alike will want to have a copy.

The map is being released this week and will be available at the Forest Service Supervisor’s Office, the Baldwin Museum at the Tallac Historic Site and the Taylor Creek Visitor Center as well as other museums and gift shops around the Tahoe Basin. It will sell for $30 with half going to support preservation, restoration and interpretation in the Tahoe Basin. In addition we hope to produce a limited edition of signed, numbered, giclee prints of this beautiful map if we can presell 25 copies at $350. Please let us know by returning the enclosed card if you would like to pre-order one of these beautiful giclee maps.

This summer the fashion show at our Gatsby Tea will include visits to the many estates featured on the map, maybe fishing at one site, tennis at another, hiking from another, afternoon tea at another, a ball, a honeymoon...the possibilities are endless. The tea committee is excited about this special theme to coincide with the release of the map. For information on the tea visit http://tahoeheritage.org/all-about-gatsby/
**Pope Estate Courtyard Fountain**

Luana Hammett, aka “the raking lady” was a dear friend and supporter of the Tallac Historic site. Luana passed in 2012. In 2013 friends and family of Luana were generous in donating in her memory. The THF Board of trustees wished to do a permanent project that was reflective of Luana’s love for the Tallac site. The board proposed to rebuild and activate the Pope courtyard fountain. The family agreed and this summer we expect to have the wall rebuilt and the pump replaced. Two years ago, as part of a 9-tree hazard tree removal project, we took out a tree that had grown up next to the wall. When the wind blew, the root crown lifted and crack the wall and the fountain was no longer water-tight. Having the sight and sound of the fountain will be a lasting memory of a wonderful lady.

**Friday Night Visitor Center Programs**

Tahoe Heritage Foundation will be an active partner in the popular Friday evening programs at the Taylor Creek Visitor Center amphitheater. These programs were on the chopping block due to additional cuts in federal funding. THF will host the lectures and ask for donations from guests to help defray the costs. Pick up a copy of the “Lake of the Sky” journal to see dates and topics. We are pleased we could come forward and keep the popular programs alive.

**Times They Are A Changin’…..**

The sequester, the government shutdown last year and continuing government cuts have challenged the operation of all of the public lands in America. The Association of Partners For Public Lands is an organization that works with both the public agencies (United States Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and many state and regional parks and recreation areas) and their non-profit partners. The Association meets annually, and this year the meeting had record attendance as all involved try to figure out how to keep our public lands effectively serving the public. Tahoe Heritage Foundation not only attended but elected to send Lindsay Gusses, a representative of our local Forest Service. We came away understanding that much must change if we are to continue the services that our public has come to expect. One example is the THF hosting of the Friday Night programs mentioned above. Another is THF taking on all of the volunteer support functions...shirts, supplies and session-end recognition events. We are all in this together. To symbolize the importance of Tahoe Heritage Foundation to the operation of the Tallac Historic Site and the Taylor Creek Visitor Center, the volunteers will be wearing shirts with a THF volunteer logo.

Life it is a changin’. With this added responsibility comes a greater requirement for THF administrative and educational operations and insurance. As we go forward, we will be engaging in more revenue producing projects like the Xplorer Map project, and we are starting a grant-writing effort, but you, as our valued supporters, should expect more requests for help, both financial and of time. We cannot allow our public lands at Lake Tahoe to falter. We normally solicit funds in the Fall, but please consider an additional donation this year to help us make this transition into our more comprehensive partnership roll. Also consider ordering a giclee print of our new map, as 50%, or $175, is a charitable donation to support our valuable projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Look for us on our web site: www.tahoeheritage.org.

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