



Big Pines Volunteers

Volunteer NEWSLETTER

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"100 years of Caring for the Land and Serving People"

The Bigcone Douglas-Fir...

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Special points of interest:

- Carlo F. Eugenio, a heavy equipment operator for the Angeles National Forest was killed Oct 29th during deployment as a National Guard soldier to Afghanistan.

[For More Details...](#)

- Jackson Lake has begun to freeze over. Warning signs about walking on the Ice have been posted.



Bigcone Douglas-Fir

Big Pines, CA – The Bigcone Douglas-fir is an evergreen conifer native only to the mountains of southern California, mostly within national forests, and beyond the range of the Douglas-fir. It gains its name by having the largest cones (by far) of all Douglas firs. The species was discovered in 1858 by an expedition who sighted the tree in San Felipe canyon near Julian in San Diego County.

Bigcone Douglas-fir stands provide habitat for Black tailed Deer, Black Bear, and various small animals, including habitat for many rare wildlife species, including the California Spotted Owl, which depends on old-

growth Bigcone Douglas-firs and other conifers for survival. The Bigcone Douglas-fir typically grows from 60-100 feet in height with a 2-5 foot trunk diameter and a collection of long branches spreading 20-30 ft. in width, giving it a sparse look. Cones are from 4-7 inches long, with larger, thicker scales than those of other Douglas-firs. (See photo, comparing the much larger cone of the Bigcone Douglas-fir with smaller Douglas-fir cones on Page 2)

The seeds are actually so large and heavy that they are probably bird or mammal dispersed as the wing is too small to be effective for wind dispersal. Trees start producing seeds at about 20 years of age, and can live to be hundreds of years old (the oldest recorded Bigcone Douglas-fir was over 600 years old!).

The trees can grow under a wide variety of conditions: from under 1,000 feet elevation to over 8,000 feet, and chooses different orientation and 'neighbor species'

depending on altitude and conditions.

There is no current commercial market for the tree. Although the wood is heavy, hard, and fine grained it's not durable, but the trees are used for watershed restoration. The Los Angeles County Department of Forestry has extensively planted the tree over a 50-year period for that purpose.

The Bigcone Douglas-fir is one of the most fire resistant and fire adapted conifers in the world; beat only by redwoods in its ability to recover from fire. Its thick bark aids in its resistance. The trees will sprout from the burnt upper crown and the apparently dead tree becomes green again the following spring! Bigcones are also usually free from bark beetle attacks post-fire.



The Value of Volunteers...

Weather Extremes Big Pines Station

November 2011

Low: 21st 20°

High: 28th 71°

Wind: 21st 49

Precipitation: 1.81 in



Volunteers doing trail work
Photo: Courtesy of Richard Nyerges

Big Pines, CA – Since America's founding, volunteers have provided vital services to our communities. Whether to help a single individual or ignite change that benefits millions, people in this country have come together in their spare time, contributing their time and talents to causes that have promoted the common good for over 230 years.

Throughout the U.S., volunteers have been resolute in their commitment to serving their neighbors and communities. According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, about 62.8 million adults volunteered almost 8.1 billion hours in local and national organizations in 2010. Their service was valued at almost \$173 billion.

In the state of California, there are approximately 7.0 million volunteers. 24.8% of residents in the state volunteer putting in 964 million hours of service valued at \$20.6 billion. The USFS has long promoted the benefits of volunteering; benefits for both for the National Forests and for the individual.

Let's bring it closer to home. What have the volunteers accomplished in our little neck of the Angeles National Forest, here in Big Pines? Volunteers have been manning the Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center since 1996. Today, some 34 "Volunteers of the Angeles National Forest" work out of that facility. Last year they put in approximately 3,100 hours of volunteer service.

The volunteers working out of the Big Pines Ranger Station just had an anniversary. It was five years ago last month that Micheline Bradley had a small group of volunteers trained in helping the Forest Service in dealing with the public in regards to Adventure Pass compliance, educating them as to campfire and other forest regulations and being able to answer the public's questions in general about the forest.

Today, the 10 volunteers working out of the Big Pines Ranger Station provide a wide variety of functions. Last year those 10 volunteers put in approximately 1,670 hours of volunteer service. While it is very difficult to put a dollar value on volunteer time because volunteers provide many intangibles that can't be easily tabulated, a value for their service is calculated and provided each year so as to quantify the enormous value volunteers provide.

In California, a volunteer's time is worth \$23.42 an hour. The volunteers in the Big Pines area put in a total of 4,768 hours in the last fiscal year. That translates into \$111,667.00 worth of services rendered to the Forest Service.

Keep up the good work!

"So much work remains to be done in this unfinished and imperfect world that none of us can justify standing on the sidelines. Especially in a society like ours, Volunteering is an expression of democracy in its purest form. For the volunteer is a participant, not a looker-on, and participation is the democratic process."

Eunice Kennedy Shriver



Comparison of Bigcone and Coastal Douglas-Fir pinecones

The Amphitheater is Completed ...

Grassy Hollow, CA – The construction of the amphitheater at Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center has been completed. It will be used by the many groups that visit the center for various programs. All the wood used was reclaimed from the "Station Fire". The installation was done by workers from Camp Fenner.



Big Pines History... "Isaac Slover"



(José Cisneros, courtesy of
Adair Margo Gallery, El Paso)
Isaac and Maria Barbara Aragon Slover

Big Pines, CA – As you travel east along Blue Ridge Road from Inspiration Point, you pass a number of canyons sweeping north down into the Swarthout Valley. Some of their names are descriptive in nature, such as Sawmill, Government, Flume, Acorn and Sheep. Others are named after individuals such as Buford and Heath. When you come to the end of Blue Ridge Road you find yourself at the top of a canyon named after a local legend, Isaac Slover, the son of John Slover, the famous scout, Indian fighter, captive and Shaker (a member of the Millennial Church originating in England in the middle of the 18th Century).

The 1776 born Kentuckian made his way to the San Bernardino valley in 1843. He founded and settled into a little village known as Agua Mansa (Healing Water) in the area, near the south base of the mountain that still bears his name. Today the area is known as Colton. A widower, there is where he married Maria Barbara Aragon, a widow herself with family.

Isaac Slover, who went by other names as well including Christobal and Luis, was a pioneer and famous "mountain man" who had made a name for himself as a tough hunter and trapper. John Brown, the owner and operator of the "old toll gate" (Brown's Gate) in Cajon

Pass, said this of Isaac Slover: "Slover was a quiet, peaceable man, very reserved. He would heed no warning and accept no advice as to his method of hunting. His great ambition was to kill grizzlies. He called them "Cabibs."

It was on October 15th, 1854, when Isaac Slover went with James McMinds up the left fork of the Cajon Pass, (present day East Canyon, which is above Lone Pine Canyon Road). On a pinon and sage covered ridgeline, the pair came across a large grizzly bear and Slover promptly raised his rifle at it and fired at close range.

The bear fell, but shortly rose and slowly walked away and lay down in some bushes. Excited for the kill, Isaac recharged his single shot rifle and advanced on the large grizzly, which was mostly hidden by the brush. In spite of Jimmy McMinds' objections not to follow a grizzly into the bushes, Slover continued to approach the monster.

Almost immediately, the animal rushed at him and sprung on top of him! Before long both beast and mountain man were rolling in the dirt. James McMinds went for help. He came down the mountain and stumbled into present day Sycamore Grove in Lytle Creek. There he told a group of men what had happened to Isaac Slover. The party went back up the mountain with the intent to rescue him. They found Slover still alive, but just barely. The bear had done its work thoroughly. His whole body was torn, mangled and bruised. It was unknown if the grizzly survived the encounter with the famous mountain man or not. The mountain man did survive, at least for a little while. Isaac Slover was carried down to Sycamore Grove on a crude litter and it was there that he died.

Isaac had a reputation as a tough mountain man and a hater of the dreaded "Cabibis". The location of that last encounter with a grizzly still bears his name: Slover Canyon.

-Contributed by Terry Graham



Slover Mountain
"The Place of Ravens"
Colton, CA



Grave stone for Isaac Slover
Agua Mansa Pioneer Cemetery
The inscription reads: "Pioneer-hunter-trapper killed by a bear near Cajon Pass." Photo: Gary Radcliffe



Topo Map of Slover Canyon



Current Fire Danger



c. 1925



c. 1930

Interested in Volunteering out of the Historic Big Pines Station?

Call: (760) 249-3504 or Email:
 Todd Cook: mtcook@fs.fed.us or
 Ron Heinig: rheinig@fs.fed.us

Photos: From the Collection of Terry Graham



*The Wrightwood
 Communications Group
 has a disaster
 preparedness net each
 Sunday evening at 6:00
 pm.*

<http://www.kw6ww.com/>



*Wrightwood CERT has
 weekly FRS Nets on
 Sundays at 5:30 pm*

<http://www.wrightwoodcert.com>



Non-profit 501 (c) (3)

Upcoming meetings (3rd Tues each month)

Tues Jan 18, 2011
 Tues Feb 15, 2011
 Tues Mar 15, 2011
 Tues Apr 19, 2011
 Tues May 17, 2011
 Tues Jun 21, 2011
 Tues Jul 19, 2011
 Tues Aug 16, 2011
 Tues Sep 20, 2011
 Tues Oct 18, 2011
 Tues Nov 15, 2011
 Dec 2011 - No Meeting

7pm, at the
 Wrightwood Museum
 6000 Cedar St.
 (Old Fire Station)

Meeting Information:
 (760) 249-5248



Grassy Hollow
 Visitor's Center

www.grassyhollow.net

The Volunteers of the Angeles...

Meetings of the Volunteers are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the United Methoist Church located at 1543 Barbara Street in Wrightwood. All meetings are open to the public.

Volunteers of the Angeles National Forest

Wrightwood, CA

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