



Big Pines Volunteers

Volunteer NEWSLETTER

24537 Angeles Crest Hwy, Wrightwood, CA 92397 (760) 249-3504

Volume 3, Issue 1
January 2011

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

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Special points of interest:

- With more than 25,000 skiers and snowboarders descending on Mt. High, it celebrated the largest Thanksgiving week attendance in the history of the resort.
- With closures on the other side of the Forest, Snow-players arrived by the hundreds on Christmas week-end.
- Angeles Crest Hwy between Vincent Gap and Islip Saddle has been closed for the season.

Bob's Rock...



Grassy Hollow – On December 3rd, a small dedication ceremony was held at the Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center.

In the July Newsletter it was discussed that there was interest in moving a rock that displayed amazing characteristics from Blue Ridge Road to



a location where it could be viewed and appreciated by more of the public. The 4 to 8 ton rock has finally been moved to the entrance of the Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center.

The rock has been named "Bob's Rock" as it has been dedicated to Bob Moore who, just this past November, received the "Lifetime Volunteer Award" for his long and exemplary record as a volunteer with the Forest Service.

In attendance for the dedication were members of the "Volunteers of the

Angeles National Forest" who work out of Grassy Hollow, as well as both paid and volunteer USFS personnel. "Bob's Rock" will be the first thing that Visitors will see when they visit the Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center. Be sure to stop by and take a look when in the area.



Bob and Maria Moore

Bullet Holes in the Trees...



Acorn Woodpeckers



Through-out the forest you'll find large Jeffery and Ponderosa Pines full of holes. These trees are not the victims of vandals carrying shotguns, rather, they have become "granary trees".

The Acorn Woodpecker will use both dead and

live trees to store up acorns for the winter, up to 50,000 per granary tree! Acorn Woodpeckers are communal nesters and work together to collect, store and defend their winter food supply.

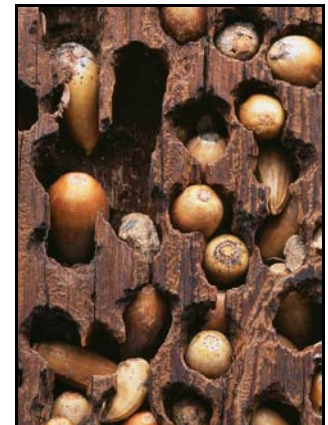
They will drill the holes first, find the right sized acorn to fit the hole and then hammer it in tight so the squirrels can't get them out easily.

As the acorns dry, they loosen, so the woodpeckers move them to the smaller holes. They spend a lot of time fitting and rearranging their acorn stores.

While you might think that these holes would

prove to be detrimental to the trees, this isn't the case. The holes only go into the bark.

It is quite exciting to watch the squirrels trying to steal some of these acorns and the woodpeckers chasing and dive bombing the squirrels!



Winter Safety Tips... Frostbite...

With winter come extreme temperature changes in the San Gabriel Mountains. You must take pre-cautions so that you are safe from the dangers that come with the cold winter months.

Frostbite is the freezing of body tissue. A person can develop this condition and not even realize it if there is prolonged exposure to cold temperatures. It is important to watch for the signs of frostbite because pain is not something that is felt during the early stages.

Frostbite occurs when the exposed flesh becomes frozen. The most common areas affected by frostbite are the ears, cheeks, nose, fingers and toes. Never rub the affected area as this will only aggravate the injury.

Frostbite is serious and can result in permanent damage to blood vessels. There are three stages of severity.

- **Frostnip:** Numbness and changes in the color of the skin, which turns first red, then white. There is no permanent damage.
- **Superficial Frostbite:** Skin becomes white and has a waxy appearance. Only the surface is frozen. Blisters often occur approximately 1-2 days later and may become blackened and hard. Healing occurs in 3-4 weeks. Apply external heat and cover affected area with a dry sterile dressing. Seek medical attention.
- **Deep Frostbite:** Area becomes hard and firm. All sensation is lost and skin appears "dead" white, yellowish white or a mottled blue-white. Seek immediate medical attention where rewarming may be done under supervised conditions.



Big Pines History... Why no 1932 Olympics?



Olympic Bowl, Holiday Hill (Photo: Courtesy of WHS)

Big Pines, CA – In the winter of 1929, the Olympic Selection Committee was to attend the 3rd Annual Winter Carnival to determine if Big Pines was suitable to be a proper Olympic venue. The three day Winter Carnival was a huge success but it failed to win the approval of the Olympic Selection Committee.

For generations many sources blamed it on one thing: the dry southland conditions and routinely poor snowfall in the San Gabriel Mountains. The repeated line was; "The lack of snow forced the games to Lake Placid".

"Pray for Snow-The History of Skiing in Southern California", written by Ingrid P. Wicken (published by Vasa Press in 2001) stated: "California most probably lost the 1932 Winter Olympics to Lake Placid because the International Olympic Committee, at their meeting in 1929, decided that sunny California could not provide snow in sufficient amounts to successfully host the games and that the state's Olympic organizers did not have an adequate background in winter sports."

Snow fall in southern California may have been one factor that was figured in

during the decision making, but it clearly was not the main one.

At the time of the selection date of 1929, the Los Angeles Organizing Committee was not affiliated with the National Ski Association of America, or other International Olympic Committee sanctioned winter sports organizations.

Ironically, Lake Placid suffered a snow drought that year. Snow had to be trucked in. For the first time in history, Lake Placid officials were forced to use artificial snow in the Olympic competition. Big Pines, on the other hand, got a total snowfall of 61 feet that year. – Contributed by *Terry Graham*



Photo: Courtesy of WHS

Table Mountain



WHS Photo from the Marica Myers Collection



WHS Photo from the Marica Myers Collection



WHS Photo from the Marica Myers Collection

News and Updates...

"Is a wet December a good predictor of a wet winter? The fact is, we don't know what this says about the coming months."

Bill Patzert
JPL Climatologist

Weather Extremes Big Pines Station

December 2010

Low: 31st 11°

High: 13th 73°

Wind: 23rd 100+

Precipitation: 15.15in



Loren Lake and Debi McLain

Grassy Hollow- There has been a "changing of the guard" at the Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center.

After serving for three years in the position, Loren Lake has stepped aside as President of the "Volunteers of the Angeles National Forest". Debi McLain will be taking over as the new President of the volunteer group.

At the annual Christmas Party, Loren was presented a plaque in recognition of his three years of dedicated service as President.

Big Pines, CA – December storms brought an onslaught of record rains, flooding and mudslides to our Forest. In some places 17+ inches of rain fell in one seven day period.

In Wrightwood several homes were severely damaged by mud, water and debris as it raced downhill from the canyons. As of the 30th, Los Angeles has had 10.23 inches of precipitation this December. That is good for 2nd place in the city's recorded weather history. In December of 1889, 15.8 inches fell.

The average annual rainfall in Los Angeles is 13.5 inches. It already has 11.7 inches so far with the rainy season still ahead of us.

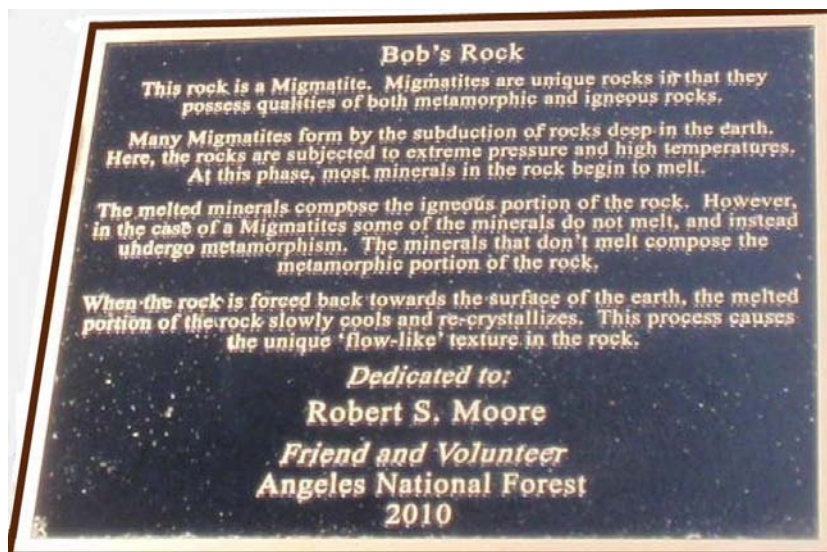


Dedication Plaque...



**Grassy Hollow
Visitor's Center**

www.grassyhollow.net



"Bob's Rock" Dedication Plaque – Grassy Hollow VIS



"Great. This'll go straight to my hips."



c. 1925



c. 1930

Interested in Volunteering out of the Historic Big Pines Station?

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



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



Current Fire Danger

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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