



Big Pines Volunteers

Volunteer NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 3, Issue 6
June 2011

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

Wildfire & Disaster Awareness Day Recap...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

In Memoriam	2
Big Pines History	3
Hug-a-Tree	4
Summer Programs	4
Volunteering	5

Special points of interest:

- The position of REC-34 vacated by Aaron Katona has been filled. John Rivera comes to us from the LAARD where he has worked as a REC Tech for many years. Before that he worked on the Los Padres NF. He is currently working out of the Valyermo Office.
- Blue Ridge Road is open to Guffy. Engineers hope to get the road cleared to Lupine within a week or two.
- Big Rock/Fenner and Mescal dirt roads are open. Pinyon Ridge is currently being worked on.



"Angeles National Forest - Big Pines" Booth 2011

Wrightwood, CA – The weather was perfect for the 8th Annual Wildfire & Disaster Awareness Day held in Wrightwood California. As usual in addition to the other Agencies there, the USFS was well represented with both the San Bernardino National Forest and the Angeles National Forest having booths.

The USFS volunteers out of the Big Pines station and The Volunteers of the Angeles National Forest working out of Grassy Hollow were represented as well.

In addition to the volunteers, the Angeles National Forest booth was manned by USFS personnel working out of and staffing the Big

Pines VIS, Patrol-35, the captain and crew of Engine-39 as well as a Battalion Chief and the District Ranger himself, Bob Blount.

The public had many questions, including information on trail closures due to recent fires, the re-opening of Hwy 2, fire regulations, campground openings and obtaining wood permits.

A highlight was our seeing our District Ranger; Bob Blount taking his turn in the "dunk tank". As you can imagine, everyone associated with the USFS, including Smokey Bear, wanted to take a shot at dunking Bob.

District Ranger, Bob Blount in the Dunk Tank



Bob Blount



Mike Worshum



Todd Cook

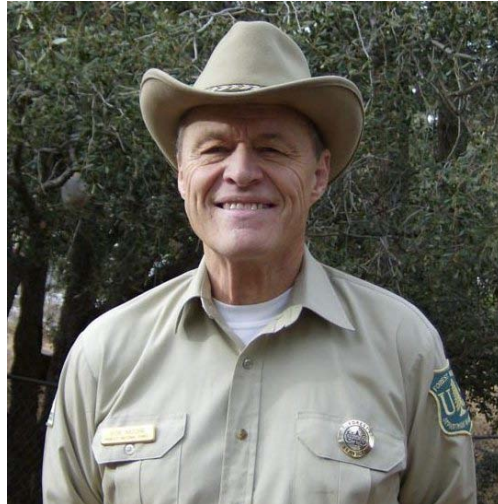


Smokey Bear

In Memoriam...



**Bob receives the
"Lifetime Volunteer Award"
November 2010**



Bob Moore 1938 - 2011

The forest and the USFS have lost a dear friend. Bob Moore (volunteer 17) passed away on Sunday morning, May 15th, after a hard fought battle with cancer. He was 72.

Bob was born in Glendale, CA on Oct 7th, 1938. His family moved to the Verdugo Hills in 1947. Bob said: "I continued to fall in love with the mountains, the wildlife, the flora and the scenery." That love of the forest would motivate Bob to volunteer with the USFS.

For over a decade Bob devoted hundreds of hours of his time to the Forest Service to help

maintain, protect and educate people about this wonderful place we call the Angeles National Forest.

Bob's volunteer work would take him from the Chilao Visitor's Center to Big Pines. In addition, for ten fire seasons Bob and his wife Maria would volunteer with the "Lookout Association" staffing South Mt. Hawkins, Vetter Mt. and Slide Mt.

Bob did everything from picking up trash, removing or painting over graffiti, doing repair work and staffing the Big Pines VIS when needed. Bob would write: "My most enjoyable volunteer work with the FS is with Doug Milburn as a volunteer archaeologist. My expertise is faunal analysis. I earned my certificate in archaeology from UCLA and Doug has put it to good use".

The last couple of years, Bob talked about a very large, unique rock that he insisted would be a wonderful interpretive object to be displayed at Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center for everyone to see and learn about. Last fall, the rock was relocated to Grassy Hollow, and the Angeles National Forest and Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center dedicated an interpretive plaque in Bob's name. It is called "Bob's Rock".

While Bob will certainly be missed, he will never be forgotten.



**Bob and Maria Moore
"Bob's Rock"**

"I know that every time
I go out into these
mountains to hike,
camp, fish, see Smokey
Bear, a fire lookout, a
beautiful sunset or see
a blue station wagon...
I will think of Bob.

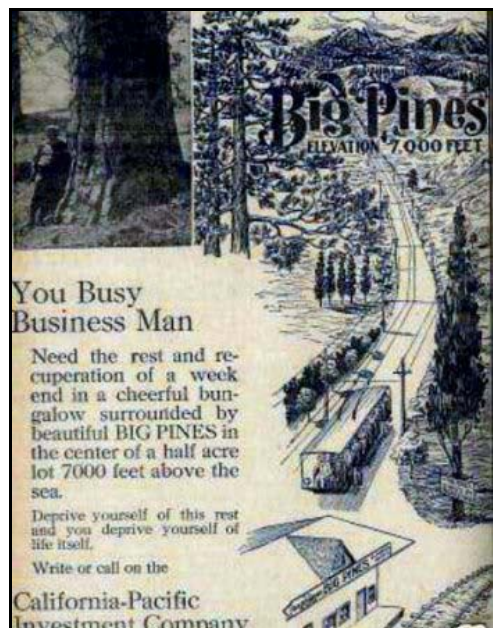
"Thank you my friend...
I love you... and you
will never be forgotten"

**Todd Cook
USFS Big Pines VIS**



Dedication of "Bob's Rock", Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center, Dec 3rd, 2010

Big Pines History... "The Trackless Trolley"



Source: old postcards of California;
Courtesy of the Wrightwood Historical Museum

Big Pines, CA – In the early days, about the turn of the century, there was an effort to promote a trackless trolley into the area to bring people and prospective land buyers from the trains in Cajon pass to Wrightwood and Big Pines. Did the trackless trolley plan come to fruition...or was it simply a pipe dream? The answer is yes... and no.

Los Angeles businessmen, along with investigators and Sumner Wright, the forefather of Wrightwood, put into action a plan to operate an electric ran trackless trolley from a point named Garva on the Santa Fe Railroad in Cajon Pass, a distance of 12 miles in a Northeasterly direction through the Swarthout Canyon to Wrightwood and the Big Pines area. Orders of iron rails for the trackless trolley project went in as early as February 10, 1912. The iron rails were not for track, since a trackless trolley had no tracks. With sparking sounds, they ran on the road with an extended arm connecting to the electric lines above.

The Trackless Trolley project was started well before Sumner Wright began subdividing the

land in the Wrightwood area in 1923, but Wright already had an idea of the possibilities that the Swarthout Valley offered. He, along with Wrightwood developers, had visions of chalets scattered throughout the ridges of Blue Ridge and over to Wrightwood Mountain, of campgrounds and playgrounds dotting the landscape, which would bring people up from the cities and residents up to live among the pines. All that was needed was a way to get folks up there.

The summary was clear; the trackless trolley was to service the area of Big Pines. It is interesting to note that Wright's plans for the area of Big Pines were years before Los Angeles Park and Recreation involvement in it. Maybe it was the outcome of the Trackless Trolley project that spurred the county's action to build the Big Pines Park that opened in 1924.

Things started to go wrong with the trackless trolley project almost immediately. First there was a problem with the power. The only existing power company was in Lytle Creek. Even though plenty of power was available, by June of 1913 the crews were unable to meet the deadline to extend that power to Big Pines.

According to the writings of G. S. Corpe, "right-of-way" issues along with bankruptcy would spell doom for Wright's dream, a dream that was only six miles short of becoming a reality. It does seem, however, that the poles and electric power to push the Trackless Trolley actually made it to Wrightwood and apparently the Trackless Trolley did actually deliver some passengers up to the top of Lone Pine Canyon Road. Although the project was started, it was never completed. The Trackless Trolley and Sumner Wright just simply faded over money woes. The Trolley would never make it to Big Pines.

-Contributed by Terry Graham



Courtesy of Terry Graham and the Wrightwood Historical Museum

For a more in depth and detailed account of the Trackless Trolley by Terry Graham, click on this link:
[Trackless Trolley](#)



**Weather Extremes
Big Pines Station**
May 2011

 Low: 15th 27°

 High: 5th 75°

 Wind: 15th 8

Precipitation: 0.25 in



Hug-A-Tree and Survive...

Grassy Hollow – The Visitor's Center has been a very busy location this spring. Hundreds of children have arrived by bus from schools around the county to participate in a program being held at the Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center.

The Volunteers of the Angeles National Forest (VANF), working out of Grassy Hollow, and Volunteers of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue team have joined to provide the "Hug-a-Tree and Survive" program.

Inspired by the search for nine year old Jimmy Beveridge in 1981 here in Southern California, the Hug-a-Tree and Survive program teaches children how to survive in the woods should they become lost.

The program was developed to educate children generally between the ages of 7 and 11 in a select few of the most basic and vital survival principles.

One of the highlights of the program is when the kids get to meet an actual Search and Rescue Dog and see it in action. A child is selected to go and hide nearby. A SAR Volunteer then uses the highly trained dog to find the hiding child. This game of hide-and-seek is a big hit and a real crowd pleaser.

In the future the program will be taught in a new amphitheater that is soon to be built at Grassy Hollow. Wood for the project was obtained from trees that were damaged by the Station Fire in the Charlton Flats area of the Angeles National Forest. The lumber was milled on a portable mill and kiln dried locally at Camp Fenner.



Grassy Hollow Summer Programs...



- Saturday, June 4th, 1:00 PM**
Rocking Geology Talk
 What's underfoot in the San Gabriel Mountains? Learn about the rock cycle and what rocks you might see when you hike our local trails.

Time: Approximately 1 hour
Location: Grassy Hollow VIS
Leader: Bruce Garbaccio;
 Geologist, California EPA

- Saturday, June 18th, 10:00 AM**
Bird Walk and Talk
 Learn about the local birds we can identify right from our deck at Grassy Hollow and then join us on a bird-sighting walk. 1 mile hike

Time: Approximately 1- 2 hours
Location: Grassy Hollow VIS
Leaders: Dan Guthrie;
 Audubon Society



- Saturday, June 11th, 11am/1pm**
Mojave Green/Rattlesnakes
 California is home to 6 different species of Rattlesnakes. What are the differences?

Time: Approximately 1 hour
Location: Grassy Hollow VIS
Leader: Joe Baneshak;
 Field Researcher

- Saturday, June 25th, 1:00 PM**
Native American Culture
 Learn how local plants were used by Native Americans for food, medicine, and more.

Time: Approximately 1- 1 1/2 hours
Location: Grassy Hollow VIS
Leader: Robin Cornet;
 Wrightwood Library



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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