



**Eldorado National Forest  
Interpretive  
Association**

# Our Story

30th  
Anniversary

GLORIA  
HERMAN

## Forward...

As this committee started meeting to discuss the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ENFIA, we decided one of the important things for us to do was to create a commemorative piece for members and Forest Service employees, past and present. We have spent many enjoyable hours combing through past editions of *The Interpreter* as well as notes from meetings and members. What you will find in this booklet is a sample of projects and activities that ENFIA has participated in as well as stories that we hope will give you a picture of some key members of our history. We also asked all of you to share some of your favorite stories and memories; we hope you will enjoy what we collected.

The five of us who have worked on this project include two who were here at the start, one who straddles the middle of ENFIA's life, and two newer members who have many valuable, related relationships with the Forest Service. We have had a great time getting to know one another, sharing our love and passion for both ENFIA and the Forest Service. We are happy to share some of what we have enjoyed in our reminiscing.

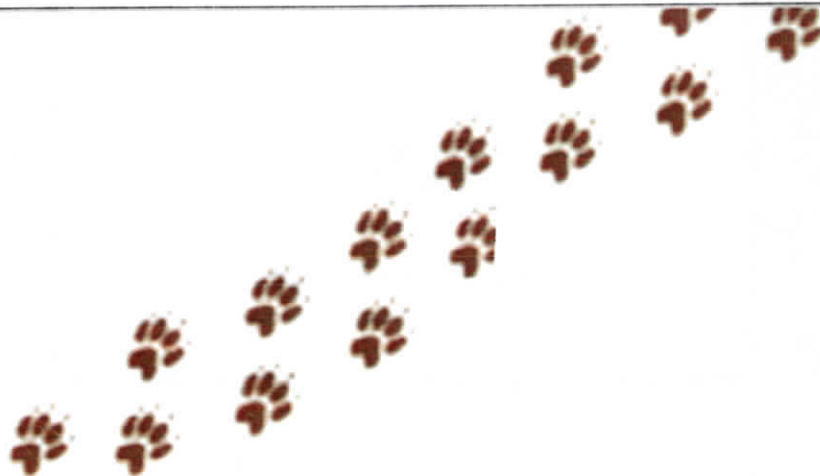
We thank all of our contributors and hope all of you will enjoy our overview of 30 years of ENFIA history.

Happy Anniversary, ENFIA!

Sincerely,

ENFIA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

*Dawn King, Karen Finlayson, Kathie Piaszk, Kathy Lewin, and Mary Knowles*



# Table of Contents

Introduction: The First 30 Years .....	4
In The Beginning (the 80s) .....	5
The 1990's .....	14
2000 to 2009.....	35
2010 to 2017.....	40
30 Years of Memories .....	50
Future - The Next Thirty Years.....	74



Carson Spur





## ENFIA's First Thirty Years

The Eldorado National Forest Interpretive Association (ENFIA) is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> year of working with the Eldorado National Forest to provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the visiting public and its members. Our members have volunteered over 70,000 hours creating and maintaining a variety of interpretive/educational materials, events, and information centers throughout the forest.

- ◇ We have built, operated and maintained the Carson Pass Information Station on Highway 88 for 30 years.
- ◇ We are currently developing and expanding other smaller information stations and campground programs along the Highway 50 Corridor.
- ◇ ENFIA makes available to the public all types of natural history, historical, and recreation material through their Forest Store locations at all 4 ranger districts, Carson Pass and Crystal Information Stations, and the Eldorado National Forest Supervisor's Office in Placerville.

For our ENFIA members we offer many ways to enjoy our forest including forest trail walker programs, informative field trips, educational events and our docent programs at our information stations.



Forest Service and ENFIA members working together at Pyramid Trailhead Information Station.

Join us for our next 30 years

*Information regarding ENFIA events and membership can be found on our web page....*

**[www.enfia.org](http://www.enfia.org)**



# In The Beginning (the 80s)...

The Eldorado National Forest Information Center in Camino opened in March 1984, to provide permits and associated information to forest visitors. However, more was needed to augment just information and permits. By 1986, several forest staff and others were interested in providing supplemental educational and interpretive materials to visitors.

Nord Whited had recently retired as the Forest Service Region 5 Visitor Information Services Program Leader. Art Edwards was also a retiree volunteering as a docent for California State Parks at the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park in Coloma, CA. Nord and Art met with several forest staff to discuss the feasibility of forming a volunteer interpretive group to support the forest and its activities. Present at the initial meeting were: Frank Mosbacher, Public Affairs Officer; Hatch Graham, Resource Officer; Dana Supernowicz, Historian; Karen Finlayson, Information Center Director; and Erik Holst, Assistant Information Center Director.

The role of the proposed association was discussed. At a subsequent meeting, we agreed to publicize and hold a public meeting to explain the association's role, responsibilities, and membership opportunities.

Karen was sent to a national interpretive association meeting in Golden, Colorado, in October, 1986. We had the ingredients of the "perfect storm".

## First Public Meeting

The first public meeting was advertised to be held at the Supervisor's Office on Wednesday, January 14, 1987. A group of 27 interested citizens came to help. That group included: Joel and Mary Knowles; Steve and Valerie Dowty; Tom and Mary Anne Marco; Rob Livingston, Ursula Smith, Art Edwards, Nord Whited, Kurt Davis, Maurice Watts, Jody Miller, Richard Zito, Jack Germain, and others.



Art Edwards, founding member.

**Come to the Forest Association POTLUCK & Meeting**



If you're interested in volunteer interpretive and informational work on the Eldorado National Forest, come join the pot-luck dinner meeting of the new-forming Eldorado Forest Interpretive Association, March 11, 6:00 pm, at the Institute of Forest Genetics on Caravan Road, 3 miles up from Broadway.

The association is being organized to develop programs, publications, and activities to help the Forest Service give recreation visitors information about the history, nature, and features of the Eldorado National Forest.

The pot-luck dinner will start the evening off, and those attending should bring either a main dish, a salad, or a dessert. Coffee and tea will be provided, but bring your own plates, cups, napkins, and silverware.

Following the dinner, a slide presentation on an interesting feature of the National Forest will lead into the meeting portion of the evening. The main business of the session will be to decide on further organizational steps.

For people who enjoy the outdoors and the forest environment, membership offers many benefits. Come meet your neighbors, have a good meal, and find out more about the association.



There was enough interest in continuing so that we met again the following week to get organized.

A list of charter members was made, several committee chairs were appointed, and a steering committee was appointed to get the organizational activity started. Art Edwards started writing the Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws.

Art really proved to be the motivating force. He collected all the necessary information for us to apply for 501(c) 3 status as a non-profit organization. He had the organizational skills and the passion to make this happen. He worked tirelessly and drove our application to Sacramento to file it for us.

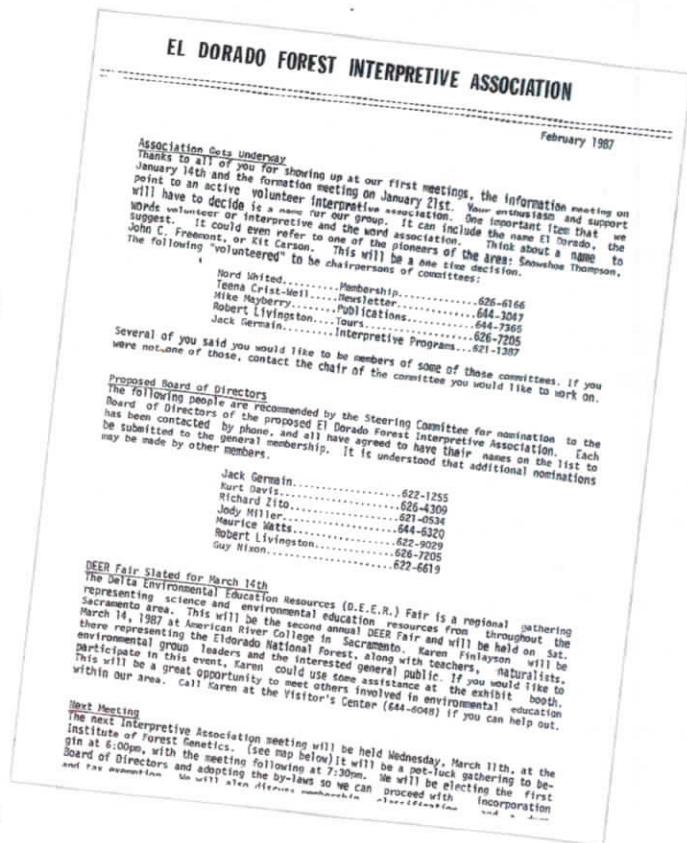
### Challenges

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, we had our first formal meeting and elected a board of directors chaired by Jack Germain. We thought we were set to go. The two obstacles the group now faced were: 1) where to get money to operate the Association and 2) how to arrive at a contractual agreement with the Forest Service.

The solution to the money obstacle was simple – borrow from other Interpretive Associations. Karen went to a meeting of the Three Forest Interpretive Association to make our pitch. They agreed to lend us money as the Yosemite Association had done for them years before.

The big obstacle that was almost our undoing was insurance. We could not find insurance coverage. Through much deliberation, the terms of the contract were narrowed so that insurance would only be required for the book sales aspect of the Association. The approval process took about a year.

Formal approval of the Association was granted by the Secretary of State on May 8, 1987.



Founding members.



## Forest Service Perspective

*Frank Mosbacher, retired Public Affairs Officer*

The Eldorado National Forest Interpretive Association has been a tremendous asset to Eldorado National Forest visitors. ENFIA's mission is to assist visitors in gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation for natural forest's cultural and natural heritage and the Forest Service conservation mission. It has survived and thrived for all these years while other associations have not. Below are my recollections of the origins and development of the ENFIA idea.



Karen Finlayson and Frank Mosbacher

### Setting the Stage

The first real awareness I had of interpretive associations was in 1974. I was working on the Los Padres National forest. The Ojai Ranger Station sold books in the lobby of this urban based Ranger Station. I often heard the administrative officer complain about the extra work book sales created. Theft of books from the inventory added to his headache. Consequently, he had little ownership in the sales activities. This was not a very successful operation.

By 1977, I was the Director of the Interagency Visitor Center in Lone Pine, California. The Eastern Sierra Interpretive Center (ESIA) was an active cooperative association in the area. It was an important part of the visitor center mission and helped fund the operation. Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association was a well managed association made up of a board of directors and a paid business manager. It was not a membership organization.

ESIA book sale profits supported information and interpretation operations on several other national forests. Each sales outlet requested funding from the board for their priority projects. The ESIA board made decisions about proposed project they would fund.

### My Vision

In 1980 I became the Eldorado National Forest Public Information Officer. I was responsible for the Eldorado National forest information and education program. Creating an interpretive association was high on my to-do list. My "selfish vision" was that this association would only fund interpretation projects in the Eldorado National Forest. That way there would be more money for interpretation.

I recruited retired Placerville resident Nord Whited to lead the ENFIA formation effort. Nord was a retired Forest Service employee with a first class background for the job. He was the first Eldorado National Forest Public Information Officer. But, more than that, he was formally the Region-5 Director of Interpretation for the Forest Service.

He advertised for board members through the newspaper. Soon, he had enough interest to form a board of directors. Legal papers were filed with the State of California. It wasn't long afterward that the Eldorado National Forest Interpretive Association was born.



### **What is ENFIA's Primary Mission?**

That was a topic of deliberation in the first meetings. Many board members saw ENFIA as both a book sales and membership organization. Some thought its mission was to identify, create and fund projects ENFIA wanted to-do in the national forest. Others thought it would be more like ESIA. Several board members had experience as volunteers at Marshall Gold Discovery Park. To them developing and leading walks in the forest was part of their vision.

### **Would ENFIA sponsor activities or projects in the forest?**

That was one of the leading questions. The need for insurance help to answer this question. The co-operative agreement required ENFIA to get insurance and indemnify the federal government. The required insurance protected ENFIA from theft and loss, such as fire. It cost several hundred dollars per year. Turns out the insurance also protected board members for their decisions. Insurance to cover ENFIA sponsored projects, however, would cost \$10,000 per year! That idea was dropped.

The co-operative agreement was designed just to sell books and maps related to resources within the Eldorado National Forest. It was similar to how ESIS and the National Park Service associations operated.

But, what about member's interest in helping in the National Forest? ENFIA could still be a membership organization. Some people could join to feel a part of Eldorado National Forest conservation. Others could join and take part in Forest Service sponsored volunteer projects. Volunteer agreements became a solution to member's desire to participate in national forest interpretation and information projects. No insurance was needed. The Forest Service was responsible for the project. The Board had to be careful not to advertise the projects as ENFIA activities.

### **How would ENFIA gain support from Forest Service district administrative people?**

The first solution was to guarantee that a share of the profits would return to the outlets. The cooperative agreement stated that the funds were for information and education activities. Each unit would have a say in their project funding. The districts appreciated this arrangement. The visitor center sold the most and benefitted a great deal from their share.

Visitor Center Director Karen Finlayson was the first Forest Service liaison to ENFIA. She would represent Forest Service interest. I initially envisioned that she would get a prioritized funding "wish list" from the districts each year. She would then compare the list with the Forest or district interceptive plans. The "vetted" list would go to the Board for their consideration. (Unfortunately, the interpretive plans were not completed. This made project funding more random than planned.)

Who would have guess that map sales would play such a big role in gaining ENFIA's district support? Forest Service maps are government property. Every Forest Service employee is accountable for the maps assigned to them. Map inventory and accounting were ongoing administrative headaches. ENFIA alleviated that pain when they agreed to buy a supply of maps and sell them at cost to the public. No more personal "black-eyes" if the inventory didn't balance exactly.

My faith in Karen Finlayson to do the right thing with ENFIA was high. I gave her a lot of latitude to aid ENFIA in becoming all it could be within the agreement. She wasn't shy. Turns out her flexibility and creativity helped keep the organization dynamic and unique. Many good things came about under her Forest Service leadership.





## An Excellent Start

1987 was the inaugural year of the Eldorado National Forest Interpretive Association. Our first year found us set up to sell books and maps at the Eldorado National Forest Information Center for Memorial Day weekend. We thought things looked quite nice on Fire Cache tables covered with green tablecloths. By summer we were also set to sell a limited number of items at the primitive station at Carson Pass.

Memorial Day weekend also found five members volunteering near Wench Creek Campground at Union Valley Reservoir. They had a life-size felt bald eagle, a nest of twigs (2 and 1/2 feet high by 7 feet across), and spotting scopes in order to help the public enjoy bald eagles who made their first nesting appearance in several years near that location. They repeated this event on Fourth of July weekend as well.

We trained about a dozen volunteers to act as tour guides at the Placerville Nursery. Joyce Pratt, Forest Service Interpreter, helped train and oversee this group of volunteers as they helped many school groups, and others, learn the story of forest reforestation.

By 1989, we had a newsletter entitled "The Interpreter". It reported the following projects: Bridal Veil Falls Old Growth Forest Trail, Traverse Creek Trail, Gerle Creek Trail; it also reported sales of 51 books, three forest maps, and 33 topographic maps and interpretive materials at the Information Center.

Funding for construction of an information station at Carson Pass had been received and construction begun in 1991.

ENFIA celebrated five years of existence in 1992. By then we had enjoyed numerous outings and many potluck meals. We had participated at Earth Day Fairs and Camino Logging Days; we had heard lectures about timber management, geology, botany, and fish management. We had more informational and interpretive items for sale at the Information Center, Carson Pass, Amador and Georgetown Ranger Stations. We were growing, learning, and having a good time!



Lola Schuette



Camino Logging Days



## Eldorado National Forest Information Center



The Eldorado National Forest Information Center in Camino opened in March 1984. The thinking behind it involved several key ideas. It needed to be centrally located for the convenience of all the residents of El Dorado County, those in El Dorado Hills as well as those in South Lake Tahoe. It needed to be easy to find, easy to access, on the south side of the highway, open hours convenient to the public's need, and it was to consolidate duplicate efforts being carried out in three separate locations in a twenty mile stretch of Highway 50.

We took staff from all three of the existing offices and we made a deliberate decision that those employees would wear uniforms, be trained in good HOST behavior, and that their whole function would be serving the public. It was an idea much before its time, well in advance of Service First and "one stop shopping".

The remaining offices were to serve as administrative sites. They would only be open on weekdays to serve the needs of permittees and others who do business with the Forest Service. The public's needs would be taken care of every day of the week at the Information Center.

### Each functional area benefitted from this new facility.

- ◆ Fire: Personal contact and current fire information for recreation visitors when they got their thousands of campfire permits or wanted to ride their off-highway vehicles during the high fire danger months. We also issued Burn permits to cabin owners and others who could not get to a Ranger Station on a day they were open. We tracked and maintained a recording of the Sale Activity Level (SAL) for timber operators who were harvesting in the Eldorado National Forest.
- ◆ Timber: Again, we provided the central contact number for SAL information as well as the issuance of thousands of dollars of wood permits. We were the central place for visitors to get current, accurate information about woodcutting for the entire forest, part of which their money was paying for.



- ◆ Engineering gave us current information on roads and trails as they opened each spring so that we could help keep visitors out of trouble and protect the land. Good community relations came from this service after years when roads were washed away from heavy rains, or we had to make extensive repairs to damaged roads.
- ◆ The biggest benefit was to Recreation. Visitors came to rely on the Information Center as a place to get not only current information and permits for the local area, but tourist information and information about other national forests in the state and the nation. The office was open seven days a week at hours very convenient for visitors. The phone number was published for nineteen years in books, maps, guides, etc. During our years in business we had six days where we served over 400 visitors!

The office served as a focal point for obtaining regional information and a large number of permits. I know of no other office in the forest system that issued as many, as well as the variety of permits as this facility. It was the model for efficient “one-stop” shopping; Service First, seamless recreation that we speak of today. It was a tremendous effort to centralize, streamline, and coordinate the dissemination of information to the broadest of audiences.

We spent a lot of time teaching visitors to read maps, learn about fragile archaeological sites, Special Interest botanical and geological areas. We formed a forest friends group, ENFIA, the Eldorado National Forest Interpretive Association. This group allowed us to do work on this forest we had no funds to do. They raised thousands and thousands of dollars to help provide additional services to visitors and to provide them with materials to continue learning and being reminded about their visit long after they returned home.

### The Information Center was ahead of its time.

Part of our mission was to provide a high quality recreation information experience that oriented visitors to the Eldorado National Forest lands and to help them be informed and educated in order to reduce depreciative behavior once in the forest. It provided a tremendous service to forest visitors and travelers through the area. It had a wealth of information, provided by friendly, knowledgeable staff, and was a fun place to work!



The Center was the largest retail location for ENFIA.



Forest Service staff.



Information staff: Jan Chappell, Jane Barnhardt, and Joyce Pratt.



Photo by: Mary Ellen Leight

## Project "Eagle Watch" a Success

*From combined articles in The Interpreter*

On May 17, 1987, fifteen of our members attended a bald eagle training session given at the Supervisor's Office. Judie Tartaglia, forest wildlife biologist, and a representative of the San Francisco Zoo, presented a slide show providing valuable insights on the history and habits of American bald eagles in California.

The group was then led on a field trip to Union Valley Reservoir for close-up views of the real thing. The five-hour session ended with attendees enjoying their picnic lunches, and signing up to volunteer time for approaching holiday weekends.

The training paid off for those volunteers who were first to field questions from a curious public at Yellowjacket Campground over Memorial Day weekend. Two spotting scopes were set up for viewing the nesting tree, and a carefully constructed replica of the eagle's nest. Our nest measured 2 ½ feet high by 7 feet across...big enough for two or three enthusiastic kids to play "eagle" therein.

It should be noted that five brave ENFIA volunteers endured thunder, lightning, hail, and rain, to ensure the nest was ready by the weekend. A big thanks!

If you were unable to attend the training session in May, and still have an interest in these majestic birds, why not plan to take a trip to Union Valley on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend? Our volunteers would love to share what they have learned with you.

A pair of bald eagles is nesting again at Union Valley Reservoir in the spring of 1990. The eagles are believed to be the same pair, or part of the same pair, that first surprised wildlife experts by nesting and raising an eaglet in 1986 and again in 1987. (They failed to nest in 1988 and 1989.) They are using the same tree in Wench Creek Campground.



## The Walking Stick Story

*The Interpreter Fall 1988*

If you have visited the Carson Pass Information Station you would have noticed the beautiful handcrafted walking sticks that are available for a donation to ENFIA. We are grateful to Ray Boyer, the creator of the walking sticks.

Ray is a retired contractor from the Bay Area and has lived in Pioneer with his wife for 25 years. He began making walking sticks on Christmas when he couldn't think of a gift to give to his wife. He found a dead stick and worked on it to produce a lovely walking stick which he gave to her as a gift. He then made one for a neighbor and her husband who had admired the one he made for his wife.

Ray and his wife, as well as the neighbors, frequently hiked in the Carson Pass area, and when they did, many would admire the walking sticks that they used. That gave him the idea to offer them to ENFIA so that they could be available for other visitors to the area. He came to the Amador Ranger district office to show us his sticks and made us an offer we couldn't refuse (to donate them)! He has also made two lovely display racks which he has donated for displaying the sticks.

Ray always has several sticks going at one time. He says it is difficult to find suitable sticks which have the appropriate strength and "character". He uses madrone, maple, dogwood, oak, and alder and says he likes to experiment with various other woods. Ray recently collected some agave from New Mexico to try. The sticks need to age for about a year before Ray starts to work on them. He tries to make all sorts of models to cover all price ranges and sizes.

Ray is a world traveler and a fisherman. He is an environmentalist and feels this artistic expression will help others to enjoy their visit to the area and to develop a greater appreciation for this environment. (Ray Boyer has passed away since this article was written)



Pat Woolston and Ray Boyer



Mary Knowles and Karen Finlayson showing off custom Ray Boyer Walking sticks.



## The 1990's ...

The 1990s saw ENFIA growing and getting firmly established. Original projects we had started with our volunteer efforts continued at Bridal Veil, the Placerville Nursery, Traverse Creek, and Carson Pass. Construction of a new information station at Carson Pass had begun in earnest, and was completed in that decade. We even hired a Carson Pass Information Station Manager!

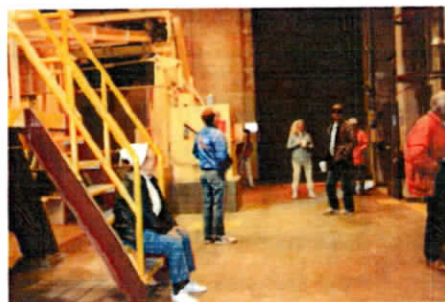
Member outings to the Crystal Basin and the Loon Lake Powerhouse, Blodgett Forest, PiPi, Lake Tahoe, Henry's Diggings, Ogilby Grade, and Caldor were enjoyed as were our delectable potlucks. We went on flower walks, learned about bears, beavers, lions, snakes, trees, lightening, water, managing fire, weather, floods and landslides, and geology; wrote brochures on historic places; put in thousands of volunteer work hours; and sold \$34,750 worth of books and interpretive materials in one year at the Information Center.

Joel, Mary, and Karen started their "infamous" awards celebrations. Training was done for volunteers interested in helping during fires as well as for those working at Carson Pass and the Placerville Nursery.

We celebrated 10 years as an organization. We celebrated Mary Knowles who had served six of her 11 years with ENFIA as Board President. (She would later return to that job.) We also celebrated Joel Knowles and all the Carson Pass volunteers who received awards from the Chief of the Forest Service. We had publicity in local papers regarding Traverse Creek and Steve Dowty as well as the Information Center and its staff.



### Loon Lake Powerhouse Tour





## Bridal Veil Interpretive Trail

Bridal Veil Interpretive Trail is a trail through the forest alongside the south fork of the American River at Bridal Veil Picnic Area. This 1/3 mile trail features three to four hundred year-old trees that have survived fires and nearby logging operations over the years. Other plants, including the rare Pacific Yew, have flourished since the last fire. An interpretive brochure and sign were completed.

## Blodgett Forest Research Station

*Summer 1991*

Blodgett Forest is a research station for the University of California and has been in existence for 58 years. It is used to study the effect of different forest management techniques. Blodgett Forest is divided into different areas, each representing a different management project. Some is untouched so comparisons can be made with areas that are being modified and researched. Different management techniques will create dramatic differences in forest structure. The scientific value of Blodgett has grown with the corresponding increase of the demands on natural resources. Blodgett Forest research has a fifty-year history which includes studies of tree growth, forest succession, harvesting costs, forest insect and disease dynamics, forest ecology, wildlife population dynamics, range animal dynamics, control of non-tree vegetation, thinning and spacing of commercial conifers, soil compaction from logging operations, effects and techniques of prescribed fire, conifer regeneration methods, harvesting methods, nutrient cycling, and much more.



Nursery  
Tours





## Placerville Nursery

*Article with unknown date from Mountain Democrat*

*U.S.F.S. Nursery by Betty Pesses*

Rows and rows of tiny, prickly green seedlings cover the tranquil, scenic fields of the US Forest Service's Placerville Nursery. Accompanying each and every tiny seedling is carefully recorded genetic information rivaling that of a race horse. These seedlings didn't start from seeds in a squirrel's stash – they come from the finest trees in California's 18 national forests.

The process of seed extraction starts with cones of about 17 different species of forest trees. "The cones are green when they arrive at the nursery," explained Joyce Pratt, Public Information Assistant. "Each bag of cones that arrives is carefully marked with information that will stay with the seeds and seedlings until they are shipped out." A mass of hoppers, drums and conveyor belts in the huge seed extractor building spin and shuffle the seeds out of their cones.

"When the seeds are extracted and thoroughly tested, they are placed in the seed bank," Pratt said. "The seed bank is a huge building lined with shelves and kept at a chilly zero degrees Fahrenheit around the clock. There are 50 tons on seed on deposit. That's enough to generate over 300 million seedlings," Pratt said. "The ranger districts anticipate their needs and call us for seedling orders. We take the seeds out of the seed bank and mimic nature's waking up process."

Pat Trimble, nursery manager, expects a large order next spring from the Eldorado National Forest. "They haven't determined their order yet, but it could be a million or more," she said.

The "waking up process" for the seeds is called stratification. It involves putting the seed in a cold water bath for a couple of days and then returning them to cold storage at 34 degrees. The seeds are then taken out, dried on screen trays and then put away or prepared for spring sowing.

The number and variety of seeds sown are determined by orders from the different ranger districts throughout the state. The seed beds are weeded by hand throughout the summer. Some species are sensitive to the sun and must be handled with screens.

In wintertime, the nursery is bustling with activity as the seedlings are carefully lifted from the fields, inspected and packed in cold storage awaiting shipment to their national forest destination. The packing room has four long conveyor belts where over 100 seasonal workers sort and measure seedlings to be packed.







Last year, the nursery shipped out 12 million seedlings to California's national forests. The Placerville Nursery is one of 10 Forest Service nurseries in the country that grow seedlings for reforestation.

Beautiful, informative displays and exhibits explaining the function of the nursery are located in the Interpretive Center at the nursery. Approximately 2,000 people visit the nursery each year. Forest Service volunteers working as docents lead tours each Sunday for six weeks at the beginning of Apple Hill season. Drop-ins are welcome to view exhibits and reservations may be made for tours.

---

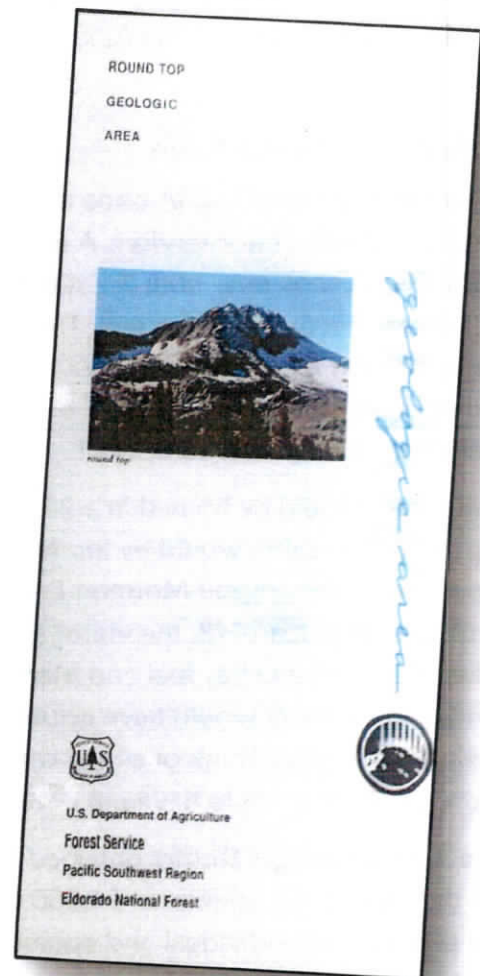
## TOPO Thanks ENFIA

*Winter 1995*

A few years ago ENFIA was approached by Edwina and Dennis Pyle about starting an interpretive association for the Tahoe National Forest. ENFIA provided the Tahoe Outdoor Partners Organization (TOPO) with a small book inventory and a loan of \$2,000 to purchase additional inventory and to help with other start-up costs. This is just what the Three Forest Interpretive Association did to help ENFIA get its start.

ENFIA board members recently received a gracious letter from Edwina and Dennis. TOPO is now well established and becoming quite successful. TOPO now serves the following sales outlets: Nevada City Supervisor's Office, Big Bend Visitor Center, Camptonville Ranger District, Foresthill Ranger District, and Sierraville Ranger District. Sales have almost doubled in the last two years.

Many major projects TOPO takes pride in include: publishing and distributing oral "old timer" interviews; and the reproduction of the Donner Party site archaeology dig video tape. Along with book sales, their organization has been involved with work parties and interpretive walks, and they are now able to make partial payment on the loan from ENFIA. Along with the letter, Edwina and Dennis included a check for \$1,000!



The Round Top Geologic Area brochure was one of several publications ENFIA created.



## Carson Pass Information Station

When ENFIA started in 1987, we already had a presence at Carson Pass. Glenn Gottschall was the District Ranger at that time, and he wanted interpretive materials to be available to visitors to the Pass. He had made an arrangement with the Three Forest Interpretive Association (the same group who loaned us money to start ENFIA) to provide books, maps, and other interpretive materials for sale. District employees were providing the staffing of the converted two-hole outhouse building. At this time the district was struggling to find funding and staffing for the Pass.

### Volunteers Join the Team

With the creation of ENFIA came a volunteer interest in helping provide visitor services. A new partnership was born. ENFIA took over both the staffing and the provision of interpretive materials for sale. There was so much interest in this area that discussions began on how to improve the facility and the level of service. Plans were made for a new center to be built.

This center would be housed in a 22 foot by 32 foot cedar log cabin. The cabin would be located just a few feet from a portion of the original Mormon Emigrant Trail. Had this structure existed in 1848, the visitor specialists, Art Edwards, Lola Schuette, Joel and Mary Knowles, who tended this station, would have actually witnessed the birth of California. Think of all the conflicting theories and suppositions they could have put a right!

The Amador Ranger District obtained \$12,000 designated for the project. An additional \$4,000 was contributed for the project from individual and organizational contributors. The total of \$16,000 would purchase the log home kit. Another \$5,000 in supplies, specially earmarked funding, labor and equipment was also pledged for the center. Joel Knowles of ENFIA volunteered to coordinate the construction of the new Carson Pass Information Station.

After considerable pre-construction activity by Amador Assistant Resource Officer, Janice Gordon, retired forest Resource Officer, Tom Whear, the Amador Resource



1921. Carson Pass Monument Dedication





Officer, Chuck Lowrie, numerous Eldorado National Forest staff including engineering's Jim Guthrie, outside consultant Garry Gates, and Alpine County official, Ken Olson, the construction of the new center was officially ready for "ground breaking" on July 26, 1991. On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, brush cutting commenced and ENFIA member Lola Schuette of Pollock Pines, CA, turned the first shovel full of dirt from the hole that supported the batter board marking the northwest corner of the new cabin.



### It Starts With A Solid Foundation

With layout complete, construction really moved into high gear on August 12 when Dick Scott, Owner, and Phil Edholm, General Manager, of the Iron Mountain Ski Area, arrived with their backhoe and took the first bite of dirt for the foundation's trenches. Their time and equipment were a voluntary contribution to the station. On August 27<sup>th</sup>, Jeff Walters and his backhoe, from Kirkwood Ski Area, launched another assault on the foundation's trenches. These were complete and ready for forms after many long, high-altitude, grueling manual hours on the ends of the world's cheapest pieces of equipment – shovels, picks, and grub hoes. Now we just needed an expert block man!



Enter Paula and Will Green from Pollock Pines, passersby on their return from a hike in the Round Top area. Will, a retired contractor and rocket scientist (truly!), stopped to ask what the digging was all about. After a review of the project, he offered to help with the block work after Labor Day. Joel called him the day after Labor Day and they agreed to get the foundation completed before heavy snow arrived. This set off a flurry of activity.

One of the busiest was Chuck Lowrie from the Amador Ranger District. Lining up block, rebar, mortar, transportation, cement, cement pump, and a mortar mixer fully occupied Chuck's first few weeks of September. During this same time, Joel developed laryngitis for 10 days. In spite of all the difficulties it all came together. From nearly six foot deep trenches the foundation walls arose, full of rebar and tie downs, ready for the cabin next summer. On October 5, 1991, we cleaned and secured the job site. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, after a two foot snow storm





with 135-mile-per-hour winds, the Challenge Cost-Share Project description signs donated by Big Mountain Sign Company, came down, and all was quiet at the Pass.

### 1992 Let Construction Begin!

1992 was both a series of major joys and some major and minor headaches for those who “worked the Pass” for fifty-five days of the summer and fall. The joys began late in June when the log cabin kit was delivered to the area and stored at the Cal-Trans Maintenance Station just above Caples Lake. As the last of the logs were spotted, Chuck Lowrie and Joel Knowles smiled broadly at each other. Last year’s work had given them a completed foundation upon which to launch this year’s efforts.

The construction of the log walls went very smoothly. Course after course quickly raised the walls from the foundation to ceiling height, and then one of the minor headaches arose. Somehow, our blueprints didn’t have any dimensions regarding the wall heights. All we had was the number of log courses to lay. Some mathematical calculations led us to conclude that if we were to follow our log plan the inside ceiling would be 11.3 feet tall. Believing this to be somewhat excessive, we called our engineer, Garry Gates, from the pay phone newly installed at Carson Pass. With Garry’s advice we made midstream corrections.

About this time we began to run short of materials. Logs we had, tie downs we lacked. Bolts, angles, clips, straps, hangers and roof materials were all part of this void. Our kit was supposed to include all of these things. Somehow, we just never were able to get them from the manufacturer. When our roof materials did arrive, it was just after a major portion of our manufacturer’s plant burned to the ground. Burned in the fire was the company’s forklift. With a load of 18 foot, 4 by 12s and a stack of inch-and-an-eighth plywood to move from flatbed to upper loft, a lift of about 14 feet, help was needed.

A trip to Kirkwood and a visit with Mike Berry, Kirkwood’s General Manager, resulted in them having a forklift on our site in less than an hour. The number of





hours and pains saved by the generosity of Kirkwood cannot be underestimated. This is particularly true since it was just Will Green and Joel Knowles that would have had to do the lifting. Kirkwood was a wonderful asset for us both this summer and last.

By this time, July 26<sup>th</sup>, we had the walls and gables complete. The cabin even looked like a cabin. The time for us to lift the roof ridge beam (called a GLULAM) into place had arrived. We found a very cooperative crane company from Placerville to provide the crane service. All we needed were the metal connecting brackets that would connect our GLULAM to the three supporting cedar posts that would anchor our building against 300 pound plus snow loads and winds that could exceed 125 miles per hour. Our manufacturer assured us these brackets were "on the way". They weren't. Due to a planned vacation, our crane service evaporated. This was a headache, but a joy appeared.

A couple out hiking the Round Top area and who happened to own a crane service in Jackson, CA, passed by our work site. They left a card volunteering their crane service at an extremely favorable rate. They were available in two days, but we still lacked the connecting brackets. Taking the bracket specifications to a machine shop that had already done several things for the Amador Ranger District, this shop produced the connectors for us overnight. On August 7, 1992, our roof ridge beam was in place.

Lacking metal hangers that would connect our rafters to our GLULAM, we special ordered them from the Simpson Company in San Leandro, CA. Because of incredibly poor communication in the order chain, a delivery of the wrong size was received. We reordered and Joel made special arrangements to pick them up at the factory. As the forklift loaded them into his truck in San Leandro, he decided to check the order for count. Astonishingly, the count was right but the dimensions were wrong! Simpson promised a new order within 24 hours. They made it in 48 hours. The project was once again underway.

After our metal roofing arrived on September 19<sup>th</sup>, two days were all that were needed to get the metal down. Dave Becker, a roofer, Community College survival





instructor, and commercial back country guide from Gardnerville, NV, was our mentor during this phase.

By this time we were getting to the end of September and much remained to be done to enable the cabin to survive the coming winter. Fortunately the weather held. Our kit's windows and doors were never received. We ordered the windows and Joel picked them up in Loomis on October 6<sup>th</sup>. The door was made from 4 by 6s by us and weighs about 250 pounds. It is magnificent! These were all in place by November 12<sup>th</sup> when we sealed the cabin with preservative and covered the windows. The cabin was ready for winter.



The construction of Carson Pass has been an amalgamation of many different people, agencies, and organizations. It is impossible to single out any one segment because what has been accomplished would not have been done without all of these participants doing what they did. We will mention a few lead players.

Chuck Lowrie, Resource Officer, Janice Gordon, Assistant Resource Officer, working under Judy Yandoh, Amador District Ranger, Eldorado National Forest have been key players in getting this project under way and keeping it moving. Gino ??? was the life blood in connecting the valley to the Pass.



Will Green was our expert in all areas of on-site construction. Will's efforts, and the understanding of his wife, Paula, made this project possible.

The many volunteers of this effort ARE the Carson Pass Cabin. The thousands of hours spent together, Joel said, were some of the most pleasant of his life.



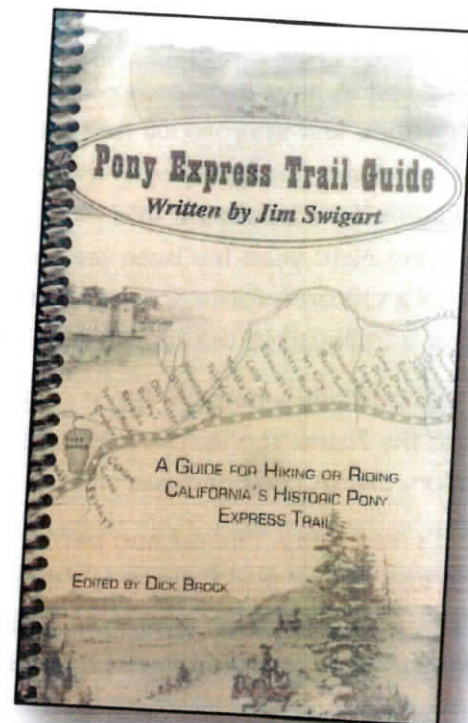
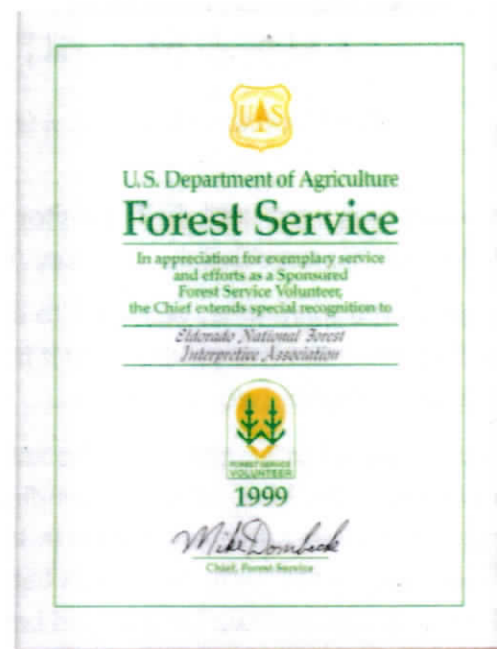


## Chief's Volunteers Program National Awards for 1999

The US Forest Service Chief's Volunteers Program National Awards for 1999 were presented at the Institute of Forest Genetics on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Twenty ENFIA members and Eldorado National Forest personnel gathered to celebrate the awards. Joel Knowles was selected for this award as one of six national awardees in recognition of his valuable contribution to the Eldorado National Forest. Joel has contributed countless volunteer hours, primarily in the construction of the cabin that now serves as the Forest Service Information Station at Carson Pass. Construction began in the summer of 1991 with the purchase of the cabin (in pieces) by the Forest Service.

Joel was instrumental in planning and supervised the construction of the cabin. Joel has contributed many hours working on the Traverse Creek restoration project, the Bridal Veil Interpretive Trail, the Silver Lake Volunteers cabin and helping out at the ENFIA general meetings and outings. Joel was a founding member of ENFIA.

ENFIA was also selected for an award under the Sponsored Volunteer Service category. This award recognizes ENFIA volunteers for their contribution to the Eldorado National Forest, primarily in our efforts at manning the Information Station at Carson Pass.



This guide was edited and published by ENFIA.





## Local Leader, Association Garner National Volunteer Awards for Help in the Eldorado National Forest

*The Mountain Democrat, May 10, 1999*

Joel Knowles won't rest until the last visitor to the Eldorado National Forest has unfolded the last story that has to be told.

"If you get a little spare time, you want to do something to help," said the Placerville resident modestly, as if he had wandered off a trail to guide a hiker or two.

But Knowles' own involvement with the national forest – beginning with his and his wife, Mary's help in founding the Eldorado National Forest Interpretive Association in 1987 and totaling up, so far, to more than 6,000 volunteer hours between them – speaks to a far richer trail that the two have blazed behind them, one that this year has earned both Joel and ENFIA national volunteer awards.

"(Joel) has been a very big part of this organization," said Karen Finlayson, the information center director for the national forest. "These awards really are near and dear to my heart. They're very well deserved.

While Joel and ENFIA have been providing the national forest with pamphlets, histories, and interpretive trail guides for a number of years – all of which are purchased by ENFIA with the profits returned to ENFIA if the books are sold – the crown jewel of the group for the past eight years has been the construction and maintenance of a visitors information center at Carson Pass, just off Highway 88 at a trailhead to the Mokelumne Wilderness Area.

Although it was officially a national forest project as opposed to an ENFIA project, the Forest Service provided only the materials for the construction. ENFIA provided everything else.

"Without Joel's leadership, interest and passion in Carson Pass, that cabin wouldn't be there," said Finlayson. "Without the volunteers, we wouldn't be able to provide services to people visiting the Highway 88 area. They (the volunteers) have become like family to me."

Indeed, as Joel is quick to say, it's the work of this family – 95 people ranging from age 3 to 88, giving from one to 1,000 hours on the project – that make the cabin possible.







“It’s entirely a volunteer project,” said Joel, who estimates that ENFIA at the moment has a 230-member base. “They not only built the thing, but they maintain it entirely.”

Every summer since 1994, volunteers have opened up the cabin around the middle of June – after a long winter and several feet of snow – and welcomed visitors from around the world, answering questions and providing information about the wealth of activities and wonders of the Eldorado National Forest.

Many new volunteers are also found through the cabin. Joel himself has recruited 50 new volunteers right from the trails beside the cabin in the summer.

Old and new volunteers alike are also diligently working away at the cabin, ever a work-in-progress that Joel and the rest of the ENFIA committee that oversees it are always itching to add on to and improve.

“There are always things to do, always working,” said Joel, his eyes intent on a recent list of improvements from the committee, including fixing the roof, adding shutters, propane lamps, and a wagon wheel-scarred rock to the landscape. “Every year, there’s something.”

Every year there’s also something else beside just the cabin to work on, including reclaiming wetlands around Traverse Creek in Georgetown, improving the hiking trail along the Pony Express Trail, and increasing the number of local guide books the national forest has to offer.

This year, Knowles is looking forward to starting a pilot program in Kyburz, teaching children the importance of forest preservation as they put together their own interpretive project of what the forest means to them.

With all his new plans forging ahead, Knowles acknowledges that the work can seem daunting at times.

The (national) forest thought it would take a couple of weeks to put up (the cabin), said Knowles with a knowing chuckle. “It’s been eight years. When you build something like this (cabin), and you’re missing something you have to go get, it’s an hour and a half, two hours to get there.”

“But we get a lot of nice comments. It looks good – as good as anything we could have hoped for,” added Knowles, pausing for a moment to glance at a picture of the cabin and reflecting on the many summers he’s spent there. “It’s a wonderful place. Some of the best wildflowers in the world. Absolutely sensational.”

It’s rewards like these – surrounded by the beauty of the Eldorado National Forest, and making this forest accessible to as many people as possible – that keeps Joel coming back and wanting to do more.

“Oh yes, I’d like more histories, trail write-ups, someone to work with flowers,” said Knowles with a determined twinkle in his eye. “All it takes is somebody to do it.”

Joel Knowles and the Eldorado National Forest Interpretive Association will be honored for their national forest awards at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 5, at the Institute of Forest Genetics in Camino. Anyone who is interested in finding out more about ENFIA can contact Karen Finlayson at the National Forest visitor’s center at 644-6048.



## The Start of Carson Pass Log Cabin

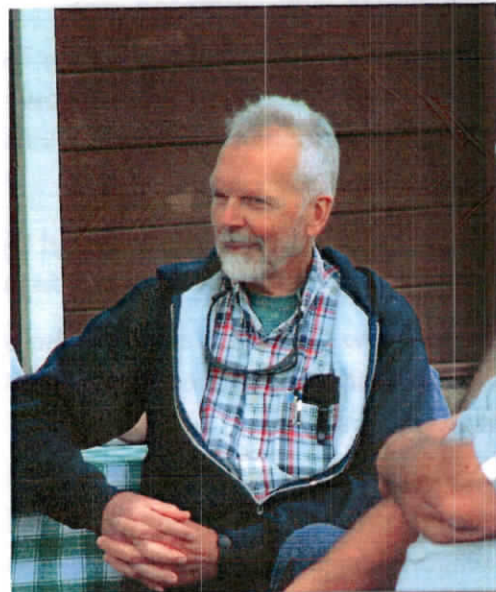
*Chuck Lowrie, Retired Resource Officer,  
Amador Ranger District*

Thank you very much for your letter of 10 February 2017 regarding "stories" pertaining to how the Eldorado National Forest Interpretive Association (ENFIA) volunteers built and operated Carson Pass Interpretive Station on the Amador Ranger district of the Eldorado National Forest came to be. Your letter stimulated me to go to my Carson Pass Station file and personal diaries from the period to dig out such material as I have. What follows is based on those sources supplemented by my creaky memory.

Janice Gordon reported for work on the Amador District June 12, 1989 as the Resource Lands Assistant to the District Resource Officer. As described in the May 7, 2005 plaque dedication ceremony presentation for the station volunteer construction project, Janice brought with her from the Angeles National Forest interest and experience in developing funding for volunteer projects on the national forests using the Forest Service Challenge Cost Share Grant Program.

Soon after arriving on the district she realized that she could improve the conditions ENFIA volunteers were operating under in the existing exposed and limited space repurposed toilet building Carson Pass Information Station. Janice proceeded to develop and submit a challenge grant application to construct a replacement facility. In 1990, her application was approved for \$12,000 in seed money to kick start construction of a log kit cabin interpretive station.

With the seed money in hand Janice then proceeded as part of the challenge grant process in concert with ENFIA to solicit community funding for the project. My, as I said creaky, memory says that in the end something in the neighborhood of \$45,000 in donations including the seed money was collected to fund the construction including the log kit, block foundation with poured concrete footings and metal roofing. Janice's challenge grant initiative and Angeles N.F. experience had paid off big time.





A volunteer project of the Carson Pass station magnitude and complexity required a project superintendent with construction expertise and management skills. On January 3, 1991, ENFIA's Art Edwards indicated that he might be able to set that up. Later that spring on May 28, 1991 Janice and I met with your Joel Knowles and Art in the ENF Supervisor's office in Placerville. We lined out the project as we envisioned it in the challenge grant proposal and Joel accepted the volunteer superintendent's responsibility.

In describing the construction project I estimated it could be done in a "couple of years." Sadly that turned out to substantially underestimate the many more years it took to bring the information station construction project to completion. I'll never know whether Joel would have accepted the volunteer superintendent's assignment had I been able to offer a more realistic construction time estimate. In the end, nonetheless, it remains one of the things I regret about my involvement in the Carson Pass project.

Despite this, in the ensuing several years Joel went on, with key help from other important contributing volunteers like Dick Brock and other individuals and businesses, to complete the sturdily comfortable facility that ENFIA volunteers operate out of at Carson Pass to this day. It will as far as one can contemplate, continue to provide an indispensable service on national forest and adjacent lands in the Greater Carson Pass high country.

So there you have my take on how approaching 30 years ago the Carson Pass Interpretive Station cabin we know today was conceived and born.





## Carson Pass Tidbits #1

*Mary Knowles*

### The Log Cabin Story

The beginning: Chuck Lowry and Janice Gordon from the Amador Ranger District came up with the idea of building a real visitor building at Carson Pass somewhere in early 1991. I guess the converted outhouse visitor center currently in use did not present the right image to the public.

### It Will Only Take 3 Months

Chuck called Joel Knowles from ENFIA to see if he would like to be the construction manager for the project. He told Joel it would only take about three months to get it all done. The Forest Service was to provide a log cabin kit and all ENFIA volunteers had to do was put it up. Boy was he wrong!

### Boulders? What Boulders?

The project started in late summer 1991, and the first thing that went wrong was the placement of the cabin. First, the old outhouse station had to be moved twice until a spot was found right where you see the Iron Ranger Fee Station today. Then it was discovered that Caltrans had dumped tons of boulders from expanding Highway 88 right in the spot where the cabin was to go. So the first big hurdle was to remove the boulders and that left a huge hole in the ground and the need to build a much bigger and deeper foundation. Well, that took up the rest of the building time frame before winter set in. So much for the 3 months. Here it was October and only the start of the foundation in.

The next year, 1992, with the help of many ENFIA volunteers, help from Kirkwood Ski Resort, help from a construction engineer, Will Green, and so many other volunteers I can't begin to name them, the construction resumed. Our youngest volunteer was Mary O'Leary. She was 3 years old and was responsible for picking up the screws and nails that were scattered all over the place.

### Hello? Can You Hear Me?

About this time Volcano Telephone Company put in a real phone line up to the Carson Pass area. I think this had





something to do with the requirement that Volcano do some type of community improvement work and they chose Carson Pass. Lucky for us. But the day after the phone line went in right in front of the new foundation, a large Forest Service sign needed to be put up explaining this cooperative building project. And where did they locate the sign? Your right... Right over the new phone line. The sign posts went right through the line.

### **Who Reads Instructions Anyway?**

The log cabin kit arrived from the maker in Plymouth, CA. Too bad no instructions came with the kit. Also no hardware was included. (That log cabin maker went out of business the next year.) This is where Will Green was needed. He got Joel up to speed on how to build log cabins and the type of hardware needed. Joel spent hours rounding up the necessary equipment and supplies and also working the shovels to finish the foundation. I remember having to drive to San Francisco to pick up custom made brackets from the Simpson Company.

### **I Will Huff and Puff and Blow You Over**

The outside of the building began to take shape at last so by the start of winter the outside frame of the building and the roof were completed. However, the next big problem came when CalTrans blew the snow off the road towards the cabin and knocked it almost off the foundation. So at the start of the 1993 season a way had to be found to pull the cabin upright. Kirkwood Ski Resort came to the rescue by bringing two big tractors to help. Chains were attached through the cabin and the tractors pulled it back on to the foundation. Sheer walls were added to the inside of the cabin, upstairs and down, to help prevent this type of movement happening again. CalTrans agreed to never blow the snow over the cabin again. The snow covered the cabin that winter and Joel and I went cross country skiing right over the roof.

### **Minor Details**

It took another year of working on the log cabin before it could be used in the latter half of the 1994 season. The original design had a wooden staircase inside but this was changed to the folding staircase we have now. There was really no room inside for a real staircase. The loft was going to be used in the winter by the Nordic Ski Patrol group but they discovered it was better to just store their equipment up there and use the downstairs for their other activities. A propane stove made it possible for them to keep warm but they still had very little room. As part of the design to keep the cabin upright in the winter, HUGE cross beams were put in each winter. Between the sheer walls and the cross beams the cabin survived another winter.

Another original design that did not make the cut was to have an information window open so people did not have to come inside to get trail information. This was dropped because of the need to redesign the original foundation and add steps up to the cabin. If the design had not been changed people would be standing on the steps to get to the window. Windows were also supposed to be on the west wall but again the bigger, higher foundation changed that idea.

The Carson Pass Information Station is still a work in progress and every year improvements are made. It becomes a better and prettier place for the public to stop and enjoy the Eldorado National Forest and the Mokelumne Wilderness.



## The Institute of Forest Genetics: Pioneers and Award Winners

*F. Thomas Ledig, Spring 1996*

The Institute of Forest Genetics was the first facility in the world that was devoted to research on the genetics of forest trees. When the Institute was established in 1925 by James Eddy, the initial objective was to improve the health and growth of forests by breeding. The breeding techniques developed at the Institute guided efforts around the world. Institute scientists were the first to develop pollen extraction, storage, and testing procedures and make successful; controlled pollinations in pines. Successful tree breeding programs everywhere owe their origin, at least in part, to the Institute of Forest Genetics.

The relatively new tree improvement program for the national forests of California as well as the more mature programs in the southeastern United States began with the techniques developed at Placerville. All of the early breeders, whether they were from the south, the intermountain west, Korea, or other areas, travelled to the Institute of Forest Genetics to learn the techniques pioneered here. The Institute itself is a much copied model in Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Many countries have established institutes or centers for forest genetics in the last few decades.

Another of the Institute's contributions was to demonstrate the importance of using seed sources adapted to local elevation, latitude, and soils. A research plantation of 57-year-old ponderosa pines demonstrated the importance of elevation in selecting seed sources for planting and can still be seen at the Institute. That research resulted in a strict system for managing seed zones and a change in forest management practices. The use of seed zoning stemmed a loss in both forest productivity and genetic resources which had been caused by use of poor, non-adapted seed sources.



Another series of studies resulted in guidelines for nursery production that improved transplant survival. Several years ago, we calculated that the savings to national forests in California alone amounted to millions of dollars annually by eliminating the need to replant areas that had failed to regenerate.

Institute scientists pioneered in the application of molecular genetics, which revolutionized modern research on the genetics of conifers – the cone-bearing trees, such as pines, firs, and spruces. Scientists at the Institute were the first to apply the new tools of biotechnology to forest trees. The Institute is the home of the national pine “genome” mapping project and a leader in both basic and applied research on DNA of pines and other conifers.

Conservation of biodiversity and genetic resources is another area of research interest at the Institute. As a response to public interest and mounting pressure on forest resources, Institute scientists seek to develop the basic information needed to both conserve threatened species and maintain a range of genetic resources in widespread species, like ponderosa pine.

The Institute’s contributions to forest science and practice are recognized in many ways. One is the number of foreign scientists that visit the Institute to learn the newest techniques or merely make a pilgrimage to the Mecca of forest genetics. In the last year the Institute hosted volunteers from Africa, Australia, China, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, and Spain.

Another form of recognition is the many awards received by Institute scientists. Among present scientists are two that have received the USDA Honor Award, an award personally presented by the Secretary of Agriculture and noted as the most significant award that the USDA can make. One scientist has received the State of California’s highest award in forestry, the Francis Ho. Raymond Award, given to the individual who “contributes most to the production and wise use of forest resources”. Another has received the national Barrington Moore Memorial Award from the Society of American Foresters for “biological research leading to the advancement of forestry”. Still another received the Scientific Achievement Award from the International Union of Forest Research Organizations and has been named a Pew Scholar in Conservation and the Environment by the Pew Foundation. Probably no other unit in the Forest Service has been honored to the same degree.





## Changes and Challenges

*Janie Hawker, August 1997*

Volunteers, USFS staff and returning visitors alike welcome, accept as inevitable, or chafe at changes that in just over a decade have come about at the Carson Pass entryway to the High Sierra. Naturalists, historians, recreationists, even the most casual visitors, laud the beauty and obvious value of the region whose network of trails offers unparalleled wildflower, forest, meadow and alpine experiences. It continues to be a challenge to institute appropriate changes – yes, even restrictions – that will provide protection and stewardship guidelines for these popular and accessible national forest and designated wilderness lands.



ENFIA itself was one of those changes. Envisioned as an aid to short-staffed and often under-budgeted USFS personnel, ENFIA became a reality the summer of 1987. Many ordinary citizens lent their vision and a dogged persistence to the concept, volunteering endless hours to planning and hard physical labor. Among their self-imposed tasks was the recruitment to maintain presence at Carson Pass to better serve the visiting public.



Initially, the ENFIA volunteers worked out of a small, renovated campground outhouse with a work counter added on outside. This barely-adequate facility was set down on a gravel pullout at the Pass and stayed in use as a visitor-interpretive center for many years. Stormy weather would force the volunteers to take refuge in their parked vehicles. Books, maps, fire and wilderness permits, and other items for sale or reference, needed to be protected on windy, wet days under plastic sheets weighted down with chunks of rock. At the end of the day all supplies had to be boxed and returned to a Forest Service cabin at Silver Lake. Such was the dedication of those volunteers – to the public and to the resource – that few complained and all returned for duty, summer after summer.

Today, a visitor to Carson Pass, arriving on foot by trail or via highway, cannot help but be impressed by what is available there. Questions can be answered and problems solved by trained, knowledgeable volunteers and wilderness rangers. A decade of change includes a handsome, sturdy Information Center, providing comfort and convenience for everyone. The





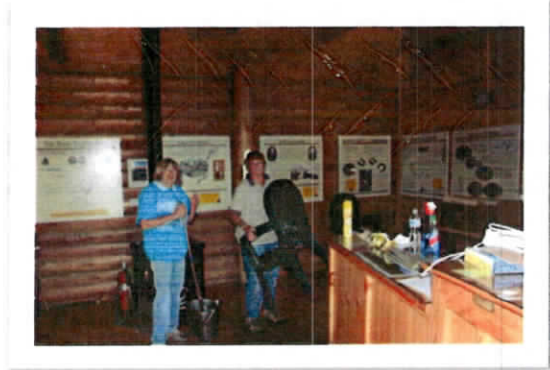
log cabin was constructed by teams of volunteers over many seasons and features an interpretive panel exhibit depicting the history of Carson Pass. It boasts space and shelving for greatly expanded supplies of maps, guides, books and literature encompassing the human and natural history of Carson Pass and adjacent regions. Other changes brought telephone service, upgraded parking and signage.

Daily, ENFIA volunteers are called upon to interpret the changes that have imposed certain restrictions on the use and availability of sites within the Eldorado National Forest and the Mokelumne Wilderness. Visitors are not always immediately understanding; they may be travel-weary and disappointed to learn that their plans must be altered to protect the carrying capacity of the most popular places, lakes and trails.

Change is constant in nature too. Some come so slowly as to be imperceptible. There is a venerable snag half-hidden just a few paces off the trail to Lake Winnemucca. More than half a century has passed since I first came upon it and in those fifty-plus years I am greatly changed. I may never again manage the physical trek to view its wind-and-weather sculpted magnificence. Protected in designated wilderness, I know it is there. Memory allows me frequent, pleasurable moments in recollecting how my fingers traced its fine patina surface, ridges and whorls. The permanence of wilderness comforts me. Imperfect humans, we too often use and abuse the natural world in which we live. Fortunately we have tried to protect in perpetuity some of nature's wondrous places and inhabitants. Carson Pas Country is one of them.

You know, many visitors and hikers at the Carson Pass Information Station expressed envy that I could spend my retirement days volunteering at such a beautiful location. I agree – it was grand!

Janie Hawker moved to Sonoma County. She was an ENFIA volunteer at Carson Pass for eight summers between 1991 and 1999.





## Traverse Creek Botanical Area

*Steve Dowty, Summer 1999*

Traverse Creek Botanical Special Interest Area is a botanical study area southeast of Georgetown that includes two streams, ranging from cascading to meandering, merging into a marsh-like area. The area has been extensively mined, leaving much of it exposed to serpentine bedrock. Digger pine, hardy shrubs, and streamside plants are in competition with aggressive introduced plants. The project includes: exotic plant removal, erosion control, and interpretive planning designed to highlight its unique features.



Over many years, our work at Traverse Creek has shown the good effects of vegetation management. The bulk of our activities has been in selectively cutting and removing introduced Himalayan blackberry, Scotch broom, and the native coffee berry. The thick growth of these plants shade out the native marsh vegetation and suppress growth of the existing native riparian trees. This condition is common to many of the creeks in El Dorado County.

Once the shrubs and blackberry are removed, increased light allows existing native marsh plants and riparian trees to grow more vigorously. It also stimulates germination of dormant seeds. The result is an area that is more open and resistant to erosion during large winter storms. Sediments are being filtered and deposited in the demonstration area. Restoring the riparian-marsh characteristics improves water quality, reduces flooding by lowering peak storm flows, and improves ground water storage.

The original extensive marsh area at the site received abundant gold-bearing sediments before extensive mining. Mining activities cut into the extensive root and creeping stem mass of the marsh vegetation and allowed continuing erosion at the site until the beginning of the demonstration project. Before the start of the project, erosion and down cutting of the creek bed resulted in a site that was drier in the summer. Drier conditions and the lack of burning by the Indians has allowed invasion of native and non-native shrubs and blackberries. These out-compete and overrun the native marsh vegetation.

The demonstration site has taken a small part of the original marsh system and reversed the process of net erosion to net deposition, changing the creek bed from down cutting to rising. The rising creek bed is spreading the water, increasing ground infiltration, lowering peak winter flows and reducing the effects of summer drought at the site. The changed conditions have allowed the increase and spread of the native marsh plants.

ENFIA has conducted two to three work parties each year at Traverse Creek since 1987.



## 2000 to 2009...

The year 2000 started off with an ambitious calendar. The Traverse Creek Restoration project led by Steve Dowty continued with a work party in April. Frank Tortorich provided ENFIA members with a historic driving tour of Highway 88. There were wildflower walks in August, and in September Dana Supernowicz from the Forest Service talked at the general meeting about the history of the Pony Express. A field trip to the Brockliss Bridge Project and a talk by Susan Yasuda on the birds of the Eldorado rounded out the year's activities. With all these events and the ability to now use the new Carson Pass Information Station, ENFIA had a very good year.

### To Many Rocks

*Nancy Crocker, retired FS Employee*

These are actual comments left on Forest Service registration sheets and comment cards by backpackers completing wilderness camping trips:

- ◆ "A small deer came into my camp and stole my bag of pickles. Is there a way I can get reimbursed? Please call."
- ◆ "Trails need to be reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill."
- ◆ "Instead of a permit system or regulations, the Forest Service needs to reduce worldwide population growth to limit the number of visitors to wilderness."
- ◆ "Too many bugs and leeches and spiders and spider webs. Please spray the wilderness to rid the area of these pests."
- ◆ "Chairlifts need to be in some places so that we can get to wonderful views without having to hike to them."
- ◆ "Trails need to be wider so people can walk while holding hands."
- ◆ "Reflectors need to be placed on trees every 50 feet so people can hike at night with flashlights."
- ◆ "Need more signs to keep area pristine."
- ◆ "The places where trails do not exist are not well marked."
- ◆ "Too many rocks in the mountains."

### Forest Service Liaison

In the summer of 2000 Karen Finlayson, the official Forest Service organizer of ENFIA, resigned her role as Forest Service Liaison to ENFIA to move on to a new position with the Regional Office. She served as liaison for 13 years and was so important to ENFIA that a song was created just for her.

The Forest Service has a star.

KAR-EN-FIN-LAY-SON

Friend to ENFIA a decade or more.

KAR-EN-FIN-LAY-SON

With a newsletter here

And a field trip there

Here a shirt there a pin.

A dish for potluck once again.

The Forest Service has a star.

KAR-EN-FIN-LAY-SON



## The Wrights Lake Junior Ranger Program

A Wrights Lake Junior Ranger Program was started in the summer of 2001 in association with ENFIA, three Humboldt State University Students and the Wrights Lake Summer Home Association. A grant from ENFIA provided the funds to print up enough copies of the Junior Ranger activities to last several years.

In addition to the Junior Ranger Program, ENFIA's first web page was created by Dick Brock. Dick donated a lot of time to this project along with hundreds of hours creating the Carson Pass Area Trails Manual. The manual provides valuable information to the public regarding hiking opportunities in the Carson Pass area. It became a valuable asset to the public and the ENFIA docents who staff the Carson Pass Information Station every summer. He was one of the first ENFIA members to have volunteered over 1000 hours.



## Growth of ENFIA

By 2002 ENFIA activities had increased so much that the Board decided that there was now a real need for some professional staffing. They approved the creation of four contract employee positions: Business Manager, Retail Manager, Carson Pass Manager and Publicist.

These new contract positions were held by Mark Gottlieb, Business Manager; Kathie Piaszk, Retail Manager; Syd Perryman, Carson Pass Manager, and Renee Hargrove, Publicist.

Non-paid positions included a Carson Pass Maintenance Manager (Joel Knowles) and a membership coordinator (Lola Schuette).

In 2007 ENFIA celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its partnership with the Eldorado National Forest.





## The Eldorado Placerville Nursery and the Institute of Forest Genetics

During the early 2000s, ENFIA had a strong association with two other Forest Service projects: The Placerville Nursery and the Institute of Forest Genetics. Both are located in Camino, CA.

At the Nursery, ENFIA volunteers help with many projects created to provide seedling trees. All of the seeds used for replacement came from trees on the California national forests, and after being planted at the nursery, would be grown into seedlings to replace those lost in wildfires on those same forests. The volunteers also helped out at the front desk and with school tours of the nursery. ENFIA volunteer, Joyce Pratt, went on to be hired by the Forest Service and stayed on the forest until her retirement.

The Institute of Forest Genetics is a part of the Forest Service's research branch. Chris Nelson, longtime Institute employee, spearheaded the renovation of the self-guided arboretum trail on the Institute grounds. ENFIA was one of the major donors to this project. The arboretum claims the most complete collection of pines in the world. Thanks to ENFIA's funding, each evergreen now has a new sign displaying its name, description, a rendering of its cone, and a map showing where this conifer grows best. The Institute was always gracious enough to allow ENFIA to use their lovely conference room facilities for many of the ENFIA activities.

## Volunteers' Awards Program

Near the beginning of ENFIA it was decided that the volunteers should be rewarded for their many hours of dedication to ENFIA and the Forest Service. These volunteers organized and lead field trips and activities, volunteered at several of the ranger stations assisting the public, helped with the creation and construction of Carson Pass Information Station, provided the administrative duties necessary to keep ENFIA running, created interpretive material, built new interpretive trails, cleaned out invasive species along Traverse Creek, and provided docent services at Carson Pass. Every other year ENFIA held an awards banquet to honor these volunteers.

By the end of 1999 there were already four ENFIA members who had put in over 1000 hours of service: Lola Schuette, Dick Brock, Joel Knowles, and Mary Knowles. These four volunteers were up to 3000 hours each by 2004. In addition, in 1999 ENFIA and Joel Knowles received the Forest Service Chief's National Awards for service to the Forest Service.





## Pyramid Guard Station Finds a New Home

*Joyce Pratt, Interpreter, July 2008*

“Pyramid Guard Station was built between 1910 and 1911. It was believed to have been constructed by forest guards, with all the lumber and materials purchased locally and transferred to the site aboard a wagon. It was used as a combination residence/office by forest personnel until the 1970s. It was located near 39 Milepost along Highway 50. The single-story building is a “shotgun” style design of wood-frame construction measuring roughly 39 feet long x 16 feet wide. A small addition in the rear of the building was added in the mid-1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

Special project funding was given to the Eldorado National Forest in 1993 to relocate the building to another site where it could be maintained and used for administrative and interpretive purposes. At that time, it was decided that Owen’s Fire Camp Administrative Site would be the most appropriate site for relocation of the building. In 1994, the Pyramid Guard Station was moved down Hwy. 50, up Silver Fork Rd. to Owen’s Camp. Since that time, Owen’s Fire Camp is no longer in use and the buildings have been abandoned. It was decided to again move the Pyramid Guard Station to the Placerville Ranger Station site to be used as a Visitor Center. The building was moved to its current location on October 27, 2005.”

ENFIA provided help in setting up the new Visitor Center and in designing and building the interior of the station where an ENFIA Forest Outlook store is now located along with the Forest Service Information Station. ENFIA volunteers have also provided assistance and information to the public regarding opportunities on the Eldorado, selling maps, and providing campfire permits.



## Remembering Toni Henry & Her Ray Boyer Walking Stick

*from the 2004 Interpreter*

Toni Henry is remembered by many of you who work at Carson Pass as a warm, outgoing bright, energetic person who was quick to laugh. She was very active at Carson Pass from 1999-2004. Toni has since passed away but will be remembered by many ENFIA volunteers.

Her nickname was Captain Toni as she was the only female California State riverboat Captain of the Ryde Ferry on the Sacramento River. Lola Schuette remembered that before moving to California's Central Valley Toni was also riverboat captain in the State of Washington.

One of her favorite stories when she was at Carson Pass is during her first or second session she was hiking out to Lake Margaret but had started late and she had to spend the night. She was by herself and she had only her Ray Boyer hiking stick, no jacket or supplies. She stayed out all night and sat beside a large rock with her hiking stick for protection. Luckily she found her way out the next day. She laughed when she told Ranger Marilyn Meyer about it and said she could now understand how easy it is for someone to get disoriented and lost on that trail. Also, while staying at the Silver Lake cabin a bear broke into her car. She had a fantastic sense of humor and a wealth of stories to tell and will be missed by all who knew her.



## Remembering Rob Livingston

Robert (Rob) Livingston was one of those who came to our very first meeting on January 14, 1987. He had a ready smile, pleasant laugh, and willing spirit. (I liked his dimples!) Rob was one of the original board members! Although he wasn't our first board chairman, he served the board in that role for two years. After stepping down as chairman (91), Rob became the Treasurer (96, 97)

Rob was one of the hardy souls who "staffed" the eagle's nest at Union Valley on a chilly Memorial Day weekend in 1987. He also spent many weekends staffing at Carson Pass and enjoying the Silver Lake Cabin.

Rob was a huge asset to ENFIA in the early years. We lost him in 2006.



2010 to 2017...

## California Alpine Club Foundation Grant

*Interpreter January 2010*

“During the year 2009, The California Alpine Club Foundation grant to The Eldorado National Forest Interpretive Association (ENFIA) provided pack support for Eldorado N.F. Wilderness/trails staff, Student Conservation Association crew members, and Wilderness Volunteers and Desolation Wilderness Volunteer project partners. The grant facilitated the transport and return of 300 pounds of trail construction tools and base camp supplies from the Rockbound Trailhead to the project site at Maude Lake in Desolation Wilderness, a total of 12 miles.

The Pacific Ranger District Wilderness Staff and the Eldorado N.F. Engineering/Trails department commended the California Alpine Club Foundation and the ENFIA for supporting their continuing effort to protect and preserve wild lands.”

The California Alpine Club has continued to provide ENFIA with grant money for more than nine years to be used on the creation of new projects or upkeep of old projects along the upper Highway 50 area that runs through the Eldorado.

## Centennial 1910-2010 Eldorado National Forest “100 Years of Discovering”

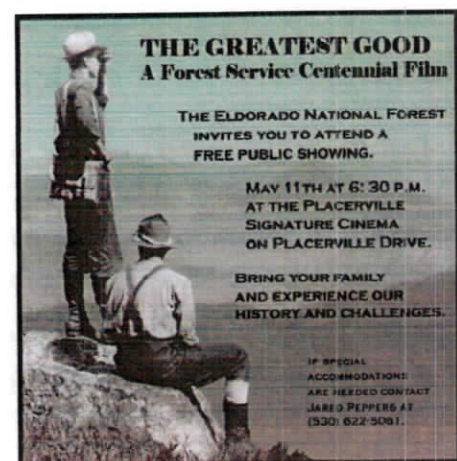
*Interpreter March 2010*

“The Eldorado is 100 years old this year! It’s time to celebrate, reflect, and look ahead. Take advantage of the centennial’s theme “100 Years of Discovering Forest Treasures” and use it to discover, explore, and enjoy your Eldorado National Forest”. The Eldorado came into being on July 28, 1910 when legislation carved it out of the Stanislaus and Tahoe National Forests.

The story of today’s national forest is written on its landscapes and in the hearts and spirits of people. Its legacy is found in the stability of its soil, the clarity of its water, the health of its trees, the condition of its watersheds, the vigor of its wildlife, and the wellbeing of people who benefit from the forest. How we treat the Forest today creates the forest for the future.”



## Forest Service Centennial







## Booths at the Fair

*Interpreter March 2010*

As part of the Centennial celebrations ENFIA volunteers staffed information booths at both the El Dorado County Fair and the Amador County Fair. The theme for these booths was "Experience the Wild Treasures of the Eldorado National Forest". There were even bronze Centennial belt buckles available for purchase at the booths. ENFIA had these buckles created as a commemorative piece available to ENFIA members, Forest Service Staff, and the public.



## Carson Pass Information Station Year End Report Oct. 12, 2010

*Bob Youel, Carson Pass Manager*

*Interpreter November 2010*

"The 2010 May orientation session was well attended. Five new docents completed their orientation program and were added to the 34 returning docents. I continue to receive favorable comments about our docents' service, enthusiasm, and quality of information. We remain a proud and confident group. The docent walking program completed its fourth year. Ten docents will receive mileage achievement awards. The uncertainty of the economy and several weeks of bad weather vastly affected our numbers this season.



- ◆ There were 10,910 visitors at Carson Pass this year and over 2575 docent hours were given by ENFIA members.
- ◆ Dennis Price, ENFIA's maintenance supervisor, has been very busy and his efforts are greatly appreciated. His accomplishments include:
  - ◇ Fabricated and installed a decorative split rail fence and planter boxes for the front of the station.
  - ◇ Completed recommendations for the solar system at the station
  - ◇ Installed a sophisticated weather station that has the capability to be tied to our web site and to a national weather service.
  - ◇ Made plumbing repairs to the cabin shower area.

*(Note: Bob and Ginny Youel served as the Carson Pass Manager and the CP Scheduling Manager respectively for over 10 years)*



## Membership Changes

*Interpreter Spring 2011*

In 2011 a change was made in our membership process. All memberships will start May 1<sup>st</sup> and end at the end of April. There was no increase in dues.

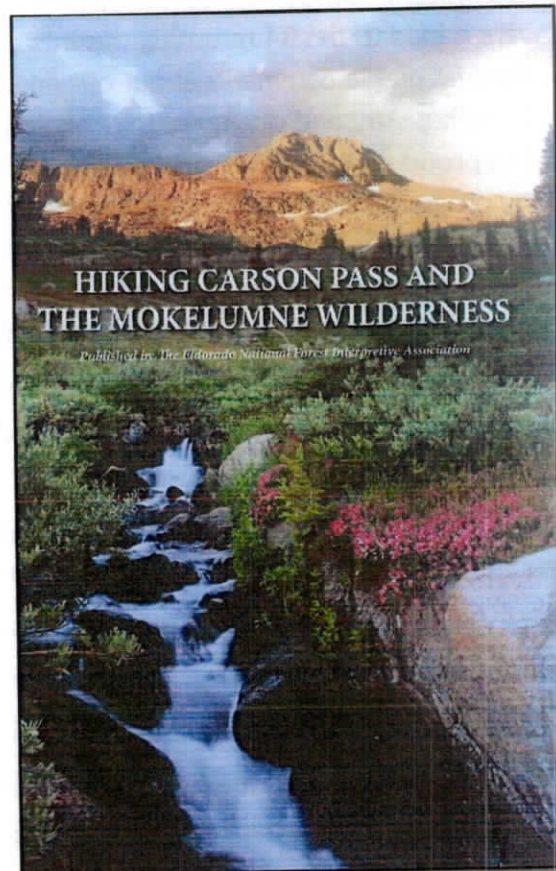
A survey had been sent out in March 2011 along with an explanation of the membership date change. The attendance at general meetings and field trips had been going down and it was hoped that questions on the survey would provide a clue to this decrease. The responses did not provide clues and attendance continued to decrease. The board members decided to decrease the number of upcoming general meetings and field trips. The bylaws were rewritten to reflect that there would be only two General Membership meetings each year, one in the spring and one in the fall.

Thirty-seven of our members responded to the survey and received a free one year membership. ENFIA also created an e-mail account so members could easily contact the board.

## A Special "Thanks" to Dick Brock

*Interpreter Spring 2011*

"Dick Brock became involved with ENFIA around 1991. When he was visiting the Carson Pass area Joel Knowles talked him into helping build the Carson Pass Information Station. Over the years he wrote our most popular selling book, "Hiking in the Greater Carson Pass Region", and this year after updating his book, he generously donated 250 copies to ENFIA. Dick is a retired Marketing Professor from California State University, Sacramento and an avid history buff, particularly interested in western trails. He writes and edits books about his favorite subject and has been active in Trails West. Dick also has more volunteer hours than any other ENFIA members, well over 4,000 hours. Thank you, Dick, for your very generous donation."

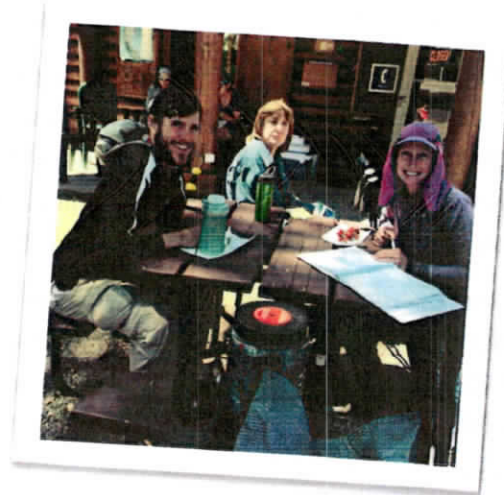




## Carson Pass, the Pacific Crest Trail Association

*Interpreter Fall/Winter 2012*

In 2012, the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) recognized Carson Pass as an official "trail angel". Docents have been voluntarily providing food and water to the many PCT hikers who stop at the pass for a bit of a rest. There is an official register for the PCT hikers to sign in and to read up on those hikers who passed through Carson Pass before them.



## Ray Boyer Passed Away

*Interpreter Fall/Winter 2012*

Ray Boyer passed away this year. He was 96 years old. For many years he donated his hand made walking sticks to ENFIA to sell at the Carson Pass Station. Jim Hacker volunteered to complete several sticks that Ray had started and to make a few more for the station.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Year for ENFIA

*Interpreter Winter 2012*

By 2012, ENFIA had been partnering with the Forest Service for 25 years to fulfill our "interpretive" mission on the Eldorado. The theme for 2012 was "Involvement" with a goal to increase ENFIA's active involvement with the Forest Service and to increase activities that benefit the general public. During 2011 ENFIA members put in 3,151 volunteer hours for the Forest Service. That made a total of 55,155 hours that members have provide in the first 25 years.



**55,155  
Hours!**



## ENFIA Walkers Program at Carson Pass

*Interpreter Spring 2014*

"In 2007 a new program of service was added to the ENFIA Carson Pass Program. Docents that had been trained and involved at the Carson Pass information Station walked the trails in Mokelumne Wilderness and surrounding areas including the Meiss Country and the PCT. Their purpose was to be the "eyes and ears" of conditions in the field and to be available to answer questions for visitors. It has been a very popular program. By the 2013 season 151 walkers provided 4,106 hours of service.

ENFIA is proposing to expand and formalize the Walkers Program. At this time we are looking for volunteers interested and available to help out on the Amador, Placerville, Pacific and Georgetown Ranger districts on the Eldorado National Forest. We hope to attract enthusiastic volunteers with this forest-wide opportunity. They will report concerns and conditions to the District liaison and just generally help folks out."

## Forest Walker Program

*Interpreter Summer 2014*

In 2014, a new program was started to increase ENFIA's role along the Highway 50 Corridor, The Forest Walker Program. The goal for this new program was to "create a forest wide year-around volunteer Trail Walker program that provides visitor education, trail monitoring and maintenance on the Eldorado National Forest". The focus of this group was visitor education and information, trail monitoring, trail condition surveys, light maintenance and visitor safety on forest trails and related areas. The first activity of the Forest Walker Program was a bird watcher's walk in March 2015. In 2015 and 2016, a visitor information station at Pyramid Creek Trail Head was added to the programs' activities. Dawn King spearheaded the Forest Walker endeavor.

## The Interpreter

*Winter 2015*

The ENFIA newsletter, The Interpreter, was first published in 1988, and continued until the winter of 2015. It provided members with interpretive and educational information along with information regarding ENFIA activities. The first issue was a two-sided sheet which over the years developed into a professional looking newsletter that could be mailed or e-mailed to the members.

### Outings planned for April, May

Tours set for nature trail and botanical site

Steve Dowty will bring ENFIA members up to date on progress he's made on the interpretive trail at Bndal Vei Falls picnic area during a tour April 22.

The hour-long tour beginning at 10 a.m. will explore the cool, wet north-slope forest where fir, incense cedar and yew trees thrive.

The old forest is presently dominated by Douglas Firs that may be more than 400 years old. Evidence points to a hot fire that swept through the area about 150 years ago.

Since then, yew trees and dogwoods have taken up residence in the cool shade of the firs.

Steve advises bringing a lunch if you would like to stay after the tour and discuss the latest plans on the signs and brochure. The total time for the outing shouldn't be more than three hours.

On May 6, plan to visit the Traverse Creek area for a tour of an unusual botanical area that should be filled with wildflowers by then. The time of the tour is still being arranged, so watch for details.

Traverse Creek has serpentine rock outcrops, which create the unusual soil conditions that support several rare plant species.

April 22: 10 a.m. Saturday, Bndal Vei Falls picnic area, east of Pollock Pines on Hwy. 50 Call Steve Dowty for details, 622-6833.

May 6: 10 a.m. Saturday, Traverse Creek, Middlefork Road, east of Hwy. 100 between Kelsey and Georgetown. Call Mary Harris for details, 622-6838.

### Gerle Creek progress

This fisheries improvement and interpretive trail project has attracted the interest of the Wildlife Conservation Board, Cal Trout, REI, the Telephone Pioneers, and the Department of Fish and Game.

Of course, it all began with local Forest Service fisheries biologist Karl Soren and the El Dorado County Fish and Game Commission. They've already put lots of time into the project.

ENFIA helped clear a trail there last fall. There may be ways for us to help more at the site, which access and fish habitat improvements.

We need someone to act as our liaison on the project. Call Steve Dowty, 626-4833.



## In Remembrance of Richard "Dick" Brock

*June 12, 2014*

My friend and fellow long time ENFIA member, Dick Brock, passed away June 12, 2014. Most of you probably know Dick through his fantastic book, *Hiking in the Carson Pass Area*, but I want to share some other things about Dick with you.

First, Dick was one of only four ENFIA members to have over 3000 volunteer hours. He earned these hours mostly between two activities: Building the Carson Pass Information Station; and writing and updating his book. He was also a board member for several years and a willing and knowledgeable docent at Carson Pass.

While working on the information station he and Joel Knowles had an ongoing game of one-up-man-ship going. They were always trying to outdo each other regarding who had the newest and most useful new tools to use on the project. This resulted in a better built cabin and a lot of toys for both of them.

Second, did you know that Dick donated all of the rights to his hiking book to ENFIA? He never charged us for the books and never took a penny of the profits. He even updated the book over the years without asking for anything in return.

Third, he was the biggest coffee drinker I have ever met. It did not matter what time of day it was he always had his coffee

Fourth, Dick was a retired professor. He worked at California State University Sacramento in the Management Department with a specialty in marketing. That is where Joel and I first met Dick many years ago.



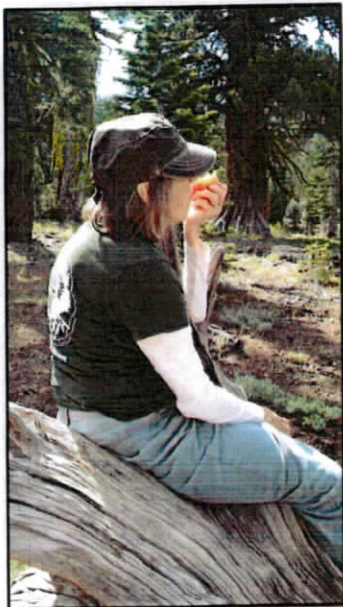
I will miss Dick. He was a real supporter of ENFIA and a very good friend.

*Mary Knowles*



## Forest Walker Program

by Dawn King



In 2007 ENFIA docents who had been trained and involved at the Carson Pass were was enough volunteers to staff the busy station some of our docents began walking the trails in the Mokelumne Wilderness, the Meiss country to the north, and along the Pacific Crest Trail. Our purpose was to interact with visitors in the field. We answered questions, gave directions, told stories, talked about history, and shared weather reports while also noting the conditions along the trails. And we listened and learned. The mutually shared information was then taken back to the station which helped us give timely reports to visitors eager to learn about the area.

The walking program at Carson Pass has been very successful and a few ENFIA members who participated were eager to expand the program. Their goal was to establish a forest-wide Volunteer Trail Walker program to provide visitor education, trail monitoring and maintenance on the Eldorado National Forest.

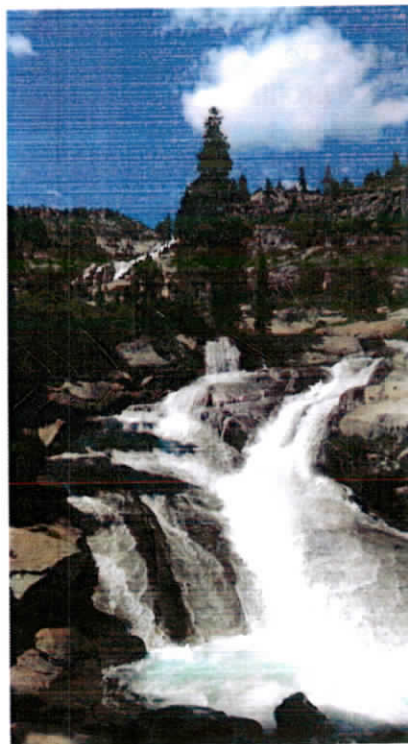
Noting the lack of and need for this type of activity in the Highway 50 Corridor we decided to start the FOREST WALKER PROGRAM on the Placerville Ranger District with the goal of extending the program to the Georgetown and Pacific Districts as we developed a group of trained, skilled enthusiastic volunteers.

In 2014 we started by working with the Placerville Ranger District with folks interested in the Highway 50 side of the forest. Our lead on the program was USFS Recreation Officer Cathy Bounds.

We were a busy group from the start. During our first three years we accomplish many of our objectives:

**Early Season Trail Checks** for conditions and damage. We relayed that information back to the Forest Service. We found fallen trees, trail damage, flooded trails, and other conditions needing attention.

**Light Maintenance** – We did some light trimming using loppers, cleared debris from trails and reported the heavier needs to the Forest Service.





**Trail Monitoring** – We wore our ENFIA t-shirts and Forest Walker name badges to identify ourselves as volunteers and hiked the trails. We talked to people, picked up garbage, and got to know a few of the hiking trails.

**Public Education and Information** - Visitor contact was achieved at trailheads and on the trail. One big project was establishing an Information Kiosk at the Pyramid Creek Trailhead which was spearheaded by Mary Knowles, one of the original folks who got the Carson Pass Information Station up and running.

**Pyramid Creek Loop Trail** - ENFIA volunteers held a special work day to make improvements on the loop trail to enhance the visitors' enjoyment of this beautiful trail up to Horsetails Falls.

Our future goals and objectives remain the same for 2017 and beyond. Our plans include:

Increase our presence on the many hiking trails along Highway 50 by offering more interpretive trail walks. (Birds, Geology, Wildflowers etc.)

- ◆ Expand our program into other areas on the Eldorado National Forest.
- ◆ Explore the opportunities for a permanent seasonal information booth along Highway 50.
- ◆ Increase the number of mini information stations at well used trail heads.
- ◆ Increase the number of ENFIA volunteers who would like to be involved in the Forest Walker program. We need people who like the "Boots-on-the Ground" type work and people who enjoy working with the public and providing interpretive and educational materials. There is also a need for people to help out with administrative tasks and communication.
- ◆ Offer training to our members in interpretation and trail maintenance.

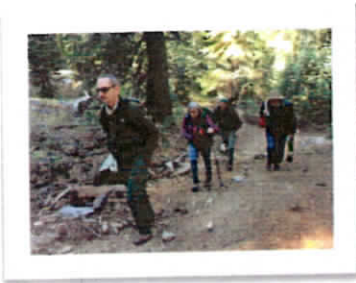
We hope to have more ENFIA members join us in future Forest Walker endeavors and we hope to attract more members of the public to join ENFIA. Check us out at [enfia.org](http://enfia.org).



## Forest Walker Activities

The Forest Walker program has been a great addition to the Eldorado National Forest volunteer program. Besides staffing the Pyramid Information Station the last 2 seasons, they have had quite a few other activities. Here are some photos of those events.

### Cody Meadow Hike



### Sayles Canyon Hike



### Lovers Leap



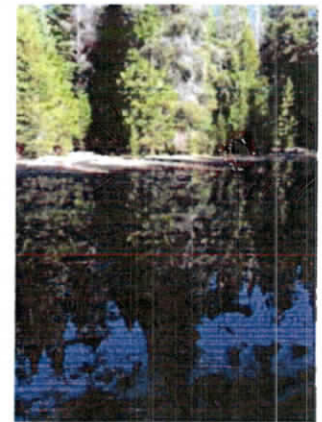




Horsetail Falls



Caples Creek Trail Bird Hike



Caples Creek to Government Meadow

## 30 Years of Memories

by ENFIA Members and Forest Service Staff ...

### Carson Pass Tidbits #2

*Mary Knowles*

#### MISSING

Since the beginning of ENFIA's involvement in Carson Pass in 1989 many things are now missing. So I thought I just would tell you about some of them.

1. **The Old Information Station:** This converted Outhouse served as our information station for several years. At first it was located in the spot that would be about where the current front door is located. Then when we started the log cabin in 1991 it was moved to the spot where the day use fee information and tube are located. (I will tell you more about the Outhouse in a later story.)
2. **The Huge Tree:** Just outside of the current Information station, right in back of the Eagle Scout bench, stood a very tall pine tree. About 15 feet up was a blaze marking a deep snow fall. I don't know what year this happened but I sure do remember being impressed with the amount of snow. The tree had been struck by lightning and was dying so it was cut down and only a three foot tall stump remained. Each year we would watch this stump fade away until almost nothing remains but a little bitty bump.
3. **The Radio Tower:** Next to the big tree stood a tall metal radio tower. We were told that if we needed to get emergency help we would have to climb the tower carrying a big old fashioned radio... or we could climb up to the top of the rocks behind the old station and try to get radio reception from there. We never climbed the tower but we did have to climb up the rocks a couple of times.
4. **The Parking Lot:** It was several years of operating the information station before Caltrans decided to stripe the parking lot. Until then we could get in about twice as many cars, and the trucks and buses parked along the side of the road. There were no one-way signs and cars came and went in any direction. No accidents either!



5. **The Diamond:** Melissa Flaspohler was one of our early construction volunteers. She is one of those ladies that always looks put together even when working in the dirt. On one of her construction days she noticed that her engagement ring was no longer on her finger. A very excited group of workers searched and searched with no luck. It was gone. I don't know about you, but I would be panicking about this time. Melissa remained calm and said at least it was insured. So we all went back to work. At closing time Melissa moved a piece of lumber out of her way and there it was... the diamond ring. We had all walked over it hidden beneath the lumber.

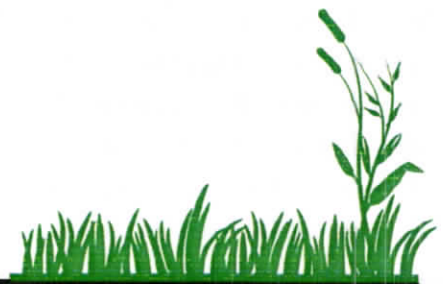


6. **Marmots:** There were marmots everywhere! All along the side of the road were holes that were the home for so many marmots. You could not drive up Mormon Immigrant Trail (we still called it Iron Mountain Road in those days) or over Highway 88 without seeing lots of heads popping up right next to the roadways. And they were big! They would sit by the side of the road and watch us work. Probably thought we were nuts building a cabin when we could dig a comfortable hole with plenty of sunlight?

7. **Birds:** Clark Nutcrackers were also in great supply. Every tree around the station would be full of them and also little Juncos. Now it seems so quiet outside. Yes I know they are still in the forest, just not at the station like they used to be.



8. **Rain:** I have really noticed the weather changes at the Pass over the years. When we started in the Outhouse station we put up plastic sheets over the outside counter to roll down when it started to rain. Almost every afternoon it did rain! Now rain seems to be a stranger on most days. It just seems like there was more "weather" in the old days.



## The Best Part of My Job

*Kristi Schroeder, Forest Service Liaison*

It has been my pleasure to work with ENFIA since 2000 when I stepped into the Information Center Director job behind Karen Finlayson. Those were metaphorically big shoes to fill. It is hard to believe I have been working with ENFIA for 17 years now. It seems like yesterday.

At 30 years, ENFIA is one of our oldest and valued partners. Without ENFIA we could not have accomplished our mission of "Caring for the Land, and Serving the People" so well over the years. Did you know the Forest Service can only sell Forest Service maps? All the wonderful books, clothing, and other items are only possible through this group.



By now you have read this bit of ENFIA history and can appreciate the tenacity, determination, and dedication that members have displayed to make this partnership a success. This book was a sampling of the activities and contributions this group made to our forest and our visitors. Not mentioned in the book was the huge problem that was created when the forest had to close the Information Center in 2006 which was the source for over half of ENFIA's income via their retail outlet. I am so proud of the way the group dug down and figured out a way to fight their way back into the "black". Today, ENFIA has spread it's efforts beyond the retail outlets and Carson Pass to publishing books, finding grants for projects, creating forest specific merchandise and the expansion of their on-the-ground volunteer efforts with the Forest Walker program. I expect the future to be even better.

## The Dan Quayle Trail

*Dennis Price (Written November 29, 2014)*

After two misspellings of Dan's last name I finally got it right and posted the "Dan Quayle Trail" sign along Oyster Creek. It's a few minutes in on the trail overlooking the creek and is 5-6 feet outside the forest boundary. For new docents, Dan was an ENFIA member for a long time and was known for his physical strength and kind personality. Besides being a docent at the Pass, Dan was a PCT Trail Gorilla and helped us keep Oyster Creek clear for hiking. A couple of years ago Dan hacked through 6 or 7 huge trees that had fallen across the trail, while Ginger, Don, Sharon and I scurried behind him trying to keep up. Dan Passed away August, 2013.



We lost some great people over the last couple years. Ray Boyer, a retired upscale master home builder, provided us with beautiful walking sticks for years...Gerry Hutchinson came to us when he was about 80 and was still a major stud.. when we met him he was still a natural mechanical whiz building hot rods, and racing dirt bikes. Gerry and Miriam develop the tree and wild flower displays at the station...Dick Brock passed away this year, too. It's hard to image what Carson Pass would be like without his book, *Hiking the Greater Carson Pass* trail guide.



## Devil's Ladder

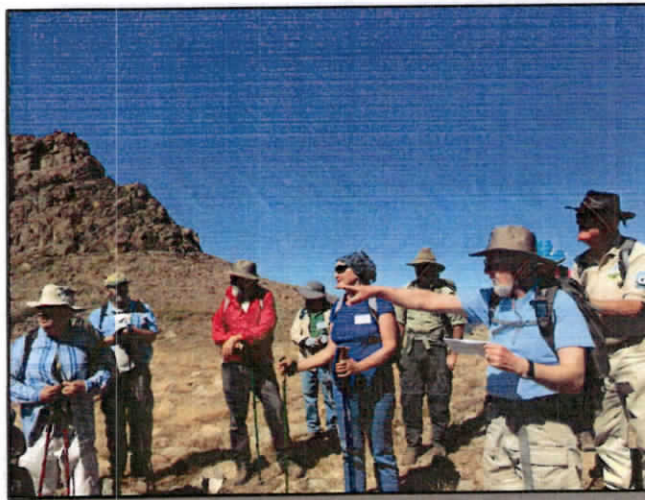
by Richard Kennon

Carson Pass was the major gateway for pioneers coming to California during the gold rush. Between 1849 and 1852, 75,000 to 95,000 people passed through here. This was called the Carson River Route because it followed the Carson River up into Hope Valley. From there the pioneers came to Red Lake and the First Summit or Devil's Ladder.

Visitors can see this route by driving east on Highway 88 for only 0.1 mile (just passed the rocks near this cabin) and turning right on a short paved road that leads to the old Amador Wagon Road. At the end of the paved road is an information sign erected by the Forest Service. Park your car there and walk down the dirt road for a hundred feet or so. To your left is the Devil's Ladder and to your right is a foot trail that leads to some monuments commemorating the immigrants. There is a deformed tree at the beginning of the foot trail that looks as though it was used for chains and ropes that held the wagons while the oxen rested. The trail is short (maybe only 0.1 miles) and loops around to the paved road not far from where you parked your car. In the early spring, the mosquitoes can be awful on this trail. Sorry about that.

(ENFIA volunteers offer tours of Devil's Ladder every summer.)





## Frank Tortorich

*ENFIA Member, FS employee, and Historian*

I joined ENFIA when it was in its infancy. I was still working for the Amador County School District and volunteering with the US Forest Service at the time. My wife Mary Ann and I signed up as volunteers in 1978 to do historical research for the Amador Ranger District on the Carson River Route of the emigrant trail. By the late 1980s Mary Ann and I had learned a lot about Carson Pass, John Fremont, Kit Carson and Tragedy Spring. During our USFS volunteer days the head Wilderness Ranger, Harlow Scott (Scotty) asked me if I would like to do the inventory of each of the hiking trails on the Amador Ranger District. Well this was an offer I could not refuse. For the next several summers, I had a blast pushing the measuring wheel the length of each trail and recording trail conditions which included sign condition, water bar condition, washouts, fallen trees etc.

This information was used to plan trail maintenance work for the next season. Between doing the historical research and learning about all the hiking trails, unknown to us at the time, was the perfect educational background for working at the Carson Pass Information Station.

Sometime in the late 1980s, The Forest Service received a grant to build a permanent information station at Carson Pass. The grant was to buy the materials to build the station, but the labor was to come from volunteers. Mary and Joel Knowles, two of the skilled and dedicated founders of ENFIA, took on the construction of the new information station.

Numerous people volunteered to help with the construction and I was one of those volunteers. I helped a bit with each phase of the construction from the foundation to erecting the log walls, to putting the metal on the roof.

My greatest challenge came when we were to lay the tongue and groove solid oak flooring. I arrived at the scheduled day with two other men only to hear that Joel broke his leg and would not be there. We stood looking at each other when one said, "Who knows how to lay the flooring?" Well reluctantly I said I had some experience. Well you guessed it, I was appointed to be



the foreman. The sub- flooring was already down but I did not know if the walls were square to the flooring. Using my math teacher background I laid out a 3-4-5 triangle at the north end of the building, and with hope and a prayer, we began to lay the flooring. We did not have a powered nail gun, only a manual nail jack that required a 20 lb. mini sledge hammer. We had to take turns using the nail jack/sledge hammer because after about five swings our arm, hand and wrist was so fatigued we had to stop and let another guy take over. I was nervous about the job because if we don't start out square, there will be a big out of line gap at the end. When we got to the first seam of the sub-flooring I breathe a sigh of relief because we lined up perfectly with the sub-flooring. When we finally got to the south wall one side was only out 3/8 of an inch and that would be covered with molding. As I recall it took up to 2 or 3 days to complete the job that could have been done in 6 to 10 hours with a powered nail gun.

I was one happy sore armed camper as were the other men. As I recall it took us 2 or 3 days to complete the job that could have been done in about 6 to 10 hours with a powered nail gun.

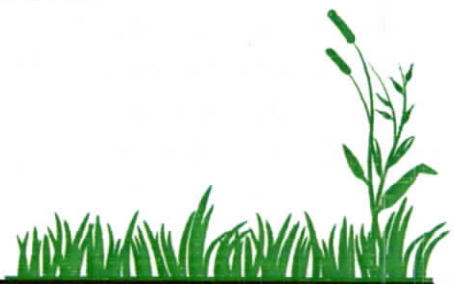
On several of my volunteer work days helping to build the station, I would take my then 80-year-old father with me and he did help. Joel recorded my dad as the oldest volunteer building the station.

When we finally finished and opened up the station for visitors. Mary Ann and I were in the first group of docents to work at the station. Mary Ann went on to help with inventory and resales. Mary Ann was later hired by the USFS to work in the office helping staff and then worked at the front desk at the Amador Ranger District. About 12 years ago I was recruited to work in the recreation department.

About 6 years ago, the Amador Ranger District came to the conclusion that ENFIA and the Carson Pass Information Station needed more of a USFS presence during the summer and I was offered the position of being that person. Well I jumped at the chance to work in a dream job.

In recent years under the wonderful leadership of Bob and Ginny Youel and now Dennis and Roxi Price, the Carson Pass Information Station has grown to about 60 incredible knowledgeable and dedicated docents. The visitor contacts and sales have increased. 2016 had the largest visitor contacts I have ever seen at Carson Pass. ENFIA is alive and well and I am proud to be part of this wonderful service to the public.

ENFIA "live well and prosper."



## A Little ENFIA History

*Dorothy Uebele*

Although I don't remember the year I first volunteered, it was when the Carson Pass station was just a small converted "out house". I had the privilege of working with some dedicated volunteers. It was fun to meet the wide range of people who visited the station, most of whom were appreciative of the beauty, interested, and interesting. On one occasion decedents of Snowshoe Thompson's family from Norway visited the station. They told us that they liked to come every two years to revisit the mountains and the memorials to their ancestor.

Another year, after *Sunset Magazine* had featured an article about the wild flowers on the trail to Lake Winnemucca, some people, who apparently had never visited the mountains, came to see the flowers. I still remember one woman who arrived wearing shorts, a halter top, and open-toed, high-heeled sandals and breathlessly said, "Point me to the flowers". No comment.

Hikers of the Pacific Crest Trail usually arrived tired, grimy, and thirsty. My husband and I were helping provide radio communications for the Death Ride when a group hiking the trail arrived at the bicycle aid station about 6:30 pm after the Carson Pass station had closed. They were most grateful for the fresh fruit and water. In the group was a young woman from Germany who told us that she had ridden a bicycle across the United States from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean and from the Canadian border to the Mexican border, but she said hiking the Pacific Crest Trail was the most challenging thing she had ever done. My thanks to Mary Knowles and all the other volunteers and Forest Service members who have done so much.





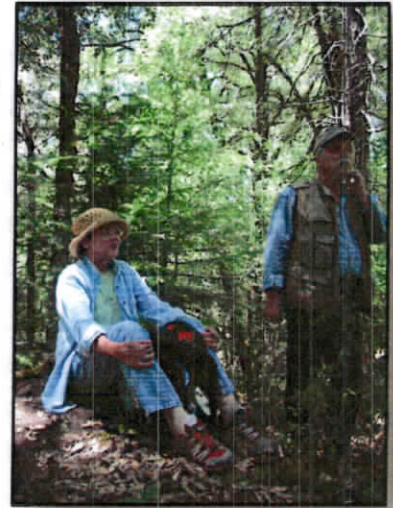


## The Pleasure Is All Mine

*Ellen and Ford Osborn*

Ford and I have so many happy memories of days spent working at Carson Pass. It was always so much fun it is hard to call it "work". It was such a pleasure to help visitors have a pleasant and safe experience in the high country. I especially loved helping people find and identify wild flowers. One occasion comes to mind when I hiked out with a visitor to show them the elusive "steer's head" flourishing in a hidden corner beside the trail. No day at the Pass was complete without a hike. The days are long in the summer so a hike was always possible after the station closed. Our days of working at Carson Pass were before the credit card reader, the solar panels, and cell phones. It was definitely a wilderness experience.

We have also enjoyed the ENFIA potlucks and meetings; there is always lots of good food and interesting programs. Finally, we made some great friends among the ENFIA members and Forest Service employees. Here's to the next thirty years!



## Ginny Youel

*ENFIA Member and Carson Pass Scheduler*



In 2002 Syd Perryman introduced Bob and I to the volunteer program for the Carson Pass Information Station and we joined this enthusiastic group on the spot. We became more involved with ENFIA and realized the important work that it does in cooperation with the United States Forest Service. In 2004, when Syd retired as manager of Carson Pass, Bob took over the position of manager and I took on the new position of scheduling manager. With Syd's expert guidance we learned the ins and outs of the details, paperwork and the scheduling of the 25 dedicated volunteers willing to serve the public every day from Memorial Day until Labor Day.

As the volunteer program expanded there were jobs that went beyond the service at the station. The opening and closing of the station and cabin, hiking programs that required recorded updates, solar panel adjustments, establishing a weather station, on and on. Since there was always something that occurred each year that no one could anticipate there was always someone who came to the rescue.

The rewards gained from this experience are beyond explanation. The volunteers, as well as the visitors that came in each and every day sharing their life journeys and providing valuable information concerning the area that you would never find in a book, were priceless.

After spending nine years as managers, it was time to turn over the reins to new innovative eyes. This came in the name of Dennis and Roxi Price who brought new life and energy into the program.

Forever grateful for the experience.

## Silver Lake Bunk House

*Mary Knowles*

In the beginning the Silver Lake Cabin acted as a bunk house for the Carson Pass volunteers. It was open to any volunteer who was coming up to work at Carson Pass so at times there was an interesting mix of people staying at the cabin at any one time... Male/female, young/old, new volunteers/seasoned volunteers etc. It was a great way to get to know your fellow volunteers.

The cabin was an old fire lookout that had been moved to Silver Lake for the use of Forest Service personnel in case of emergencies such as fire control and rescue work. When ENFIA was granted the privilege of using the cabin it was with the understanding that if the Forest Service needed to use it, they had priority..

At first all of the walls in the cabin were dark brown and there were no curtains on the windows. The bunks were old but clean. The stove, refrigerator and water heater were all old. Eventually ENFIA volunteers painted the inside and outside of the cabin, made curtains, refreshed the beds, found new stoves and refrigerators, replaced and replumbed the water heater, made shutters for the windows, built a firewood box and made many other improvements along the way. A Carson Pass Maintenance committee was formed to keep up the cabin and the station.

One of my favorite bunk house stories involved Syd Perryman and Dick Brock. They were both scheduled to be at the cabin one night but somehow Dick Brock (male) did not understand that Syd Perryman (female) was going to be there. Now, Dick was hard of hearing and never would get a hearing aid so when I told him that Syd was to be there he thought I had said something else. So, that afternoon Dick was in

the cabin by himself taking a nice long shower when in walked Syd. Syd was okay with the situation and just came in and put her stuff down. Dick on the other hand walked out of the shower with just his towel on and panicked. He grabbed his clothes, put them on, and ran out of the cabin, drove to Gardnerville and took a motel for the night. So after that we asked that all volunteers planning on staying at the cabin be sure to double check on the cabin arrangements for the night.



## Scott Yesitis

*ENFIA Member*

Way back in the summer of 2000, (Y2K) when the uproar of the world coming to end never happened, I finally walked into the Carson Pass Visitor's Station. I can't believe that back then I didn't even know what the PCT was or even of its existence. I had been fishing the Highway 88 corridor since I discovered Blue Lakes back in the late 70s, driving passed a parking lot and (at the time) the little shack at the pass always without stopping. When I finally did stop there was this beautiful log cabin there and I was greeted by Syd Perryman who happened to be the Carson Pass Manager at the time. By the end of my visit I was convinced that if I couldn't make it up to our California Alps for fishing that I would commit to going up the mountain at least once a month to work as a docent. It is so refreshing (especially the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of the summer) to drive up early in the morning, having the sun in your eyes, the Carson Spur dropping rocks all over the road, passing rustic Kirkwood Inn, seeing Caples Lake with the glistening ripples on the water and then you see that towering peak still covered in snow called Round Top. It is truly breathtaking.

It also gave me great pleasure to open and close the Station for the season as I feel like I am the 1<sup>st</sup> one on the Pass and the last to leave. I was obviously recruited initially for fishing knowledge but since have learned so much more about the history, the flora and the hiking in the greater Carson Pass area. I have also learned that once you feed a PCT'er that they're like birds and they all come flocking. Who would have thought that back when my old neighbor gave me boxes of baked goods from her bakery (mostly mis-packaged products for local grocery stores) that it would have started what now is almost an expected feeding place for the PCT crowd, but then again when the Sacramento Bee writes on the Carson Pass and tells you that you may get lucky and even get a pastry warmed up on a belly stove for breakfast you never know who's going to show up!!

Back when I first started I was the youngest docent in ENFIA and three years later we had our last child, a son which was appropriately named Carson. I've met a lot of wonderful people at the pass between the docents and the visitors. I truly miss the wonderful docents that have left this earth sooner than we would have hoped but it is nice to know that when working the Carson Pass I am 8573 feet closer to them. I have blessed to have this opportunity to work (if you can call it that) with so many great folks!!



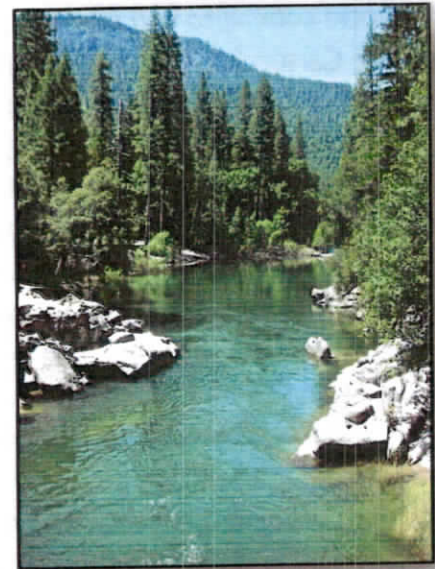
## Jim Hacker

### *ENFIA Member*

Being a Forest Service volunteer and working with ENFIA is a wonderful experience which allows one to meet and react with people from around the world and share a common passion with the forest and the environment. What a wonderful opportunity to share with both young and old the wilderness experience. Seasoned hikers and campers share their experiences with ENFIA members as we trade stories, experiences of times both good and bad, and introduce each other to places of wonder, of trails hiked and to be hiked. Adventure in the high Sierra exposes one to varied experiences especially when dealing with the weather. In one day you can start out warm and comfortable and by afternoon dark and threatening thunder clouds are forming and within a very short time you can be startled by the crash of loud thunder, the flash of lightning and a down pouring of torrential rain, hail or possibly snow. The sun may be back out to the call of a raven or the chirp of a Clarks Nuthatch.

I have met a lot of very interesting people in my time working at Carson Pass Information Station. Many made a lasting impression on me. One day I was on the trail and two middle aged ladies asked me if I would take a picture of them. One lady had a heart transplant, and the other had a double lung transplant and they were out testing out their new life style at 8,000 feet with smiles on their faces.

Another person I met at the station was riding a unicycle from the Bay Area to Florida. I asked him why he chose to ride a unicycle and he explained to me that his dad had won one in a poker game when he was a young boy and he has been riding one ever since. No easy feat riding up a mountain, and you can't even free wheel going downhill . Another time, a group of senior bike riders stopped by to rest. They said you had to be 65 years old to join their club. The oldest member was 85 and still going strong. They were riding from the Bay Area to the east coast, but were in no hurry to get there. I walked one woman out to her bike and couldn't believe what she was riding. The wheels were only about a foot tall, the bike had 22 gears and the bike folded up like a suit case. She said she takes it all over and it is great for checking on airplanes.

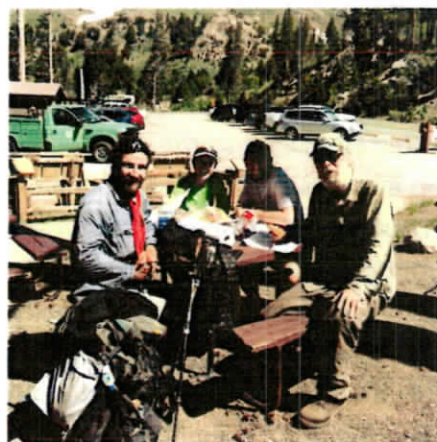
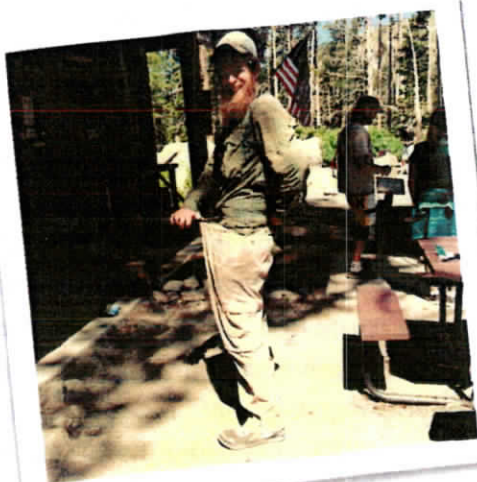


One day a group of Japanese bike riders stopped by. They were wearing very colorful spandex clothing with Japanese writing on them. They said they were practicing for the Death Ride coming up in a few days. One rider came in to buy a bottle of water. He couldn't speak English but pointed to the water. I told him it was 50 cents and he handed me a fifty dollar bill. I told him again it was just fifty cents and he kept repeating, yes, fifty, fifty. I didn't want to make change so I bought the water for him and gave him back his money. He walked out shaking his head all confused. I felt sorry for him. If he goes into a convenience store someone may take advantage of him.

One day a hiker came in from the Meiss Trail. She said she heard a bear making noises not far from the parking lot and I should warn other hikers. When I had a break I took a short hike up the trail and what she heard were some grouse drumming in a mating ritual.

I got a report there was a man on the trail near Frog Lake who seemed delusional, disoriented and possibly lost, and his bloomers were flying in the wind as his pants were ripped open from stem to stem. I took a hike up there to see if I could find him and see if he needed assistance. I located him near the lake and asked if he needed assistance. He said he was fine and just wanted to be left alone. He said he bent over to photograph flowers and his pants ripped open. He just wanted to be left alone to photograph the flowers and didn't want to talk to anyone and people won't leave him alone.

The Pacific Crest Trail which runs from Mexico to the border of Canada passes right by our station. The hikers stop by to rest, sign our trail log and meet up with other hikers. Our docents bring food, snacks and drinks for them to enjoy. How long has it been since they had had cold watermelon, candy bars, cold drinks and whatever they have had to do without since their last supply stop? Stations that offer this service are known as trail angels and we are proud to be one of them. We hear their stories, offer comfort, make friends and help some get rides to Tahoe where they can get a buffet meal, a hot shower and a bed for the night.





## Our Carson Pass Story

*Dennis and Roxi Price*



This will be our fourth year (2017) as Carson Pass Managers and Roxi and I have learned so much about Carson Pass and the people who came before us at the station. We have had the pleasure to get to know dozens of dynamic, knowledgeable docents. With exceptional people, we establish a few policies and procedures and then we get out of the way. Beyond the natural beauty of Carson Pass, docents like being at the station to represent Carson Pass, The Forest Service, and ENFIA while assisting thousands of visitors and hikers that enjoy the area. The docent group is now a mixture of retired and working people with several docents in their 20s and

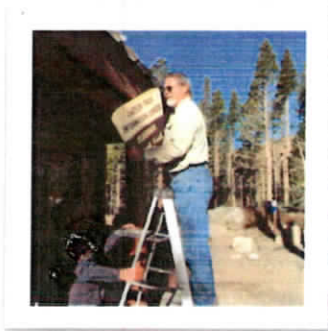
30s and two that are 13 and 14. The young teenage docents are serious hikers, having completed the John Muir Trail twice and climbed Mt. Whitney 3 times. They both volunteer on the Tahoe Rim Trail and have their own non-profit program to encourage teens to get involved in hiking.

I came to Carson Pass in a very unusual and ultimately serendipitous way. I began my teaching career in Placerville and after 15 years moved to Amador County to finish my career. I never hiked at Carson Pass while working and living in Placerville. There is so much five-star hiking along Highway 50 it never occurred to me to go anywhere else.

About ten years ago I saw an ad in a free newspaper "Carson Pass Docents Needed for Summer". I called and started talking to the manager and after several minutes he asked for my contact information and when I told him my name, he said, "Did you ever live in Placerville?" Of course I did! Bob Youel said, "Dennis it's me, your former principal and you need to be a docent." So after 15 years working for Bob as a teacher and a brief 15 year lapse, I was back working for my old boss again. Bob and his wife, Ginny, were really the best. Both were creative and innovative and always looked out for the docents. After a couple seasons Bob told Joel Knowles that before becoming a teacher I was a building contractor and had lots of constructions skills. Joel asked me to take over his job of supervising repairs, maintenance of the cabin and station, and opening and closing both. After about five years Bob decided to step down as station manager and he asked me and Roxi to take over...and here we are.

# It Takes A Village

Thank you to the many volunteers that have assisted at Carson Pass over the years. Here are a few of the many people it took to make this a success.



## Ahhh, Wilderness!

*The Interpreter, December 2000, by Ursula Smith*

As usual, when Virginia Feagans and I “do” Carson Pass, we go to Gardnerville the second night with Virginia’s husband Bob and their friend, Robert B., first to play slots for a little while at Shakey’s, then to the Country Club and the usual excellent Basque dinner. When the day is over and it’s time to think about sleep, we head back to Silver Lake where Virginia and Bob stay in their motor home and I occupy the cabin.

It was getting dark, but it was only around 9:00 p.m. – too early to go to bed – so I played solitaire for a while. Soon I heard what sounded like knocking at the door. Thinking it was Virginia, I opened the door. Nobody there!



Half an hour later and I decided to go to bed and read. Then it started again: scratch, scratch, ...knock,...knock, knock. I got out of bed to see if it was Virginia but there was nobody in sight. I turned out the lights, noting that it was now about 11:00 p.m. With the lights out it started again: scratch, scratch...knock, knock. Again, nobody there. Ditto at midnight. Surely it was too late for Virginia to be out and about. I was pretty sure it wasn’t a bear. Maybe it was a raccoon?

Every time I dozed off, there it was again, scratching and knocking. Again at 1:00 a.m., 2:00 a.m....! That’s when I noticed the wood shavings in the corner between the front door and the shower door and I realized the noise was coming from the shower room. Aha! I opened the door slightly and poked a flashlight inside. There he was. All that noise from one itty-bitty chipmunk!? I slammed the shower door shut: “GOTcha!”

By now wide awake again, I fixed some tea, played solitaire for another half hour, and then went back to bed. Just as I was dozing off again, I felt something tugging at my sleeping bag, then it suddenly ran across the bag and disappeared. That damn chipmunk escaped. There was no way I could catch him in the dark or chase him out of the cabin, so I tried to go back to sleep. I think it was around 4:00 a.m. before I finally really fell asleep...for all of about two hours.



When Virginia came to the door at about 6:30 a.m., I told her my tale of woe, and just then we saw the chipmunk (or at least a chipmunk) flit across the kitchen floor. We opened the door and with broom in hand, chased the critter which immediately saw the door as its way out and fled.

The moral is: If you’re interested in getting some sleep, *don’t* share a cabin with a chipmunk!





## ENFIASONG

by Karen Finlayson

*(To the tune of "Old McDonald Had a Farm")*

Eldorado Forest has a group, E-N-F-I-A.  
And in this group is a business manager, E-N-F-I-A.  
With a walking stick here, new t-shirts there,  
A lot of pins, and many a map,  
To Mark Gottlieb, we tip our cap!  
Eldorado Forest has a group, E-N-F-I-A.

Eldorado Forest has a group, E-N-F-I-A.  
And in this group there is a board, E-N-F-I-A.  
With two Dicks here, an Allan there.  
Here a Don, there a Syd,  
What a group, with all they did!  
Eldorado Forest has a group, E-N-F-I-A.

Eldorado Forest has a group, E-N-F-I-A.  
And in this group is a publicist, E-N-F-I-A.  
With a newsletter here, a web site there,  
Need a flyer, send a note  
What a bunch of stuff Val wrote!  
Eldorado Forest has a group, E-N-F-I-A.

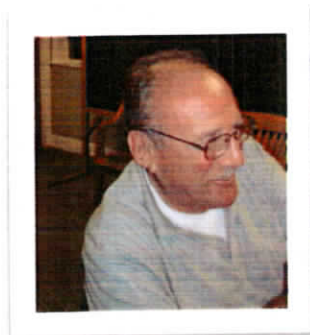
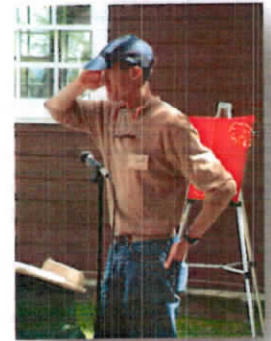
Eldorado Forest has a group, E-N-F-I-A.  
Our special group of volunteers, E-N-F-I-A.  
With a new here, some cabinets there,  
Staff the Pass, clear the trail  
Clean up things at Bridalveill  
Eldorado Forest has a group, E-N-F-I-A.

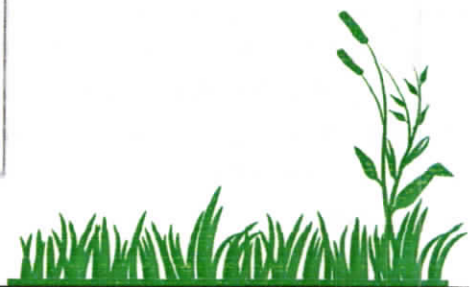
Eldorado Forest has a group, E-N-F-I-A.  
For many years, they've done so much, E-N-F-I-A.  
With Carson Pass here, Georgetown there,  
Crystal now and Amador,  
Look, there's room for plenty more!  
Eldorado Forest has a group, E-N-F-I-A.

The Eldorado Forest has a group, E-N-F-I-A.  
We thank them much for all they've done, E-N-F-I-A.  
You've helped so much, become so dear  
We applaud you with our little cheer!  
Eldorado Forest thanks its group, E-N-F-I-A!

## More Village People

Thank you to the many volunteers and forest staff that have donated their time and expertise over the years to make ENFIA a success.

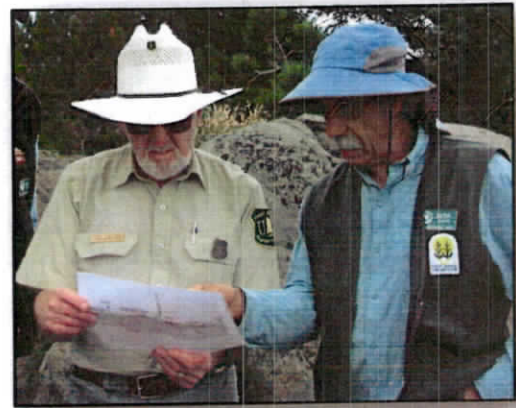




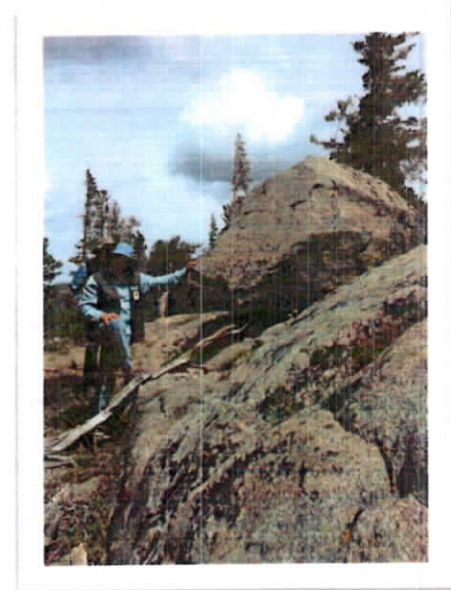
## Lester Lubetkin

*Retired Recreation Officer, Eldorado National Forest*

In those early years when ENFIA was getting started, I remember the “youthful” enthusiasm and energy of everyone, led by the great team of Joel and Mary Knowles. I remember getting to lead a small but intrepid group on a field trip to Bear Creek Picnic Area on the Georgetown Ranger District. It was a cold spring day, and for those that have been to Bear Creek Picnic Area, they know that it is deep in the shade and can be quite cold in the mornings. At the time, I was working in Minerals Management within the Forest Service and the theme of the field trip was learning about mining history and ongoing mining within the Eldorado National Forest. The “plucky” group that joined us that day were willing to test out an activity I was preparing for an upcoming program with High School students - the program was to be a short skit with folks taking on different roles (with different hats for costumes) to portray the different mining periods and methods, and to give a glimpse into what that life was like. I’m not sure that those that came out for the field trip realized they were guinea pigs, but they certainly did their part in promoting “Interpretation” and I gained a lot from studying their responses to the skit and their readings. We also panned for gold that day - and some even found a little “color” in the concentrates at the bottom of their pans. All in all, a wonderful day with a great group of ENFIA volunteers.



One other memory from those early years of ENFIA that might not have been seen by some of the ENFIA members was the joy and excitement of the Eldorado Forest Staff that were the beneficiaries of grants, funding support and other funding assistance provided by ENFIA. During our quarterly Eldorado Forest Recreation Staff meetings, we would get to hear about projects and proposals from the Recreation Staff of each of the Ranger Districts and try to rank them or pick the best projects to bring up to ENFIA. ENFIA was able to help fill in with critical assistance by granting funds at times - such as to purchase a large screen TV for the Crystal Basin Station where video programs could be shown to visitors - or serving as an intermediary for receiving grants that the Forest Service was not eligible for - such as to construct a trail leading up from Kirkwood Valley up to the Thunder Mountain trail. I hope those on the Board of ENFIA at the time, and the membership at large, realized how important their assistance was and how much it meant to all of the folks on the Districts (and most important, to the visitors that benefitted from ENFIA’s generosity).



## Kathy Piaszk

### *ENFIA Member & Retail Manager*

A few years after moving to the Placerville area I decided I needed something more to do with my time. One day I saw an ad in the Mt. Democrat for a part time job purchasing books and stocking merchandise for a business in the area, which turned out to be ENFIA. I spoke with Syd Perryman and she arranged a meeting at the Information Station where I met Richard Kennon who hired me for this position. I knew nothing of ENFIA at that time and except for my summer camping trips to the Crystal Basin and Wright's Lake area, I knew little of the Eldorado National Forest and all it had to offer.

To help me learn more about my job and responsibilities the ENFIA Board authorized me to attend the Association of Partners for Public Lands (APPL) Conference in St. George, Utah for 3 days.

Kristi Schroeder was there and helped introduce me to seminars and meetings that helped me tremendously. This also helped me develop a working relationship with many vendors which I continue to do business with today.

Now, 16 years later, here I am. Still the Retail Manager but now my involvement is much greater and my Retail Manager duties are only a part of my time spent with ENFIA. Over the years I have helped write and obtain a variety of grants, help Syd Perryman get a website up and running, worked at the El Dorado and Amador County Fairs and the Italian Picnic in Jackson at booths trying to recruit new members, re-designed many of the Ranger Stations retail spaces, served as President of ENFIA, and took on much larger responsibilities when the Camino Information Center closed and we went from three retail outlets to seven. I have met so many wonderful people over the last 16 years and have thoroughly enjoyed my time interacting with visitors, Forest Service employees and




---

## Janice Gordon

### *Resource Officer, Amador Ranger District*

I'm afraid that most of the details of the Carson Pass beginnings have left my memory... I do remember the larger idea of using partnerships to construct and information station, and working with Chuck Lowrie on finding a log cabin construction company that would be interested in donating the structure, but do not remember any of the smaller details. I was also gone quite a bit during that time (for long-term training, and I think on temporary assignment to the Placerville District) and when I came back, the construction was already starting and Joel Knowles was heavily involved in helping with the project and coordinating volunteers, and he had obtained assistance from a local engineering firm to make sure it would be constructed correctly. I also remember the heavy snowfall that occurred within a year or two after construction. It started pushing the cabin out of square.



## I Remember...

*From Karen Finlayson (first Forest Service Liaison with ENFIA)*

For the first thirteen years of ENFIA's life, I was the mother, the nurturer, and the champion. We had monthly board meetings; I rarely missed one. We had quarterly general meetings and potluck dinners. If Brian and Maggie wanted to eat dinner with me, they had to come. When we decided we needed to reward both the members and the agency folks who sold our materials, I worked with Joel and Mary to provide a program and appropriate recognition. I listened, I supported, and I defended. This was my "baby" and I loved it dearly. I still do.

If the Eldorado National Forest did not have ENFIA, we would not be able to sell supplemental materials to enhance visitor experiences. We would not have some signs and brochures. We certainly would not have the Carson Pass Information Station, let alone have it staffed every summer. We wouldn't have special t-shirts, an improved area at Traverse Creek. We wouldn't have enjoyed tours at the Placerville Nursery and the Institute of Forest Genetics. We wouldn't have helped thousands of visitors at Pyramid Creek. We wouldn't have gotten thousands of dollars in both money and time from hundreds of volunteers.

Many of us wouldn't have made some life-long friends. We certainly wouldn't have the terrific stories and memories we have after thirty years of working together.

From **Maggie Finlayson** (who was 9 years old at the time ENFIA started):

*I don't remember very much after all these years. I do remember we didn't get dinner unless we went to the potluck with Mom; I remember lots of potlucks! I also remember lots of limericks eventually. I remember Rob Livingston. I had a huge crush on him! I also remember the kitchen at the Institute being creepy at night; I didn't like going back there; I was afraid someone would attack me.*

From **Christine Mai** (formerly Christianson and formerly the Eldorado National Forest Hydrologist):

*"Thinking about ENFIA and all of the hours of dedication that have been poured into the organization by countless volunteers leaves me with a warm & tickly sense of joy.*

*It was always a pleasure to work with ENFIA; the sense of appreciation for our contributions (as employees) to the group was outstanding. Reflecting on the group's accomplishments and the great big hearts of all of the volunteers reminds me of the beauty of a wildflower walk at Carson Pass. Insurmountable beauty!"*

From **Bob Smart** (retired District Ranger, Placerville Ranger District):

*"I'm surprised it's been 30 years. When I think about ENFIA, I think of its longevity, the opportunities it has provided for its members, and its success."*

From **John Longanecker** (long-time friend and partner of Rob Livingston):

*"I remember the bald eagles and the nest we built at Union Valley. I also remember the Forest Service cabin at Silver Lake."*

From **Susan Zito** (former member and wife of one of ENFIA's first Chairmen):

*Susan was expecting daughter, Stephanie, when she and Richard became involved with ENFIA; daughter Allison was four years old. She remembers one nice man who helped her on a field trip while she struggled with a pack and a baby on her back. She says she also remembers Richard and Allie on the field trip to the Loon Lake Powerhouse.*



## Tribute to Joel Knowles

*by Karen Finlayson*

ENFIA's completed many years  
Without major fighting or tears.  
A lot's due to Art  
Who helped us to start  
And stayed with us down through some years.

He ran around, papers in hand  
To legalize this little band.  
They elected a board  
Over by-laws they poured,  
Until we had made a firm stand.

The leaders, they come and they go.  
Membership did start to grow.  
We started with Jack  
But that was way back.  
Down through the years, success we would know.

Some members have stayed all along  
They kept our little group strong.  
We had Ursula, Downtys and Knowles,  
Jean, Jane, and Rob on the rolls.  
A tally of hours, oh so long!

It's a long time since the ENFIA start  
So many've given with all of their heart  
A few stayed so strong  
Kept moving along  
Joel Knowles was an integral part.

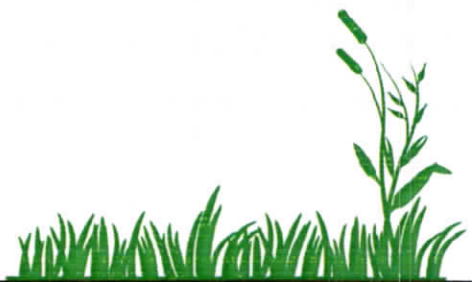
A team player he was right away  
Anything needed was really ok.  
He'd come have a look  
Do whatever it took  
Thousands of hours he gave without pay.

He went to parades and to fairs  
Did Arbor Day, tours, sold our wares  
He helped to build trails  
Built cabins with nails  
At all of them, Joel was right there.

The biggest project for Joel: Carson Pass  
A real legacy built there to last  
Many friends were made there  
With a workload to share  
An accomplishment hard to surpass.

Our love and admiration he won  
Working hard, while we had so much fun  
Whether research or chore  
Always willing for more  
So many things for this forest were done.

So, an era has ended, it seems  
But we still have the windows and beams.  
Though Joel's gone today  
His legacy stays  
A symbol of one of his dreams





## Memoriam to Joel Knowles - Tribute to Joel Knowles Issue

*The Interpreter, November 2008*

Joel was a jolly fellow, but I don't believe I saw Joel any happier than the day he received the plaque from the Chief of the US Forest Service honoring him for supervising the building of the Information Station at Carson Pass. That building was a great challenge to his personal ingenuity in that it came with no instructions for putting it together. That building became part of him. When he was asked to improve or fix something at either the station or the cabin at Silver Lake, he did it gladly and nearly always creatively. Even if he had been at Carson Pass the day before, he would make another trip to remedy something that needed his attention.

I had occasion to ride with Joel on several trips up Iron Mountain Road to Highway 88 when I was managing the station. Not being a history buff like him, I learned about the Mormon Battalion, Melissa Corey, and the Tragedy Springs affair without reading the books. Joel knew all those sagas and then some. He loved trivia. He monitored the weather, the snow reports, and the El Dorado Irrigation District handling of the county's water with great interest. One thing that "bugged" him about the trip, especially westward, was that limb and bunches of needles that hang over the roadway. It was a good place to pass a slow moving vehicle ahead. But, by the time one saw that it was only that branch, it was too late to overtake the slow car. Joel would be safe however and not take a chance.

There was a word missing from Joel's vocabulary. He never denied a request. He never failed to report what was or would be done. If it was in his power to accomplish a task he did it. He never said "No".

*Syd Perryman*

The first time I met Joel through ENFIA, I was immediately put at ease with his ready smile and dry wit. We shared a bond with our love of mountains, snow, skiing, and the Kirkwood and Carson Pass areas.

As the years went by, he continued to teach me in his gentle way always getting a laugh out of one or the other of us. He and Mary kindly took me shopping to purchase my very first computer. And the lessons went on to include Basque dining and endless stories of their world wide travel adventures. Sharing the same birthday made our connection even more meaningful in a synchronistic sort of way,

His dedication to what ENFIA, particularly the Carson Pass Information Station, is really all about, was definitely unmatched. It was hard for him to keep his "Taj Mahal" within our Forest Service guidelines for a Wilderness trailhead facility. It was a most visible symbol of his love for Carson Pass. Often we would speculate among ourselves, out of range of Joel's hearing in order to not possibly offend him, "When do you think the hot tub will be put in?"

Joel makes us all proud by his dedication and his passion.

*Marilyn Meyer*



I first met Joel when construction began on the Carson Pass Information Station. As we worked together I found out what a tireless worker he was and admired the way he guided the volunteers in his gentle and supportive style. He was always open to suggestions and listened to everyone's input, but was not afraid to make a decision to keep the project moving. I was privileged to have worked on every phase of construction even though it was on a limited basis. Joel was present through every phase of the construction to its completion and continued maintenance and the station's opening and closing ritual each year since.

The Carson Pass Information Station represents not only Joel's dedication to the building, but his leadership over the years that have kept people inspired to volunteer to this day.

*Frank Tortorich*

---

## Marilyn Meyer

*Retired Resource Officer, Carson Pass Liaison*

I was the assistant resource officer overseeing the Mokelumne Wilderness, volunteers, all things winter (snowmobile, ski areas such as Kirkwood and the last few years of Iron Mountain, snow surveys) and trails that were non-motorized outside of the Wilderness and those in the Wilderness.

I learned more from ENFIA than I had to offer as their coordinator during my tenure. I have never worked with a more educated, professional and dedicated group. They taught me to listen more closely, to ask more questions, to trust more fully. I also laughed more often and found many new friends that would last for years. I discovered how multi-talented each docent was able to adapt to not only the expected duties at the Information Station, but also to crisis that would, at times, include traffic accidents, lost people, lost animals, very inclement weather, people not entirely in touch with reality, and severe first aide situations. So I learned how to better support their mission and provide more than I would have previously thought necessary.

I am so thankful that I was able to be a part of recognizing (with special commendation) their efforts from the USDA Forest Service for their building the Carson Pass Information Station at Carson Pass, and their many years of work to support the mission of USDA Forest Service to protect the land and serve the people.

Thank you for allowing me to grow with you all and serve on the Board after I retired so that I could give back at least a little for all that I received from you.





## 30 Years of ENFIA Volunteers

ABERLEY, DICK	CHRISTY, TED	FELLOWS, RAEJEAN	HEISCHER, JEFF	KING, LUCILLE
ALBRIGHT, RUSS	CLANIN, JOE	FINLAYSON, KAREN	HENRY, TONI	KING, LU
ALEXANDER, MIKE	CLANIN, RUTH	FINSTAD, WILLIAM	HERMAN, DON	KISLER, DEBBIE
ALLFREE, C	CLARK, CONNIE	FLASPOHLER, HAROLD	HILTON, PETE	KNOWLES, JOEL
ALMAGUER, ROEL	CLEARY, CURTIS	FLASPOHLER, MELISSA	HOELSCHER, JEFFREY	KNOWLES, MARY
ATKINSON, RHETT	COLLINS, JUDI	FLEMING, GAYLIN	HOFFMAN, LORENE	KRAMER, BILL
AVERY, ALLISON	COLLINS, LISA	FLOWERS, JENNIFER	HOLZMER, FRED	KRAMER, PAT
AYERS, CHERYL	CONN, ROBERT	FRAME, WILLIAM	HOOTS, MELANIE	KUNZ, CHRISTINE
AYERS, KENT	COOK, SHARON	FREDRICK, MAGGIE	HORRELL, OLIVE	LANE, CHRISTIE
BAKER, PAMELA	CORREIA, CLAUDETTE	GALLES, CAREY	HOSHOVSKY, MARC	LEPOUVOIR, JOHN
BARSS, CAROLYN	CRABBE, LARRY	GALLES, RYAN	HOWELL, JAMES	LEPOUVOIR, JAN
BATES, SHAWN	CRABBE, DONNA	GARRETT, CATHY	HUDSON, DAVID	LESCH, SUSAN
BAUMANN, THOMAS	CRAIK, GINGER	GEARTY, JANICE	HUDSON, LINDA	LEVY, MARYLEE
BEAN, JENNIFER	CUMMINGS, DARREL	GEELHAAR, PEGGY	HUSSER, PAT	LEWIN, KATHY
BELL, LAURIE	CUMMINGS, JEAN	GERVASI, COLLEEN	HUTCHINSON, GERRY	LLOYD, BOB
BENKER, JOHANNA	DACEY, JOAN	GIBSON, NICK	HUTCHINSON, MIRIAM	LLOYD, BONNIE
BENTLEY, GORDON	DACEY, MIKE	GILLESPIE, GEORGE	INGVOLDSTAD, JOHN	LOCK, JEFF
BERTOLINA, DONNA	DAVIS, STEPHANIE	GILLIHAN, SARAH	IRVING, LISA	LOGINOTTI, JOHN
BORSI, JOHN	DAVIS-LYMAN, BARBARA	GILLIHAN, TODD	JACKSON, JANE	LOMGO, TIM
BOURGIVIGNON, GERRY	DELEO, JANET	GONZALES, DAVID	JARDINE, DON	LOWRIE, CHUCK
BOYER, RAY	DEVERS, CAROL	GONZALES, LINDA	JENSEN, KELLEY	LUBETKIN, LESTER
BREWER, TREVA	DEWALT, JOHN	GOODWIN, SANDI	JENSEN, SHIRLEY	LUND, MARTY
BROCK, DICK	DICKINSON, JENNY	GOW, OLAJANE	JOHNSON, JOAN	LUND, SUSIE
BRONNEY, MELANIE	DONALD, EDD	GRABOWSKI, STAN	JOHNSON, JUDY	LUX, CELIA
BROWN, DANA	DONALD, SHARON	GRAF, AL	JOHNSON, LONI	LUX, BRIAN
BROWN, JENNA	DONALDSON, M	GROMER, LAUREL	JOHNSON, M	MACDONALD, SCOTT
BUCHMAN, JOHN	DONALDSON, R	GWYN, CARL	JOHNSON, RON	MACHI, LAURENCE
BURGESS, JIM	DOTY, G	HACKER, JIM	KATZAKIAN, SUSAN	MAGPUSAO, BARBARA
BUTHENUTH, MARIAN	DOWNING, CRAIG	HALLER, EMOGENE	KAUTZER, ANNETTE	MAHONEY, MIKE
BUTLER, MILLE	DOWTY, STEVE	HALLER, JOHN	KEELING, FRANCES	MAZIE, ARMAND
BUTTICCI, SHIRLEY	DOWTY, VALERIE	HALLSTROM, DAVID	KEENEY, DOROTHY	MANKIN, BETTY
CALUB, MARIA	DUMBRA, ASHLEY	HAMMOCK, LASSIE	KEIL, GREG	MCCLEAN, A
CANTELOW, ALICE	EDGERTON, ANDY	HANSEN, JACK	KENNON, RICHARD	MCCLURE, L
CARNEY, SUSAN	EDGERTON, JIMMY	HANSEN, SUE	KENNON, AILEEN	MCCORD, KATHY
CARR, ROBERT	EDWARDS, ART	HARPAINTER, MARK	KESSLER, JOHN	MCFARLAND, JEANNE
CASEY, ROSEMARY	ENGLE, BRUCE	HARRIS, SUSAN	KESSLER, KAREN	MCHUGH, PATT
CASILLAS, BOB	ENZLER, LARRY	HARTMANN, BOB	KINE, RAE	MCLAUGHLIN, CAROLYN
CHALOUPKA, CHRIS	ETHIER, VICKI	HAWKER, JANE	KING, DAVID	MEAGHER, MARIE
CHAMARRO, JO ANNA	FEAGANS, VIRGINIA	HEINE, KAREN	KING, DAWN	



## 30 Years of ENFIA Volunteers

MEYER., JERRY	PHILLIPS, RICHARD	RUDE, DAVID	SUBIDO, LINDA	WARMINGTON, ANNE
MIDDLETON, JIM	PHILLIPS, ELIZABETH	RUSSELL, JULIA	SUTHERLAND, HEDY	WARREN, SARAH
MILLER, ADAM	PIASZK, KATHY	SAAMER, DIANE	SWAN, CRYSTAL	WELDEN, GINA
MINTON, GARY	PIASZK, RON	SAAMER, MIKE	SWEENEY, MIKE	WELSH, MEL
MOITOZA, ELIZABETH	PINE, JANET	SANDPERL, MARK	SWIFT, ROBERT	WEST, BONNIE
MOLLER, GERALD	POPPER, STEVEN	SANDPERL, ROBYN	TARLTON, DARLENE	WHITAKER, JIM
MONSON, NANCY	PRELIP, ALYSSA	SARGENT, FRAN	TARLTON, MICHAEL	WHITAKER, LORI
MOORE, LARRY	PRELIP, ANGELA	SCHARDT, LYNN	TELEGAN, DALE	WHITEHEAD, PAM
MOORE, LYNNE	PRELIP, JOHN	SCHARDT, JIM	THOMAS, CAROL	WILCOX, SUSAN
MUSE-MEYER, M	PRELIP, SAMANTHA	SCHLIM, LAURA	THOMAS, LES	WIEGAND, LLOYD
NASIATKA, MIKE	PRICE, CAROLYN	SCHOENER, JOANNE	TICE, TERRY	WILLADSEN, SILVIA
NEWELL, ED	PRICE, DENNIS	SCHOONOVER, NANCY	TOMLIN, RUTH	WILSON, GLENN
NEWELL, JAN	PRICE, DWIGHT	SCHOONOVER, WAYNE	TOMLIN, LYLE	WIRTH, ROBERTA
NICHOLAS, VERA	PRICE, ROXI	SHORTES, STEPHEN	TORTORICH, FRANK	WISOWATY, RICHARD
NICHOLLS, DEBORAH	PUTUFF, JEFF	SCHUETTE, LOLA	TORTORICH, MARIANN	WISOWATY, SUZANNE
NISKANEN, MARGARET	QUAYLE, DAN	SCHWARZBACH, STEVE	TREVASKIS, DEAN	WOMMACK, ALISON
NOLTING, MICHELLE	RANDALL, MEREDITH	SERG, KELLY	TUCKER, GLORIA	WOOLSTON, PAT
ODELBERG, BRUCE	RANDALL, SCOTT	SHORTES, STEPHEN	UEBELE, DOROTHY	WOOLSTON, KYM
ODENHEIMER, MARY	RANGER, GREGORY	SIEBENTHAL, LANE	UEBELE, GEORGE	WUNGHEEK, KATHRYN
O'LEARY, JOHN	RAY, RANDY	SIEBENTHAL, SHARON	UNTERLEITNER, FRED	WYELS, WENDY
O'LEARY, KATHY	RAY, BETH	SIEG, KELLY	UNTERLEITNER, HELEN	WYNNE, GRETCHEN
O'LEARY, MARY	REDMOND, MARY KAY	SIEGEL, ALLEN	VAIRA, RICH	WYNNE, RICHARD
ORDONEZ, CATHY	RICE, B	SINGH, ROMILA	VALENTINE, AMANDA	YESITIS, CANDACE
OSBORN, ELLEN	RICE, MILT	SMART, KAREN	VAUGHN, DORA	YESITIS, SCOTT
OSBORN, FORD	RICE, P	SMITH, BARBARA	VERTOLINA, DONNA	YESITIS, LAURA
OSGOOD, SHARON	RICHARDSON, PATRICIA	SMITH, GEOFF	VICARA, DAVE	YOUEL, BOB
OSTERGAARD, NATALIE	RICK, KEVIN	SMITH, MELENE	VICARA, TONY	YOUEL, GINNY
OSTERGAARD, CRAIG	RILEY, JUDY	SMITH, URSULA	VON WALD, LARRY	YOUNG, AMALIA
OUTLAND, LANCE	ROBINSON, MARK	SOEFFING, JAMES	WAEGELL, DAWN	YOUNG, JUNE
PEAL, BECKY	ROBINSON, SARAH	SONNEN, ROSE	WAEGALL, GEORGE	YOUNG, PETER
PECHAL, GAIL	RODRIGUE, NANCY	SOSA, DOTTIE	WAGNER, BILL	YOUNG, RICHARD
PECK, ED	RODRIGUE, GARRY	SOSA, WALT	WALL, CHARLIE	ZEIGER, RALPH
PENNINGTON, BILL	ROSE, CATHERINE	SPEARS, BESSIE	WALL, PAULA	ZIELINSKI, M
PERRYMAN, SYD	ROSS, ERIC	STANG, DONALD	WALSH, B	ZIELINSKI, N
PERRYMAN, SYLVIA	ROSS, NICHOLAS	STEINBRECHER, CAROL	WALTERS, JANET	
PETERSON, JOYCE	ROYAL, ANN	STEINBRECHER, STEVE	WALTERS, JOHN	
PETERSON, KITTY	ROYAL, ROGER	STODDARD, PAM	WALTHAL, LYNN	
PETRICH, LINDA	RUDDY, KARL	SUBIDO, JAMES	WANKUM, JOHN	
PETRICH, TOM	RUDE, ALEX		WARD, G	



### ENFIA's Future Plans

*Larry Moore, ENFIA President, 2017*

Bob Youel approached me 6 years ago (2011) to become a docent at Carson Pass and so began my involvement with ENFIA after hiking and camping in the area since 1980. My enjoyment and wonder of being in the Sierra harkens back to my childhood camping trips, evolved to include backpacking and fishing and now includes hiking, wildflowers and geology. Spending time in the mountains is my inspiration to protect our wild public lands for future generations.

ENFIA remains committed to providing interpretive and educational opportunities for the public. In partnership with the Eldorado National Forest we will continue to expand our interpretive programs at Carson Pass, including history, botany, geology and birding.

Along the Highway 50 corridor we will be exploring a partnership with the Forest Service to offer summer programs at Wrights Lake and the Crystal Basin Recreation Area.

We will also be pursuing the expansion of our Forest Walker program and the possibility of mobile trail head information stations and a small permanent seasonal information station along Highway 50 to be staffed with ENFIA docents.

Other future plans for ENFIA include making improvements to our digital, social and print media to more effectively communicate with the public and our members and expand our membership.

Seeing the happiness on a young child's face after a day of exploring Carson Pass, the elation of a thru hiker after 1000 miles on the Pacific Crest Trail or the shared joy of standing atop Pyramid Peak, continues to inspire me to advocate for ENFIA and our Sierra Nevada. "In Wildness is the Preservation of the World" (Thoreau).

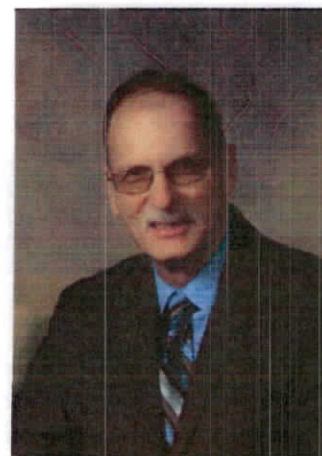
## Looking Forward

*Laurence Crabtree Forest Supervisor*

**Looking forward**, I am excited about the potential for the Forest Walker program going forest wide and building volunteer expertise to take on forest projects side-by-side with our employees. Finding and building volunteer leaders that can take on a piece of the volunteer program and grow it with us.

### **Some areas to grow into:**

- ◆ I would love to see a group that specializes in trails to help inventory, perform light maintenance, contact visitors at trailheads and on the trail, and do some resource monitoring.
- ◆ The creation of a team that specializes in coordinating Forest Clean-up and Restoration projects.
- ◆ A sub-group that focuses on youth and our next generation bringing conservation education into schools, campgrounds, and to local groups. What would be even better is if some of those youth are the teachers. Who would like to take that vision and run with it?



### **Our goals for our Volunteer Program are to...**

- ◆ Improve the Forest Ecosystem by completing projects to improve forest conditions and seeking funding opportunities to match with volunteer and partnership opportunities.
- ◆ Provide Rewarding Opportunities by providing experiential, team building, and educational opportunities through service and by creating a range of needed projects in various areas; such as, botany, wildlife, recreation, and fire restoration to engage the diverse interests of volunteers and employees.
- ◆ Integrate the Eldorado National Forest and ENFIA with the Community by participating in community and other organizational events. Outreaching to segments of the population that are not typically involved in Forest Volunteer Program activities.
- ◆ Build the Capacity of the Forest Service to Work With Volunteers by implementing an organized approach for recruiting, training, and working in collaboration with volunteers.

**The possibilities are endless. So put on your boots and sunscreen and lets get busy!**

*30 Years Over **73,000** Hours!*



Walk with me  
to the next  
Adventure!

