



## Volunteer opportunities abound

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

### News at Dragonfly Place cultural site

The two large dragonflies for Grandmother Agnes's tall stone are being prepared for mounting by Kris Albro of Meltdown Metal Art. The smaller boulder next to Grandmother Agnes's tall memorial boulder now has the following custom-etched inscriptions about Grandmother's life:

- Granddaughter of Chief George Harney
- Takelma Band of Rogue River Indians
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz
- International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers

Coming later this fall we will be installing the interpretive sign honoring her life, accomplishments, and heritage. Eric Evensen, of Mountain Ironworks LLC, another local artisan, is building the stand, which will go on the platform at Dragonfly Place for public viewing.

It took almost two years of research and validation from the family and tribal representatives to be able to present Agnes Baker Pilgrim's life story and give respect to her heritage and ancestors, the Takelma peoples, who lived here in the Applegate Valley long before explorers, trappers, miners, and settlers arrived.

### Chris Bratt honored

A second new site in the lower park that will catch your eye is just across the road from the play area, adjacent to the trailhead. A large boulder, etched with "He spoke for the trees," honors the memory of Christopher Bratt. From the 1970s until 2019, when Chris passed away, he worked tirelessly with other local community members to help make changes in how industry and the community viewed timber harvesting in the Applegate Watershed. They helped change community perspectives about the importance of age diversity in tree stands and of keeping the forests healthy for the generations who follow us.

We thank Sean Chase of Chase Memorials and his coworker for the on-site custom boulder etchings. The Park Enhancement Committee and cultural subcommittee are very happy with the efforts and the careful etching of each letter that was completed with a mobile etching unit. Park users were also very courteous, making it a successfully concluded project.

### Volunteer opportunities

We need your help with weeding and fall planting. Dragonfly Place, the lower area lawn, landscaped beds throughout the park, and the Solar area need volunteers to tackle the invasive species popping up.

We have a number of volunteer opportunities and would appreciate any time community members have to help us keep this gem of a park clean and safe.

**SOLVE Fall Riverside Cleanup event,** 9 am-noon Saturday, September 28. Your participation will help with debris and invasive species cleanup throughout the park. Please bring your work gloves and digging tools and wear sturdy shoes and proper clothing. Individuals 13 years and older, families, and groups and organizations are all welcome to participate in our SOLVE events. If



Sean Chase of Chase Memorials etching Grandmother Agnes's second memorial boulder.



Chase Memorial etched a boulder in memory of Chris Bratt, who spoke for the trees for over three decades in the Applegate Valley.

you would like more information about SOLVE events around Oregon, please visit [solveoregon.org](http://solveoregon.org).

**Individual volunteer opportunities** for 13 years of age and older are available two to three times per month. We recommend two hours each time, but you can choose any day and time. Bring your tools, gloves, etc.

**Volunteer leader opportunities** are available for four volunteers who are interested in training to lead small groups to do bigger projects once a month.

**Organization/group volunteer opportunities** are available. We would recommend that groups of four to five volunteers sign up for one or two times a month—your choice of day and time.

**Family group volunteer opportunities** are available once a month—your choice of day and time. Bring smaller tools for the younger ones.

Once you are signed up, Park Enhancement Committee Chair Janis Mohr-Tipton will arrange to meet with you and go over details before you start. Once a schedule is established and you are familiar with your job, you can work independently and record your hours. Groups and families will work with a leader as needed. Please contact me at the email and phone number below.

For more information about our events, please visit [applegatepartnership.org](http://applegatepartnership.org).

Janis Mohr-Tipton  
cantrallbuckleypec@apwc.info  
541-899-9982



Acorn Woman Peak Lookout at sunset. Photo: Suzie Savoie.

## Acorn Woman Peak Lookout is stunning

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

People come from all over the country to stay at Acorn Woman Peak Lookout in the Upper Applegate. Perched on a picturesque mountaintop above Acorn Woman Lake and below Dutchman Peak, the lookout was built in 1942 and was an active fire lookout for many years. It still can be during certain wildfire events; however, these days the lookout is part of the US Forest Service rental program and can be rented for \$73 a night, for up to five nights.

Acorn Woman Peak Lookout is a 14 by 14-foot structure built in the L-4 lookout construction style, with glass windows on all sides that provide 360-degree views over the Siskiyou Mountains. The lookout is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a local feature that many local people have never visited—but in order to visit you must get one of the highly sought-after reservations.

Staying at the lookout is a pleasantly rustic experience, with no water or power, but the lookout does have a clean vault toilet nestled in the shrubs nearby, and you can usually get cell service, depending on your carrier. The lookout is equipped with a couple of chairs, a small wooden table, some cleaning supplies, and maps and other information about the region. The wrap-around deck makes a great spot to watch sunrises, sunsets, birds, and full moons, or to stargaze or just take in the breathtaking 360-degree views of the Applegate watershed, the Red Buttes Wilderness, and other peaks on the Siskiyou Crest, in addition to views all the way out to Mt. McLoughlin, the rim of Crater Lake, and Mt. Thielsen.

Just a 20-mile drive from Ruch, Acorn Woman Peak Lookout is an opportunity to gain a new perspective on the region. During your stay, you can chill out with a drink in your hand and study the ridges and canyons that make the Applegate the spectacularly diverse place it is.

But don't just take it from me. The visitor notebook at the lookout has pages and pages of entries from blissed-out visitors from many different cities and states, as well as local people, writing about how happy they were with their stay, the opportunity to unwind on a quiet mountaintop, with nothing



Interior of Acorn Woman Peak Lookout with a 360-degree view. Photo: Suzie Savoie.

but views, birdsong, and stars to grab their attention. One visitor wrote that they counted 22 different bird species at the lookout on just a single trip. Others wrote:

"We had one of the most memorable weekends, ever!"

"Almost bailed on the drive up in my Tacoma, thought I wasn't making it up those tight switchbacks, but got to the last flats and pushed through and thank goodness I did—*stunning!* It's everything you dream a lookout to be."

"This is my first-ever stay in a lookout. I got it on a whim, and I don't think I have ever smiled so big! This place is so beautiful and peaceful, and I can't wait to talk about this to my therapist."

"Best rental we have ever stayed in."

"Fourteenth different lookout stay in eight years."

"This place offers the power of transformation. I hope to come back and dance to music at sunrise again someday."

As one of the entries notes, the very last, steep part of the drive up to the lookout has some very tight switchbacks in the road that are not for the faint of heart. It's not a rough road; it just has tight turns, so drive an appropriate vehicle—no large trucks, trailers, or RVs. Small to mid-sized trucks are okay.

If you're an artist, bring your easel, paintbrushes, musical instrument, or other implements to create art—you will be inspired!

For more information or to book a stay, go to [recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/251546?tab=info](http://recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/251546?tab=info). Reservations can be hard to get, so plan ahead. Some last-minute openings do pop up occasionally when there is a cancellation.

Suzie Savoie  
[klamathsiskeyou@gmail.com](mailto:klamathsiskeyou@gmail.com)