



Trail Improvements *by Wayne Long, CBFIC Board Member*

In April we began a trail improvement project, and thanks to the help from Randy McLandress and his crew from the U.S. Forest Service in Entiat we were able to remove large rocks and straighten portions of the trail from its beginning to the Chelan Butte Lookout. The Columbia Breaks trail project provides an excellent training opportunity for the FS trail crew, as it gives them the chance to develop techniques and practice using new and challenging tools.

2007 Fundraising Report

By Peggy Whitmore, CBFIC Board Member

It takes large number of volunteers and a lot of resources to keep the Columbia Breaks project rolling. Your contributions were an essential part of our success at meeting our goals for 2007. Thanks to everyone who generously supported the foundation. As always, your participation is greatly appreciated.

Grants	\$17,568.00
Annual Fall Auction	\$8,272.00
Donations/Memorials	\$1,683.00
Sponsorships	\$1,400.00
Land Purchase	\$865.00
Miscellaneous	\$780.00
Annual Membership Dues	\$530.00



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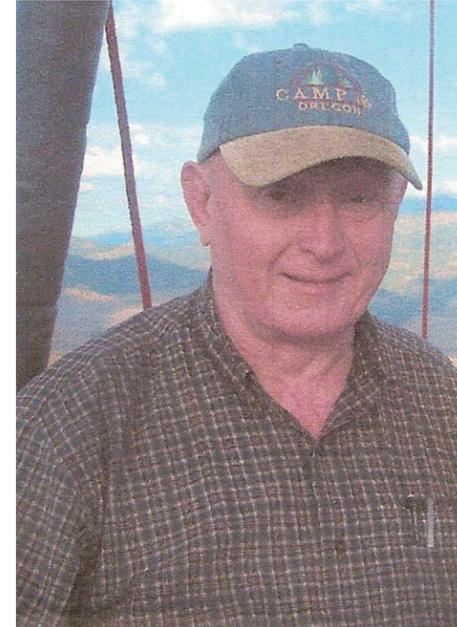
Mike Asher



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Center for Wildfire Education, Training, Research and Interpretation

CBFIC Loses a Pillar of Commitment



By Dave Spies, CBFIC Vice President

He truly loved his work and the people he worked with, and had a passion for managing the land for future generations.

Arnie was a 50 year member of the Society of American Foresters and served as the State Chair. He was a Certified Forester and elected Fellow in 2001. In 1991, he was selected as an honored alumnus by the University of Washington in recognition of Excellence in the Profession of Forestry. He served on the board of CBFIC since 1996.

Columbia Breaks lost its President and a primary source of inspiration on March 21, when Nils "Arnie" Arneson passed away. Even though he fought a battle with a rare form of sarcoma cancer this past year, he lived life to the fullest, never slowing down in his commitment to CBFIC. His leadership and more importantly, his friendship, will be sorely missed.

Arnie was born December 13, 1934, in Yakima, Washington and spent his early years at the Tieton Ranger Station, where his father was a District Ranger. The family later moved to Naches, where Arnie graduated from high school in 1953. He graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in forestry in 1957. He began his career with the U.S. Forest Service while still in school and spent time at various districts, including Winthrop, and Leavenworth where he helped establish the Mission Ridge Ski area. He also spent part of his career in Mt. Hood, and in Colorado where he retired in 1984. He then formed his own forestry and recreation consulting firm, which he operated until his death.

Arnie is survived by his wife, Carol, who has been his lifetime partner for 40 years. He is also survived by five wonderful grandchildren and their mother, Penny Arneson Sweet, and her husband, Ken. Carol would like to suggest, in lieu of flowers, that donations be made to the Seattle Cancer Alliance Center for Sarcoma Research -- or to CBFIC to begin a fund that will build a covered picnic / interpretive area.

Please join us for a Memorial Service & Dedication
Friday, April 25, 2008 at 1:30 PM
Columbia Breaks Interpretive Center, amphitheater
15212 Hwy 97A, Entiat, WA.

The Columbia Breaks Board of Director's unanimously agreed that the centers Gazebo would be dedicated to Arnie in honor of his leadership, commitment, and wealth of inspiration that he generously shared. Arnie's presence will be deeply missed, but his spirit of loyalty to our mission will be forever present.

ANNUAL OCTOBER AUCTION

by Dave Spies, CBFIC Vice President

Around 90 guests attended the annual Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center's Fund Raiser -Firefighters' Appreciation Event which took place on October 27, 2007 in Cashmere, WA. at the Cashmere Riverside Center. The event was a success with 50 generous donors contributing 86 items for the silent and live auction. George Honey, Auctioneer and CBFIC Board member "performed" the bid calling at this year's live auction. "Thanks" to all you high bidders.

Arnie Arneson, president of the CBFIC board, and an active member since 1996, was selected as the Guest of Honor at this year's event. He was recognized by the board and the attendees for his exceptional dedication to the CBFIC dream. Arnie was received with a standing ovation and was presented a plaque which read: "To Arnie Arneson – Thank You for Keeping the Fire Burning" Arnie's perseverance & commitment was instrumental to keeping the dream alive, especially during those times when it seemed the fire was growing dim. He humbly accepted the award on behalf of all the individuals who have contributed to the success of the project, recognizing the Board members past and present, and the community members who participated as donors, volunteers, advisors, & educators.

The program included guest speaker, Marty Whitmore, fire manager with the National Weather Service in Missoula Montana. He is a graduate of Entiat High School, the University of Washington, and a former Entiat Hotshot. He presented a humorous, informational, fast-paced program about weather reporting in general and the challenges of fire weather forecasting.

We invite everyone to join us again this year for a night of laughter, good-food, and a fun-filled auction. So mark your calendars for: October 25, 2008. We'll see you there!

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY'S 4-H PROGRAM

by Dave Anderson, CBFIC Board Member

For the past six years Columbia Breaks has been a partner with the Washington State University sponsored 4-H program. The program is designed to facilitate the development of skills that will be beneficial to teenagers throughout their lives. The training program aims to foster leadership and volunteerism, strengthen family's & communities, expand and embrace the traditions of the 4-H program

There are four local 4-H crews which consist of a crew supervisor and 6 to 9 crewmembers. The crews are assigned different projects thru out the summer, with projects being assigned by the Forest Service, Chelan County PUD, Longview Fiber Co., U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Washington State University, Eastern Washington University, and Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center.

Upon arriving at the Columbia Breaks site the 4-H crew can expect to start their day by attending a short introductory presentation, followed by a walking tour of the Trail of Fire and Forest. The crews then gear up for specific work projects that have been pre-planned for the day. Typical projects include: painting & maintenance of Chelan Butte and Badger Mountain Lookouts, trail maintenance, fuel reduction, weed control, sign installation, and assistance with interpretive displays. The 4-H crews are then given the opportunity to meet with an Engine Crew from the Department of Natural Resources. The DNR crews discuss all the aspects of their jobs and give a demonstration on how to use fire tools and equipment. The 4-H crew members are also informed about how to apply for jobs with the DNR & Forest Service.

Columbia Breaks Board Members Dave Anderson and Wayne Long volunteer their time to set up the work projects and are on site to assist the crew with the hands-on learning process. Anderson remembers that "Originally I felt that this was a good way to get a lot of work done on the site, but as we got more involved with the program I realized what a great educational experience this really is for the kids. Working at the site introduces them to many aspects of wild land fire. Now our goal is not only to accomplish the work, but also to mix in some fun & interesting fire related education."

KIDS ON THE TRAIL

by Dave Spies, CBFIC Vice President

In the month of May CBFIC will again host bus loads of sixth grade students from the Eastmont Middle School. This will be the fifth year that the students will have participated in the program. Last year, over 450 excited Eastmont School District students and their chaperones visited Columbia Breaks, walked the trails, explored the lookouts, and discussed information that had been presented to them in their classrooms. Matt Lyons, an ex-smokejumper-turned teacher and the engine crews from the DNR and the USFS treated the students to an attention-grabbing presentation that was enjoyed by all. The field trips were the culmination of four weeks of study about the shrub-steppe / ponderosa pine ecosystems and the role that fire plays in them.

We also had over 100 visitors from the Stilaquamish home school program. Guided by Dave Spies the group walked the trail and climbed up into Chelan Butte Lookout with volunteer host, Vicki Stanton. The lookout is a special treat because it is only open for tours during the school field trips.

Education is the backbone of Columbia Break's vision and a



priority goal for the Board. We are eager to expand our education partnerships and want to invite more schools to participate in the program. You can help by talking to your local school teachers and administrators, introduce them to our site, and encourage them to look into our program. CBFIC is willing to offer assistance by providing teacher workshops and curriculum materials that will facilitate the student's exploration of our local ecosystems and fire ecology.

THE NEXT STEP by Dave Spies, CBFIC Vice President

The CBFIC board is excited about the next phase of development that they envisioned at a January goal-setting workshop. Within the next year, we will 1) add a storage facility, 2) improve the outdoor lighting, 3) pour a concrete slab for the amphitheater stage, 4) improve the signage for the interpretive trail, 5) install two new large entry signs that can be seen from the highway, 6) expand the education program, 7) begin improving access to the interpretive trail, and 7) increase our contacts with possible partners.

Other long-term projects will be completed as funding becomes available. A new site plan will include the construction of a large sheltered area with interpretive stations, the relocation of Badger Mountain Lookout, an improved Trail of Fire and Forest, and the possible construction of a trail to the point overlooking Entiat and the CBFIC site. The sheltered area will provide an outdoor covered area, under which large groups can meet for educational workshops. The facility will include several picnic tables and more interpretive signage (possibly, the history of the last 100 years of fires in our ecosystem).

Another priority will be to widen the interpretive trail and remove the huge rocks in its path so that it is accessible to wheel chairs. We also want to make the interpretive signage more permanent and durable (Remember, we do have a sign sponsorship where you can contribute \$100 and have your name placed on one of the signs showing your support

of the project). In addition to the fire interpretive information, we want to add smaller sign posts that provide information about the flora and fauna inhabiting the site.

Another large endeavor will be relocating Badger Mountain Lookout. We want to bring it off the hill and place it next to the present interpretive building – where it will be more accessible to the public and be more protected from vandalism. We hope to make it an interactive educational center with video simulations and hands-on displays.

All these projects, of course, take large amounts of capital. You can help us by providing us with ideas for funding, with possible sources for grants, with your continued support, and with your time when we are ready to work on each project.

