



# Updraft

*Center for Wildfire Education, History and Interpretation*

April 2011

## Arneson Memorial Becomes a Reality

Another goal has been attained at Columbia Breaks! Thanks to a generous donation from the Icicle Fund, and to the numerous contributions of Columbia Breaks supporters, the interpretive shelter dedicated to the memory of Arnie Arneson was constructed on the site. Arnie was a member of the CB board from 1996 to 2008. The structure consists of a covered 30' X 60' pole barn with a gravel floor. The memorial is the first phase of a vision to construct an indoor, interactive visitor display center. As funding becomes available, a concrete floor and insulated walls can be added to convert the facility into an indoor interpretive center. Until then, the open-sided shelter will contain picnic tables and 3 memorial benches. The benches were donated in memory of Helen Sorrel, Sonny O'Neal, and Haven Stanaway. It will serve primarily as a resting place for visitors and a covered lecture area for larger groups. Interpretive signs featuring fire history and "voices from the past" will also be added under the shelter.



Photos by Wayne Long

The site was prepared by Leavenworth Electric and Excavation and the structure was built by Western Ranch Buildings. Like everything built at the site, it took a lot of rock moving and gravel fill to level the ground and to dig the holes for the posts. A dedication for the facility will occur on May 14th at the shelter

## Another Small Addition Provides a Big Need

A portable 8' X 18' storage shed has been added to the site. Chuck Wolf volunteered his time and his machinery to haul gravel and to level a site for the shed at the top of the driveway leading to the amphitheater. The shed is already filled with tools, building supplies, and the portable stage. Chuck also helped construct a path from the upper parking lot to the amphitheater, cleared some brush in the upper parking lot, and moved back-fill to a small extension of the amphitheater wall.

### **Mark Your Calendars – Opportunities to Support CB**

April 16 9AM	Spring Clean-up and site maintenance/repairs
April 23 2-3:30PM	Join us for a concert at the amphitheater with Chelsey Craven & Fred Duzan
May 14 1PM	Dedication of the Arneson Interpretive Shelter
October 22	The annual dinner/auction fundraiser at the Cashmere Center



## FIRE LOOKOUTS: A NATIONAL TREASURE

Fire lookouts in the United States once numbered 8,700 – and were in every state except Kansas. Today only 2,600 lookouts remain standing - three of Washington's 89 remaining lookouts are located on the Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center site. To preserve this legacy in American forest fire history, Columbia Breaks has produced a thirteen minute education video "*Fire Lookouts: A National Treasure*". The video informs visitors about the history of fire lookouts in the United States, the duties and responsibilities of the special breed of fire observer, how to use the Osborne Firefinder to pin-point the fire's location, what happens after the fire is reported to the fire dispatcher, and why the lookout has endured through this age of technology.

The video was produced in cooperation with the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and Methow Valley Ranger District during the summer of 2010. Emmy Award winner Stevan Smith, Echo Productions, was the videographer and editor. The production centers around long-time Goat Peak lookout Bill Austin. "Lightning Bill", as his co-workers refer to him, is noted for his "sharp eye", accurate fire locations and ability to direct fire crews to the fire. Bill talks about his passion for the job and how he relates to his 2,500 visitors each summer. The 2.5 mile hike to Goat Peak Lookout is well worth a visit with "Lightning Bill".

"*Fire Lookouts: A National Treasure*" was financed through Columbia Breaks fund raisers and a significant grant from the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association - Old Smokeys. Historic footage and still photos were provided by the US Forest Service National Archives and the Okanogan County Historical Society.

A Phase Two lookout education interactive video project is planned in the future when funding permits. The interactive program would allow visitors to simulate locating a fire using the firefinder, calling the dispatcher with the fire location and fire related information, and using fire suppression resources to battle the fire.



### Concerts at the Amphitheater

Once again, the CB amphitheater proved to be a superb location for musical events. In June the *Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band* from Winthrop entertained attendees with a combination of songs and a lot of laughter. The fund-raising event was made possible by the Northwest Heritage Resource Foundation with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Both the band and the concertgoers commented about how ideal the setting was for a summer concert.

Copies of the new *Fire Lookouts* DVD are available for \$10. Proceeds will be used to help pay for the production of the video. Send your request to: Box 644, Entiat WA 98822



The Entiat Public Library also held their end-of-the-summer reading celebration at the site in August. Librarian Esther Dalgas presented awards to participants in the reading program and everyone was entertained by Hank Cramer, a folksinger offering cowboy, seafaring, mining and logging songs – and a lot of humor.

**If you wish to hold an event at the amphitheater, please contact any of the board members or call Dave Spies at 509-670-4875. A portable stage and electrical outlets are available at the site.**



Wayne Long shows students how to use the Osborne Firefinder

### School Visits

The Eastmont and Entiat 6<sup>th</sup> graders made their annual trek to the site in 2010. Their visits come after they investigate eastside forest and fire ecology in their classrooms, using CB's curriculum kits. When they get to the site, they walk the interpretive trail, climb the stairs to Chelan Butte Lookout, interact with engine crews from the USFS and Washington State DNR, and watch a demonstration by a former smokejumper. Other schools visiting the site in 2010 included smaller groups from Westside High School, Samammish Montessori School, the Tonasket Mennonite School, the Winthrop Christian School, and the Washington Virtual Academy.

Education is the core of CB's vision. If your group wants a personal tour of our site, please contact any board member or Dave Spies at 509-670-4875.



Grover receives award from Dave Spies

### Grover Payne Receives CBFIC Fire Award

Each year, at CB's fall fundraising banquet, the Board presents an award that we simply call the "Fire Award." It is presented to an individual who has made a life-long contribution to forest and fire education. Grover Payne fits that qualification perfectly. He has devoted his life to education about our forest resources – not only during his professional career, but also during his retirement. You cannot talk to Grover without him giving you some kind of information or research about fire management, water quality issues, or numerous other resource related issues. He is a never – ending fountain of information. And once he has made contact with you, and gets your attention, he will continue to call you with more ideas. He is relentless in wanting people to be aware of what is happening in their environment.

The award is also a tribute to Nancy, his wife, because once you meet them together, you know that they are truly a team in their pursuit of learning and sharing their knowledge. They both have been key supporters of CBFIC.

Grover is a retired forester (34 yrs.) from the United States Forest Service. He held assignments in timber, recreation, wildlife and fisheries, wildland fire management, and range management. He was a staff officer in timber and resource management, a public affairs officer, and a District Ranger on the Trabuco Ranger

District, Cleveland National Forest, in California. He served as a technical specialist and director of public affairs, for the thirteen southern state foresters in fire planning and economic analysis / interagency cooperative fire agreements. He came to the Northwest as a Group Leader in Aviation and Fire Management, State and Private Forestry, dealing with forest health and interagency cooperation agreements on the Okanagon-Wenatchee National Forest.

**If you know of any individual who would be a deserving candidate for the Fire Award, please let one of the board members know!**



Randy McLandress works to improve another part of the trail

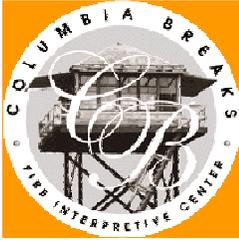
### Volunteer Receives CB Recognition at Fall Banquet

John Huselton was presented a plaque from the CB board, honoring him with his continued support of the fire center. John, a former member of the board, may have resigned from the foundation because of numerous other commitments to the Entiat Community, but he has never resigned from helping keep the dream of CB alive. He attends most board meetings, finds sources of funding, offers new ideas, and keeps CB connected to the Entiat Chamber of Commerce and the entire community. His guidance has been instrumental in bringing the project to where it is today.

**We Would Love Your Help!!**  
**April 16, 9AM at Columbia Breaks**

- \*Clearing and widening the trail
- \*Opening and repairing the lookouts
- \*Installing benches and signs
- \*Clearing dead trees and brush

If you can help, call 509-670-4875



## Board of Directors

### **Dave Spies**

*President/Secretary*

### **Dave Anderson**

*Vice President*

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*Treasurer*

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### **Steve Goetz**

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### **George Honey**

### **Wayne Long**

### **Christine Mallon**

### **Bill Moody**

### **Susan Peterson**

Visit our website:

[www.wildfirecenter.org](http://www.wildfirecenter.org)

## 2011 Site Improvement Projects

Since our funding is limited, most of them will be completed with volunteer labor. This past year we completed several goals, including: building a storage shed, finishing East Flattop Lookout, continuing the school education program, improving another section of the interpretive trail, producing the video on lookouts, building the memorial shelter, refinishing the outside of the main building, improving the amphitheater, and installing memorial benches. The Board has larger projects that will be completed when the funding is available. The biggest priorities are 1) paying off the mortgage, 2) creating the next phase of an interactive video display for East Flattop, 3) building an indoor interpretive center. 4) producing a video program that takes the visitor on a journey through the entire fire cycle of a forest: pre-ignition, ignition, detection, suppression, rehab, re-growth...The funding that we receive from your donations and from the events such as the auction are used to maintain the site and to pay for smaller projects:

🔥 Lookouts: Install windows in Badger Mountain. Paint the handrail and repair shutters on Chelan Butte. We also need to furnish all the lookouts.

🔥 Interpretive Trail: We have replaced some of the damaged or faded signs on the trail. We want to add more signs that deal with the flora/fauna/geology of the site. We also want to finish making the trail accessible to the physically challenged.

🔥 Education: Continue to attract school groups and encourage them to use our curriculum boxes.

🔥 Security System: Install a system to detect and thwart any unwanted activity at the site.

🔥 Shelter: Add picnic benches and begin to add interpretive signs.

🔥 Entrance Sign: Install a more visible sign that leads visitors to the main entrance driveway. Eventually construct an entrance portal.

🔥 Promotional Brochure: Create and updated brochure to attract visitors to the site.

**If you have a desire to help with any of the activities, please send an email to [daves60@aol.com](mailto:daves60@aol.com) – or call 509-670-4875**



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Permit #  
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Entiat WA 98822