

# *Friends of Boggs Mountain*



## NEWSLETTER

Volume 8, Issue 4

December, 2012

P.O. Box 735

Cobb, CA 95426

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

## *Season's Greetings!*

### **YOU'RE INVITED!**

#### **1st Q 2013 Board Meeting**

Our quarterly Board of Directors meeting will be held tentatively on the 2nd Sat. in Jan. 2013 (please check our Website for an update and time) at the Board Room of the Cobb Area County Water District Office next to the Post Office. Anyone interested in being involved in The Friends of Boggs is encouraged to attend!

We are very grateful to acknowledge the following new and renewing members:

*Dorothy Emerson, Napa; Tim Battaglia, Cobb; Sally Leque, Lower Lake; Pat & Jon Meyer, Cobb; Dan & Dee Desmond, Lower Lake; Darlene Hecomovich, Cobb; Paul Babwin, Fresno; Joe Fusik & Peg Landini, Cobb; Joe Mathews, Calistoga; Obie & Julie Porteous, Cobb; Jeffrey Shields family, Cobb; Kim Wright & Liz Farlee, Lakeport; Fred Cork, Cobb; John & Mirthia Kauffman, Vallejo; Jeannette Knight, Cobb; Happy Smiles Dental Practice, Middletown. Thank You!*

Dear Friends,

2012 has been a busy and productive year for the Friends of Boggs Mountain. Winter released its icy grip a little earlier this year than last and gave way to the brilliant blossoms of spring by mid-April.

The forest played host to a number of events this year including bike races, marathons, orienteering as well as the many hikers, bikers, runners and horseback riders that visit the forest throughout the year.

This year your organization had a hand in a number of forest improvements. Nine brand new durable fire rings were purchased for campsites in Calso Camp and thanks to Kelly Fletcher's efforts, were all installed before the busy summer camping season. Additionally, we are all looking forward to the completion of an, ADA-approved, flush toilet in the main parking area to replace the existing pit toilet. Early this spring, FOBM applied for a grant from Calpine Corporation to help fund the project, and were awarded over \$25,000 toward construction. The balance of the over \$30,000 project will be funded by FOBM and Bike Monkey. We are very grateful for the continuing financial support of Calpine and Bike Monkey for their generous contributions to the community. Many thanks also goes out to Bob Berg who is well on the way to completing the restroom. We all look forward to the grand opening flush!

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## **TAKE A HIKE**

... with experienced guides. Burn some calories, elevate your heart rate, recharge your chakras and allow yourself some time to enjoy the natural beauty surrounding you. Make sure you choose the right hike. Here are the ratings of our guides:

**Carol's hikes** - are very fast-paced, lengthy and you want to be an experienced hiker in good physical condition. Great exercise and great fun for the fit.

**Boone's hikes** - are medium-paced, moderately challenging, fun and somewhat educational.

**Darlene's hikes** - are slower-paced, moderately challenging and educational. Birds, trees, wildflowers and bushes identified and information shared.

*Please check back with the Website or confirm with the guide leaders below in case of any changes or cancellations.*

### **SUN., Jan. 13 at 9 a.m.**

3-5 mile moderate-paced hike with Boone on various Boggs trails. Bring water, a snack and wear sturdy shoes. We meet in Boggs parking lot. Neutered/ spayed dogs on leash welcome. Heavy rain or snow cancels. Questions? sullivanlodge@mediacombb.net or call 928-5819.

### **WED., Jan. 16 at 9 a.m.**

2.25 mile casual-paced hike with Darlene on Shaker Trail, Rd. 210 to loop back via Mac's Trail. Bring water, a snack and wear sturdy shoes. We meet in Boggs parking lot. Questions? dhco@me.com or 928-5591.

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FOBM also hosted two fascinating and informative Boggs Talks this year. The first, held in August was a presentation by Ken Stanton, local author and historian, who spoke on the wealth of hiking trails in the surrounding area as well as the rich history of Lake and Napa County. In early November we were treated to a mushroom foray with guest speaker Darwin DeShazer, co-founder and Science Advisor of the Sonoma County Mycological Association. After about a 45 minute introduction to mushrooming we all headed for the trails to search for the fruit of the forest. Following our mushroom prospecting Darv helped us to identify our finds and encouraged everyone interested in more information to contact any one of a number of local mushroom clubs.

The popular "Take a Hike" program continued this year with our intrepid hiking guides Darlene Hecomovich, Carol Magill, and Boone Lodge. Whether you're a seasoned hiker with many miles on your Vibram® soles or prefer a little lighter fare with more opportunities to "smell the deer brush", there is a hike for you.

There is a lot more to look forward to in 2013. If you are a member and have a few hours to spare about four times a year, we encourage you to consider applying to become a member of the board of directors of Friends of Boggs Mountain. It is a fun group that meets quarterly to plan events, consider ways to enhance the visitors experience and encourage proper stewardship of the forest. The board meetings are open to the public, so feel free to attend. We appreciate feedback from all types of forest users from hikers to horseback riders and everything in between. Check the Website <http://boggsmountain.org>, as well as the latest events and posts to see what's up at the forest.

I hope everyone has a terrific holiday, and a safe and happy new year! See you in 2013.

May the forest be with you,

*David Thiessen*  
Board President

## **TAKE A HIKE** *(continued)*

### **SUN., Jan. 27 at 8 a.m.**

6-8 mile fast-paced hike with Carol on various Boggs trails, no matter what the weather! Bring water, a snack if desired, and wear sturdy shoes. We meet in Boggs parking lot. Neutered and spayed dogs on leash welcome. RSVP required - c.magill@mchsi.com or call 928-5423.

### **SUN., Feb. 10 at 8 a.m.**

6-8 mile fast-paced hike with Carol on various Boggs trails, no matter what the weather! Bring water, a snack if desired, and wear sturdy shoes. We meet in Boggs parking lot. Neutered and spayed dogs on leash welcome. RSVP required - c.magill@mchsi.com or call 928-5423.

### **SAT., Feb. 16 at 9 a.m.**

4-6 mile moderate-paced hike with Boone on various Boggs trails. Bring water, a snack and wear sturdy shoes. We meet in Boggs parking lot. Neutered/ spayed dogs on leash welcome. Heavy rain or snow cancels. Questions? sullivanlodge@mediacombb.net or call 928-5819.

### **SAT., Feb. 23 at 9 a.m.**

2 mile casual-paced hike with Darlene on Hoberg Loop and Vista Point Trails. Bring water, a snack and wear sturdy shoes. Meet promptly at the Hoberg Loop Trail Trailhead which is on Entrance Road off Hwy 175, about 1/2 mile north of the Forestry Rd. entry to Boggs Mtn. State Forest. Turn east on Entrance Rd. and proceed 100 yards up to the Trailhead. Questions? dhco@me.com or 928-5591.

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## **A Bow-Wow Pow-Wow ?**



What could be more fun than a delightful summer event combining dogs, their people, and a hike at Boggs Mountain State Forest?

WOOF!

You got it! The **Dogs at Boggs Bow-Wow Pow-Wow** will be what we hope becomes an annual Friends of Boggs Mountain event for loveable pooches and their friends!

Event coordinator and FOBM board member Karen Rhoads notes that details are still sketchy, but to plan on 30 minutes of dog handling tips preceding a one-hour, leisurely exploration of the Interpretive Trail and Gail's Trail. No leaf will remain un-sniffed!

On completion, participating pooches will receive a bag of edible goodies (Woof! Woof!) and a certification button proudly declaring, "I'm a Boggs Dog." Human participants can expect refreshments and a doggone good time. Children are welcome.

Full details will be worked out over the coming months, so check the Website for updates. The 2nd Quarter Newsletter will provide more information.

Evanger's Dog and Cat Food Company, Inc., a business member of Friends of Boggs Mountain, is co-sponsoring the event.



# **TAKE A HIKE** *(continued)*

## **SUN., March 17 at 9 a.m.**

St. Patrick's Day 4-6 mile moderate-paced hike with Boone on various Boggs trails. Bring water, a snack and wear sturdy shoes. We meet in Boggs parking lot. Neutered/spayed dogs on leash welcome. Heavy rain or snow cancels. Questions? [sullivanlodge@mediacombb.net](mailto:sullivanlodge@mediacombb.net) or call 928-5819.

## **WED., March 20 at 9 a.m.**

2.9 mile casual-paced hike with Darlene on Interpretive, Houghton Creek, & Gail's Trails. Bring water, a snack and wear sturdy shoes. We meet in Boggs parking lot. Questions? [dheco@me.com](mailto:dheco@me.com) 928-5591

## **SAT., March 30 at 8 a.m.**

6-8 mile fast-paced hike with Carol on various Boggs trails, no matter what the weather! Bring water, a snack if desired, and wear sturdy shoes. We meet in Boggs parking lot. Neutered and spayed dogs on leash welcome. RSVP required - [c.magill@mchsi.com](mailto:c.magill@mchsi.com) or call 928-5423.

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**Trail Maintenance** will take place on the second Sunday of January due to a board meeting conflict. Please check the Website for updates.

*Thanks!*

~ *The Naturalist's Corner* ~

## **Our Red-Headed Friend**

by Peg Landini



For those of you who are frequent visitors to Boggs Forest, the call of the Pileated Woodpecker as it soars through the trees is unmistakable. Hearing it for the first time, you might think you're in some far-off jungle in South America. Its call resonates through the trees, and has been described as similar to the Northern Flicker - a series of notes that are slower, with irregular rhythm and a deeper, wilder sound. It reminds me of when I try to start my car and the engine repeatedly struggles to turn over.

Uncommon but widespread, this bird resides in hardwood and coniferous forests. It belongs to the family Picidae which includes flickers, woodpeckers, and sapsuckers. While woodpeckers are mostly solitary and their flight is undulating, the flight pattern of the pileated woodpecker is fairly direct with deep, irregular, rowing wingbeats. It nests in excavated tree cavities and designates its territory by rapidly drumming its bill against a hollow tree. Using its stiff tail feathers as a prop while clinging to trees, it peels the bark with its chisel-like bill in search of wood-boring insects.

This majestic bird is the largest of the woodpeckers with a length of 16.5 inches, wing span of 29 inches, and a weight of 10 ounces. It is unmistakable with a long neck, red crest and obvious white wing patch. Its drumming pattern is slow and powerful, accelerating and trailing off at the end.

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### **Drawing Classes for Kids?**

Would you be interested in signing up your kids for a Friends of Boggs Mountain-sponsored drawing class the summer of 2013?

The emphasis would be on observing and appreciating nature, and would take place on one or two Saturdays.

Please let us know of your interest, and if you would also like to volunteer at this event by contacting us at [fobmtn@gmail.com](mailto:fobmtn@gmail.com).



### *(Our Red-Headed Friend, continued)*

A year-round resident of Boggs, this large woodpecker is more often heard than seen, its call resonating through the trees. By listening to its deep drumming, you may be able to track it down and feast your eyes on one of the many splendors of Boggs. If you are a regular visitor or a first timer, be sure to bring your binoculars so you don't miss the opportunity to add this one to your bird list. *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior*, published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York, is an excellent source of detailed information regarding the habitat and behavior of Birds of North America.

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### **Our Deepest Gratitude**

... to Boone Lodge for creating and editing the Friends of Boggs Mountain newsletter for nearly a decade! His dedication to the members and the Forest is sincerely appreciated.

Over the next few months, we will be experimenting with a different newsletter format, so please bear with us. Let us know what you think, as well as ways we might be able to improve the newsletter for you!

Happy Trails!

Gigi Stahl

### **SPREAD THE LOVE**

Know someone or a business that might be interested in a Friends of Boggs Mountain membership? Please send them to our Website for more info! <http://boggsmountain.org/membership>

*This Friends of Boggs Mountain newsletter was compiled and edited by Gigi Stahl. Please send comments and/or corrections to: [fobmtn@gmail.com](mailto:fobmtn@gmail.com)*