

# MINERAL KING CHRONICLE

MINERAL KING PRESERVATION SOCIETY

VOLUME 41



## Letter From the Director

LISA MONTEIRO

The wildflowers are blooming, birds are chirping, and near our office one persistent woodpecker is knocking! Spring is in the air and we are itching to get back into Mineral King. We have had a busy winter and are very excited to be in different stages with a lot of exciting projects. We have secured the exhibit designer for our Native American exhibit in the Mineral King Room and are currently surveying local tribal community members. Our goal is to have the exhibit completed in spring 2023.

There are a lot of updates coming to the Mineral King Room this year that Sandi talks about on the next page. We have also begun planning and have calendared our annual events, Picnic in the Park and Music in the Mountains. We will also begin our oral history interviews this summer. If you would like to schedule a time for you or a family member's oral history, please contact me so we can add you to the list.

I am pleased to announce that our first video is now online and available to view. We have received some great feedback so far and I hope that you all enjoy it. This is the first of three videos; more information about this on page 8. I hope to secure additional funding to continue adding these short but educational videos soon.

Speaking of funding, our membership renewals are heading your way. You can renew by mail or by going to our website. We appreciate your support and annual membership contributions.

I am looking forward to another great year in Mineral King, more events, and more opportunities to connect with all of you. Please reach out with any questions, comments, or ideas you may have for projects and programs!

See you soon,

Lisa

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# Curator's Corner

SANDRA STRYD



Hello Everyone! Plans are moving forward so quickly, I'm finding it very exciting!

The Art 112 Gallery Intermediate Exhibition Class students at College of the Sequoias in Visalia have come up with an exciting visual idea for our Mineral King Room Disney exhibit, which will encompass all of our exhibits and bring them together to tell the Mineral King story. Greg Glasgow and Kathryn Mayer, historians on the Disney Company, continue to assist us with content for Disney exhibit. I hope to bring you pictures in our next Chronicle.

We have added a life sized cutout of Anna Mills Johnston to our cabin exhibit! Please stop by and take a picture with Anna in her kitchen. Laile Di Silvestro, MA, RPA, and Historical Archaeologist, is currently working on an iPad that will be part of the exhibit and allow visitors to the Mineral King Room to learn more about Anna, her kitchen, and cabin histories.



We are fortunate to partner with three men who are in the midst of building a stand for the New England Tunnel and Smelter Co. outdoor water jacket exhibit at the Three Rivers Museum. A big thank you to Randy Emery, head of the College of the Sequoias Welding Department, Christopher Huff, COS welding instructor, and Dave King, a retired Visalia Adult School welding instructor who also taught metal sculpture and blacksmithing at COS. The exhibit is on loan from the National Park Service. We'll post pictures as that stand is being constructed.

Thank you Michael Botkin for his recent donation of ax heads and a phone line insulator found in Mineral King. We will get these on display soon.



I am always looking for Mineral King and Disney artifacts for our exhibits. Should you have any artifacts from this area/era that you think might interest our visitors, please feel free to visit us at our office in Three Rivers or call us to set up a meeting. I know sometimes it's hard to part with historical artifacts, but we can take your artifacts

"on loan" if you don't want to donate them permanently to MKPS. This alternative allows so many others to enjoy what you have preserved and you keep ownership of the artifact.

# Mineral King Memories

The following is a story shared with us by MKPS Board Treasurer, Danial Vassar, written by his mother Carolyn Smith. Please reach out to us if you have a story you would like to share.

Our family first visited Mineral King in the summer of 1954. My dad's position with an aeronautical company required him to live close to Los Angeles International Airport, so we moved to California in 1951 for that purpose. Dad's office was the hangars of major airlines based in LA. Mr. Sample, a maintenance tech for Western, began talking with Dad about this amazing place in the Sierra.

Dad had grown up in the backwoods of western Maine, Mom on a small farm in rural Arkansas. Both had developed a love of nature and all things outdoors. Mineral King sounded like the perfect respite from big city life we were then living. The Sample family would meet us there, and we three girls would have the joy of playing with the older Sample children.

Mom and Dad borrowed the necessary tent, purchased sleeping bags, and packed the car with camping necessities. About 3 am the morning we were to leave, they woke the three of us, rolled us into the station wagon along with our dog, Rusty, and off we drove the seven plus hours to Mineral King. Once there the Samples welcomed us and helped us to make camp. Although Mom had not done much camping, this was exactly what my dad loved. And the horse corral was not far from camp. Fishing came first, then horseback riding. We three sisters learned to climb rocks, stay away from deer, and made mud pies. We had strong admonitions to stay away from the Kaweah, too.

About a week into our vacation Dad and Mr. Sample rented horses for the day and planned a trip to the First Mosquito Lake. Mrs. Sample stayed behind with her older daughter and my two younger sisters, but the rest of us rode to Mosquito Lake for fishing and the pure enjoyment of the surroundings. At five years of age, I was in heaven riding a horse along with all the older folks. Having just seen the Davy Crocket show on Disney, I annoyed everyone with singing, "Davy, Davy Crocket, king of the wild frontier" all the way down the mountain from the First Lake. A memory firmly fixed in my mind from almost 70 years ago!

Our family fell in love with Mineral King on that first trip. We continued to vacation there for the next 11 years, with sporadic visits in later years. My children have been brought up on the same beautiful location. We learned to love nature, appreciate its care, and maneuver thoughtfully through the brush. Mineral King is in our blood.



From left to right: Carolyn, her mother Irene Grover, and sisters Sue and Cindy.

Carolyn Smith née Grover, born in Switzerland to American parents after the war, began visiting Mineral King with them in the mid-1950s, a place that often reminded them of the Alps. She has handed down her love for the Valley to her children, grandchildren, and now her great-grandchildren as the fifth generation will now learn the heritage of Beulah. Her oldest son, Daniel, serves on the Board of Directors for MKPS.

# Lifetime Members

Though MKPS no longer offers the Lifetime Membership level tier, we are grateful to the following couples and individuals who have signed up for a Lifetime Membership through the years. Though many have passed, we would like to honor their generosity here, as well as on our website.

Thank you to all of our members for your continued support!

Adams, Linda E.	Doctor, Joseph E.	Megalli, Mary Dungan
Aldine, Charles R.	Dungan, Vincent & Tori	Mitchell, Annie
Alltucker, Michael	Edgerton, Bradford & Louise	Newman, Robert & Betty
Alltucker, Marilyn	Elliot, John & Sarah	Off, Tracy
Andresen, Robert & Elizabeth	Gravelle, Gordon & Molly	O'Neill, James & Louise
Assay, Lyl D., M.D.	Gregg, Mignon	Peterson, Bruton
Barboni, Richard	Hack, Sherry	Peterson, Edward (Jock) & Ora Kay
Barboni, Richard C., DDS	Hamilton, Maureen Griggs	Peterson, Jay & Betsy
Bennett, Thiry Gail	Hansen, Jack & Barbara	Paterson, Michael B.
Bickett, Jill	Hansen, William & Jinx	Pinkham, Charles & Lindsay
Bree, Donn, PhD	Hawthorn, Roy	Pinkham, Donald R. & Helen W.
Brewer, Chris	Hastrup, Louise	Pinkham, Judee B.
Britten, Sophronia A.	Hath, Kathy Tavares	Pinkham, Patrick & Mary
Brodhead, Loren F.	Hawthorne, Roy	Queirolo, Annie Lawson
Burdic, John & Elaine McCain	Hendricks, Stuart	Reid, Harold & Torri
Bungay, Robert	Hengst, Robert & Linda	Runciman Jon
Cairns, Aubrey	Hicks, Bob & Jerry	Runciman, Jere Jr.
Cairns, David & Carol	Holden, John	Saurenman, Louise B.
Cattanach, David & Shirley	Hubbell, Robert & Jill Beckett	Sauve, Julie Chandler
Cluck, Rosemary	Jackson, Bruce & Marge	Seaborn, Margaret
Conrad, Kristy	Jackson, Louise	Shephard, Sonie Gay
Cosart, Pam Young	Jacobsen, Richard & Patricia	Sorenson, Louise B.
Cunningham, Glenn	Kelly, Bradford James	Stansfield, Jeff & Tracy
Curry, Donald	Kelly, Douglas	Steiny, J.D.
Curtis, John & Linda	Koch, Richard & Jean	Steiny, Susan
Davis, Alta S.	Kuhn, Janet L.	Sweet, Ardeen
Davis III, Jeff & Sally	Lean, Cathy Hansen	Tavares, Trevor
Deitz, Steve	Ledford, Merl & Diane	Vassar, Daniel & Barbara
Devol, Nicole	Ledford, Joy	Voelz, Daniel & Kim
Devol, Randy	Livermore, Norman B., Jr.	Weldon, Marilyn K.
Devol, Sharon M.	Luxenberg, Diana	Whitendale, Marjorie
Devol, Shirley	Martin, Helen	Wills, Mary Bree
Di Silvestro, Brian	Martin, William	Wollenman, LaWanda
Di Silvestro, Laurel	Matthews, Susan	Zurcher, Esther
Dixon, Evander	Mauritson, Blake	
Dobson, Edward Brown	Maze, Bill & Becky	

We have been working through past records to ensure that all member names have been properly recorded. If you notice any errors or discrepancies, please contact Lisa Monteiro at [lisa@mineralking.org](mailto:lisa@mineralking.org)

# It's Membership Renewal Time!

**Thank you for renewing your membership and continuing your support of MKPS. Renewal notices will be sent next week or you can renew online!**

Membership income supports MKPS programs and projects. Call us or sign up online at [www.MineralKing.org/membership](http://www.MineralKing.org/membership).

## Annual Membership Levels:

Student .....	\$15.00
Individual .....	\$20.00
Family .....	\$40.00
Business .....	\$200.00

## Annual Preservationist Level Members:

Farewell Gap Friends .....	\$250.00
Crystal Falls Champions .....	\$500.00
Sawtooth Supporters .....	\$1,000.00

## Save the Dates:

Grab your calendars and save the date for our annual Picnic in the Park and Music in the Mountains events in Mineral King.

Picnic in the Park - Saturday, July 16, 2022

Music in the Mountains - Saturday, August 13, 2022

## What's your Mineral King Story?

Do you have a harrowing tale from the drive? Have you come across any exciting wildlife? Or maybe you have a story about a family cabin. We are looking to collect these tales and share them in our newsletters, blog, and on our social media. If you are interested in sharing a story, tall-tale, pictures, or videos, please e-mail Lisa at [lisa@mineralking.org](mailto:lisa@mineralking.org).

# Raffle Tickets Now on Sale!

We are excited to announce tickets are now on sale for a chance to win a unique painting by local artist, and Mineral King lover, Jana Botkin. Jana painted this view of the Honeymoon Cabin in Mineral King on a beautifully worn shutter from a Mineral King cabin. Proceeds from ticket sales will go toward our general fund and future exhibits.



Tickets will be sold for \$40.00 apiece and available at our office (ongoing), at the Tulare County Museum's Main Street Jamboree (April 2nd), at Picnic in the Park (July 16th), and Music in the Mountains (August 13th). Call us at (559)561-1000 or email Lisa at [lisa@mineralking.org](mailto:lisa@mineralking.org) for more info.

A winner will be drawn at the Music in the Mountains concert in Mineral King on Saturday, August 13th!

# Interested in Joining the MKPS Board? We Need Your Help!

It is an exciting time for the Mineral King Preservation Society. With our Director and Curator, we are evolving into an organization that is capable of preserving the cultural and natural resources of this beautiful region. MKPS is building from the foundation created by the hard work of many passionate volunteers and supporters of the region throughout the years. By maintaining and growing our collection, hosting educational events, and exhibiting our collection both in the Mineral King Room in the Three Rivers Historical Museum, the Honeymoon Cabin, and online, we are working to promote the vibrant history of Mineral King. If you are interested in joining our Board we ask that you submit a brief bio about yourself and please also include why you would like to join the Board of the Mineral King Preservation Society. You can send any questions and submissions to Lisa at [lisa@mineralking.org](mailto:lisa@mineralking.org). We look forward to hearing from you.

## STAFF

Lisa Monteiro - Director  
Sandra Stryd - Curator

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stuart Hendricks - President  
William Martin - Vice President  
Daniel Vassar- Treasurer  
Kate Pinkham Wu - Secretary  
Forrest Jones  
Lisa McEwen  
Marc Mertz

## Our WISHLIST is now Online!

We have an Amazon wishlist that can be viewed by visiting the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p5znvm7!>

## MKPS MISSION

The Mineral King Preservation Society is dedicated to protecting and preserving the cultural and natural history of Mineral King and surrounding southern Sierra communities, and to educating the public about the historic and natural significance of these areas through programs and displays.

# Have you watched our first video?

The first video in our 3 part series is live!

Visit our website, YouTube channel, or scan the QR code below to check it out.



Join geologist, Dr. Jade Star Lackey, and the Mineral King Preservation Society on a road trip to Mineral King in Sequoia National Park to learn about the geological history of this region of the Sierra Nevada.

Funding for this series was made possible with a grant from Southern California Edison Company. The film was made by Zach Green Films.

Stay tuned for the second video, coming soon!







## SEKI - Mineral King Update

DAVE FOX - SEQUOIA DISTRICT RANGER

Friends - Mineral King suffered another early closure last year under the KNP Complex, on the heels of the SQF Complex closure in 2020. The damage done by this fire was significant, however, there were definite success stories. Once again we saw the fire running fast and strong right to the edge of a previous burn where it slowed to a degree that we were able to effectively fight the fire. The previous planned fires around Mineral King continue to keep our community safe. The fire crew in the park is considering another planned fire treatment south of Silver City this fall, although fire behavior and active fire at the time will dictate their ability to carry out the plan. While the smoke is distracting and unpleasant, we are seeing the extremely positive effects of inconvenience versus absolute destruction.

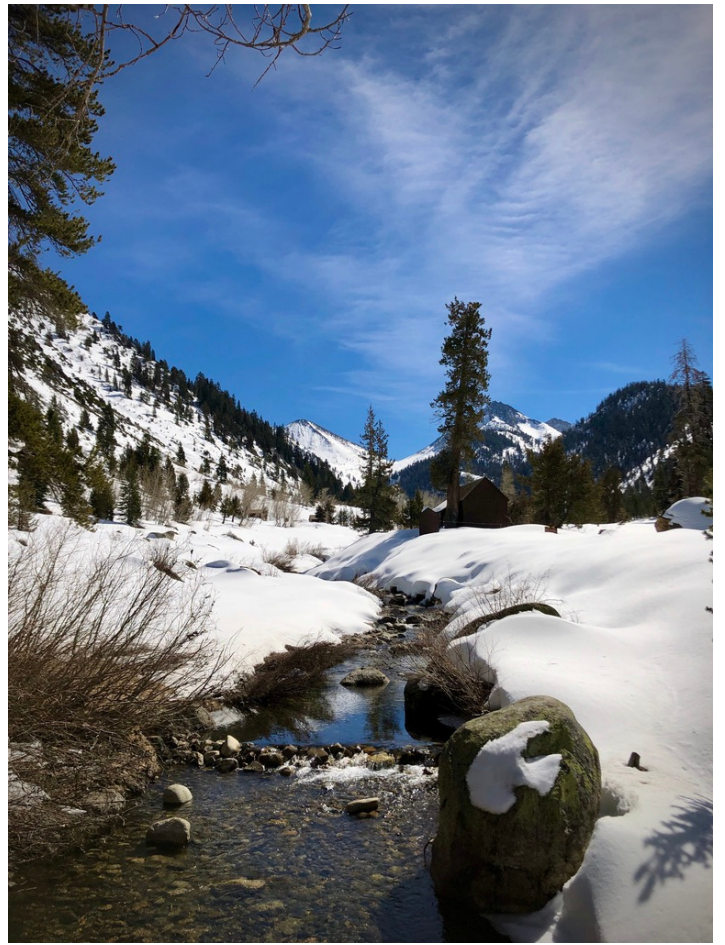
With the destruction in Lodgepole and along the Generals Highway, much effort has been drawn away from other areas of the parks to get the road open and facilities running again. This may mean some delays for opening, although at present, we are working diligently to overcome those obstacles. If not for the "Great Reshuffling" of jobs, we may have done better. Local wages impact maintenance workers pay, and many people who we try to hire are going to Yosemite where they pay is based on Stockton wages. Maintenance is doing their best to keep up with the work load.

Rangers are also continuing to see a decline in interest for jobs, especially in the supervisory realm. We are currently recruiting four supervisor positions in Sequoia. We hope to see some interest that will bring new faces to Mineral King, although it's likely there will be a rotating shift of rangers throughout the summer. Please bear with us in this transition. Shannon will be leading operations in the Ranger Station this year in Mineral King with John returning for another summer. Our third ranger, Ingrid, worked on our helitack crew last season and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the valley. Michael and Elizabeth will be returning to Little Five and Hockett Ranger Stations. Cold Springs will definitely open this year, but Atwell Campground is still undetermined.

I anticipate a busy visitor season. I am looking forward to escaping to the valley again this summer and hope to see your smiling faces.

Thanks,

Dave Fox  
Sequoia District Ranger



Thank you to Laile di Silvestro for sharing these beautiful pictures with us from her trip into MK on March 1.

## THREE RIVERS HISTORICAL MUSEUM



THANK YOU TO THE TRHS FOR PRINTING OUR NEWSLETTER AT A DISCOUNTED RATE! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL AND SAVE ON PRINTING AND SHIPPING COSTS FOR MKPS AND TRHM PLEASE CONTACT US AT [LISA@MINERALKING.ORG](mailto:LISA@MINERALKING.ORG)

### MKPS CONTACT INFORMATION

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