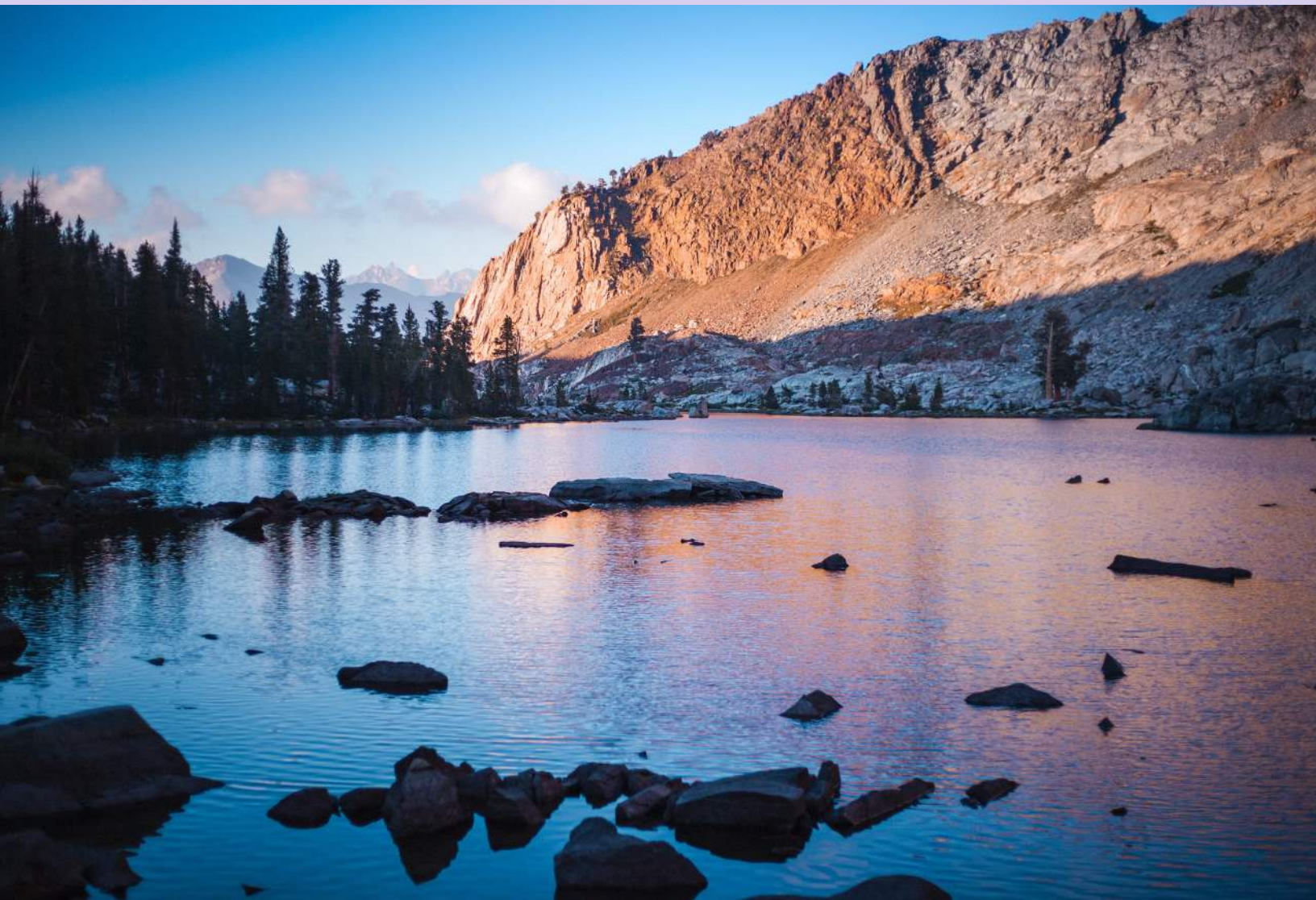
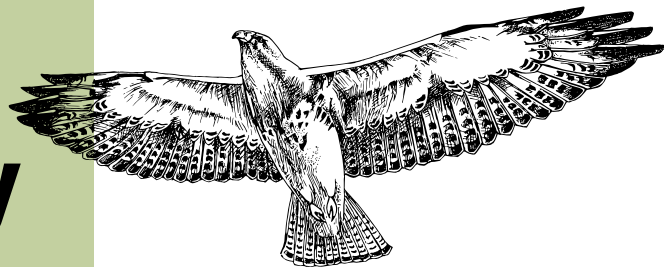


Mineral King Chronicle



Mineral King Preservation Society



STAFF

Top row:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LISA MONTEIRO

CURATOR/CONTROLLER

SANDRA STRYD

Bottom row:

ARCHIVIST

ANTOINETTE CLOUTIER

PROGRAMS & OUTREACH

PHAE LOCKWOOD

Not pictured:

INTERNS

WILLA HUECKER

JEANNIE GILL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

STUART HENDRICKS

VICE PRESIDENT

WILLIAM MARTIN

BOARD MEMBERS

FORREST JONES

MARC MERTZ

SASHA NICHOLS

TREASURER

DANIEL VASSAR

SECRETARY

LISA MCEWEN

Letter from the Director

Spring has sprung! If you have driven in our beautiful foothills, it is easy to see the vibrant poppies, lupine, and more beginning to bloom. Things are busy springing up around MKPS too as we prepare for our busiest, program-packed season of events in honor of MKPS' 40th anniversary and our nation's 250th. This newsletter is packed with updates on the programs for the season, how to get more involved at MKPS and so much more. But before we jump in, I wanted to talk about the campaign we are kicking off and our goal of raising \$40,000 this year in support of the work we do.

MKPS has grown over the past 40 years, from a grassroots group of passionate cabin owners to a dedicated board, staff, volunteers and members that love Mineral King and the Southern Sierra and want to see its history saved and shared. We are grateful to the founders for seeing the importance of fighting to keep the cultural history of Mineral King as well as to continue to promote and preserve its incredible natural history.

Museum work can feel invisible from the outside, but it is anything but passive. Behind every exhibit is research, conservation, the careful stewardship of objects and documents that cannot be replaced. Preserving history requires work, ongoing maintenance, and the resources to protect collections and make them accessible for future generations.

Operational funding is what makes this possible, it keeps the lights on, the archives safe, and the stories accessible. When you support this work, you are not just funding someone's salary; you are sustaining the active preservation of our shared history.

We are a small staff of four. I am the only fulltime employee, but we continue to grow our programs, archive more of our collection, offer new exhibits and more! While we have had great funding success with grants, the world of fundraising for cultural institutions has changed dramatically in the past couple of years. It is because of generous donations from individual donors that believe in the work we do and, in our mission, that we are able to have a paid staff and continue to preserve Mineral King history.

As you look through our newsletter, attend our events, or visit our exhibits, I ask that you take a moment to consider the work behind the scenes and what it takes to accomplish what we have in recent years with our hardworking team. The Mineral King Preservation Society stands as a sustainable, strong, and trusted pillar in our community. We remain steadfast in our commitment to protecting, preserving, and sharing our history for generations to come. I ask that you consider how you can help support that this year by contributing to our \$40,000 campaign goal. More info on the campaign can be found on page 8, I hope you see the value in the work we do, and choose to support this campaign!



Thank you,

Lisa Monteiro

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Curator's Corner

BY SANDI STRYD



Happy spring, everyone! Like many of you, I'm in "spring cleaning" mode — and so is the Mineral King Preservation Society. The difference? MKPS is hoping to recruit volunteers! (But if you don't enjoy history and would prefer to help with spring cleaning at my house instead, let me know!)

Antoinette, our dedicated Archivist, has been working tirelessly to bring our collections online for everyone to explore and enjoy. She has been joined by Willa, a wonderful volunteer who has spent the past two years assisting with the Mining Claims Collection generously donated by Louise Jackson.

As their work has progressed, it has become clear that we need to complete a comprehensive inventory of our collections. This important step will help us better understand what we have, create a clear roadmap for future projects, and determine which collection to focus on next.

To make this possible, we need your help.

If you love history, enjoy research, and have an eye for detail, we would be delighted to welcome you to our archival team. There is a wealth of fascinating material waiting to be inventoried, and your contribution will play a meaningful role in preserving our community's story for generations to come.

We are looking for volunteers who can help on a consistent basis. Whether you are available four hours per week or up to twenty hours per week, your time and dedication will make a difference. Once trained and ready to begin inventory work, volunteers will be scheduled based on their availability.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to learn more, please contact Antoinette at Antoinette@mineralking.org — we would be thrilled to have you join us!



2026 Events

Saturday, April 4

Basket Weaving with Jennifer Malone
Bequette House, Three Rivers

Saturday, April 25

MKPS Member Meeting
MKPS Office, Three Rivers

Saturday, May 9

Tour of Terminus Dam with Ranger Holzem
Lake Kaweah, Kaweah Heritage Visitor's Center

Saturday, May 16

Crocheting with Phae Lockwood
Bequette House, Three Rivers

Saturday, June 20

Rock Walk with Dr. Jade Star Lackey
Location TBA

Saturday, June 27

Urban Landscape Panting with Krista Fulbright
Location TBA

Saturday, July 11

Picnic in the Park
Mineral King

Saturday, July 25

Sierra Memories of George Melendez Wright:
A Living History Presentation by Brian Chavez
Bequette House, Three Rivers

Saturday, Aug 8

Music in the Mountains
Mineral King

Saturday, Sept 12

Joe Palmer: Man, Mountain, Myth
Bequette House, Three Rivers

Saturday, Oct 3

Living History: A Reenactment
Tulare County Museum, Visalia

Saturday, Oct 17

Liars Club: Tall Tales and Spooky Stories
Three Rivers

Since its founding in 1986, the Mineral King Preservation Society has steadfastly safeguarded the cultural and natural history of Mineral King and the surrounding Sierra Nevada. To celebrate our 40th anniversary, we're thrilled to offer a busy season of events that honors this rich history.



On April 4th we welcomed Jennifer Malone, of the Wukchumni tribe, to lead a basket weaving workshop. Part of the broader Yokuts Tribe of California, there are fewer than 250 Wukchumni tribal members today. Jennifer teaches the art of Wukchumni basketry to share their heritage with the community. The class filled up in 3 days with a 25 person wait list!

In July, Brian Chavez will share the incredible story of the visionary biologist George Melendez Wright, who conducted the first scientific survey of fauna in the National Parks and whose practices the NPS still employs to this day.



Autumn brings several exciting events, including a lecture on legendary mountaineer Joe Palmer with historian Laile Di Silvestro and a historical reenactment in partnership with our friends at the Tulare County Museum. To close out the season, we're thrilled to host the Liars Club, a tradition that began around the campfire in Mineral King during the mining boom.

Event Registration

Many of our events this year require advance registration as space is limited! Scan the QR code to reserve your spot and ensure you don't miss out on any of the fun!



Membership

Renewing your MKPS membership helps us preserve the history of the southern Sierra for years to come!



Scan to renew today!

Membership Tiers

- Student - \$15
- Individual - \$20
- Family - \$40
- Business - \$200

Preservationist Levels:

- Farewall Gap Friends - \$250
- Crystal Falls Champions - \$500
- Sawtooth Supporters - \$1,000



History Matters!

CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

Celebrate 40 Years of Protecting Mineral King



For four decades, the Mineral King Preservation Society has worked to safeguard one of California's most historically significant mountain landscapes. Because of this work, cabins still stand, stories are preserved and the cultural landscape remains intact.

As our nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, we are reminded that preserving history is essential and it takes the support of our community to make it happen.

To honor 40 years of preservation leadership, we are launching a \$40,000 anniversary campaign to ensure Mineral King's story endures for generations to come. Forty years ago, a group of committed advocates recognized that if Mineral King's historic structures and stories were not actively protected, they could be lost forever. Because of their dedication we are stronger than ever now!

100% of funds raised in this campaign will go into our general fund to help build our endowment and ensure sustainability into the future.

Giving Levels

- \$5,000** Legacy Steward
- \$2,500** Heritage Guardian
- \$1,000** Preservation Partner
- \$500** History Champion
- \$250** Archival Advocate
- \$100** Friend of Mineral King
- \$40** 40th Anniversary Supporter



Because of MKPS...

- Historic cabins remain standing
- Mineral King is listed on the National Registry
- Archival materials are preserved
- The cultural landscape retains its integrity
- The story of Mineral King remains visible

Help us reach our \$40,000 goal and ensure Mineral King's history continues to be protected.



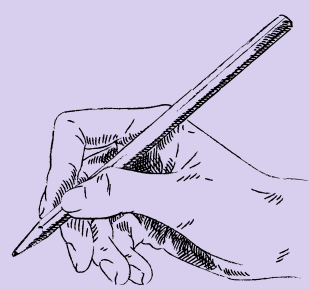
To donate securely via our website, scan this QR Code or visit www.mineralking.org/donate.

You may also mail a check to MKPS at **PO Box 86, Three Rivers, CA 93271**

Contact lisa@mineralking.org for more info!

Spotlight on Jeannie

Meet the newest member of our small but mighty team!



We're so excited to welcome College of the Sequoias student Jeannie Gill to the team as an intern this spring!

Tell us a little bit about your background and what you're studying at COS.

Art and history have always been a passion of mine since I was a little girl. As a child, I loved fingerprinting and making portraits of my family. History, too, has always been a subject that I've been intrigued by; now, even as an adult, I'm very interested, especially in art history. Learning the art history of different time periods and movements is so fascinating and fun. Right now, I'm attending COS, where I'm majoring in Studio Arts. I'm so grateful for the faculty here who have helped me expand and improve my art skills so much. Currently I mainly make black and white drawings using graphite or charcoal. The main subject matter of my drawings right now is explaining my life experiences.

What are you most excited to learn at MKPS?

What I'm most excited to learn at MKPS is the history of this organization and Mineral King itself. I'm learning so much about this area, and I can't wait to learn more.

What's your dream job?

My dream job would be teaching. After taking art classes at COS, mainly Colour and Design, Art History, and Oil painting, I've been inspired to go into teaching by these courses' amazing professors and the content they covered. My second dream job that I'd like to do on the side of teaching would be making comics. Since I was a little girl, I've been mesmerised by manga, and I hope one day I'll publish my own comics.

When you're not at school or at work, what do you enjoy doing?

When I'm not at school or work, I enjoy making my own art or hanging out with family and friends. Or snuggling with my cats or dog.

All of us have our own unique connection to history and the significance of preservation. Why is historical preservation meaningful to you?

Historical preservation is meaningful to me as I've always been a big advocate for history being accessible to all. As the intern for MKPS, I want to help document this organization's rich history and make it easily accessible for those who have roots in Mineral King, and those curious about it, like me.



The Mines of MK

Can't visit in person this year? No problem! Take a peek at our mining exhibit in the Mineral King Room at the Three Rivers Historical Museum.



Above text: Portable Apothecary Scales date from the 1700s. These remnants of such a scale were found beside a trail in Mineral King in recent years. Some prospector may have used them to make payment with gold or silver at one of the stores or saloons in Mineral King during the 1800s mining rushes there.



Above: Calcite samples collected from the Empire Mine in Mineral King

Below: Painting by Jana Botkin

Below: Outdoor exhibit "Thieving and Swindling: The History and Mystery of the New England Tunnel and Smelting Company"



HOW TO MAKE MONEY IN MINING

The men and women who served the miners often were the ones who made the most money. Road builders, freighters, store owners, hotel and saloon proprietors, laundresses, and boarding house managers could grow rich. Meanwhile, the working miners often were paid in worthless company stock and resorted to stealing pieces of ore to pay for their needs. Mine security was a big issue.

Left: Garnet sample collected from the Empire Mine in Mineral King

