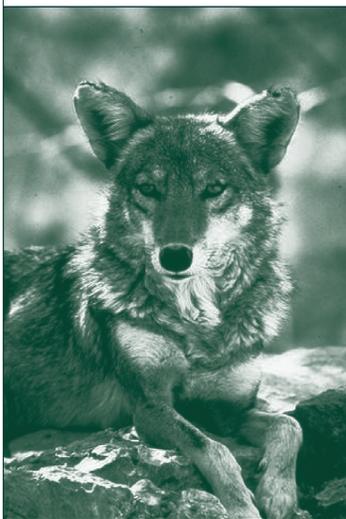


RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Natural History Spotlight

Coyote *Canis latrans*

by Katie Ryan



Glimpses of mega fauna are few and far between at Jawbone Flats, so our winter staff was thrilled to find a coyote slowly ambling through camp to find a perch on Pablo's Chair. Its pointed ears and cape of long brown fur behind its shoulders were unmistakable as it peered down at us with knowing yellow eyes. These members of the family Canidae (Dog) have thrived in the presence of humans (and absence of wolves), and are one of the few animals whose range and population have expanded in the last hundred years. *Canis latrans* literally means "barking dog;" their distinctive howls and yips can be heard throughout the US, Canada, Central America and Mexico. Coyotes are not large, weighing 46 pounds at most, but they are the fastest wild dog and can reach speeds of 40 mph when hunting in open country. Speed coupled with intelligence makes coyotes formidable hunters and they will eat any mammal they can catch. Opportunistic

and unfussy, they will go for carrion, lizards, and even grasshoppers. Coyotes are extremely adaptable and learn quickly, which has earned them the nickname of "trickster" in many cultural myths. In response to human pressures, they have even shifted from diurnal to nocturnal activity so consider yourself lucky to see one!

THEIR OWN WORDS

"We found our heart's desire in our own backyard. What a treasure Opal Creek is."
- Cabin renter

"Thank you so much for doing what you are doing up here. The world really needs it."
- Cabin renter

"Great hands on program. Kaola was an amazing instructor. She was engaging, patient, and full of great information."
- Buckman Elementary Teacher

"You read and hear much here about the uniqueness of Opal Creek's ancient forest. But Jawbone Flats completes the circle. It takes you back to the old west. I fell in love with it immediately and hope it never changes."
- Cabin renter

"Continue doing what you are doing, you have inspired many."
- Regis High School teacher



OPAL CREEK ANCIENT FOREST CENTER

Flowing Through Generations



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Introducing Opal Creek Expeditions – *a study in comparative ecology*

By Katie Ryan, Program Director

The history of human activity at Jawbone Flats is a long and ever evolving story. Miners moved here to make a living off the land; activists fought tooth and nail to save the giant trees from chainsaws; today educators use this magnificent teaching tool to inspire thousands of students every year. Since the signing of the legislation in 1996 definitively protecting Opal Creek, the efforts in Jawbone Flats have turned largely to education and stewardship. How else will we ensure that future generations will care enough to protect these trees and clear pools forever? The story of Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center is one born of experiential education. The miners turned environmentalists cared about the forest because of the experiences they had here.

Their memories were filled with sun-drenched mornings in Jawbone Flats, the mist slowly rising from the tree covered ridgelines, or pristine nights blanketed in snow interrupted only by the occasional Spotted Owl call. It was their time spent here with these memories indelibly printed on and undistinguishable from their characters that made them willing to fight to ensure this habitat would be towering and intact for generations to come. These are the same memories students from around Oregon now take home and carry with them through their lives.

In April of 2005 the board and staff met for one of what would become many strategic planning sessions. The organization had again come to a time where we needed to redefine, refocus, and really decide which direction we were going to head in. On a chilly spring weekend in Jawbone, board and

staff came together to reaffirm their strong commitment to education and vowed to create a financially sustainable, dynamic, hands on education program. In the last few years, we have worked to solidify the program we run at Jawbone, employing top tier hands on teaching techniques and increasing the numbers of students we are able to expose to the ancient forest dramatically. Through this time, we have brought staff training and qualifications to an industry standard while streamlining our safety standards and improving our facilities.

Each year, thousands of students visit the ancient forest. Led by our Science Instructors, slowly, they make the three mile hike into Jawbone exploring and asking questions as they arise. We limit our group sizes to reduce impact on the forest and to ensure that every student is aware and

continued on page 4

From the Executive Director Successful Transitions

One measure of

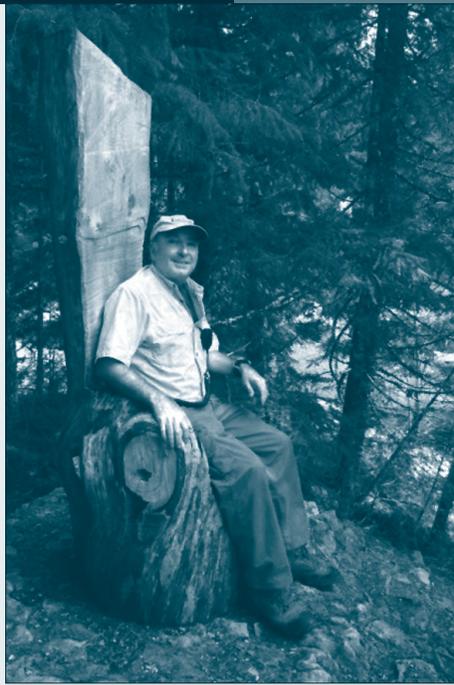
success in an organization is retaining qualified staff and moving people up from within. Of the seven seasonal staff positions in Jawbone Flats only two needed filling this year. Program Director Katie Ryan has chosen well and as you are receiving this newsletter the 2009 has begun for Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center.

During a member survey done as we developed a fund raising plan many of you said you would like to introduce your friends to Opal Creek. We are taking you up on your offer and making it easy. On July 22 we have arranged an Eco-Shuttle bus from Portland and Salem to bring you and your friends to Opal Creek for the evening. Bring a lunch and we'll provide a hearty Dinner and Breakfast in the lodge. Our knowledgeable science instructors will serve as guides for your walk in from our gate, sharing the wonders of the forest with all. Weather permitting, we will set aside time for jumping in the creek and there will be plenty of time to browse around Jawbone Flats to soak it all in, old and new. Space is limited so call our office for detail and reservations.

Our 40 acre Horn Ranch in the Elkhorn Valley is on the market. That may come as a shock to some of you but it was time to cash in the chips on this long-term investment my cousin George and I made in 1973. Staff and board have made strategic decisions regarding the direction of our programs, and feel that concentration in Jawbone Flats and into other natural areas furthers our mission. The organization no longer needs 40 acres on the North Fork.

I welcome our new board member Keith Hatch who works at the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a fish biologist. Keith serves on both the Program and Facilities Committees.

Farewell to former Board Member Nancy Burke who is reentering the workplace. She brought great marketing advice to the organization and we wish her well.



Executive Director Tom Atiyeh spends a few moments in Pablo's Chair.

Adam Mims is moving on after six years at Jawbone. At a send-off party I awarded him a double bitted ax given to me by my grandfather that was used in clearing the Jawbone Flats mining village in 1929. Adam has a special obligation to return to Opal Creek in 20 years and award this ax to another worthy Jawbone staffer.

Joe O'Neill is our new Facilities Director after spending three winters and summer seasons keeping the roofs shoveled and the equipment operating. This is not your average job and requires knowing a little bit about everything. Joe brings organization and forthought to the position that will keep Jawbone running smoothly throughout the 2009 season.

Last fall at the volunteer weekend, we dismantled the Nellie's building and immediately jumped through hoops to begin construction of the replacement building. We are now at

the framing stage. Our contractor Bilyeu Homes specializes in building "green" structures. Our Commissary is an example of their work. If you have a project big or small please give Larry Bilyeu a call at (503) 510-9872.

Watch for KGW TV's Grant McOmie "Grant's Get Away" report later in the year. Better yet, call and book a cabin today and have your own local and sustainable get away. Hike into the woods and visit a spot you have not been to in years. Last year I hiked down Stony Ridge; this season I plan to go past Cedar Flats and explore the water falls near Beachie Creek while searching for the illusive terrestrial Coastal Giant Salamander (*Dicamptodon tenebrosus*) in the woods.

Tom

Tom Atiyeh
Executive Director

STAFF

Tom Atiyeh <i>Executive Director</i>	Kristina Oldani <i>Registrar</i>
Brian Campbell <i>Assistant Cook</i>	Joe O'Neill <i>Facilities Director</i>
Katie Chipko <i>Science Instructor</i>	Kathy Rivera <i>Office Manager</i>
Jennie Fuller <i>Science Instructor</i>	Connor Ryan <i>Facilities Assistant</i>
Will Levin <i>Assistant Cook</i>	Katie Ryan <i>Program Director</i>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Olie Smith <i>Science Instructor</i>	Thor Hinckley <i>Board Chair</i>	Keith Hatch
Kaola Swanson <i>Program Coordinator</i>	Adam Lane <i>Board Chair</i>	Ted Helprin
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		Dave Taylor

MISSION

Promoting ancient forest stewardship through educational experiences inspired by Opal Creek's natural and cultural history.

Explore the Unknown & Verdant Place

WEEKEND WORKSHOPS AT OPAL CREEK

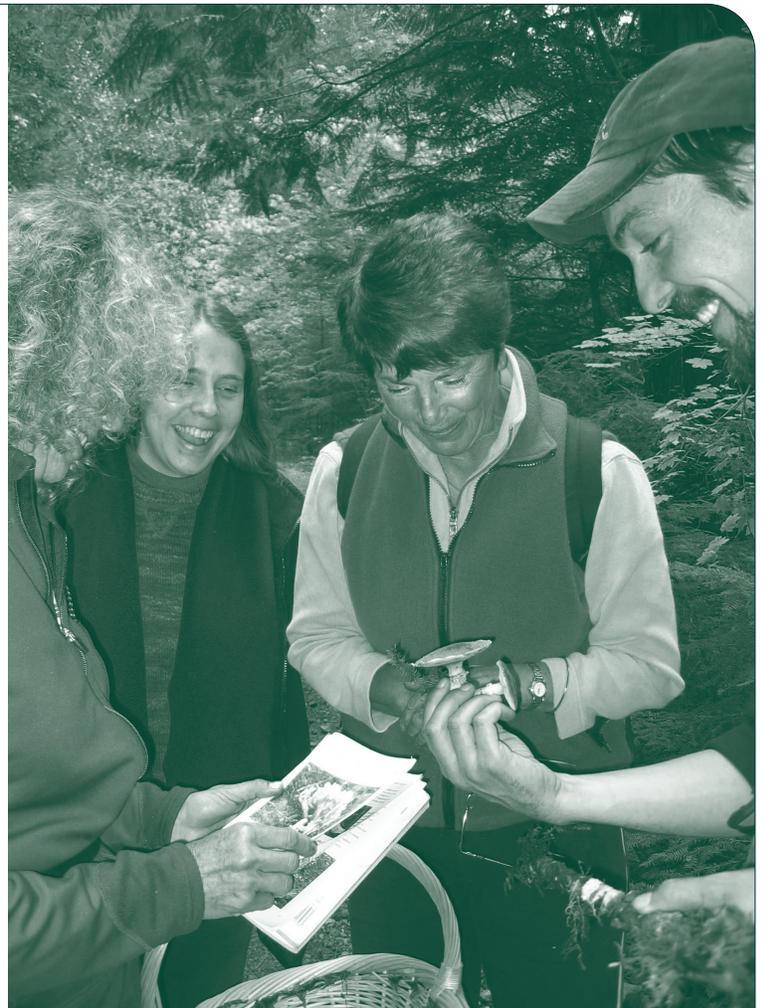
By Kaola Swanson

You pull up to the Opal Creek trailhead, park your car, lace your boots and begin your hike into the old growth forest. You might notice the mountain air smells cleaner than the city you just left, or that the lush green of the forest is easier on your peripheral vision than the florescent lights of your office. Your pace reduces to an amble and you begin humming to yourself. After awhile, you start to really look at the ground beneath your feet and at the trees that tower above you.

There is life everywhere; lichens grow in clusters of color and texture on the broad trunks of ancient firs, a rough skinned newt curls into itself as you step lightly over it. Just when you think you are alone, a kaleidoscope of small blue butterflies crosses your path. Moving to the side of the trail, your eye is drawn to the bright orange lobster mushroom peeking out of the soil just as your nose is drawn to its briny scent. You promise yourself that next time you will pack a library of field guides, find an isolated spot, and learn about each organism you can see before you return home... this has always been my experience in an unknown

and verdant place. I have often wished for a guide to help identify each blooming flower and to point me towards the best view. At Opal Creek those guides are available at our Weekend Workshops; they are ready to help you begin exploring whatever interests you most.

This year, we are especially excited about our Botany for Beginners Workshop (June 13-14) which is designed to acquaint you with this magnificent forest while providing the basic knowledge to distinguish families of plants in any ecosystem. If you are interested in which mushrooms might add zest to your dinner or how to naturally soothe your sore throat, check out Harvest Weekend over the full moon of October 3rd. Favorites like Wildflowers and Butterflies and Fall Amphibians are a blast for the whole family and we spend the weekend outside, roaming the fields and creeks in pursuit of these charismatic creatures. Inspiration flows as fast as the steep mountain streams here, to help channel your artistic energies we offer two Yoga Workshops (5/29 and 7/31), Creative Writing (for Young Writers 6/29 and for Adults 11/7), and Nature Digital Photography (9/19).



Mushroom Workshop participants learn to identify the local fungi.

In between excursions, there is time to walk the trails around Jawbone, read in our cozy cabins, and dip your toes into the brisk water. Sip coffee and eat something sweet after dinner in the Lodge as you whittle away the hours talking to new friends who share your curiosity about the nat-

ural world. This incredible wilderness is so close to the city, there is really no excuse not to come and explore it... and don't worry, we have a library of field guides right here. We hope to see you in the woods soon!

Please see our website for a complete listing of programs for 2009.

VOLUNTEER WEEKEND

As stewards of the Opal Creek watershed, Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center seeks to maintain and improve the health and of this ecosystem and the safety of its trails. Active stewardship includes education and outreach, as well as sweat and hard work. Join us at Opal Creek for a weekend of clearing trails and cleaning areas around our Jawbone Flats education center. The work for these weekends will be hard, manual labor. Come prepared to help in this manner. **2009 Dates: May 16-17 and November 7-8.** Please call in advance to reserve your space. Suggested donation to cover food costs: \$25.00 per person

COMINGS and GOINGS

The 2009 season is here and our staff is more ready than ever for the thousands of students we will see this year. We are fortunate to have retained many of our 2008 seasonal staff and you will see many familiar faces when you visit Jawbone this summer.

OCAFC Lead Instructor, Kaola Swanson, has stepped into the newly created position of Program Coordinator and is now responsible for all daily logistics in Jawbone Flats. Program Director, Katie Ryan, and Kaola worked on many curriculum projects this winter and are ready to take on the 09 season with even better programming. They are joined by returning Science Instructors, Katie Chipko and Olie Smith. Olie spent his winter enjoying the warmth of southern climates, surfing and exploring in Cuba and Mexico. Katie was playing in Utah's snow this winter, residing in Park City for the off season. Jennie Fuller has joined our team of instructors and comes to us most recently from Portland. Jennie is a geologist and experienced educator and we



2009 Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center Staff gather for staff training.

are excited to have her on board.

Food Service Director, Rebekah Yglesias, returns for her second season in Jawbone Flats. She is joined by returning Assistant Cook Brian Campbell and we welcome Will Levin as the second Assistant Cook. Rebekah, Will and Brian each bring amazing skills to our very remote kitchen and are ready to create more of the fabulous food we are becoming famous for.

We would also like to welcome **Kristina Oldani as our Registrar** in the Portland

office. Kristina started with our organization in October of 2008 and quickly came up to speed on the daily duties of the registrar. Kristina is originally from Springfield, IL and recently moved to Portland from Chicago where she received a BA in Art History from Loyola University. She brings excellent organizational skills and attention to detail as well as a passion for the outdoors and sharing these places with students. Kristina can be reached in the Portland office and is the contact for all reservations.

Introducing Opal Creek Expeditions *continued from cover*

involved in the experience. Some of these students visit with their school and stay in the general region of Jawbone Flats, searching the local streams for salamanders and learning how to tell the age of the massive trees. Others join us for one of our many weeklong summer adventures, such as *Watershed Exploration*, *Wilderness Survival*, or *Peaks of Opal Creek Backpack*.

Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center celebrates the forest that once blanketed much of the western slope of the Cascades, a classic example of a temperate Pacific Northwest rain forest. Jawbone Flats is bustling from April to November and just like habitats in nature, our little town has a carrying capacity. While we aren't at maximum capacity yet, we are getting there. We recognize that the need to introduce and expose students to wild places has always been there. With school budgets being cut across the state these extra experiences are often the first to go making the programs we offer even more important in the development of

our next generation.

The state of Oregon, and the Pacific Northwest as a whole, provides tremendous educational opportunities through the diverse ecosystems that are present. One can visit a classic rainforest and then contrast it with the classic high desert east of the Cascades. This summer marks the launch of Opal Creek Expeditions, a program designed to get students out of the Opal Creek watershed and into different habitats for the purpose of comparative ecology studies. Visiting multiple ecosystems during a week-long trip, comparing and contrasting the various aspects of each individual ecosystem is an educational experience not easily replicated in the classroom and one that stays with kids far into adulthood.

Our programs this year will take us into our neighboring wilderness, Bull of the Woods. In the next few years, we hope to expand this programming to both sides of the Cascades and to the coastal areas of Oregon. Some examples of programs in development

are *Forces of the Forests of Oregon*, *Fire Ecology of the Cascade Range*, *Birding Oregon's High Country*, and *Oregon Volcanoes Backpack*. All programs will be designed to be entirely field based, with a strong backpacking component.

Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center has made a commitment to sustainability and we have a wonderful example of an off grid campus at Jawbone Flats. Every student who comes through our programs learns about the details of our sustainability practices first hand. As we develop Opal Creek Expeditions further, we will work with local sustainable transport companies and weave the sustainability concept throughout our programs.

We are excited to be taking our programs in a new direction. Jawbone Flats will remain our "crown jewel" as we expand and will become our example of healthy ecosystem function. Opal Creek's legacy of conservation and awe of wild places will stay with us wherever our expeditions take us. We hope you will be part of our ever evolving story.

Opal Creek – an investment in our future

Our newspapers and television reports are filled with stories of the nation's current economic crisis. Non-profits throughout Oregon and Washington are suffering and the appeals for donations have increased across the board. In these unsettled financial times, how do you decide where your donated dollars will have the most impact?

An investment in Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center is an investment in the future, the future of this great state, the future of our children, the future of our community. As our world becomes more digital and people have less and less interaction with the natural world, our society begins to detach from these natural processes we are innately a part of. Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center not only stewards the pristine forest surrounding Jawbone Flats but also provides dynamic hands on learning opportunities for students and adults. By fostering these experiences for students we help create a community connected to the natural world and in turn concerned about wild places everywhere.

There are many ways to help Opal Creek and if you are receiving this newsletter, you have already chosen to generously donate to our mission. Thank you. Donated dollars directly support our education programs, helping students experience the sights, smells and sounds of the ancient forest. Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center is unique among non-profits in that we do have an earned

income component to our finances. However, program fees in 2008 made up only 46% of our revenue and therefore do not cover the full cost of operations. The rest is made up through generous donations by members, board members and foundations. By renting a cabin, enrolling in a workshop or donating you directly support our education programs, allowing us to keep the costs reasonable for school groups.

Our organization is working to establish the **Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center Endowment** at The Oregon Community Foundation for long-term viability of our organization. Please consider pledging to us in a living trust to increase the impact of your dollars and provide Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center with



financial stability far into the future. To learn more about this opportunity please contact our Executive Director, Tom Atiyeh.

Did you know we can receive donations in the form of stocks? This is a great way to avoid paying a capital gain. You may also donate to Opal Creek from your retirement plan tax free. Please check with your tax advisor or CPA for details on such donations.

You, our members, have responded generously to our recent appeals for financial support. Individual donations increased 63% between 2007 and 2008. Our very involved board of directors has set the bar at 100% board giving. Can we count on you to **invest in Opal Creek?**

Your financial support enables us to run the top notch experiential education programs you have come to expect from Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center. Our professional staff of program administrators, science instructors, facilities and food service staff are what drive our programs' excellence.

We have enclosed a remittance envelope with this newsletter. If you haven't already, please send in your 2009 donation. And if you have already invested in Opal Creek you can help further by making a pitch to a friend or business associate for us.

You are all ambassadors of the forest and the work that we do here. Thank you.

Student from Vose Elementary School examines a soil sample in the lab.

Coming Soon to a Computer Near You...

By Kristina Oldani

Thanks to the genius and generosity of webmasters at 500 Lb, Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center will be launching a new website this spring. For those prone to frustration when navigating an unorganized website, click here for stress free browsing at its best. Notable features include a weekly updated blog. Program staff and instructors alike will regularly share insights, experiences and accomplishments, giving you, dear reader, a multi-faceted glance into the goings-on at Jawbone Flats throughout the season. In time as we become web-management gurus we hope to incorporate a more thorough hiking guide to the

Opal Creek Wilderness and Scenic Recreation Area, complete with difficulty ratings, distances and highlights.

Incorporating stunning photographs, downloadable versions of our catalog, directions, easy to locate policies and a search programs by category link, anyone who in the past has aimlessly wandered our web-site will be pleasantly surprised. Thanks to a donation by our Executive Director, Tom Atiyeh, the new website will also feature streaming from a live web cam. The location will change periodically so check back often to get a bird's-eye-view of what's happening in the ancient forest. Planning on a weekend getaway but don't want to

leave sunshine in the city for rain in the woods? A home page weather condition report will help you better plan your trips out to the ancient forest.

As we grow as an organization we feel the importance of having a contemporary interface with our web visitors that reflects the professionalism and dynamism of our mission and programming that one experiences first-hand when visiting us in the woods. The new and much improved website is just one of many ways in which we hope to prove our commitment to continued excellence. Expect great things from Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center in the coming year.

Jawbone Journal

November 17th Seasonal staff pack up and the Jawbone crew heads to Welches to celebrate the end of a very successful season. Thanks to the crew at El Burro Loco for a fabulous feast and venue for our gathering, and to the Atiyeh family for the use of their family cabin.

November 23rd With 4 months of food stowed away we celebrate with our first Jawbone Winter Dinner, a Sunday roast in Cabin 6. Unsure of what the winter will throw at us, we are thankful to be sharing it with each other.

December 12th The snow begins in earnest in Jawbone. Regardless of the number of winters spent in Jawbone, it is always surprising how much the snow muffles the ever present sound of the water.

December 15th Temperatures drop and Adam and Joe drain camp and the flume line to prevent it from freezing. Jawbone Flats is now without power and water, much the way things were for years here.



Jawbone winter staff enjoy a sunny day.

severing the top of it. A true wilderness medical emergency, our WFR training becomes essential as we attend to our friend's serious wound. Jawbone Flats is currently snowbound, and it is snowing so hard that the walk out would take two days and put us in a lot of risk. We monitor the wound in Jawbone.

December 23rd A break in the "Arctic Blast" storm that has been hammering the entire Pacific Northwest allows contractors working on the Nellie's project to snow mobile in. They deliver a tetanus shot for Adam, which was administered by lantern light that evening. Their track hoe was snowed in here from the start of the Nellie's project and they were able to use it to fix the pipe. Thanks to the folks from Bethel Excavation, things were starting to look up for the Jawbone crew.

December 24th Christmas Eve is spent working on the flume, attempting to restore power. Jawbone Flats has been without power or water for 11 days. After 13 hours of work, the lights come back on at 9:30pm.

December 25th Christmas Day With power restored, we turn our attention to water. Water mains are dug out, turned back on, and for Christmas the Jawbone residents enjoy hot showers for the first time in 12 days.

December 30th Jawbone is still snowed in, and Adam makes the 9 mile walk out to have his finger looked at by professionals. The good news was that our WFR training did well, and his finger is on the way to healed.

January 3rd High waters return with the rain and serious snow melt. The flume is knocked down again, and Jawbone is again without power until the waters recede.

January 5th Connor and Kaola make the long journey back in after holiday vacations. They hike 9 miles in the rain and snow, and are greeted in Jawbone with a warm fire, homemade lasagna, and friends very happy to see them.

January 14th Our friends at Bethel Excavation come to the rescue again, and open the road for vehicle access. Just in time for Joe, Adam, and Katie to drive out for a quarterly board meeting in Portland.

January 23rd Joe sees a bobcat from the back porch of Cabin 9.

February 1st Adam, Kaola, and Connor hike Whetstone and spend the night on top in 10 degree weather to celebrate Adam's birthday.

February 2nd Kaola, Adam, and Connor observe a coyote in Jawbone. The wild canine slowly ambled through town,

and perched near Pablo's chair for quite a few minutes.

March 1st Lady Ocracoke Swanson (Kaola's furry dog) arrives in Jawbone for the season. Murphy and Minute Man greet her with tails wagging. After waiting for two years, Ocracoke is able to fill the dog vacancy left by Minute Man's departure.

March 14th-15th We throw a big celebration for Adam's going away party. Friends and faces of Jawbone past arrive, despite crazy weather. A great time is had, many stories shared, and we all wish Adam well as he departs Jawbone after 6 years. The forest and the town won't be the same without his laugh ringing in the treetops.

April 3rd A tailed frog is sighted hopping across the snow on the way into camp; spring must be on the way!

Thoughts have turned to the programming season, the population of Jawbone residents has doubled, and the sounds of kids' voices have returned to the forest. We will be bringing the Jawbone Journal to the internet with our new blog so be sure to check back often for weekly updates. It's always a good day in Jawbone, and we hope to see you in the forest sometime soon.

— The residents of Jawbone Flats



Adam and Joe use a kayak to move the generator through deep snow.

December 21st We discover a break in the flume line, three feet underground. Looks like Jawbone will be without water or power for a while longer. Katie and Adam head up to the top of the flume to cap the line. As Adam is placing the cap on the line, the pressure from the water traps his finger between the pipe and the cap,

Thank You!

(donors between September 18, 2008 and April 20, 2009)

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Tom and Leslie Atiyeh
Heidi Hu and Dan Hsieh
Doug Macy
Adam and Victoria Lane
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