On February 8th and 9th, fifteen community members attended the Ford Institute Leadership Program class at the Happy Camp Grange. This is the first of four classes to be offered in the months to come. The class is a diverse mix of residents from Happy Camp, Orleans, Forks of Salmon, and Seiad. Participants include high school students, board members, business owners, educators, non-profit managers, community volunteers and retirees. The goal of the program is to bring together many different “voices” on the challenges and opportunities faced by the Mid Klamath community.

This is the third year that the Ford Family Foundation’s Ford Institute for Community Building has offered those classes in Happy Camp. Five graduates from last year’s training – Babbie Peterson, Nadine McElvea, Sandi Tripp, Bob Attebery and Gay Baxter – have returned this year to serve as community trainers. Also, each class selects a project that they will implement for hands-on learning. The project is usually small, like a playground improvement, which helps focus the course content on a real-world situation. The first class put in playground equipment at the River Park in Happy Camp. The second class renovated the Happy Camp basketball court. This year’s class has not yet decided on a project, but it is certain the volunteer effort of the class participants, along with the support of the Ford Institute, will create a beneficial project for our Mid Klamath community.

What is the Ford Institute for community building?

The Ford Institute helps rural citizens create vital communities through leadership training, small assistance grants and resources. The Ford Family Foundation is a private, non-profit foundation located in Roseburg, Oregon. In 1957, Kenneth and Hallie Ford, owners of Roseburg Forest Products Co., established a small foundation to give back to the timber communities of southwest Oregon. The Foundation grew in size, scope, and geography to become The Ford Family Foundation in 1996. The Institute believes that vital rural communities develop from:

- A broad base of knowledgeable, skilled and motivated community leaders.
- A diversity of effective community organizations.
- Productive collaborations among organizations and communities.
Orleans Community Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project collaboration yields results

Power outages and cold weather did not deter the Orleans community, the Karuk Tribe of California, local community groups, and three environmental organizations from meeting on January 15, 2008, with Tyrone Kelley, Forest Supervisor for the Six Rivers National Forest, to seek a collaborative solution for managing 2700 acres proposed for treatment in the Orleans Community Fuels Reduction and Forest Health (OCFR) Project.

A collaborative alternative was finalized after seven hours of deliberation and approved by Kelley to be analyzed in the NEPA process for the OCFR Project. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is scheduled to be available for public review in late February. Kelley said, “A lot of work went into creating an alternative that the local community, the tribe and key stakeholders could live with.”

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“The objectives of the Tribe are to protect the values of the Panamnik Ceremonial District [which encompasses the OCFR project], reverse the trend of fire suppression, and support the creation of local jobs. In order to meet that challenge and accomplish our goals, we need to utilize every authority available to us, including real collaboration and the use of stewardship authorities.” The Tribe supports the current collaboratively proposed action, but is awaiting to see the potential for local stewardship opportunities to provide their ultimate approval for the project.

Interview with Tyrone Kelley

“Proposed Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement Website: www.kfsb.org/klamathbasin.html

Karuk Tribe Behind Agreement: www.karuk.us/

Hoopa Valley Tribe Rejects Agreement www.hoopa-nsn.gov/

A good place to see some peer reviews of the Settlement Plan is here: www.yournrc.org/

For info on cost comparisons of decommissioning versus mitigation for salmon:

Economic Modeling of Relicensing and Decommissioning Options for the Klamath Basin Hydroelectric Project www.energy.ca.gov/klamath

Two independent National Council scientific reviews are available at:

dels.nas.edu/dels/int_briefs/klamath

river_basin_final.pdf

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March 15th:

Curried Beef and Cabagno Dinner 5-7:00 pm at the Karuk Community Center to support the annual fish derby at Fish Lake (sponsored by the Orleans Red and Gun Club). Then listen to Johnny Callahan and Friends and the Siskiyou County Homesteader’s History Program that evening. Tickets $25. Tickets available at: Orleans Cagney, Orleans Elementary, 7 p.m.

Sumptuous Sundays! Join us for a splendid meal at 6:00 pm on the last Sunday of the month and support the Panamnik Building Project. $30 for a delicious meal and all you can eat. April 12: $30 for the month (April 12, 19, 26), or $15 per meal. Take out or dine in. Desserts for sale by the slice. Featuring a different guest chef each month.

April 4th: Fabulous Food Fridays, Klamath-Siskiyou Art Center, Happy Camp. 7th: Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council meeting at the Panamnik Building in Orleans. 8th: MKWC meeting in Happy Camp. 18, 25: Fire Ecology Conference at the Panamnik Building in Orleans. For more information call MKWC at 530-627-3202

Fun fishing events:

March 27th: Sumptuous Sunday 6:00 p.m. Panamnik Building, Orleans

Panamnik Building Events: Mondays from 5 to 8 pm. Arts and Crafts events are encouraged (activities include: for kids: make, take out or dine in. Desserts for sale by the slice). Featuring a different guest chef each month.

MKWC is also interested in potentially hiring local teenagers to help be leaders for some of these activities.

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Upcoming events

Want something to do this summer?

Come join the new youth program

by Jillienne Bishop

This summer, local youth and community members will be able to participate in a youth program designed to provide cost free at creek mouths, river clean up, noxious weed removal, hazardous fuel reduction, tree planting, and erosion and sedimentation control. Students will have a chance to backpack into wilderness areas and raft the rivers while implementing identified restoration projects. Through involvement in these local restoration activities, students will have a challenging adventure while simultaneously receiving skill development and exposure to local career choices.

At the same time, the unique culture and landscape that we live in.
come see what's happening at your
Community Computer Centers

Local computer centers provide free high-speed internet access and educational support to community members.

Internet access is provided to the computer centers through cooperative agreements with the school districts (keep in mind that because it's a public educational venue, some sites are restricted). Michele Kirste, Orleans resident, appreciates the higher speed access available. "I did all my Christmas shopping and took an online class at the computer center. It's just too slow and frustrating on my dial up access at home."

Support for the computer centers is also received from the Karuk Community Development Corporation (KCDC). In 1996, KCDC obtained a grant from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) for a Karuk Paths to Prosperity Program in 1996 to staff the centers with Student Services Coordinators to support adult students and help with scholarships and enrollment. Stop in or call to see how they can help you.

Irene Tresesong, says, "Bari Tallay acts as proctor for my online math tests [College of the Redwoods] and has supported my efforts in many ways. She helps me stay focused--I still have to do the work, but it becomes flexible to my work and family responsibilities."

The Happy Camp Computer Center has been working with College of the Siskiyous students for over a year now and has extensive services available, including real-time and video conferencing classes. See www.happycampcomputercenter.org for class offerings and information.

Online classes are more available and accessible, which helps locals take college classes without the geographic and time barriers that have held us back for so long.

Education is the key to making more $, achieving personal growth and building our communities capacity for the benefit of our children.

We’re offering a free Successful Online Learning class to help you learn the skills you need. Sign up at your local computer center for the 4-week fully-online class which starts April 21. You can take the class from any computer that connects to the internet, or, take it at a computer center.

Need some help, or just some motivation, to get your GED? Curriculum resources and support are available. Having trouble, or like to know more, about a software program–make an appointment with a Student Services Coordinator.

We are dedicated to helping you achieve your goals!

Volunteer Opportunities at Computer Centers

Work on your computer skills and build your resume while helping your community. Volunteers are needed to help expand the hours the computer centers are available, teach skills to others, maintain records for grants, etc. A few hours a month can make a real difference. Come in & volunteer!

Looking for Old Videos

The Klamath Salmon Media Collaborative, Mid Klamath Watershed Council and Klamath Salmon Natural History Library are teaming up to collect historical videos from the Mid Klamath area. We are especially looking for videos that show major events in our local history (like the floods and fires).

This project started when Paula McCarthy provided 16 mm film footage from the 1964 flood in Happy Camp. We had the film converted to a digital format, and now we are able to make the DVD available to the public. We would like to do this with other videos as well. Please let us know if you have videos that you think would be of interest to local residents. For more information contact librarian@mkwc.org or call 330 627 3202. And, keep posted for special showings of these historical videos!

How did Orleans get it’s name?

by Adrienne Harling

According to Dennis Turner in his 1993 Place Names of Humboldt County, Orleans was originally named New Orleans Bar by Captain Tompkins and Bob Williams when it was settled in 1850. In 1855, New Orleans Bar was shortened to Orleans Bar, when it was made county seat of the short-lived Klamath County. Although commonly referred to as Orleans Bar well into the 20th century, the name was again shortened in 1859 by the Post Office, and Orleans has been its formal name ever since. Turner cites several other names as having applied to the town of Orleans at some point along the way, including Badger Bar, Caw-Ab Man, and Penumtuse. This last name is likely a variant spelling of Panamnik, the historic Karuk name for the place that remains in use today.

Do you have a question you would like to ask the Klamath Librarian? If so, please email librarian@mkwc.org, or stop by and let us know.

little known Community Resources at the Panamnik “Center”

Located on Asip Road in Orleans, the Panamnik “Center” (different from the Panamnik “Building”) is best known for the Karuk Elders Nutritional Program where lunches to seniors are served for as little as a $2 donation. Non-senior community members can have lunch for a $5 minimum. It’s a good idea to call JoAnne Rosenbach, the cook, 627-3056, if you’re not a regular, to let her know ahead of time if you plan to attend.

The building is also home to other community resources, including the Karuk Indigenous Basketweavers with LaVerne Glaze (meets on Sundays, 11a 3p), Accupuncture & Alternative Medicine with Jeanette Jacobs-Johnny and Cristina America (Wednesdays, 1-7p), Karuk Language Classes (Thursdays 4:30 6p), the Community Computer Center and the Karuk Panamnik Library (both from M-Th noon to 5 p.m.). Additionally, a Quilling/Sewing group uses the building to gather, normally the first Saturday of the month (contact JoAnne Rosenbach).

The Karuk Panamnik Library has a range of resources to lend to community members, as well as provides a quiet place to study. After-school students frequently do their homework in the library before accessing the computer lab. During school hours, elementary teachers use the library to teach curriculum while other students are in the computer lab.

Bari Talley is the Panamnik Library & Computer Center Coordinator and can be reached at 627 3081, bari.talley@karuk.us
You laugh, “A snow in June!”

What matter if I lose my life’s brief noon?
When some one shakes the bough.

First Flowers have four petals that range in color from white to pink. Violent Super (Auntie) and Phoebe Maddux (How We Talk to First Flowers) both related a winter flower prayer the Karukas would say when they saw the first snowdrops. When you first see these flowers on the ground you say to them:

“iti xanchiishkararâ’ ooh, Snowdrops!”

Then you pick them and passing them horizontally, across your closed eyes slowly two or three times say:

yupxâna’NV na’donvurvi’p
Eye acorn soup you take off.
Clear away the dried mourning tears from me.

yupxîyachas napâphîninachi
Eyes new-good and put back on me.
Put brand new eyes back on me.

“Now that’s supposed to take the scum off your eyes.”

This means that I want these first flowers to take away from the heavy feeling caused by dead relations of the past year. And they claim that if you pick snowdrops in Jan. or Feb. when the longer days are noticeable, and keep them in your house at night, they say they dance on top of you and you sleep sound. They say:

tu’itîthîgap or ji’nu’tîthîgap
Snowdrops is dancing on top of you.

Snowdrops, Cardamine californica, (also known as milkmaids or toothwort), are members of the mustard family and are among the first plants to flower each year. The plants are found in the forest understory in partial shade and are approximately 6 to 10 inches in height. Flowers appear in late winter or early spring and have four petals that range in color from white to pink.

Project Budburst

Plants use different triggers to determine when to bloom. Some species rely on the changes in daylength, while others use temperature or soil moisture to determine the best time to emerge and produce blossoms. Studying the differences in the timing of leaf emergence and flowering is called phenology. By observing the differences in phenology over time and across the country, scientists can learn a lot about the rate of climate change in different regions.

One project designed to get citizens across the country involved in monitoring plant phenology is called Project Budburst. This project is looking for observers to monitor a select group of plant species in their local area. Although snowdrops are not included on the list, there are many plants species included that do occur in our area such as Mock Orange, Big Leaf Maple, and Elderberry. You can help by selecting a plant in your area to monitor and reporting your findings to their website. If you are interested in participating, you can find out more information at http://www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst.

“It appears that we have now resolved many of the issues relating to roads on this project, and we have provided a framework upon which to move forward,” said Bill Tripp, Eco-Cultural Restoration Specialist. “Now we have to reach agreement on how to proceed with a stewardship mechanism that will not only ensure a locally led community based approach to adaptive problem solving, but bring in additional funding and local resources to assure with site specific planning, implementation, monitoring, and the identification of additional needs.”

Two years ago, District Ranger Bill Rice, began holding roundtable public forums on the OCFR project to listen to local issues and concerns. The January meeting between the Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council, Karuk Tribe of California, Klamath Forest Alliance, Northcoast Environmental Center (NEC), Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), local loggers, private landowners, and cultural stewards ended the project, and Mid Klamath Watershed Council, was the results of almost 2 years of meetings.

“Collaboration takes time, but to get things done on the ground, we all need to share responsibility for success,” said Rice. Participating environmental groups are cautiously optimistic of the recent collaborative effort. “This collaborative proposed action is a stretch for the NEC,” commented NEC director, Greg King. “This isn’t the type of proposal that we would submit on our own. Everybody in this room wants a good plan. Follow-up with fire treatment is essential. Without follow-up, we could have a worse problem.”
For the past 2 years, MKWC has worked more closely with the Karuk Tribe Fisheries Department, the USFS Happy Camp and Orleans RD Fisheries Department, the Salmon River Restoration Council (SRRC) Fisheries Program and other partners to assist with fish habitat building projects in the Mid Klamath and Salmon River Subbasins. As identified in the recent National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on the Klamath River, understanding the role tributaries to the Klamath below Iron Gate Dam have in supporting anadromous fish runs should be a priority for scientists and managers.

After two seasons of field work, we have identified various methods for improving fish passages manually. Creation of step-pool fishways to increase pool depths, and decrease velocity and jump heights are effective on streams where gradient is an issue. Also, concentrating flow into the stream braid that has the most gradual gradient and enters the mainstem into a stream habitat that allows cold tributary waters to pool and mix slowly, increase main stem refugial habitat, and improve access up the tributaries. Maintaining tributary flow to off-channel habitat features is also critical for sustaining juvenile salmonids utilizing these habitats. Willow bundles, to create cover and holding habitat on tributary reaches crossing over denuded sections of Klamath floodplain, were also installed on two tributaries. Monitoring includes snorkel surveys of tributary mouths between 2003 and 2008.

In 2008, we are funded by the Bella Coola Fish and Game through 2008 with funding from the Bureau of Reclamation. In 2008, we will assist the Karuk Tribe by using the screw traps to recapture PIT tagged and freeze branded juvenile coho from these and other tributaries. MKWC will host a juvenile fish identification workshop for community members this spring at one of the traps. MKWC participated in Fall Chinook carcass and redd surveys on the Salmon River and Mid Klamath tributaries through an agreement with the USFS and funding from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) between October and December 2007. Information gathered through this effort is used to estimate in-river run size, run timing, spawning distribution, length frequency, and sex ratio for Fall Chinook salmon. Preliminary data on the 2007 run size shows there were significantly less fish returning to spawn than were predicted. This data will be used to create limits for salmon harvest in upcoming years.

MKWC conducted other ongoing surveys in 2007 to assist the SRRC Weak Stalks program in identifying when Spring Chinook enter the Salmon River, and collecting population data for spawning Green Sturgeon on the Salmon River. These surveys are done by diving the lower Salmon River with raft support during spring flows. MKWC also assists the USFS and Karuk Tribe in spot checking Mid Klamath tributaries for juvenile coho presence/absence, as well as the annual summer steelhead and spring Chinook census.

If you are interested in participating in these surveys, please contact Will or Charles at the MKWC office.
A String of pearls

The Mid Klamath is a string of small towns including Weitchpec, Orleans, Somes Bar, Happy Camp, Seiad Valley, Hamburg, Horse Creek, and Klamath River. These towns have survived major economic changes including the boom and bust of mining, timber and recreation. Despite past changes and declines, the Mid Klamath communities are continuing to grow and adapt.

The Klamath-Siskiyou Art Center Project and the Panamnik Building Project represent the Mid Klamath’s potential to maintain and create vibrant communities. Both of these projects are using partnerships to increase local capacity.

Thank you to all of the community members who have supported these projects with their volunteer time, hard-earned money, and attendance at fundraisers. These projects wouldn’t be possible without you!

Panamnik Building Project Update

As you may know, MKWC is part of a team of community members working to purchase the Panamnik Building, which we are currently renting in downtown Orleans. The building has become a hub for the community, and will be an even greater asset once the community renovates it, remodels the community space, adds an outdoor amphitheater with the Somes Bar Arts Council, a café, more office space, and much more.

Thanks to overwhelming support from community members, friends and other generous souls, the Panamnik Building Project is off to a great start. The Banquet and Auction kick-off event on December 1st, 2007, raised over $10,000! Huge thanks to all of the amazing artists and donors who gave a total of over 125 auction items, and of course to all of the bidders who weren’t shy with their auction paddles. Thanks also to Liz and Nancy of Klamath River Cuisine who cooked up lots of tasty dishes as usual, and Kristina Pearing for coordinating kids’ activities. Thanks also to the countless volunteers who helped set up, clean up, and coordinate the event.

Currently donations to the building project are coming in every day, from all over the country. To date, we have raised $41,550, which is almost half of our $85,000 community and major donor fundraising goal. If you know someone who might like to donate, stop by the MKWC office and pick up one of our color brochures or let us know and we can send it out for you.

Currently, the MKWC building practices who would like to help with this project should contact MKWC at 627-3202 or Tera@mkwc.org.

The Panamnik Building Committee plans to finalize the purchase by November 2008. On the horizon is a March 15th benefit dance at the Panamnik Building. Stay tuned for details!

If you would like to help with the Panamnik Building Project, please contact MKWC at 627-3202 or Tera@mkwc.org. The Panamnik Building Committee plans to finalize the purchase by November 2008.

Proposed funding sources for acquisition

- $300,000 (73%) Grants
- $65,000 (16%) Major Donations
- $15,000 (4%) Somes Bar Art
- $20,000 (5%) Community Support

Bringing together the Karuk Tribe of California and the U.S. Forest Service (Klamath N.F.) in an applied forest practices project may not be unprecedented, but it sure isn’t standard. This combination, in addition to a sustainable development architectural firm and a young arts-based organization, situated within an old mining and logging community, creates quite an unlikely story. The Art Center started by converting an old gas station into a local landmark, complete with a salmon mural and famous Bigfoot sculpture. In 2005, the Klamath Siskiyou Art Center began working to build a community center in Happy Camp that will demonstrate sustainable forest practices. The current project is in partnership with the Karuk Tribe, Klamath National Forest and Sustainable Systems Designs (a Portland-based architecture firm). The Art Center will be made of local, renewable materials including small diameter (6-16 inches) round-wood timber framing and walls composed of wood chips and clay (Lizfeldt hierarchical). It will be energy efficient, durable, beautiful, non-toxic and sustainable. With a focus on sustainable forestry and economic development, the Siskiyou County Resource Advisory Committee awarded over $177,000 to this project.

Located on Highway 96 in Happy Camp, the future Arts Center will be a major attraction and resource. It will serve as an educational and cultural center to complement our existing schools.

The Art Center will provide practical, hands-on experiential education for both adults and youth. It will also highlight the potential for forestry projects in the Mid Klamath to reduce hazardous fuels and create sustainable jobs. During fuels reduction projects, the thinned small-diameter trees are often not utilized.

The Art Center project strives to create a value-added use for these materials.

Supporting the Klamath Siskiyou Art Center is supporting Happy Camp and the Mid Klamath: its youth, economy, and future. The Art Center is soliciting new partnerships and support with local and regional outreach to philanthropic foundations, academic institutions, professional businesses, non-profits, and, most importantly, individuals.

The Art Center currently offers monthly art openings and classes through the College of the Siskiyous. The next art opening is called “Wild Life”, a group show of paintings, photographs and sculptures opening on Friday, February 29th. The Art Center’s Famous Fabulous Food Fridays will begin this year with an elegant banquet dinner, on April 4th at 6 PM. For more information, or to join the email list, go to www.ksarc.org.