

WHISKEYTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY - NEWSLETTER

WESCOMMUNITY.ORG



Keeping Environmental Education Alive in Shasta County

April 2022



"I attended WES and I can't wait for it to reopen! It's an asset to our community and to everyone who attended WES."

Blake Fisher, Program Coordinator for Viva Downtown Redding



WES MOVES FORWARD TO 2023!

We have some exciting news to share! Plans are in the works to reopen WES, with a goal to welcome overnight students by fall 2023! Recognizing that approximately 5,000 students per year have missed the WES experience because of the campus closure 2018, the WES Forever work team has made a commitment to have temporary facilities in place by fall, 2023.

Work team partners recognize that the post-fire closure, coupled with the pandemic has left too many students grasping for connection with each other and the outdoors. Students, their families, and the wider community have suffered. Although the fall 2023 campus will be a short-term solution, it is designed to get students back outdoors and benefitting from the "WES Experience" as soon as possible, while simultaneously planning for a major rebuild for the long-term.

We need your support to make this happen. Please donate via the website, WESCommunity.org or by sending a check to WES Community, PO Box 3, Whiskeytown, CA 96095.

WHO IS THE WORK TEAM?

The work team represents a coalition of public and private interests that support outdoor and science education. The primary partners are SCOE, Whiskeytown/NPS, WES Community, and Friends of Whiskeytown Inc. Two private enterprises, Jacobs Engineering and Nichols, Melburg & Rossetto are graciously donating expertise to the rebuilding.

THE WORK CONTINUES – A MODERN CAMPUS

The campus location poses environmental challenges to rebuilding because of its location below a burned watershed. Seeking an engineering solution, the campus was scrutinized by engineers from the National Park Service and the international engineering firm, Jacobs. An on-site meeting in March determined that extensive infrastructure work is necessary to prepare for the desired modern campus. The work team is grateful for the expertise of the Jacobs and NPS engineers who will continue to move the project towards a modern and safe campus.



Top: NPS engineers locating underground electrical utilities

Center: NPS engineers locating sewage systems

Right: Jacobs engineers discussing watershed control strategies



NPS/Kurt Moses

REGIONAL DIRECTOR VISITS

We're thrilled to report that the WES Community Board had the ear of the Pacific West Regional Director of the National Park Service. Director Frank Lands and Associate Regional Director Stephanie Burkhart visited WES on April 11th. As we toured the site, we shared our vision for rebuilding the campus and made our case for the importance of WES to the Northstate. We trust good things will come of this meeting, and appreciate Whiskeytown Superintendent Josh Hoines for making this visit to WES a priority.

WES Community Board Members Francesca Huntsman, Kathy Hill, and Melinda Kashuba greet Stephanie Burkhart, Frank Lands and Josh Hoines of the National Park Service

SPRING AND SUMMER AT WES

Field trips are again underway at WES. These day programs began in March, serving K-6 students. During the fall session, 550 students from 9 schools attended Field Lab field trips. This spring, 341 students are expected to attend Field Labs and the schedule is completely booked. Most exciting, Jim "Mr. Bear" Dowling is back at WES as a naturalist!

Summer programming will commence in July of 2022 under the umbrella of SCOE/Project Share. This program has a commitment to underserved student populations. We're excited that rather than spend the summer in more traditional day care, 55 children will be outside and interacting with nature at WES for the month!



Student and staff photos circa 1973 to 2000, do you recognize yourself?



WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE AT WES?

WES Community wants to know what your experience at WES was like. Perhaps you were a student, or a cabin counselor? A teacher who brought your students year after year? Were you the parent and your child attended a program at WES? Was your teen a cabin counselor? Maybe you were a staff member. Whatever your connection to WES, we would like to hear about it! Please share what WES meant to you by dropping us a note at WESCommunityinfo@gmail.com or contact us via our website, wescommunity.org

Include your name, connection to WES and the year you were there. We want to know about experiences that were memorable, or formative. Did WES influence your self-perception, interactions with people, your avocations, or your career choices? We want to hear from you and appreciate your willingness to share!

OUR CONSIDERATE DONORS DECEMBER 2021 TO APRIL 2022

- Giving Tuesday December 2021 - 68 generous donors
- Linda Austin - In memory of Martha Tinkler and Heide Hatcher
- Andree Blanchier - One Hope Winery
- Christine Chatham - In Memory of Scott Lyon
- WES Birthday Party Fundraisers -Facebook
- Tim Hill – Jacobs Engineering & Benevity Donation Matching Program
- Josh Hoines - Facebook Birthday Party
- Jane Jackson
- Janet Landles - Arthur Coggins Foundation
- Manzanita School Students -Manzanita Eagles - Change the World Jar
- Jennifer Perrow
- Susan C. Peterson in Memory of Marvin Peterson
- Brian and Mary Lou Swagerty
- Redding Host Lions
- Stacy Weller

GRANTS

We're dedicated to returning students to WES. To aid in this process WES Community is in the process of applying for and securing grants from private foundations. We're confident that the many resources that we seek (both financial and human) needed to rebuild WES will be granted.



Martha at WES, 1970



Martha, Circa 2015



Martha's Ditch Trail

SPOTLIGHT ON MARTHA TINKLER, WHO WAS SHE?

A teacher at Cow Creek School, east of Redding, Martha brought her 6th grade class to WES in 1970, the first year it opened. She was a passionate outdoors woman and believed strongly in the potential of all her students. After retirement from teaching about 1978, Martha started as a volunteer at WES. She volunteered as a hike instructor and trained some of the early naturalists. She became so indispensable, that she was eventually hired on the teaching staff by then school director, Brian Swagerty. Martha continued as a teacher and naturalist at WES until about 1990. She hiked the hills and introduced countless students and naturalists to the beauty and wonder of Whiskeytown.

After "retirement" from WES, she continued on as a supporter and friend of WES until the end of her life. Martha was a "people person" and stayed in touch with former staff members, connecting them to the 40th Anniversary celebration in 2011. She was a valued member of WES Community in our early days and enthusiastically put many pounds on our waistlines with her fabulous pies and cookies.

Martha Tinkler, 2022-2016, a well trod trail at WES has been named in Martha's honor by the National Park Service.

OUR MISSION

Whiskeytown Environmental School Community (WES Community) exists to support educational goals through immersive outdoor experiences for learners at Whiskeytown Environmental School (WES). WES Community contributes to the school's mission through advocacy and relationship building with communities, businesses and public agencies to generate funds and further shared goals.

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Donate online, wescommunity.org or by check, WES Community, PO Box 3, Whiskeytown, CA 96095
- Shop Amazon Smile
- Facebook Birthday Fundraisers

CONTACT US:

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS & LIAISONS

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Cassie Simons - Vice President
Kathy Hill - Treasurer
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Nathan Fairchild - SCOE
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GROW BACK STRONGER - STUDENTS AT WES BY FALL OF 2023