

# Friends of Inyo talk about summer of stewardship

Paul McFarland, Executive Director of the Friends of Inyo, spoke to the Mammoth Lakes Noon Rotary Club on Aug. 13 on the numerous accomplishments of the organization and its Summer of Stewardship.

"It's always easy to wish for what you want to see," he said of the nonprofit's origins. After realizing the challenges inherent in asking for trail maintenance and backcountry restoration to be done, Friends of the Inyo was formed to go about actually getting the work done in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and with a lot of volunteers.

"What better way to take care of public lands than to get the public to work on them?" McFarland said.

## Friends of the Inyo

In partnership with the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area and the National Forest Foundation, Friends of the Inyo was able to have two rangers in the Mammoth Lakes Basin every day. These rangers work on the 438 miles of trail, picked up 264 pounds of trash and conducted over two dozen interpretive programs for the public this summer.

The Summer of Stewardship has had over 100 volunteers show up in the first two months of summer who worked on 12 miles of trail, removed 32 logs, picked up 120 pounds of trash and painted 19 picnic tables.



MAMMOTH TIMES PHOTO/ERICK SUGIMURA

"Public lands only work when the public does," said Friends of the Inyo Executive Director Paul McFarland, summing up the operating premise of the nonprofit group.

Friends of the Inyo also offered Exploration Programs to get people into the backcountry, such as giving youth a two-day Tamarisk removal project coupled with a two-day rock climbing experience.

"It's critical to get people out into our public lands," McFarland said. Many of us who live in the Sierra can trace their love of the region back to one or two episodes from their youth, he said, and these programs are important to ensure that future generations can have these experiences.

According to McFarland, each one of the Friends of the Inyo's stewardship programs has returned triple the staff dollars of the cost to put the event on.

The last two Summer of Stewardship events planned for this year will be on Sept. 12 (Coastal Cleanup Day when Friends of the Inyo will commemorate the connectivity of waterways by cleaning up the Convict Lake area) and Sept. 26 (National Public Lands Day, when Friends of the Inyo will work with members of Mammoth Trails to care for the Inyo Craters area).

## NUTRITION

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each day tailored to six age groups. School meals contain less than 10 percent saturated fat and less than 30 percent of calories from fat for each age group and include key vitamins and nutrients. All meals are trans-fat free and we serve no fried foods. Fresh fruits and vegetables are served every day.

### On the Menu

Breakfast and lunch are served at all schools. There are many options at breakfast – such as egg burritos, yogurt, cold cereal. All meals are served with fruit and 1 percent milk.

The lunch menu changes daily and is always served with fruit and/or vegetables and 1 percent milk. There is always the option of a chef salad, if the menu for the day is not a favorite.

Breakfast may be purchased for \$1.75 and lunch for \$2.75. Students who prepay for 10 meals receive a bonus meal. Prepayment is encouraged to help expedite the lunch lines at mealtimes.

The district is not in a position to extend credit so please send students prepared with money. An application for free or reduced lunches is given to each household in the district at the beginning of the school year. Applications are also available at each school office and kitchen and on the district Web site at [mammothusd.org](http://mammothusd.org). Please call the Food Service Department at (760) 934-8541 x.298 or 246 if you have any questions.



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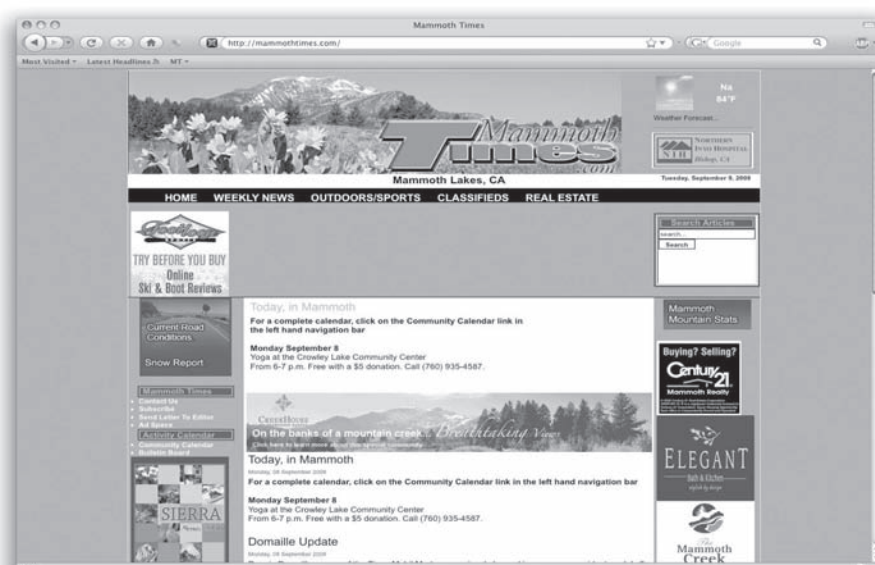
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