



Hot Sun Moon - August 2014



*Lolomi Lodge in its 66th Hot Sun Moon. Still standing strong but in need of some tender care (see **Facilities improvement**).*

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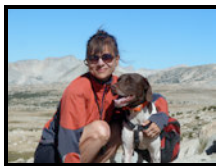
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Summer at James Reserve



Since the Trailfinders Reunion on June 1st, monsoon rains (3.64 inches) have provided life at the James with a small respite from drought conditions. We've spent the bulk of this slow summer season catching up on paperwork and long-standing projects, such as updating the website. Now we are busy preparing the station for the fall, including patching the roads and ordering a new snow plow. The calendar is filling with fall semester retreats. A new cohort of UCR graduate students will visit, as well as a new UC-wide research effort, called Institute for the Study of Ecological Effects of Climate (ISEEC), Forestry Institute for Teachers, and a class from UCLA that will be studying skills for biological research.

Jennifer Gee
Director of the James Reserve

Facilities improvements

The “chalet” that formerly was a staff residence continues to evolve. Last year, it was painted, stained and the floor was redone with local salvaged tongue and



groove hardwood floors (Douglas fir) as well as new tiles in the kitchen and bathroom. This summer, the structure which lacks a foundation, was reinforced with struts. In addition to ‘new’ (used) furnishings, we plan to install a new (hopefully used) woodstove. It is our VIP housing for guests such as Trailfinders! It will be ready in time to help us house a group of 80 that will visit in October. At Lolomi, we are nearly ready to break ground to dig a new leach field. We continue to raise the funds necessary to complete the entire 3-stage renovation, which includes replacing the roof and

rewiring the electrical. Lolomi Lodge symbolizes Harry and Graces’ monumental effort to touch so many young lives and epitomizes the modern



efforts of the Reserve to continue this legacy. To honor the role Lolomi played in the James’ lives and the role it continues to play in the James Reserve, we have set up a fund to facilitate the renovation required to restore Lolomi Lodge to its former integrity and to help keep the Trailfinders legacy alive at the James Reserve. As you can see, we have a good start but still a ways to go toward our goal of restoring Lolomi and keeping alive the memory of Harry and Grace and the many Trailfinders they touched.

If you wish to support the legacy of Harry and Grace James, you may donate to the James Reserve in the following ways: Please make your check to the “UCR Foundation” and write in the memo line “James Reserve-200330.” Do include a note if your gift is in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one. Mail to the UCR Foundation, 1136 Hinderaker Hall, Riverside, CA 92521. You can also donate online by going to <https://advancementservices.ucr.edu/AdvanceOnlineGiving/search> . Choose “College of Nat & Agr. Science and under that follow the link to “Natural Resources” and then “James San Jacinto Mountains Reserve. Thank you!

New Assistant Director



Pictured here is our new Assistant Director, John Laundré. One of his first duties here was to repair the nest boxes and the cameras that webcast their denizens.

We welcome our new Assistant Director, John Laundré and his daughter Cecile. John comes to us with a long history of wildlife research and teaching, a perfect mix for an Assistant Director. His specialty is in large mammalian carnivores and has worked extensively



Cecile Laundré, the daughter of the new Assistant Director helps with Jen's local quail research project

with mountain lions, coyotes, and wolves. Having worked most of his career in the West and Northern Mexico, his move to the mountains of Southern California was a perfect fit (see **Coming to the James**). John has proved to be a natural in all aspects of running the field

station from helping to install tanks for a wildlife watering hole, to fixing web cameras, recovering weather data, re-writing literature related to the James (brochures, fact sheets and the website) as well as generally any help necessary during emergencies. Of the Laws of the Trailfinders, John's favorite is, "Be Wise, for stupidity is the root of all evil."

Coming to the James

John Laundré, Assistant Director

In June of this year I started working at the James Reserve as the new Assistant Director. The events leading up to this fortuitous event however, started several months earlier. In searching for a position that would allow my daughter and I to return to the west, I came across the announcement for an Assistant Director at the James Reserve. Not having spent much time in California, most of it was in the intermountain states, I was a little concerned that this position was in hot, crowded Southern California. However, I googled the James Reserve and Idyllwild and was pleasantly surprised to see that, as the publicity stated, the site and town were indeed in a sky island. They were on a mountain range, yes, surrounded by 100's of thousands of people, but actually quite remote, even with a couple of wilderness areas on it! And Idyllwild...a small town of around 3,000, seemed like it would be a good place for my daughter and I to move to. So I applied. The rest, as they say is history.

What have I found since arriving in June? Did I make the right career move? In coming to the James, I have found the beauty of the high mountain forest, the friendly people of Idyllwild, and a “job” that suits me well. Working with the Director of the James, Jennifer Gee, I have been able to be involved in all the “nuts and bolts” of running a research field station (see **New Assistant Director**). So did I make the right move? I would reply a resounding YES and am looking forward to all the challenges and rewards of working for the Reserve and living in Idyllwild have to offer.

This photo was taken in the first few steps on Jen’s backpacking loop through the Eastern Sierras.



In the works, new projects – We are applying for grant money to re-establish an outdoors education program for children— The Next Generation of Trailfinders. Stay tuned to see if we’re successful. There can be no better testimonial to Harry and Grace James than to train a new generation of Trailfinders to ask questions about the natural world and work to make novel scientific discoveries.

TRAILFINDER TIDBITS

“Certainly camping can satisfy, as nothing else can, the adolescent youth’s need for and right to adventure, but it is my feeling that the outdoor experience at its fullest and best much ever be an educational experience rich in aesthetic and spiritual values.”

--Harry James

Dexter truly enjoyed his first backpacking trip, a week in the backcountry in the Sierras.



"Few places in this world are more dangerous than home. Fear not, therefore, to try the mountain-passes.

A couple of nameless lakes in the Eastern Sierras that Jen stumbled upon during her summer vacation.



They will kill care, save you from deadly apathy, set you free, and call forth every faculty into vigorous, enthusiastic action. Even the sick should try these so-called dangerous passes, because for every unfortunate they kill, they cure a thousand."
--John Muir

“Cut your own wood and it warms you twice.”

--inscription above the fireplace at the old James Reserve bunkhouse

Until Pasadena or the winter newsletter, when snow again covers Lolomi Lodge, remember: “Be kind to all living things”, Trailfinders Rule #5.



**Best Wishes from
The staff at the James Reserve**

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