

THE BODIE TIMES

PROTECTING BODIE'S FUTURE BY PRESERVING ITS PAST

THE NEWS OF BODIE, MONO LAKE & GROVER HOT SPRINGS
BodieFoundation.org

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Projects Continue As Fall Arrives

Executive Director's Report

By Jessica Schneider
Bodie Foundation
Executive Director

As the weather in Bodie cools, I often breathe a sigh of relief not only because it's a break from Bodie's scorching summer temperatures, but also because it signals the end of the chaos inevitable in a busy California State Park during tourist season. While we had our challenges this summer – not a single piece of technology worked perfectly at any one point this year, which is to be expected in a place as remote as Bodie – I'm reminded that if we could push the "easy" button, what would then be the appeal of Bodie in the first place?

How would we harken back to the days of Bodie's boom, where to suffer

Summer Event
Photos, Pages 10-11



Photo by Josy Pickett



Photo by Chris Spiller

Bodie Foundation members enjoy dinner in the shadow of the Methodist Church on August 10.

was to exist? Many things about doing business and providing services in Bodie are par for the course in such a remote location. Things taken for granted by so many of us – internet, phone service, consistent road access, grocery stores, gas stations, and sometimes even functioning indoor plumbing– are not a given in Bodie due to its remote location.

As you'll see in the following paragraphs, I'm also beginning to sound like a broken record when I talk about the stabilization efforts we have worked so hard to fund. Many have made little to no headway this season for a multitude of reasons, the primary being that California State Parks is constantly behind on projects in other parks that are more emergent, and the secondary being the red tape that we all know can

happen within large agencies.

Fortunately, we have some excellent State Parks administrators and supervisors in our corner that are tirelessly working to get single projects pushed through, but also thinking about the much bigger picture of stabilizing Bodie's buildings for the long haul. I feel eternally grateful for their efforts and their combined brainpower that I've seen put to work this year. While it sometimes feels like all hope is lost and we are making no headway, I do believe that Bodie is a historic treasure and increasingly, the world sees it for what it is. We at the Foundation will continue to push for projects large and small, and raise awareness of how important this national treasure is to the history of

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BF Board Names President

By Dydia DeLyser
Bodie Foundation
Board President

Thank you to all our members for your strong and sustaining support of all we do at the Bodie Foundation to help Bodie State Historic Park, Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, and Grover Hot Springs State Park flourish. Our parks are diverse, and their needs are distinctive; we partner with California State Parks in each park, tailoring our approach to help meet their needs.

With that in mind, it is an honor and a privilege to serve our members and lead our Foundation's Board of Trustees as President. I'm thrilled to be collaborating with our Executive Director, Jessica Schneider, and to be working as a team with our elected Executive Committee (Jon Elliott, Vice President; Maureen McGlinchy, Treasurer; and Shannon Boniface, Secretary) along with the rest of our Board.

I look forward to meeting more of you, our members. Since November in Bodie typically marks the start of the snow season, much of that will have to wait for future summer seasons. In the meantime, allow me to share with you a few things about



who I am and what I bring to this position.

I began working in Bodie in 1988 as an undergraduate geography major, excited to invest my summers as a maintenance park aide so I could live in an abandoned shack in the coolest ghost town in America. I loved it so much, that I kept working maintenance in Bodie through graduate school too, and eventually Bodie became the subject of my PhD dissertation, which I completed in 1997.

Maintenance people in Bodie are the ones who do the physical work of stabilization and over ten

See President, Page 7

Eric Draper Gets Commendation From State Parks

California State Parks awarded Eric Draper a special commendation for his actions in rescuing a visitor who walked into the park during a blizzard in Winter 2023. Eric, a Skilled Laborer/Park Maintenance Assistant, has worked at Bodie 19 years.

Foundation members may recall that Eric, a year-round resident of Bodie, had his hands full taking care of Bodie's buildings during the record winter snowfall in 2022-2023. After radio contact was cut off due to a failure of the solar array, State Parks personnel visited Eric aboard a National Guard helicopter in early 2023. He was given a satellite radio for communication.

One afternoon, with another storm blowing in, Eric saw a man struggling up the road dressed only in a t-shirt, shorts and tennis shoes. The man was attempting to reach Bodie when his car became stuck six miles from the park.

Eric took the man to his park residence, wrapped him in blankets and provided warm tea. He then called Sierra District Chief Ranger Dan Youngren. Mono County Search and Rescue was notified and was able to bring a snowcat out to Bodie to take the visitor to the hospital, where he made a full recovery.

Youngren, recalling the incident during the online Director's Award ceremony, said, "If Eric Draper was not there, this man would have surely perished."

He added that he spoke with Eric after the visitor was rescued, and

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— ED Report

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humanity. I hope you join me in this effort.

Bodie Cemetery

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Bodie Cemetery fund. A small crew of State Parks folks will soon be completing vegetation clearing inside the cemetery (around gravesites and the unofficial trail). There was supposed to be accompanying road and drainage repair this year as well, but the heavy equipment operators were pulled to a water main break in Malakoff, which pushed their work until next Spring. CCC crews will join the equipment operators to aid in the road and drainage repair, which we are funding. Extremely disappointing, but we are happy to be getting this project underway. This is phase 1 of 3. The Cemetery fund is completely wiped out with phase 1, so this is a great place to donate if you are looking to help Bodie.

Methodist Church

We have raised \$100,000 for the Church stabilization over the past two years. We are so grateful to all the members and donors who have not only given money, but spread the word about our effort. We are still waiting on final plans to be drawn by the State Parks-contracted structural engineer at Linchpin Engineering. The next step is to then put the job out to bid in hopes that we can find outside contractors to do some of the work. Most likely there are State Parks staff that can do some of the work within the church, but the primary part of the church project is using cables to pull the church back into a righted position, which needs to be done by an outside entity.

Fouke Residence

The Fouke still needs more of

our fundraising attention! We have \$19,000 raised out of \$40,000 needed. If you are planning on giving to the Foundation at the end of the year, this is one place that we could really use attention. As a reminder, the Fouke residence is the building deemed most likely to be lost to complete structural failure, so this is actually our number one project, even though the Church is also in dire need.

Events

All four Ghost Walks went off without a hitch (and without any snowfall in September, unlike last year). This is the first year we've had

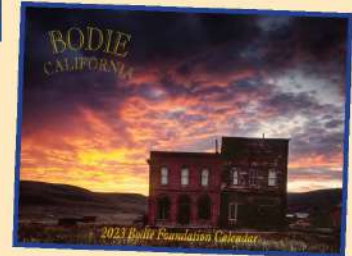
four tours actually completed. We are very grateful the weather cooperated this season. Thank you to everyone who participated — these Ghost Walks are not only a great fundraiser for the Foundation, but they are such a fun night in the park after-hours for anyone who hasn't had the chance to experience Bodie at sunset. Just a reminder – the park is only open after-hours for these four nights. If you don't sign up for a Ghost Walk, the park is still open to guests from 6-10 pm these four nights. The rest of the year, the park has a hard closure of either 4 or 6 pm.

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Calling all photographers!

See your photo of Bodie State Historic Park in the 2026 edition of the Bodie Foundation Calendar.

Entry deadline: February 2, 2025.



The Bodie Foundation sponsors this competition and invites photographers to submit their favorite photos of Bodie State Historic Park. Complete information and requirements are available at bodiecalendarcontest.com.

All images must be submitted in JPG format. As in prior years, each photographer is limited to one winning entry, and entries must be photographs of, and pertain to Bodie State Historic Park. All photos must be horizontal. There is a limit of five entries per photographer. Winners will receive \$100 and five calendars. The entrant whose photo is chosen for the calendar cover receives \$300 and five calendars.

The Bodie Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, and public enjoyment of Bodie State Historic Park, Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve, and Grover Hot Springs State Park. Learn more about us at bodiefoundation.org.

Interested in photo workshops at Bodie? Check our website for information: bodiefoundation.org/photo-workshops.

Mono Celebrates Biodiversity At “Bioblitz”



The Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve hosted another successful Bioblitz in celebration of California biodiversity day on September 7.

Participants gathered at the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center for an introduction to California’s extraordinary biodiversity and were given instructions on how to “bioblitz,” using the iNaturalist app before heading out in the field.

Participants made 382 observations of 177 species. This was the fifth year Mono Lake hosted an event; which was one of 32 parks hosting events in 2024.

Join us next year over the week of September 7 to contribute to citizen science, learn new species, and record the biodiversity you see using the iNaturalist app.

Another event on Sept. 28 at the Scenic Area Visitor Center celebrated three milestones: National Public Lands Day, 40 years of the Mono Basin Scenic Area, and the 30-year anniversary of the State Water Resources Control Board decision on Mono Lake.

Photos courtesy of Catherine Jones



Ryan Carle Presented With Andrea Lawrence Award

The Andrea Lawrence Award, which celebrates passionate engagement in community and the land, is presented yearly by the Mono Lake Committee. The 2024 award went to Ryan Carle, science director with Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge.

Ryan, a native of the Mono Basin, was recognized for his phalarope research at Mono and other saline lakes in the Western Hemisphere. Ryan’s research has been featured in *The Bodie Times* newsletter in recent years.

Ryan’s parents, Janet and Dave Carle, former Mono Lake State Park Rangers, were among the dinner guests.

The MLC website discusses Lawrence’s legacy: “Andrea Mead Lawrence was an Olympic double gold medalist, mother of five, visionary environmental leader, 16-year Mono County Supervisor, and advocate for Mono Lake’s protection.”

Ryan Carle, at left, receives his award from Geoff McQuilkin, Executive Director of MLC.



Photo by Chris Spiller

Green To Gold – Enjoy Grover’s Fall And Winter

By Adam Washam
Senior Park Aide
Grover Hot Springs SP

Fall is a great time to visit Grover Hot Springs State Park. At the higher elevations and nearby mountain passes, the aspens are changing from shades of green to shades of gold. Places such as Hope Valley, Carson Pass, Monitor Pass, and Ebbetts Pass are wonderful places to explore.

Even though Winter arrives soon, Grover Hot Springs still has a lot to offer. While there are no groomed trails, visitors can enjoy the meadow on cross country skis or snow shoes. And many guests say that Winter is the best time to visit the hot spring pools.

Reservations for the pools can be made 48 hours to three weeks in advance by going to ReserveCalifornia.com and clicking on the “activities tab” at the top of the home page.

Four 1-1/2 hour sessions are available Thursdays-Sundays. Fees are \$10 per adult and \$5 for kids 16 and under. A parking fee of \$8 (\$7 for seniors 62 and over) is charged upon arrival to park at the pool. Each session is limited to 40 people.



Photo by Owen White

A view of Grover from the air, showing the meadow and pools.

Any unsold tickets are sold in person on the day of, at the campground entrance station starting at 9 am. The pools are closed Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and also Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

Since the Tamarack Fire the meadow and surrounding hillsides are in a period of recovery. You can still find incense Cedars, Jeffrey pine, Ponderosa pine, Sierra junipers and quaking aspen as you walk along several trails which leave the park

and go into the higher elevations. These include: a flat and easy stroll around the meadow on the newly-constructed, ADA accessible boardwalk, a moderate hike to a waterfall located on Forest Service land, and more strenuous hikes uphill to Burnside Lake or Charity Valley. A day use fee of \$8 per vehicle or \$7 for seniors aged 62 and over, is charged for anyone coming into the park to hike or picnic.

Once the summer campground is closed, the day use area becomes the Winter campground. Camping is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Fees are \$25 a night or \$23 for seniors. Extra vehicles are \$8 a night and there is a limit of 8 people per campsite. The Winter campground accommodates tents, campers, vans, 18-ft. trailers (measured from the back bumper of the tow vehicle to the back bumper of the trailer) or 18-ft. motor homes. There are 25 campsites available and there are fire pits, grills, bear-proof food lockers, water, flush toilets, and sinks. Snow tires, chains, shovels, and winter gear are recommended as the season progresses. The park sells firewood for \$10 a bundle.



Photo by Owen White

A skier enjoys a view of the mountains near Grover.

Bodie Volunteer Dan “Mac” McIntyre Passes

By Dydia DeLysér
Bodie Foundation
Board President

Last spring Bodie lost one of our own: Daniel “Mac” McIntyre, a long-time volunteer, photo workshop leader, former Bodie Foundation Board member, and devoted friend of Bodie. Mac fell in love with Bodie as a child of just eight years old, and, as with other loves of Mac’s life (military veterans, especially those who served alongside him in Vietnam, his wife Carol and two children Patrick and Katie, and the students in his high-school photography classes) Mac remained devoted to Bodie for the rest of his life.

In Bodie, Mac felt he could bend down, touch the ground, and feel the spirit of the town right in his core, and he sought to convey just that spirit to Bodie’s visitors. An avid California historian, Mac infused his Bodie history talks with a deep understanding of mining-camp life in the late nineteenth century. And then, dressed as a miner from that period, he peppered every sentence with colorful language and stories from a fictionalized miner’s life.

Mac’s enthusiasm for living rendered him loud: he never spoke below a yell, and his voice had a characteristic grit that could be mistaken for hoarseness except that even yelling never made Mac hoarse — it was just his state of being. Brimming with excitement to share stories of Bodie’s rowdy past, and perhaps not less excitement about bringing just a little bit of that spirit into Bodie’s present.

In Bodie, while he sometimes volunteered for maintenance and would cheerfully do anything that needed doing, he loved working the public most of all. Characteristically,



Photo by Betty McCuniff

Dan, “Mac” McIntyre, at center, acts in an historic skit during 2022 Friends of Bodie Day.

he was never reluctant to talk with anyone — even if they were reluctant to talk with him. And that was one of Mac’s strengths as an interpreter.

Mac understood how people behave in a museum or historic setting: there are those who will seek out staff and interpreters, and there are those who avoid them. Of course, Mac was there for all those who came to him with a question. “Excuse me...” and he’d spin around in his old-time miner’s garb and barrel out “What can I do for you, sweetheart?” Those people always got more than a simple answer to a question: Mac knew how to make every quick question into an opportunity to help people really understand history. He would take a straightforward question like, “Where is the jail?” and turn it into a lesson on the law in America’s rugged frontier past.

But it was the people who didn’t want to talk to a staff member who

Mac really set his sights on. Those people who seemed to be keeping their questions to themselves, those were the ones who Mac enjoyed the most. Standing by the Red Barn on a crowded afternoon, dressed as Mac-the-miner as he loved to be, he’d wait to see people pass by without questions. And then pounce. He would just barge right up to them, opening without introduction, into the middle a full-throated, full-throttle story about an actual historical bar fight, using that to rope people into a whole history talk about Bodie. Those were stories that no one could resist.

Mac loved working his magic. And Bodie will be a much quieter place without him. It was his wish that donations be made in his honor to the Bodie Foundation.

You can visit our website at bodiefoundation.org/donate and specify that you are donating in his honor.

— President

Continued from Page 2

summers I got to know each of Bodie's buildings intimately: from outside and in, from on top and underneath. The maintenance staff are also responsible for the public restrooms, and this is a chore I took very seriously: I've been on plenty of those vacations when the driver of the car wants everyone to wait to pee until we "get there," and I know how important it is that once you're "there" the restroom is clean.

That pride in my work became the subject of good-natured ridicule among my maintenance crewmates. So much so that, in my tenth season, when I returned to Bodie from defending my dissertation, a surprise plaque hidden inside the restroom block proclaimed my new title, the "Doctor of Toiletry."

Beyond stabilization and toiletry, my years of working in Bodie and interacting with our visitors were a big part of what inspired me to become a professor: a person who gains and then shares knowledge, and with it seeks to inspire the next generation about history, preservation, and our environment.

My scholarly research on Bodie (in my dissertation and in published journal articles and book chapters which I'm happy to share) is not about Bodie's historic boom period, but rather about Bodie today: about Bodie State Historic Park, about what Bodie the ghost town means to the Park's visitors and staff, and about how it comes to mean that as they (we) experience the townsite.

After ten seasons on Bodie's staff (when I left the life of a student and got "real job" as a geography professor), I shifted to working as a Bodie volunteer. I've been a volunteer

in Bodie for maintenance for more than 25 years, still doing the same work I've always done. I have served on the Bodie Foundation's Board since 2015, and as its Secretary from 2016 until I was elected President earlier this year. All those years, from 1988 to the present, have made me familiar with all three of the Bodie Foundation's parks, with State Parks operations, and with State Parks staff and leadership in our three Parks as well as at the District level in Tahoe.

Serving on the Board, and now as its President, allows me to bring my academic expertise and my years of Bodie maintenance expertise together. For example, I regularly give presentations and talks to visitors and staff about the history and practice of stabilization in Bodie, and the transformational importance of Bodie's approach to preservation—known as "arrested decay"—nationally and globally. If you have a group that would like to visit Bodie and learn about the importance of stabilization in historic preservation, please contact me about scheduling a talk. Going forward, Bodie stabilization will always be a top priority for me, and I'm pleased to

say that the Foundation has already convened a gathering with State Parks leadership to explore Bodie's immediate and future needs. I look forward to partnering with State Parks and with all our members, to see to it that those needs are met. You'll be hearing updates in our future Newsletters and seeing them on the ground in Bodie.

Finally, though I am and always will be a "Bodieite," I am a strong supporter of all three of our parks and their unique missions and needs. Our Foundation has played an important role in all three parks, and in future *Bodie Times* Newsletters, we'll be updating you on efforts at Grover Hot Springs to bring that park and all its resources back to the public after the devastating fire there in 2021, and introducing you to the complex interagency, multi-organizational collaboration at Mono Lake that protects the resource at the same time as making it available and enjoyable for the public.

I look forward, in the years to come, to elevating the work we can do at the Bodie Foundation, and to sharing more with you about our work. Work we can do only with your support.

Plan Your 2025 Tour Now

There's nothing more frustrating than arriving too late to catch the last history talk or Stamp Mill tour of the day at Bodie. Or, finding out there's not enough room on the tour for your family and friends. What if you could arrange for a certain time and day for a tour with no worries of a tour filling up? Consider signing up for a private tour led by Bodie Foundation tour guides in 2025.

Private tours are an ideal solution for professional conferences, college groups, clubs and other organizations that want to be assured of a tour being available for a group on a certain day. Private tours can be designed to suit a group's special interests in Bodie.

Our private tours are offered from May 15 to October 15, weather and road conditions permitting. Reservations need to be made at least two weeks ahead of the tour date. For details on pricing and other information, please see our web page: bodiefoundation.org/bodie-tours.

See Private Tours, Page 8

From Bodie To Front Line Of Wildfires

By Dan Green and Dydia DeLyser

In summer of 2022 Bodie hosted a multi-agency collaborative effort in fuels vegetation management with the Berkeley Fire Department, California State Parks, and the Bodie Foundation. For three days, a group of about a dozen firefighters gained training in using chainsaws and wildfire tools and gained experience using and maintaining those tools while clearing brush overgrowth from around Bodie's buildings.

The multi-day training environment at Bodie offered the firefighters intensive experience in the kind of chain-saw use and on-scene maintenance and repair needed for real-time work in the remote environments and harsh



conditions of wildland fires. And as they learned, they cleared brush to make Bodie more resilient.

Now one of those firefighters has already gone on to use her Bodie

skills fighting some of the biggest wildfires in the West this summer.

Amber Piggue, a Firefighter Paramedic with the Berkeley Fire Department who gained her certification in Bodie, served in out-of-county fire responses this past July, fighting wildland fires for four days in Butte, Montana and then for twelve days on the large Lake Fire in Santa Barbara County.

In large wildfires like these firefighters often need to use chainsaws to remove dangerous snags, fell hazardous trees, and clear vegetation for fire-control lines — all skills Amber gained in Bodie and applied this summer. Way to go, Amber!

— Draper Award

Continued from Page 2

“Eric told me that it was all in a day's work and anyone else in his shoes would do the same thing,” Youngren commended Eric for being so calm during an emergency situation and knowing what to do next. “Eric is one of those employees that don't come often, he understands that hard work pays off and doing his job is one of the most important things. Eric didn't know that I nominated him for this award and he is definitely one of those people that doesn't like the public recognition. He's of those guys who just comes to work every day, works very hard, works long hours, and takes a lot of pride in his work. The public recognition is not quite his thing but Eric, congratulations... we're really proud of you and thank you for all you've done for not only Bodie but our department as a whole.”



Eric Draper works on a roof in Summer 2023, following a winter of record snowfall.

Photo by Chris Spiller

— Private Tours

Continued from Page 7

Private Stamp Mill tours spend about one hour in the stamp mill area with the other hour consisting of a “Town Tour,” which reveals the history of this remarkable town. At the stamp mill, your group will learn how the ore from the mines was crushed, and about the dangers of working amid the loud, heavy stamps.

Learn about mining history on the Mines, Mills, Rails and Ruins tour. This is a four-hour driving tour of the Mining District, which is off-limits without a guide. Learn how fortunes rose and crashed swiftly in Bodie's boom years, A 4-wheel drive vehicle is required for this tour, and please note, there is no access to mines on this tour.

We also offer a Mono Lake history tour. See details at our website.

To start the reservation process for a 2025 tour, please email Chris@BodieFoundation.org to book a tour your group will always remember.

— Executive Director's Report Continued from Page 3

Living History Day, which took place July 27, was a blast! We focused on providing free interpretive and fun family experiences throughout the park all day, and I think we nailed it. There was a very popular geology booth, story time for kids, a kids-only history talk, pinecone ornament decoration, thaumatrope crafts, coloring and even a Bodie State Historic Park hole-in-the-board picture station. Visitors enjoyed seeing people from Bodie's history, horses pulling wagons through town, everyone dressed up in Living History attire, Living History Stamp Mill tours and history talks. We offered

breakfast and lunch as a fundraiser for the Foundation, so our wonderful board Secretary Shannon Boniface and I sold breakfast burritos and grilled up hot dogs and hamburgers (with special thanks to our husbands who also "volunteered" their whole day as well). Overall, a great day was had by all!

Our Friends of Bodie dinner August 10 was a thank-you event to our members, held in the middle of Green Street in perfect weather, except for the evening wind. After dinner, members listened to Wayne E. Purcell, author of "Justice For All: The Search for Big Poker Tom." We

then did a book-signing followed by an evening interpretive walk. Thank you to all who attended this wonderful evening!

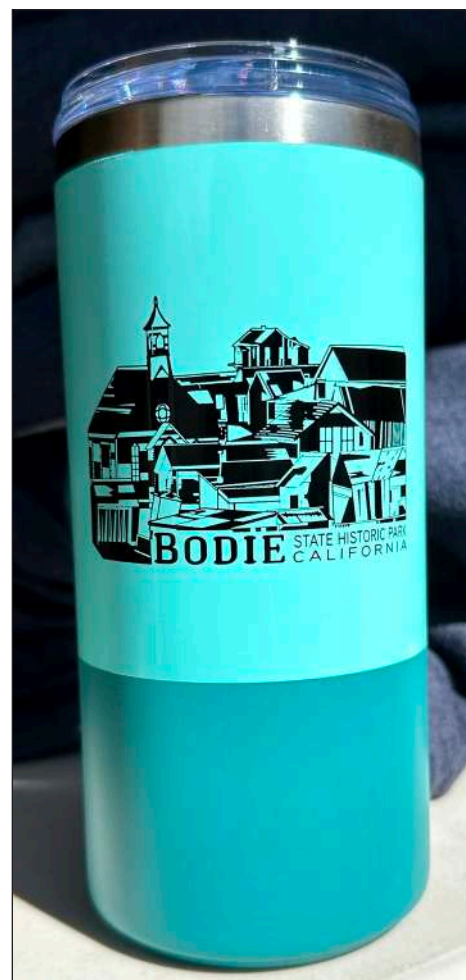
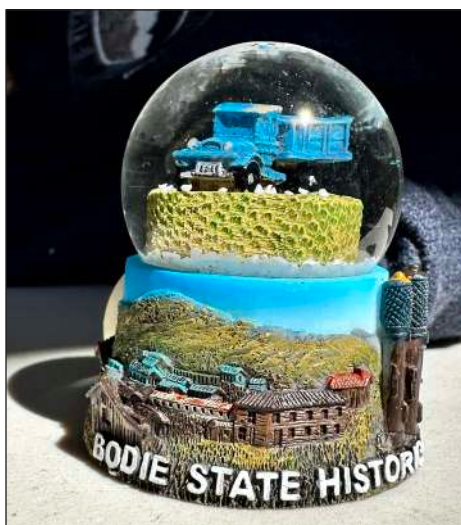
Foundation Board news

Lastly, this Spring the Bodie Foundation board voted for new officers for the first time since the pandemic hit. Please join me in welcoming Dydia DeLyser as our new Board President (see page 2 for more), Jon Elliott as Vice President, Shannon Boniface as Secretary and Maureen McGlinchy as Treasurer. I look forward to working with a new Executive Board through our busy budget season and beyond.

Shop The Bodie Foundation For Holiday Gifts

Make it a Bodie holiday season by purchasing gifts at the Bodie Foundation online store. The items shown here are a small sample of the gifts available at our store.

Don't forget a Bodie 2025 calendar for yourself and consider a Bodie Foundation membership for a friend. Visit us at: bodiefoundation.org/store.



History Comes Alive At Summer Events



It was a beautiful day for our Living History Day Sat. July 27. Our visitors enjoyed seeing horses and wagons roaming the town, listening to the bands, visiting the vendors, and having a Victorian picnic. The kids especially enjoyed the activity tables, special kids' history talks and storytelling sessions. On some of the many stamp mills, visitors were able to meet some people from Bodie's past.

Our annual dinner for Friends of Bodie members was Sat. Aug. 10, and featured delicious food, beautiful evening skies and great entertainment. The evening included an introduction to new Bodie Foundation Board of Trustees President Dydia DeLyser, and a presentation by Wayne Purcell, author of "Justice For All: The Search For Big Poker Tom." A book signing followed at the museum.

Members also took a stroll to the schoolhouse to hear about the adventures of three young scholars, then finished up the evening hearing from longtime volunteers Dave James and Norm Stump about the history of the Wheaton-Luhrs building at Main and Green. We thank our State Parks partners, volunteers and all who helped with the event. And special thanks to our members who support the Bodie Foundation.



Photos by Josy Pickett and Chris Spiller



Bodie Foundation

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Photo by Carol Silveira