

# Geysers Steamline

GEYSERS GEOTHERMAL ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XXI, NUMBER 3

Winter 2005



**Rig test of Bottle Rock well West Coleman 5-6.**

*Photo credit: Kathy Eney, Graphic Vision*

## US Renewables Group Acquires Bottle Rock Power Corporation

US Renewables Group (“USRG”), a company organized to acquire, develop and operate renewable energy and clean fuel assets, today (10/12/05) announced that it has acquired a controlling interest in the Bottle Rock Power Corporation, a California company whose principal asset is a 55 megawatt geothermal power station in the Geysers in Lake County. USRG plans to refurbish and restart the facility over the next 12 months. Before the end of 2006, USRG expects the station to produce approximately 200,000 megawatt hours per year of base load renewable power -- enough energy on average to supply

*Continued on page 7*

### **Mark Your Calender!**

## **GGA Dinner November 15th**

Reserve your spot today for the GGA Annual Membership Winter meeting on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Los Robles Lodge behind Coddington in Santa Rosa. The cost is \$32.00 per person.

Topics will include updates on the Bottle Rock Power Plant and Santa Rosa Recharge Project.

No-host bar at 6:15 pm and dinner at 7:00 pm.

Please make your reservation with CharleneWardlow, Calpine, at (707) 431-6133 or e-mail at [charlene@calpine.com](mailto:charlene@calpine.com) no later than Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **Glebe Honored**

Lake County Historian Ruby Glebe was recently honored with an Award of Merit by the Conference of California Historical Societies meeting in San Clemente. Members of the local Lake County Historical Society submitted a nomination for The Gladys Waddingham / Joseph Doctor Award, which recognizes persons who have served a local historical society for at least 25 years.

This was a bit of a surprise for Glebe as she was not aware that a nomination had been placed for her. She has been to several different meetings with members of the local club and enjoys attending when she can.

*Continued on page 6*

## Anderson Springs Geothermal Impact Mitigation Meeting

The second committee meeting of the Anderson Springs Geothermal Impact Mitigation & Community Investment Funds was held on October 20th at the Calpine Geothermal Visitors Center in Middletown. The committee is composed of members of the Community Services District, Homeowners Association, Community Alliance, Calpine, NCPA and District 1 Supervisor Ed Robey. A similar committee has been established in the Cobb Valley area.

This committee functions in the disbursement of funds from three sources; Calpine's Community Investment Fund, NCPA's funds for individual and community geothermal impact mitigation, and Lake County's AB 1905 funds for geothermal impact mitigation. Several final determinations were made at the meeting and another will be recommended for funding to the Lake County Board of Supervisors. This item will be heard by the Board at their November 8th regular meeting. The following projects were approved for funding:

1. Mira Vista Road repairs (access road to community water tank).
2. Repair/Rebuild Historic Community Stone Bench.
3. Repair Anderson Creek Side Pool. This is to be recommended for funding by the Board of Supervisors with the County's Geothermal Impact Mitigation Funds.
4. Residence Damage/ Floor Settlement at 11640 Anderson Springs Road.
5. Residence Damage/Chimney Repair and Structural Support at 10920 Hot Springs Road. This will be paid by NCPA.
6. Residence Damage/ Window Replacement at 11131 Hot Springs Road.

*Continued on page 6*

## Record GRC Reno Meeting

*Editor's note: GGA members presenting technical papers included Mitch Stark, Joe Beall, and Tom Box (Calpine), Ken Horn and John Council (NCPA) and Ali Khan and Rich Esterbrook (DOGGR).*

Record Turnout at GEA Trade Show and GRC Annual Meeting The GEA Trade Show and GRC Annual Meeting in late September attracted a record number of participants, speakers, and exhibitors, totaling almost 1000 registered participants. The meeting and trade show brought in representatives from across the world, including Ethiopia, Iceland, and Mexico, and representatives from a broad range of companies throughout the United States. Representatives from federal government, private, and public organizations attended the events, and most agreed that the annual geothermal events this year was one of the best in recent years. The meeting took place from September 25 through 28 at the Reno Hilton, in Reno, Nevada. Next year's trade show will be held during the first week of October in San Diego, California.

### **GEA Trade Show:**

This year over 300 exhibitors representing almost 50 companies exhibited at the Trade Show, with the 61 exhibition spaces sold out long before show time. Companies exhibited a diversity of products and services, including drilling equipment, power plant products, small scale geothermal uses, educational information, and legal and consulting services. Visitors to the trade show received the first annual GEA Trade Show Update, which listed events held in the trade show hall, along with special information about 4 trade show exhibitors and associated GRC events.

### **GRC Annual Meeting:**

This year's annual meeting brought in a wide range of participants, presenting their papers on a number of geothermal topics in the categories of Barriers, Direct Use, EGS Overviews,

*Continued on page 7*

# Calpine Geothermal Visitor Center Welcomes 50,000th Guest



Steam E, The Geysers' Geothermal Genie, is pictured with Ed Robey, Lake County Supervisor (left) and Dennis Gilles, Vice President, Geothermal (right).

Calpine Geothermal Visitor Center held a Community wide barbecue to celebrate the 50,000th guest to the Visitor Center and geothermal tour program on July 28. Established in 2001, the 6,500 square foot facility features hands-on interactive exhibits, multipurpose community meeting rooms, a gift shop, snack bar, and a landscaped picnic area. Free guided tours to an operating Calpine geothermal power plant are offered.

"Since opening our doors four years ago, the Visitor Center has hosted people from every state and nearly 50 countries," said Sandy Tucker, manager of the Calpine Geothermal Visitor Center. "It isn't only a unique resource for the public to learn about geothermal energy, but it has also become a venue for local government and community organizations."

September 2005 marked the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of commercial power production in the

United States, which began at The Geysers. The Geysers is the world's largest geothermal energy source, using clean, renewable steam to make electricity. In addition, it boasts America's first recycled water-to-electricity project.

Lyle La Faver, the tour guide at the visitor center, brings his knowledge, expertise and humor to each and every tour he leads to The Geysers. La Faver has been conducting power plant tours, from nuclear to wind, since 1974. "During that time, I've never lost a tourist, though there were a few I would have liked to have misplaced!" he jokes.

Besides having geothermal crews stop in from countries such as Russia and Japan, La Faver even had a taste of Hollywood when a sound technician from the 2002 film "K-11: The Widowmaker" visited. The film, starring Harrison Ford, tells the story of Russia's first nuclear submarine and how the crew saved the ship to prevent a nuclear disaster.

"The technician wanted to record the sounds made by live steam passing through pipes and electric generation noise, to stimulate what it would sound like inside a submarine," La Faver explained. "So I walked him down pipes at a West Ford Power Plant well pad and we recorded noises from the electric generators and steam turbines." La Faver said that the sound can be recognized in the film as the slight hum from a large transformer, even with the dramatic background music.

"I love working at the visitor center," said Tucker.

"Meeting new people and teaching them about geothermal energy are what's so great about it."

*~ Stacey Aboujudon, Calpine Corporation*

# GGA BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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## ***In Memorium - Nancy Stolesen***



**Nancy Stolesen**

The Geothermal Community mourns the loss of Nancy Stolesen. Nancy (Newport) Stolesen, age 73, passed away on Sunday, Aug. 21, 2005, of natural causes.

Tim Conant, Calpine, remembers, "Nancy was my first boss in the Geothermal industry. She hired me out of college in 1980 to work for McCulloch Geothermal after the first engineer she hired quit after three days because his wife would not live in Lake County. Well that was all good for me because I got to come to Lake County and have loved it ever since. Nancy may not have had all the technical answers, but she was very practical and nobody could pull the wool over her eyes. Nancy was the kind of supervisor that gave you a clear assignment, made sure you had the resources you needed, and then let you get the job done. She was a pleasure to work for and I always enjoyed talking to her since her retirement. She will be missed."

Nancy Stolesen served on the Lake County Planning Commission from about 1975 to 1979. She was an enthusiastic advocate for the planned development of environmentally friendly geothermal projects during this time when geothermal energy development was a very contentious political issue. Every exploratory project and power plant approved in Lake County was initially use permitted during Nancy's tenure. Many of the Use Permit conditions instituted in Lake County permits, including the requirement for secondary containment around the cooling tower basins that are now considered standard practice, were initiated under Nancy's watch. She became an expert in geothermal energy and after leaving the Lake County Planning Commission was offered the position of District Manager of Geothermal by Rolland Russell VP of McCulloch Geothermal a subsidiary of McCulloch Oil which later became MCR Resources after the sale of the company. MCR Geothermal continued to develop the steam field for the Bottlerock Power Plant. Nancy stayed with the project until it was producing power when she retired to have more time to travel and enjoy life. Nancy was an avid skier, and in about 1977 she postponed cancer surgery for a scheduled ski vacation. Her husband, Ed Stoleson, owned and operated a plywood mill in Redwood Valley during the time Nancy was on the Planning Commission.

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### **GGA Mission Statement**

*The GGA is dedicated to dealing with issues related to the geothermal industry at The Geysers and serving as an educational and exchange forum for our members. We also strive to promote public understanding of the contributions our industry makes to Lake and Sonoma Counties and the State through working committees set up to address health, safety, legislative and environmental issues.*

## SHEL Committee

The Geysers Geothermal Association (GGA) formed a committee last year to address Safety, Health, Environmental, and Legislative issues pertinent to the geothermal community at the Geysers.

The SHEL Committee's mission is to inform the geothermal community of potential safety, health, and environmental issues as well as pending legislation and rule changes that could affect The Geysers. The committee was also mandated to address the health and safety needs of the contractors and vendors who do business at the Geysers. The GGA is committed to keeping the geothermal community aware and informed of these kinds of issues so we all can work together and be prepared to address them in a timely manner.

To accomplish this mission, the SHEL Committee invites suggestions and topics for action and discussion from consultants, contractors, and vendors. If there are issues that you or your company wishes the SHEL Committee to address, contact:

Wayne Stith (NCPA)  
SHEL Committee Chairman  
(707) 987-4032  
wstith@ncpageo.com

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*Continued from page 2*

## Anderson Springs Meeting

In addition, the committee denied funding for one project and continued two other projects pending more information. The committee will meet again on November 3rd at the Calpine Geothermal Visitors Center.

*~ Mark Dellinger, Special Districts Administrator/  
ex officio committee member*

*Continued from page 1*

## Glebe Honored

Mildred Pickersgill is the local representative to the CCHS for Lake and Mendocino counties. A nomination was presented by Thelma Dangel and Pickersgill, who wanted to keep it a surprise for her and that was accomplished up-to-the-minute. These conferences are set by the CCHS with hosts from the area selected. Dana Point and San Juan Capistrano Historical Societies co-sponsored this meeting.

The outline of Glebe's history for the award follows:

If there were an award for 50 years as well as 25 or more years, she would win it. She is a charter member of the Lake County Historical Society, which was founded in 1955. She served as president twice, once in the late 1970s and once in 1982. She has also served as first and second vice president several times.

She was an instrumental member of the committee that led the efforts to save and restore Lake County's old courthouse in the 1970x and get it admitted to historical buildings status. It became and still is the home of the Lake County Museum.

Glebe was treasurer of the project for 10 years. She willingly shares her knowledge of local history with schools, clubs and other interested groups. Two of her more recent activities were working on the 2002 CCHS annual meeting held in Lake County and participating as a speaker at the Historic Courthouse Museum's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which was held in 2003. The Lake County Historical Society and Historic Courthouse Museum are truly blessed to have her.





**Bottle Rock Team: Back row - Derek Bacon, Lou Capuano, Ron Suess, Bill Jackson, Lee Bailey, Tony Lent and Jim Hanson  
Front row - Gary Snedaker and Tom King**

*Photo credit: Kathy Eney, Graphic Vision*

*Continued from page 1*

## **Bottle Rock**

electricity to about 25,000 California homes.

The Bottle Rock facility was originally constructed, owned and operated by the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) to service its own power consumption requirements but was closed in 1991 due to a drop in production from the Geysers, the availability of ample power capacity in California and an inability at the time to economically justify the investment required to restore full production. The DWR subsequently sold the power station to Bottle Rock Power in 2001.

“With the completion of the acquisition by USRG, the barriers to re-commissioning the facility have been cleared and Bottle Rock Power now has the critical resources it requires to successfully bring the power plant back on line,” said Tom King, Executive Vice President of Finance at USRG and a new member of the board of Bottle Rock Power.

The Bottle Rock Power acquisition builds on USRG’s growing renewable energy assets that include two landfill methane facilities in California and negotiations for biomass power and ethanol assets. USRG recently closed \$80 million in financing as part of its plan to raise a total of \$250 million to fund the acquisition and operation of renewable energy assets.

“We look forward to working with all the interested parties to bring this important renewable power station back on line for the benefit of the State of California,” said Lee Bailey, Chief Operating Officer at USRG and a Bottle Rock Power board member. “The restart and continued operation of the plant will bring many new job opportunities and additional commerce to Lake County while providing an impetus to local development in a number of exciting ways. USRG prides itself on being a good corporate citizen, and we look forward to forming a strong bond with the local community.”

*Continued from page 2*

## **GRC Reno Meeting**

Exploration & Assessment, Faults and Fractures, Financing and Economics, Geophysics, Geothermal Drilling, Reservoir Engineering, Scaling and Corrosion, Thermal Cycles, and Worldwide Geothermal. The opening session featured Assistant Secretary of the Interior Rebecca Watson, as well as GEA President Jonathan Weisgall of MidAmerican Energy.

The record turnout at this year's GEA trade show and GRC annual meeting point to the recent expansion of the geothermal industry. Notes Karl Gawell, executive director of GEA, "this year's attendance exceeds any geothermal event in almost a decade. The trade show and annual meeting offer one of the only opportunities for industry leaders from across the world to come together - we saw lots of discussion in the hallways and meeting areas

spurred by the business opportunities being created by the expansion of the geothermal industry. I expect an even greater turnout next fall in San Diego, California."

If you are interested in participating in next year's trade show, or have questions about the event, please contact Daniela at Daniela@geo-energy.org. The Geothermal Resources Council (GRC) will convene its 2006 Annual Meeting at the Town & Country Resort and Convention Center in San Diego, CA on Sept. 10-13, 2006. Committee organization and planning for the event is underway. Further information about the GRC 2006 Annual Meeting and companion Geothermal Energy Association Trade Show will be posted as it becomes available. See you in San Diego!

*~ excerpt from Karl Gawell's October 14th GEA*

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