

Hastings Reserve News

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December, 1988

December brought us some badly needed rain. We are now just about at an average total rainfall. The various rain spells have held up a variety of construction projects. Three inches of snow fell the evening of December 24. A record-setting cold spell stayed with us the last few days of December. The Arnold spring continues to allow the storage tank to overflow.

On December 5, Neal Arbon and Tom Hilton finished working at the Arnold house. We still have a list of things we need to accomplish there. Suzanne started measuring, purchasing and hanging gutters on the Robinson house on the first week of December and that job is just about finished now. Ben finished the skirting and final siding installation. The following projects include several which I will direct for Mrs. Arnold who is generously providing funding. I hired Larry Johnson and we loaded 3 tons of trash for removal. I have arranged with Bill Lambert to install an additional water tank on the hill, adjacent to the existing water tank. Bill will also be excavating a drainage ditch on the hill above the buildings to prevent the likely repeat flooding of the repaired foundation. A tree trimming service will be scheduled to remove some additional dead material from the adjacent Monterey cypress trees. Installation of the wood stove remains to be done. Suzanne will add weatherstripping around the windows and finish the bats needed on the porch screening. A wood deck between the kitchen and porch may be added next year. In the meantime, I built three wooden walkways with scrap material. These, and a wood pallet will allow relatively mud free entry at the house. Suzanne has been busy with the usual maintenance tasks, including trash and recycling collections, minor repairs as well as repairing some broken pipes which had frozen.

The distribution of rain and then snow meant the roads are very muddy. Access to the Robinson house was virtually impossible for the last days in December. We split the costs with the Ingrahams (Palo Escrito Ranch) on the spreading of some gravel in the worst places.

Work at the Hallisey house continued. A propane furnace was installed on the 21. Lambert dug a ditch for the iron pipe and I installed the pipe for the propane on the 23rd and backfilled part of the ditch. The temporary water line to the Hallisey house froze, but on the 23rd, I helped Gary Stookesburry install the plumbing to the new well. I then put on some temporary pipe insulation and a tarp over the whole thing. At that time we switched to the new water supply. When we get a sufficient dry spell, the final slab will be poured and we can put the small wooden shed over the well head. Soil near the well site is mud about ankle deep.

Mark Reynolds accepted a position with Virginia Boucher as co-managers at the Sagehen Creek Field Station. Thus, we worked pretty closely in finishing up the projects he started on the installation of the Omnidata weather station and the computerization of the degree day data we are taking from our 25 year records. We borrowed the MorphoSys set up from MVZ to measure the area under the air temperature charts for each day. We learned that it is a very efficient system for data entry, but that we need about 4 weeks of someone full time to enter our 25 year data base.

Visiting researchers included Dr. James Patton and his wife Carol from the 19th to the 22. The Pattons joined with Pat Kelly and Maria daSilva and Sozzi deMille in measuring woodrat habitats. Pam Muick and Dave Ame worked with Jim Griffin on Dec 28 and 29. Pam was also here working on December 7 and the 18. Ray Calloway, UCSB, was here on December 1-2 to continue work on oak plots. Cristian Orrelo and Daniel Orrel helped with Peromyscus research Dec 10. A field assistant from last summer, Jane Rombauts visited with Jane Kidd. Jane Kidd

continues the woodpecker observations, as Dr. Koenig continues his studies in Oxford. Dave Ribble continued his field work on deer mice. Mark Reynolds was also here working on Acorn woodpeckers. Our volunteers with the pig management project here made many visits. Pig rooting increased but the constant chases by the volunteers have so far been only near success.

Construction on the lab has started. Excavation started Friday, Dec 16. On the previous day, I had to purchase some additional pipe and move the buried electrical cable up the hill and out of the way of the excavation crew. Again, Lambert provided the excavation. Rain held up the work on many days, and the scene eventually became very muddy. With holidays and rain, it looks like the slab will be poured on the first week of January. We had to change the grading of the building, adding steps to the existing lab sidewalk and moving the sewage discharge to the north end. The county inspector approved plans for a small septic tank to be placed just to the north of the building and a leach line extending out for evaporation/percolation. I have received bids from 2 companies to supply lab furniture and plumbing. I will be forwarding their completed bids to Alice Landauer for submittal to purchasing.

the late Dec cold spell was
probably not "record-setting".

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| Jan 10, 1999 | 10° F |
| 11 " | 15° F |
| 12 " | 16° F |

Jim