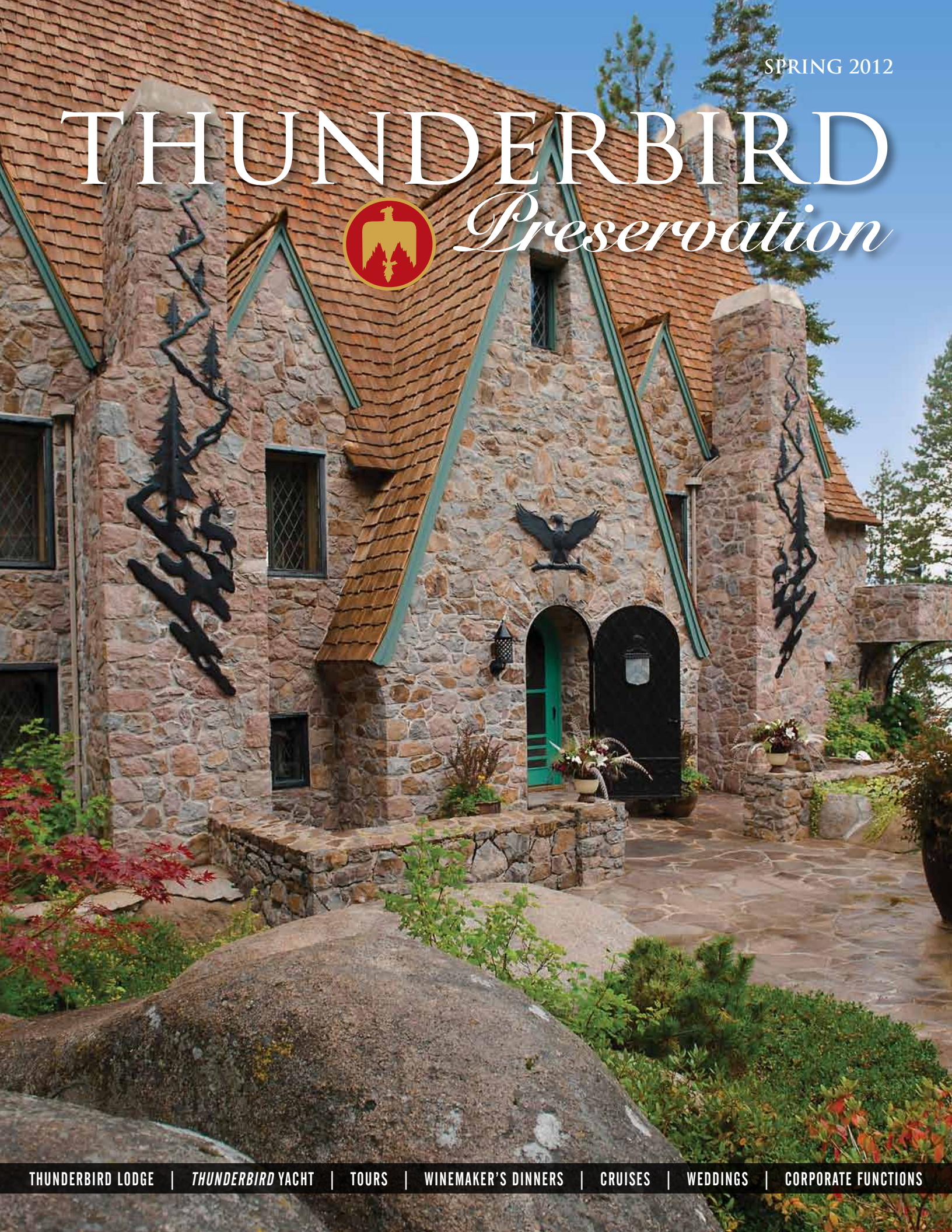


SPRING 2012

THUNDERBIRD

Preservation



THUNDERBIRD LODGE | THUNDERBIRD YACHT | TOURS | WINEMAKER'S DINNERS | CRUISES | WEDDINGS | CORPORATE FUNCTIONS

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BRET COLE PHOTOGRAPHY

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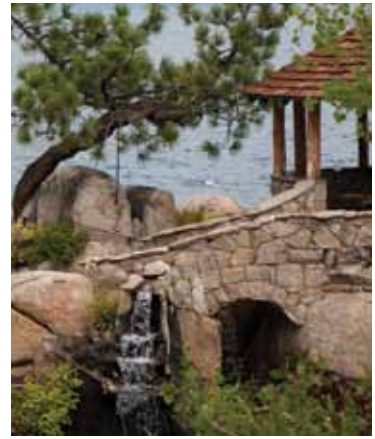
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FIELDING PHOTOGRAPHY

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Supporters and Friends,

Welcome to our tenth season of tours here at Thunderbird Lodge. It seems like yesterday when we scrubbed and painted this old house for the first opening. Today, more than one hundred volunteers arrive each spring to make ready for the summer season.

Many have asked how I became involved with the Thunderbird Lodge. It was serendipity.

Back in 1981, shortly after my former husband and I bought the *Thunderbird Yacht*, Father Don Mason sent us a letter. In 1939, at age 17, Don Mason was George Whittell's butler for three seasons at Lake Tahoe until he joined the Navy and, eventually, became a Jesuit priest. As a young man, Father Mason's love affair was with *Thunderbird*. He religiously varnished, polished, and detailed until she shined. We shared much in common.

Corresponding regularly, he regaled us with stories of Captain Whittell in the 1930's and 40's. We visited Father Mason at Sophia University in Japan where he was teaching. In 1983, we learned of his cancer and arranged to bring him back to Thunderbird Lodge, where he'd spent idyllic summers long ago.

It was thrilling to return *Thunderbird Yacht* to that cavernous boathouse and hear those engines roar as Father Mason smiled—he was home and reliving memories of his youth.

And what a tour he gave us, he was so surprised to see all the same furniture in his bedroom. At the end of the day, he looked at me and said, "Joan, I hope that someday this wonderful place will become a museum." He made me promise that I would help *Thunderbird Yacht* reside here as part of the Whittell story. The rest is history. Father Mason is long gone, but I remain to fulfill my promise.

Today, first time visitors are just as excited as I was back in 1984. We host thousands of visitors each year as a public museum. School children learn about history, conservation, and science in our Hands on History program. Our donors and supporters step back to Tahoe's Gilded Age at our fundraising events and parties.

I look forward to seeing *you* here very soon.

Best wishes,

Joan Gibb

CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THUNDERBIRD LAKE TAHOE

Dear Thunderbird Supporters,

I feel good about Thunderbird Lake Tahoe in 2012. A mild winter resulted in less damage to the historic site, our cultural heritage tours are picking up, dozens of 4th and 5th graders have booked our Hands on History classes, our fundraising winemaker's dinners are almost sold out, and we have an exciting new culinary program.

Most of all, I feel good about all of our donors, sponsors, volunteers, and friends who continue to celebrate Lake Tahoe's heritage including the Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht. Where else can you step back to an earlier time and watch history come alive?

With your help, Thunderbird Lake Tahoe's future is almost assured. Launched with a gift from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation in 2009, we are building a permanent Preservation Fund endowment that will care for these historic treasures in perpetuity. The goal is \$20 million and we are 25% of the way to our goal. Might you move us toward the finish line with a bequest, a planned gift, a gift of appreciated stocks or securities, or an end-of-year I.R.A. distribution? Those contributing \$100,000 or more to the Preservation Fund are automatically inducted into the Thunderbird Castle Club.

Meanwhile, we seek 50 individuals, families, or businesses who will each pledge \$10,000 a year for 5 years. These "Flagship" contributors will keep Thunderbird Lake Tahoe afloat until the permanent endowment is funded. Our Flagship members, along with our Castle Club contributors, receive unprecedented invitations to Thunderbird Lake Tahoe events and celebrations. We hope that your family will contemplate a Flagship Membership at the Admiral or Commodore level today.

Thank you again for your time, energy, and support. You each make Thunderbird Lake Tahoe the special place that it is.

All my best,

Bill Watson

CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CURATOR





THUNDERBIRD TRIVIA

The Captain's best friend was Bill, the lion, a gift from his second ex-wife, actress Josephine Cunningham Whittell.

George Whittell, Jr.



I was born in San Francisco on September 28, 1881. My grandparents arrived in California in 1849, shrewdly exploiting Gold Rush opportunities to make a family fortune in mining, real estate, railroads, and industry. When my twin brother, Nicholas, died at age three of diphtheria, I became the sole heir to the Whittell family legacy. I've lived life at full throttle, collected exotic animals, elegant automobiles and boats, and courted the loveliest ladies.

The region's gossip mills call me an explorer, sportsman, financier, conservationist, playboy, and bon vivant—and I relish these tales of my adventures. Yet I prefer to simply be called "Captain." I am George Whittell, Jr., and like my friend Ernest Hemingway, I've lived in that greatest of all ages, The American Century.

THE ANIMALS, CARS, AND PLANES

Formal education has always annoyed me. Not that I'm unintelligent for I know seven languages. It's just that more immediate adventures beckoned, like joining the Barnum and Bailey Circus when I was 17. I met Frank Buck at the Circus and my substantial allowance permitted us a safari business together. This began my life-long passion for game animals, especially the big cats. Over the years I adopted elephants, tigers, bears, and more. My favorite, however, was Bill the Lion, a gift by my second ex-wife on the occasion of my marriage to a third. Bill loved to ride shotgun with his paws on the dashboard of my Duesenberg Weymann "Fishtail" Speedster.

They say I was Duesenberg Automobile's best customer. Beginning in 1929, I ordered five of these fine coaches. A few I equipped with lights and sirens. There is no greater satisfaction than speeding to my Woodside estate with lights blazing and siren wailing, clearing the path to supper.



My wife Elia spawned the purchase of our DC-2 aircraft as she traveled each year to France. The plane couldn't travel that distance so I replaced it with a Boeing 307 Stratoliner. When Elia lost interest, Howard Hughes relieved me of the Boeing. Except for occasional weekends aboard my Grumman Goose seaplane, by WWII we stopped flying.

CEMENTING THE FORTUNE

My father died in 1922 when I was 40 years old. I became trustee of my mother's fortune and watched the financial markets skyrocket. In the summer of '29, I had a premonition and convinced Mother to let me liquidate \$50 million. I replaced corporate stocks with government-backed securities and gold which I deposited into Canadian banks. Some say my move precipitated the October stock market crash that followed. Whether true or not, I had successfully insulated my family from the effects of the Great American Depression, and that dastardly Roosevelt, too. Gold and cash—an excellent combination.

THUNDERBIRD LODGE AND LAKE TAHOE

By the 1930's, California had enacted its state income tax, so I moved to Reno, Nevada. There I met real estate mogul Norman Bilz who held an option on 22,000 acres of clear cut timberland on the east shore of Lake Tahoe. Priced at \$6 per shorefront acre and \$3 in the back country, Bilz's financing had fallen through. I agreed to buy the land myself and made Bilz my agent. We carved the hillsides into house lots from Glenbrook to Cal Neva and planned large-scale casino resorts at Zephyr Cove and Sand Harbor. With additional acquisitions from the Bliss Family and others, my holdings grew to nearly 45,000 acres spanning 25 miles of Lake Tahoe shoreline.

The shoreline area was majestic with conifer forests reaching down to cobalt blue waters. My dog Toots and I spent months hiking to find just the right promontory for my new stone house, Thunderbird Lodge. Mr. Bilz brought me one land deal after another, but I couldn't bear to sell. Except for a few forced sales, I never sold or developed my Tahoe lands.

By age 60, my fondness for animals increased and tolerance of people waned. A few associates would join me from time-to-time for a high stakes card game at the Thunderbird Card House, but otherwise I preferred the companionship of my animals and kept to myself.

Bill the Lion rolled on me and broke my leg, so I'm now confined to a wheelchair. With Elia spending summers in France, I simply enjoy sitting in the company of chatty mynah birds on the terrace of Thunderbird Lodge watching the sunlight dance on Lake Tahoe. I've truly lived an enchanted life!

THE LEGACY

Melanoma took Captain George Whittell on April 18, 1969. The Captain gifted the bulk of his estate to animal protective organizations such as the Humane Society so as to "reduce suffering" in the animal kingdom. Flamboyant to the end, Whittell asked that he be buried in his favorite ermine coat.

Whittell's resistance to development proved instrumental in preserving vast tracts of Nevada land. While Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht are the visible monuments to George Whittell, his real legacy remains all of the open space we enjoy on Lake Tahoe's east shore.

Today, the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society preserves Whittell's Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht. The Society educates thousands of visitors and schoolchildren, and conducts conferences to help protect Lake Tahoe's fragile resources.

Driving the eastern shore of Lake Tahoe, it's easy to miss the turnoff to Captain George Whittell's Thunderbird Lodge. The Gatekeeper's House sits out of direct view from the road. An iron gate guards a narrow driveway that meanders down through thick pines, passing the Admiral's House and the Caretaker's Cottage, while affording brief glimpses of the blue-green lake.

The 1939 Lodge sits majestically perched on the rocky shoreline at lake's edge. The high-pitched roof and massive stonework preserve the look of permanence and stature. Next to the Lodge is the Cook-Butler's House, and farther away is the Card House. There's the Boathouse that still berths Whittell's famous 55' mahogany yacht, the Elephant Barn built for his pet pachyderm, Mingo, and so many other unique features to explore.

As chance would have it, George Whittell acquired 45,000 acres and nearly 25 miles of prime Nevada shoreline which he ultimately saved from development. Without intending to, Whittell became a modern day conservationist and environmentalist, providing us with a valuable legacy: unspoiled land surrounding his Thunderbird Lodge—a unique treasure that you can preserve today for future generations.

Christy L. Fockler

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN,
PRESERVATION CONSULTANT

THE LEGACY OF

Thunderbird Lodge



THUNDERBIRD TRIVIA

The Lodge has a 600-foot tunnel, blasted through granite, which connects the main Lodge to the famous Boathouse.

Thunderbird

YACHT



George Whittell, Jr. had a life-long fascination with the latest technology of the day, particularly that which manifested itself in aircraft, automobiles, and boats. Among the many he owned were a DC-2, outfitted for his private use, a Grumman Goose seaplane, five of the most uncommon Duesenberg motorcars, a 145' pleasure yacht and the legendary 55' speedboat, *Thunderbird*. The latter is certainly one of the most unique and elegant wooden vessels crafted in the Twentieth century and, like his Duesenbergs, is as much a work of art as a means of transportation.

Commissioned by Whittell specifically for Lake Tahoe while he was building his fabulous estate there, the *Thunderbird* was designed by famed naval architect John L. Hacker and built by Huskins Boat Works in Bay City, Michigan.

Enamored of the lines of his DC-2 aircraft, the eccentric millionaire requested that the hull and cockpit of his new speedboat resemble the fuselage of his personal airplane. Fashioned of double-planked mahogany and brushed stainless steel, the new acquisition would enable Whittell to get about Lake Tahoe with unmatched speed and style. Outfitted originally with twin V-12, 550 hp Kermath engines, the vessel was capable of 60 knots. To accommodate the *Thunderbird*, its notoriously reclusive owner ordered the construction of a 100-foot long enclosed boathouse with a 600-foot tunnel, blasted out of solid granite, to connect it to the main residence.

Completed at a cost of \$87,000 (over \$1.4 million in today's dollars), Whittell took delivery of the *Thunderbird* in 1940, and it first crossed the mountain lake's sparkling blue waters on July 14th of that year. The aging playboy used it fairly extensively that summer and the next, but following the entry of the U.S. into World War II, Whittell rarely took it out again.

The yacht was rescued from obscurity by casino magnate William F. Harrah, who purchased it from Whittell in 1962. Harrah had it reverentially refurbished, adding a matching, brushed stainless steel flying bridge and replacing the original Kermath engines (which when removed had only 83 original hours on them) with two V-12 Allison aircraft engines, each generating 1100 horsepower. Harrah used it for the entertainment of his casino high-rollers and showroom headliners such as Tony Bennett, Sammy Davis, Jr., Frank Sinatra and Bill Cosby, to name a few. The boat's mahogany hull was meticulously sanded down to bare wood and refinished each winter with ten coats of varnish!

After a succession of owners, the yacht was recently transferred to the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society. Contingent on paying off the \$1.1 million note for its purchase, the yacht will now remain berthed in its original boathouse at the Thunderbird Lodge and can be viewed during tours of the estate or, with a nominal donation, taken for a private cruise. The *Thunderbird* cruises exclusively for the benefit of raising funds to sustain the historic lodge and yacht.

TOURS



THUNDERBIRD TRIVIA

The Card House was the place for high stakes card games with the likes of Ty Cobb and Jack Dempsey.

THUNDERBIRD *Tours*

Peek into the 1930's lifestyle of the rich and famous...waterfalls, winding pathways, a card house with poker stories, and secret tunnels are just the beginning. Escape into a world that only a privileged few have dreamed of and be entertained by the legendary story of George Whittell's Thunderbird Lodge, known as Lake Tahoe's "Castle-in-the-Sky".

This unique castle tour with panoramic Lake Tahoe views can be enjoyed through public tours by land or water, private group tours, corporate outings or our Hands on History school tours.

All public tours are docent-guided and are scheduled from mid-May through mid-October. Private group tours of 15 or more may be scheduled year round.

Please note: Reservations are required for all tours. Self-guided tours are not available. Smoking is not permitted in the buildings, on the grounds, or aboard shuttle buses and watercraft. Children must be at least six years old. Comfortable, dry walking shoes are required and a warm jacket is recommended. There is no public docking at Thunderbird Lodge.

PUBLIC TOURS *by Land*

Public tours by land operate Tuesday through Saturday from the Incline Village-Crystal Bay Visitors Center located on the north shore of the lake. You will check-in at the Visitors Center and depart via shuttle to Thunderbird Lodge. Tickets are \$39 per adult and \$19 for children ages 6 to 12.

Incline Village-Crystal Bay Visitors Center is located at 969 Tahoe Boulevard, Incline Village, Nevada. For reservations by phone, call 1-800-GO-TAHOE or 1-800-468-2463. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturday, Sunday and holidays, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. All major credit cards are accepted.

Visit www.activitytickets.com to make land tour reservations online.

TOURS *for Schools*

Thunderbird Lake Tahoe is open year round for school field trip tours offering educational programs for students from third grade on up. Our Hands on History program follows the Nevada's Social Studies curriculum standards for 4th and 5th grade students. School field trip ticket prices are \$5 per student, and each teacher or adult chaperone. Ticket prices include teacher and student workbooks and study aids. To schedule a school field trip, e-mail AskUs@ThunderbirdTahoe.org or call 775-832-8752.





THUNDERBIRD TRIVIA

The Thunderbird Lodge is a National Historic District which includes the main lodge and seven outbuildings.



PUBLIC TOURS *by Water*

From Lake Tahoe's South Shore

The historic 40' cruiser *Tahoe* departs from the Tahoe Keys Marina in South Lake Tahoe on Tuesday through Saturday at 10 a.m. This five-hour experience includes continental breakfast, a narrated cruise along the lake's shoreline, the Thunderbird tour, and a picnic lunch. Ticket prices are \$135 for adults and \$55 for children ages 6 to 12. For south shore water tours call Tahoe Cruises at 888-867-6394 or 775-588-1881, or visit www.TahoeCruises.com.

From Lake Tahoe's North Shore

Action Water Sports provides boat departures on the north shore from the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe hotel dock each Thursday through Saturday at 9 a.m. The four-hour tour is \$110 for adults and \$80 for children 6 to 12, and includes beverages, fruit, pastries, the Thunderbird tour, and a cruise by the prestigious exclusive homes of Lakeshore Drive. Call Action Water Sports at 775-831-4386 or visit www.awsIncline.com.

By Kayak from Sand Harbor

For the more adventurous, kayak the pristine east shore waters from Sand Harbor to Thunderbird Lodge. Tour includes kayak rental, paddle lessons, gear, snack, deli lunch on the beach and the Thunderbird tour. Offered every Tuesday and by custom dates June–September. Cost is \$124 per person with a 2 person minimum. Tours start at Sand Harbor State Park. A \$12 State Park parking fee applies. To book a tour call 530-913-9212 or visit www.tahoeadventure.com.

TOURS *for Private Groups*

Thunderbird is available year round for private group tours. Car clubs, spousal outings, service organizations, church groups, senior's centers, large families, wedding parties, non-profit organizations, and government agencies have all enjoyed educational and entertaining visits to Lake Tahoe's Castle-in-the-Sky. Ticket prices are \$39 per adult and \$19 for children ages 6 to 12. Children under six years of age are permitted on private group tours by prior arrangement only. There is a \$500 minimum charge for private group tours.

By advance arrangement, private group tours may arrive on foot, by personal automobile, bicycle, shuttle bus, helicopter, boat, kayak, seaplane, or nearly any kind of transport imaginable.

To make private tour reservations for your group, call Thunderbird Lake Tahoe at 775-832-8752 or e-mail AskUs@ThunderbirdTahoe.org.



Gentleman outdoorsman *Bob Lee* shares many common interests with our esteemed Captain Whittell: the wild kingdom, vintage motor cars and firearms, and an unabashed respect for fine craftsmanship. Since the beginning, *Bob and Anne Lee* have supported Thunderbird's educational programs with gifts for Thunderbird's maritime heritage program and research into Whittell's famous collection of big game animals. *Anne Lee* recently joined the Preservation Society's Board of Directors. Bob and Anne, we can't thank you enough for all the fun times and good work we've done together.



WINEMAKER'S DINNERS

The winemakers are present,

the chefs famous,

and the views stupendous!

*These dinners are the highlight of
Lake Tahoe's summer social season
and always sell out.*



THUNDERBIRD TRIVIA

Much of Lake Tahoe's east shoreline remains
pristine because of George Whittell.

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CIPRIAN PHOTOGRAPHY



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2012 WINEMAKER'S DINNER SERIES

SUNDAY, JULY 8TH

Cliff Lede Vineyards ~ Kale Anderson, Winemaker
Wolfdale's Cuisine Unique ~ Chef Douglas Dale

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12TH

Elyse Winery ~ Ray Coursen, Winemaker & Owner
The Soule Domain at Lake Tahoe ~ Chef/Owner Charlie Soule

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH

Martin Estate Winery ~ Petra & Greg Martin, Proprietors
Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Lone Eagle Grille ~ Chef Rick Koplau

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14TH

Miner Family Wines ~ Dave Miner, Founder & Owner
Ritz-Carlton, Lake Tahoe ~ Chef Ruben Garcia



FIELDING PHOTOGRAPHY

Dinner Series ~ Enjoy all four dinners!

RESERVATIONS

775-832-8752
or www.ThunderbirdTahoe.org

There is no place quite like Thunderbird Lake Tahoe, and no fundraisers quite as unique as our Winemaker's Dinners! These fundraisers offer an experience like no other...breathtaking Lake Tahoe views, castle tours, terrace sunsets, glorious gardens, celebrity chefs, and the winemakers! Did we mention a chance to cruise on the *Thunderbird Yacht*, exclusive auction items, or wine drawings? And, let's not forget California's finest wines paired with gourmet preparations by the region's celebrity chefs.

Thunderbird Lake Tahoe hosts a Winemaker's Dinner on the second Sunday of each month from July through October. You may buy tickets for each dinner or the series of all four dinners.

For the ultimate Thunderbird experience, upgrade to a VIP Reception and *Thunderbird Cruise* with the winemaker during the July, August and September dinners. Your memorable evening will include early arrival, parking at Thunderbird Lodge, and a special greeting by the curator in the Old Lodge. Sip champagne while you stroll through the tunnels where you'll join the winemaker aboard the *Thunderbird Yacht*. During the appetizer cruise, the winemaker will serve select or reserve wines

chosen exclusively for our VIP donors. Return to the private Thunderbird Cove dock in time for dinner seating in the Lighthouse Room. As an extra incentive, \$700 of the \$1,000 VIP ticket is a charitable contribution!

Each dinner provides many ways for you to be philanthropic while experiencing Thunderbird's magic. Buy the dinner series and receive a bottle of wine at each dinner...make a donation and be entered to win a bottle of each of the evening's wines...raise your hand to win an exclusive Thunderbird auction item, bid on silent auction items, or purchase select wine at a discount price.

All of the dinner proceeds go to Thunderbird Lake Tahoe's preservation efforts. This year's targeted preservation project is the Whittell Waterfall, located at the entrance to the historic lodge. Your participation can help us raise the final \$60,000 needed to restore these majestic fountains.

The price of each dinner is \$195 per person (\$125 of each ticket is a charitable contribution). Early reservations are recommended as seating is limited to 90 people per dinner. For more information call 775-832-8752 or book online at www.ThunderbirdTahoe.org.

2012 AUCTION ITEMS	THUNDERBIRD TAHOE WINTER ESCAPE	SIGNED, DOUBLE MAGNUM OF CLIFF LEDE WINE
THUNDERBIRD CRUISE & CASTLE DINNER FOR EIGHT	WOLFDAL'S WINE PAIRING DINNER	RED'S RANCH WEEKEND RETREAT
MINER FAMILY VIP TOUR & WINE TASTING	THUNDERBIRD WEEKEND GETAWAY	SUMMER GAZEBO WINE DAYS
JARVIS THUNDERBIRD PHOTOGRAPHY	RARE SCOTCH TASTING	DIAMOND VAULT JEWELRY

Experience the magic of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe and help save historic national treasures. Both members and non-members are invited to enjoy a unique array of fundraising events year round.

The non-profit Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society hosts these happenings in order to raise the funds needed to preserve and support the historic Thunderbird Lodge and *Thunderbird Yacht*.

Please visit our new website at www.ThunderbirdTahoe.org for the latest happenings!

Happenings



RESERVATIONS 775-832-8752
or e-mail Reservations@ThunderbirdTahoe.org

To join our members-only events,
see page 19 for membership information.

FIELDING PHOTOGRAPHY



WINEMAKER'S DINNERS

*July 8th, August 12th, September 9th, and
October 14th ~ Sundays at 5 p.m.*

Reserve an intimate evening at Thunderbird Lake Tahoe where you'll have the opportunity to meet the winemaker, enjoy a fine meal, tour a castle, and catch a sunset. This unique Lake Tahoe estate hosts the magical pairing of California's finest wines with Tahoe's celebrity chefs. Cruise aboard *Thunderbird Yacht* during our VIP Reception Cruise for a classic Thunderbird experience. Make your reservations early for all four dinners held the second Sunday of each month July through October. Limited to 90 guests, the price of each dinner is \$195 per person (\$125 of which is a charitable contribution). The VIP Reception is \$1,000 per person and is limited to 14 guests.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC & ALL THUNDERBIRD LAKE TAHOE MEMBERS.
PRIORITY RESERVATIONS GIVEN TO THUNDERBIRD CAPTAIN,
COMMODORE, ADMIRAL & CASTLE CLUB MEMBERS.

THUNDER THURSDAY RECEPTIONS

*Thursdays 5–8 p.m.
July through September*

Savor summer evenings at Lake Tahoe every Thursday at the historic Thunderbird Lodge. A dazzling array of gourmet hors d'oeuvres, and fine wine and beer will be served while you bask in a summer sunset from the Gazebo or Old Lodge Terrace. Thunder Thursday is the perfect time to show off the Thunderbird estate to your friends, or to see and be seen before dining along Lake Tahoe's North Shore.

BY INVITATION TO MEMBERS ONLY. CAPTAIN, COMMODORE, ADMIRAL & CASTLE CLUB MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS.



CIPRIAN PHOTOGRAPHY



THUNDER DE MAYO CELEBRATION

Thursday, May 3rd, 5–8 p.m.

Fiesta at Thunderbird Lake Tahoe! Margaritas, mariachi music, and your favorite South-of-the-Border hors d'oeuvres spice up this celebration of Mexico's heritage. Kick off the summer with your compadres where the views are priceless. Tours are offered and sombreros are optional.

BY INVITATION TO MEMBERS ONLY. CAPTAIN, COMMODORE, ADMIRAL & CASTLE CLUB MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS.



SECRETS OF THE CASTLE TOUR & LECTURE

Saturday, May 19th, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

In celebration of National Historic Preservation Month, Thunderbird Lake Tahoe will partner with Nevada's State Historic Preservation Office to present two special curator's tours and lectures at Thunderbird Lodge. You'll get the scoop on the inner workings of Lake Tahoe's Thunderbird Lodge, Nevada's only historic house museum estate at Lake Tahoe. Light snacks and beverages will be served. First tour and lecture begins at 10 a.m., the second at 2 p.m. Each will last approximately two hours. Tickets are \$45 per person and this program is appropriate for children age 12 and older.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC & ALL THUNDERBIRD LAKE TAHOE MEMBERS.

INDEPENDENCE DAY BBQ

Wednesday, July 4th, 3–7 p.m.

Celebrate America's Birthday at historic Thunderbird Lake Tahoe. This is a home-style 4th of July BBQ picnic. Bring your own adult beverages and favorite meat or veggies to throw on our grill, and we'll supply the sides, fixins', desserts, music, and beautiful Lake Tahoe views.

BY INVITATION TO MEMBERS ONLY. COMMODORE, ADMIRAL & CASTLE CLUB MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS.



CHAIRMAN'S RECEPTION

Thursday, September 6th, 5–8 p.m.

Thunderbird Governing Board Chair, Joan Gibb, hosts an intimate evening at Thunderbird Lodge to thank you for supporting the charitable programs of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe. There will be a brief program accompanied by a selection of fine wine, beer, and gourmet hors d'oeuvres.

BY INVITATION TO MEMBERS ONLY. EAST SHORE, LIGHTHOUSE, CAPTAIN, COMMODORE, ADMIRAL AND CASTLE CONTRIBUTORS AND INVITED GUESTS.



Reservations are required for all happenings and events.

For reservations, please call 775-832-8752 or e-mail Reservations@ThunderbirdTahoe.org. Unless otherwise indicated, attendees must be at least 21 years of age.

Weddings

MAKING MAGICAL MEMORIES
AT THUNDERBIRD LAKE TAHOE

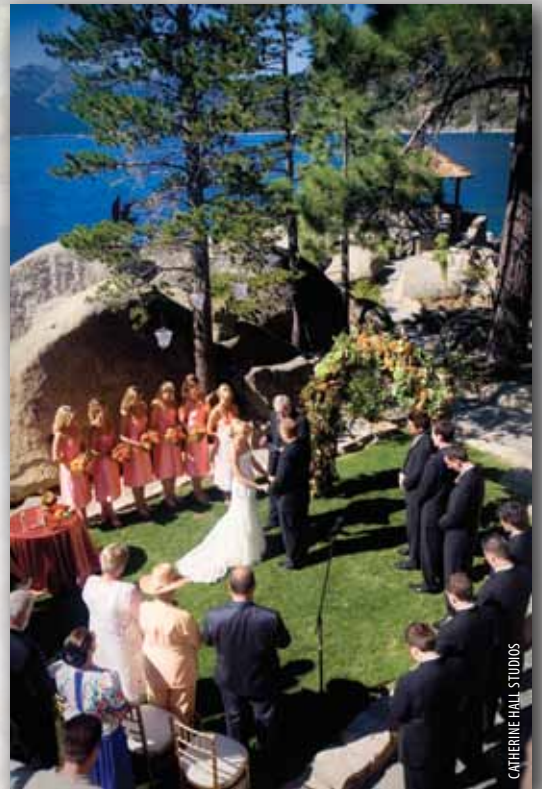
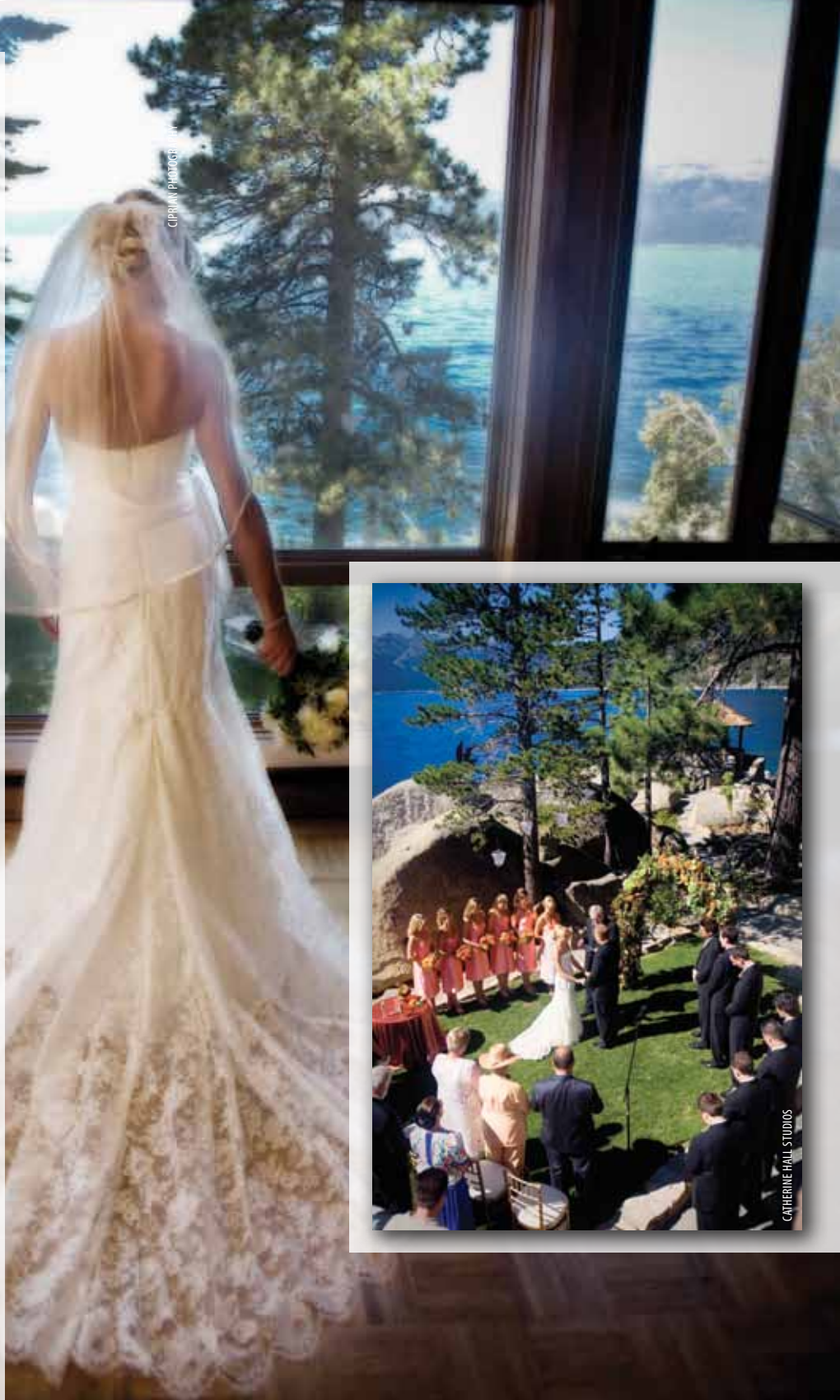
If you are looking for an extraordinary place to celebrate your wedding ceremony, reception, or rehearsal dinner, there is no place more unique than Lake Tahoe's Thunderbird Lodge. This 1936 Tudor-revival style estate provides stunning views of the Sierra Nevada mountains from every room. With sweeping lakeside lawns and terraces, and the roar of the *Thunderbird Yacht*, there is nothing more enchanting than this historic venue.

Thunderbird Lodge is a place where history meets mystery, and the allure of Captain Whittell's legacy increases with each turn of the 600-foot underground tunnel. Your guests will step back in time and be captivated during a docent-led tour through the impeccably manicured buildings and grounds that once belonged to one man. Charming stone pathways lead you back to the lakeside lawn reception to dance the night away.

Hosting only six to eight weddings each year allows Thunderbird to be a venue for those who are interested in an exclusive and distinctive celebration. Imagine watching the sunset on the Sierras among family and friends while toasting to a new chapter in your life.

A Thunderbird wedding is not only an event, it is an experience unlike any other. It's the setting for making magical memories on your special day while contributing to preserving the legacy for future generations to enjoy.

For more information about weddings at Thunderbird Lodge, please visit our website at www.ThunderbirdTahoe.org or call 775-832-8752.



CORPORATE EVENTS

Thunderbird Lake Tahoe is for companies who are ready for a new experience. If you seek to impress a client, host an incentive activity for your top achievers, stage an unforgettable party, or hold your next business meeting, Thunderbird Lake Tahoe is certain to impress.

With space to accommodate small meetings to big affairs, Thunderbird Lake Tahoe is the perfect outing. Thunderbird offers experiences to fit all budgets. Our tours start at \$39 and are a unique spousal activity. For the ultimate Thunderbird experience, executive groups can indulge in a castle tour, step aboard the world famous *Thunderbird Yacht* for a cruise, and finish with an unforgettable dinner in our Old Lodge.

Make your next event your best event and leave your guests with a lasting impression that sets you apart from the rest.

VANCE FOX



CIPRIAN PHOTOGRAPHY



THUNDERBIRD *Gourmet*

*....a connoisseur of
France's finest foods
with all its embellishments.*



FIELDING PHOTOGRAPHY



Thunderbird Lake Tahoe is pleased to introduce Chef Anne Wiles. In the elegant style of Captain George Whittell—a connoisseur of France's finest foods with all its embellishments—Anne soulfully adds farm-to-table ingredients to create an artful fusion of California Bistro meets Continental Cuisine. Thunderbird Lake Tahoe programs and fundraisers will feature Chef Anne's presentations all summer long. Additionally, Chef Anne is teaching gourmet preparation of your everyday favorites in the Thunderbird Lodge kitchen. Members, please check the Happenings page at www.ThunderbirdTahoe.org for class schedules and pricing.

Anne's career started aboard Alaska's fishing trawlers before formally training at Evergreen in Sun Valley, Idaho. After relocating her family to Nevada, Anne spent years fashioning the gourmet faire of Le Ferme in Genoa and then directed the kitchen at Washoe Valley's Postal Café. Anne lives in Carson Valley with her three children.

For a contribution to the programs of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe, Chef Anne Wiles is available for in-home catering to Thunderbird Flagship Members. Please e-mail AskUs@ThunderbirdTahoe.org or call 775-832-8752 for reservations.

MEMBERSHIP



Join or Renew

Thunderbird Lake Tahoe receives no government support and is funded entirely by gifts from friends like you. We welcome contributions in any amount.



THUNDERBIRD LAKE TAHOE IS OPERATED BY THUNDERBIRD LODGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY, A 501(C)(3) PUBLIC CHARITY. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.

Your Thunderbird Lake Tahoe membership underwrites the preservation and restoration costs needed to keep Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht open to the public and sustain the Thunderbird educational and Hands on History programs. With compelling benefits and memberships starting at just \$100 per year, joining or renewing your membership annually is as enticing as ever.

In addition to the individual level benefits, Thunderbird Lake Tahoe members receive Museum Store discounts, the *Thunderbird Preservation* magazine, members-only event invitations, newsletters, and monthly e-mail bulletins. We offer membership levels for all budgets or the flexibility to make a donation at any level that is comfortable for you. Sign up today to take advantage of the members-only events this coming season.

FRIENDS LEVELS

\$100 Gatehouse
\$250 Duesenberg
\$500 East Shore
\$1,500 Lighthouse
\$2,500 Captain

FLAGSHIP LEVELS

\$5,000 Commodore
\$10,000 Admiral
\$100,000 Castle Club

Members at the Flagship Levels gain access to invitation-only dinners, Flagship events, and unique Thunderbird experiences. The Castle Club is open to individuals, families and foundations making a legacy gift of \$100,000 or more to the Society's permanent Preservation Fund.

Please join or renew your Thunderbird Lake Tahoe membership online at www.ThunderbirdTahoe.org or call 775-832-8752. Sign up today to take advantage of the members-only events this coming season!

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

Thunderbird Lake Tahoe welcomes corporate sponsorships of cash, products, or services allowing businesses to support specific preservation efforts. In appreciation for your sponsorship, you will receive defined benefits based on the level of sponsorship, a corporate spotlight on our Wall of Fame showcasing your company logo, and key membership privileges.

Corporate sponsorship level benefits include private receptions, estate dinners, yacht cruises, and special events. We invite your business to become a Thunderbird Lake Tahoe sponsor today. To discuss a corporate sponsorship e-mail AskUs@ThunderbirdTahoe.org or call 775-832-8752.

Join or Renew and WIN A 2012 CRUISE ON THE THUNDERBIRD YACHT!

Visit our new website at www.ThunderbirdTahoe.org to join, renew, or make a donation. You and three lucky guests will be entered to win a cruise on one of our 2012 Yachting Events. Yachting events include East Shore cocktail cruises, morning cruises, and our Full Moon Cruises.

Two lucky names will be drawn from all members who join or renew their 2012 membership. All membership levels and donations of at least \$100 qualify, but the higher the level, the more drawing tickets you will receive. One ticket will be put into the drawing bin for every \$100 donated or applied to a membership level.

FOR TAX PURPOSES, RAFFLE TICKETS HAVE A FAIR MARKET CASH VALUE OF \$1 EACH. OUR STAFF WILL CONTACT ALL WINNERS ON OR BEFORE JULY 1ST. DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 15, 2012. ALL ENTRIES PRIOR TO THE JUNE 15TH DATE WILL BE ELIGIBLE.



THUNDERBIRD TRIVIA

The boathouse for the *Thunderbird* Yacht
was the first steel structure on Lake Tahoe.

DEWITT JONES



*Thunderbird Lake Tahoe is
operated by Thunderbird Lodge
Preservation Society, a 501(c)(3)
public charity. Your contributions
are tax deductible to the extent
allowed by law.*

Gifts

LEGACY GIFTS

Like many non-profit organizations, the future of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe rests with its permanent Preservation Fund, or endowment. The Preservation Fund consists of major gifts received from individual donors, businesses, family foundations, private foundations, and donor-advised funds at community foundations. The Preservation Fund's corpus—or principal balance—is never touched, only the investment income the corpus earns. This investment income is used for capital preservation projects for both the Thunderbird Lodge and *Thunderbird* Yacht.

To sustain preservation of these historic treasures, the Preservation Fund must grow to \$20 million. With thanks to the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation and individual donors, Thunderbird Lake Tahoe's Preservation Fund is at 25% of the goal.

CASTLE CLUB

Despite these difficult times, Thunderbird Lake Tahoe occasionally receives major gifts of \$100,000 or more to its Preservation Fund. These major contributors to the Preservation Fund are automatically inducted into the Thunderbird Castle Club.

And matching gift opportunities are presently available. Other donors have pledged to match \$100,000 and higher contributions to the Preservation Fund dollar-for-dollar.

There are many ways to structure a Castle Club contribution including multi-year gifts, transferring unappreciated stocks or securities, gifting an I.R.A. distribution, establishing a matching gift campaign, granting funds from a family foundation or donor-advised fund, or making a bequest from your estate.

MAKING A BEQUEST

Bequests allow you to make a meaningful gift to Thunderbird Lake Tahoe without jeopardizing your family's security. A bequest can be cash or tangible property or can be a percentage share of your estate or a specific dollar value. Your bequest can be designated for general purposes, the permanent Preservation Fund, or for a specific Thunderbird Lake Tahoe program.

Although you are not obligated to notify Thunderbird Lake Tahoe of your intended gift, doing so will allow us to appropriately thank you for your gift and keep you updated about our charitable works.

For more information about making a Legacy Gift to Thunderbird Lake Tahoe, please contact Chief Executive and Curator Bill Watson at 775-832-8755 or e-mail Watson@ThunderbirdTahoe.org.

TO DISCUSS MAKING
A CASTLE CLUB
CONTRIBUTION OR A
BEQUEST, PLEASE CONTACT
THUNDERBIRD LAKE
TAHOE'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE
TODAY.



Supporting diverse causes throughout the Reno-Tahoe communities, Castle Club members *Ranson and Norma Webster* were one of ten families to step up and match a gift by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation to save Thunderbird Lodge from the wrecking ball. Over the years, the Webster's gifts have underwritten the Preservation Society's Hands on History programs for schoolchildren, funded materials and craftsmen to restore the intricate details of the Thunderbird Lodge's wood and ironwork, and acquire desperately needed parts to keep the *Thunderbird* Yacht operational on Lake Tahoe for future generations. Ranson and Norma, we are grateful to have you in our family.



VOLUNTEERING



THUNDERBIRD TRIVIA

Thunderbird volunteers put in over 4,800 hours each summer to maintain the gardens, conduct tours, and support Thunderbird's charitable programs.



Hal and Sue Bernheisel exemplify a corps of dedicated volunteers who sustain the day-to-day activities of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe. Leading docent-guided tours, coordinating nearly 100 unpaid volunteers, tilling the gardens, and continuously maintaining the buildings and grounds, Hal and Sue have been omnipresent since 2002. Hal and Sue, we love you in so many ways for enriching our lives and sharing yours with us.

Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society's volunteers have given the gift of service since the society was formed in 1999. Largely through their efforts, George Whittell's castle is Nevada's premier historic site at Lake Tahoe.

Volunteers help with the mission of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe in a number of ways. Tour guides lead public, private, school, and event tours. Gardeners continue to maintain and expand the beautiful gardens on the property, while the maintenance team repairs, maintains, and restores the castle. Other volunteers work the museum store, assist at special events, and give a helping hand in the offices. Last season, seventy-five dedicated volunteers contributed over 4,800 hours to Thunderbird Lake Tahoe. Without their gift of service, Thunderbird Lake Tahoe would not be open to the public.

The return rate of volunteers each year is very high because they have developed a team spirit that is most satisfying. They gather for potlucks and history lessons, share stories from visitors, enjoy the beautiful grounds, and see the progress and improvements at the lodge over the years. Volunteers recently put together a Castle Cookbook, one of the best sellers in the museum store. Those with over 100 hours of service have even managed a ride on the *Thunderbird Yacht*! Never a dull moment at Thunderbird.

The growing success of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe is dependent on volunteers, so we are always on the hunt for new recruits. Anyone with a love of Lake Tahoe and its history can find a place at Thunderbird Lodge. There is not a more perfect spot to give the gift of service. Visit www.ThunderbirdTahoe.org or call 775-832-8753 for more information. The first training session for new 2012 volunteers will be May 18th at the lodge. Come join us!

THUNDERBIRD LAKE TAHOE

What's in a Name?

Perhaps you've noticed new naming conventions being used in reference to our organization. If you're wondering about these changes, here's some history.

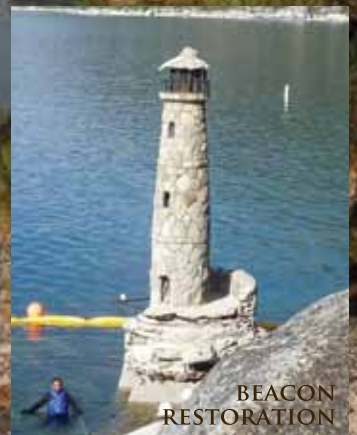
Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society is the official title in our 1999 incorporation as a Nevada non-profit, tax exempt, public 501(c)(3) charity. The Society was formed to protect and preserve the George Whittell, Jr. estate—a group of buildings and structures collectively known as the Thunderbird Lodge, located on the east shore of Lake Tahoe.

However, the scope of our preservation efforts has widened considerably in the last few years. No longer is the focus only on the Thunderbird Lodge and estate. It now includes Whittell's legendary 55' speedboat, *Thunderbird*, along with the Donald W. Reynolds Lake Tahoe History and Culture Program, and an ever-increasing collection of Lake Tahoe and Whittell artifacts, documents, photographs, and films entrusted to the Society's museum archives.

In an effort to better describe our current organization, we're now using *Thunderbird Lake Tahoe* to encompass our various activities and overall connection to the Lake Tahoe area. Check out our new website at www.ThunderbirdTahoe.org where we'll keep you posted on our latest preservation efforts.



From the alpine Sierra Nevada to the basin-and-range of the northeast quadrant, you will find philanthropists *Dick and Charlotte McConnell* actively supporting beneficial causes throughout the Silver State. Members since 2004, the McConnells regularly appear at Thunderbird's Winemaker's Dinner series to support capital restoration projects at Thunderbird Lodge including the historic waterfalls and interior refurbishments. Dick and Charlotte, we sincerely appreciate your support of Nevada's cultural heritage.



SHOPPING THE MUSEUM STORE

WINEMAKER'S DINNERS • CASTLE SECRET TOURS • MEMBERSHIP •
BOOKS • LOGOED APPAREL • SILVER JEWELRY •
WARDROBE ACCESSORIES • PLAYING CARDS • COMMEMORATIVE COINS
• PINT GLASSES • POSTERS

The Thunderbird Lake Tahoe Museum Store offers gifts that educate, entertain, and heighten public awareness about Lake Tahoe's most unique historical and cultural treasures while raising funds to support them.

The cozy store is located in the former Jack Dreyfus master bedroom on the first floor of the Thunderbird Lodge. The store features an exclusive line of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe logoed merchandise. Whether you want to take home a memento of your visit or purchase a gift for someone special, the Museum Store offers an impressive range of merchandise. One of our top sellers, *The Castle-in-the-Sky* book, is a great keepsake showcasing the rich history surrounding George Whittell, Jr. and his magnificent estate.

We are pleased to offer products from a variety of vendors, including items handcrafted by local artists such as wooden bowls, glassware, greeting cards and jewelry, as well as prints from Lake Tahoe area photographers. In addition, we offer a variety of books, posters, bags and clothing, such as T-shirts, hats, and embroidered logo shirts. Souvenirs are plenty, from fun items like Tahoe Trivia to keepsake ornaments and coins.

The Museum Store also serves as a visitor's center featuring a large display of historic Whittell artifacts, as well as two beautiful handmade models of the *Thunderbird* Yacht.

You may now purchase Museum Store merchandise online at www.ThunderbirdTahoe.org/museum-store.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION:

WWW.THUNDERBIRDTAHOE.ORG

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In 1936, when George Whittell built his "Castle-in-the-Sky," he invited his privileged guests to experience the magic of Lake Tahoe by enjoying his picturesque stone mansion, drinking fine wines, and cruising aboard his *Thunderbird Yacht*.

Today, you can enjoy these elite experiences through public tours, private and group events, fundraisers, Castle dinners, and *Thunderbird* cruises.

For private events, cruises, and dinners, call 775-832-8752 or visit www.ThunderbirdTahoe.org.

Public tours are Tuesday through Saturday, June to October. Call 800-GO-TAHOE (800-468-2463) for public tour information.

All tours and events support the historic preservation of the Thunderbird estate and yacht.

P.O. BOX 6812
INCLINE VILLAGE, NV 89450
WWW.THUNDERBIRDTAHOE.ORG
775-832-8750

EXPERIENCE THUNDERBIRD *Lake Tahoe*

