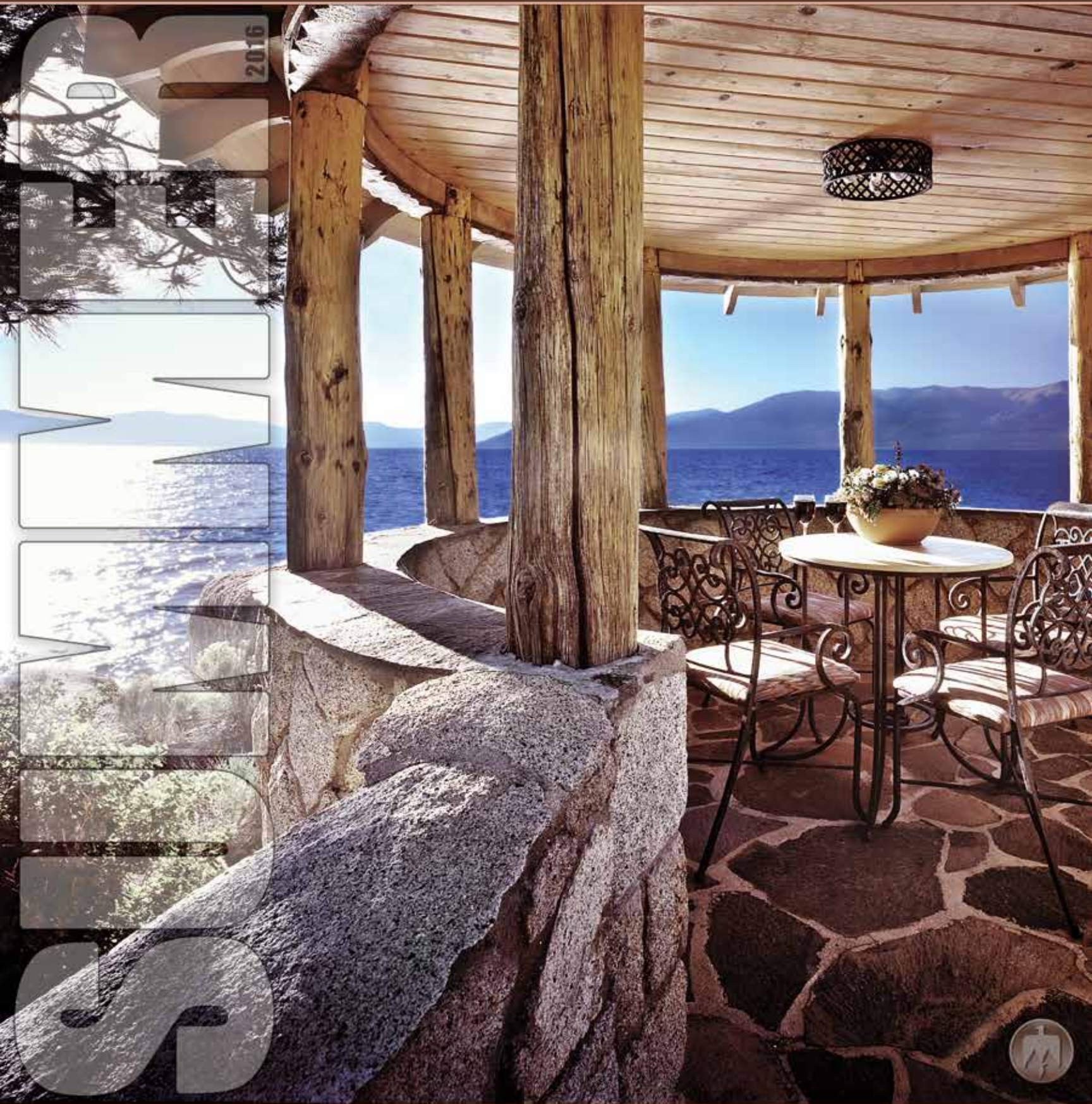


Celebrating 80 Years 1936-2016

# THUNDERBIRD

## Lake Tahoe



George Whittell Estate • Thunderbird Lodge • *Thunderbird* Yacht





*you're  
invited*

**DON'T MISS THIS  
EXCLUSIVE ANNUAL EVENT**

Join us for a fabulous day touring some of Lake Tahoe's most prestigious properties for sale and get a rare glimpse into the luxury Tahoe lifestyle.

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## CASTLE CLUB

---

Tony & Bonnie Addario  
Carol Franc Buck  
Rick & Mo Campo  
John & Jeanette Finney  
Foundation 36  
Buzz Gibb  
Joan Gibb  
Art & Joanne Hall  
Pulte Homes  
John & Debra Iannucci  
Pete & Jean Anne Jensen in Memory of Brett G. Jensen  
Steven Merrill  
Larry & Diane McComber  
Dean & Madylon Meiling  
Dave & Lynn Olson  
David & Weezie Reese  
Donald W. Reynolds Foundation  
Jake & Ruta Rudisill  
Pete & Darra Sturtevant  
Ranson & Norma Webster  
The Wills Family

## FLAGSHIP ADMIRALS (\$25,000)

---

Watson Family Trust  
Anonymous

## FLAGSHIP COMMODORES (\$10,000)

---

Tony & Bonnie Addario	Dean & Madylon Meiling
Gil & Jenny Amoroso	Gordon &
Paul & Alice Baker	Betty Moore Foundation
Chris & Camille Bently	Bion & Barbara Murphy
Hal & Sue Bernheisel	Dave & Lynn Olson
Nancy Binz	Stephen Page
Wally & Julie Brown	Richard & Judy Parker
Tim & Denise Cashman	Bob & Eleanor Preger
Chase International	David & Weezie Reese
Terry & Carol Clapham	Craig & Julie Rauchle
Bob & Barbara Ditmore	Rob Rodriguez &
Steve & Katharine Elek	Suzanne Boyer
Buzz Gibb	Phil & Jennifer Satre
Joan Gibb	Rod & Laurie Shepard
David & Jan Hardie	Fred & Maria Smith
Steven & Sandy Hardie	Richard & Sue Stout
Doug & Debra Highsmith	Pete & Darra Sturtevant
Dan & Dolores Holets	Jim & Denise Taylor
Mike & Denise Hurst	Terry Underwood &
David & Darcie Kent	Shirley Degenkolb
Bob Lee &	Ranson & Norma Webster
Anne Brockinton Lee	Bill Yundt
Bob & LaRue Maddox	Anonymous
Bill & Carol Meehleis	

## FLAGSHIP CAPTAINS (\$5,000)

---

Ron & Maureen Ashley  
David & Sandi Braddock  
Ellen & Andy Dauscher  
Shai & Elyse Gut  
Matthew & Jessica Nordby  
Gunnar Thordarson

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2016



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# WELCOME TO THE 2016 SUMMER SEASON!

Our usual “downtime” this past winter was non-existent. We worked, planned, hired and set strategy for the next phase of growth. After 10 successful years of saving, renovating, and improving Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht, we are now squarely focused on solidifying the mission with programs crafted to influence Lake Tahoe and the world.

We all agree Thunderbird is extraordinarily special and, as such, it is important to have a *raison d'être*. Our immediate focus is: (1) to collect, protect, and share Lake Tahoe’s rich art and history, and (2) to utilize the estate for the purposes of learning by giving children, innovators, artists, and visionaries a place to share, collaborate, and create. With these objectives in mind, we are expanding our role as the repository for Lake Tahoe’s rich heritage.


Our Castle Club and Flagship members have been instrumental in bringing us to this point in our success. We are both humbled by and appreciate everyone who has contributed, believed, and asked to help in any way to make our progress possible. We will demonstrate our gratitude by continuing to bring you great programs, wonderful events, and—most importantly—measurable achievements. Together, we will continue to preserve Lake Tahoe’s cultural resources.

We would be remiss in closing out this letter without thanking everyone who worked whole-heartedly in every capacity on *Thunderbird* yacht this past year. It was truly a feat. Like layers of an onion, with every peel there was yet another adventure. Add to it the pressure, excitement, and expectation for the drought to end and the girl (with rebuilt engines and a new bottom) to operate once again.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of groundbreaking for Thunderbird Lodge. Happy birthday to this old house and here’s to the best summer yet.



Pete Sturtevant  
Chairman  
Governing Board



Bill Watson  
Chief Executive & Curator

## GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

---

Peter Sturtevant – Chairman  
Tony Addario – Vice Chairman  
Steve Russell – Treasurer  
Michael Fischer – Secretary

Anne Brockinton Lee  
Susan Lowe  
David Olson

## LIFETIME DIRECTORS

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Bonnie Addario  
Joan Gibb

## TEAM

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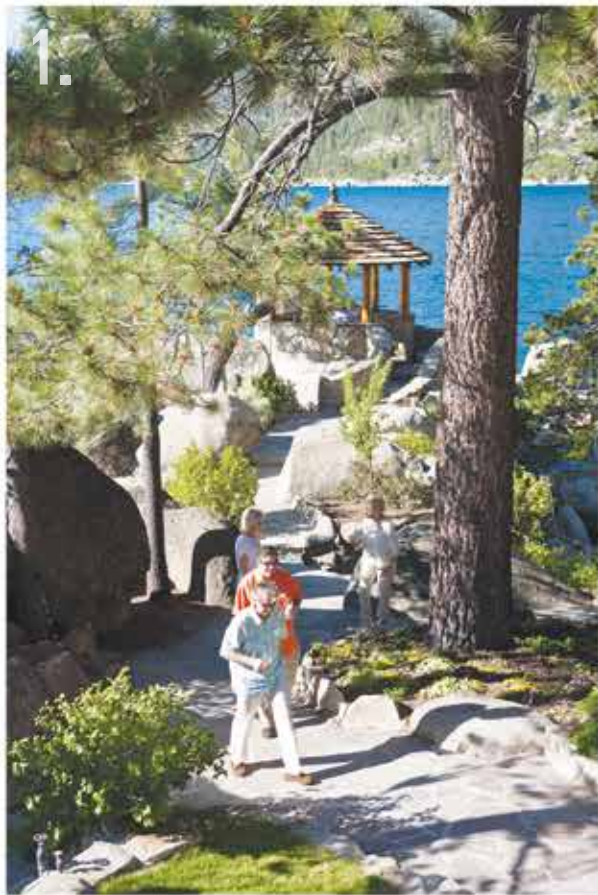
Bill Watson – Chief Executive & Curator

Sue Bernheisel  
Brad Carter  
Hannah Duewel  
John Malagon  
Dennis Maloney  
Shana Sawyer  
Mindy Shaw  
Jan Vandermade

Shireen Piramoon – Editor  
Steven Andersen – Designer

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# THUNDERBIRD HIGHLIGHTS

## 1. ALL NEW WINE AND GARDEN TOURS

Offered each Wednesday from July 13th through September 7th. Following a docent-led tour of Thunderbird Lodge with its underground tunnels, spend more time exploring the grounds, sipping California wines, and tasting artisan cheeses. Learn the secrets of master gardeners and the many volunteers who care for the historic estate and gardens. These tours compliment the ever-popular Friday Wine and Cheese tours. Call 1-800-GO-TAHOE for reservations. \$100 per ticket, adults only.

## 2. GIVING BACK

The 1873 reverse-siphon water system still supplies Marlette Lake water to Virginia City. "Flume tenders" lived along the 20+ mile route. The last remaining tender's home is Red House, in the mountains above Thunderbird Lodge. Having decayed almost beyond repair, Thunderbird granted \$5,000 to Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park conservators to stabilize Red House until the State can obtain funds for a full restoration.

## 3. WITH GRATITUDE

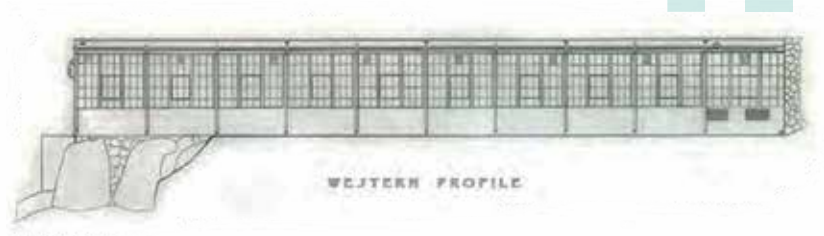
Thunderbird wrapped its season with 80 cherished supporters and holiday cheer. The weather was to be questionable, but clouds parted to make a beautiful evening of fine wine, tasty bites, and recently discovered films of Lake Tahoe's bygone days.

## 4. PARASOL TAHOE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

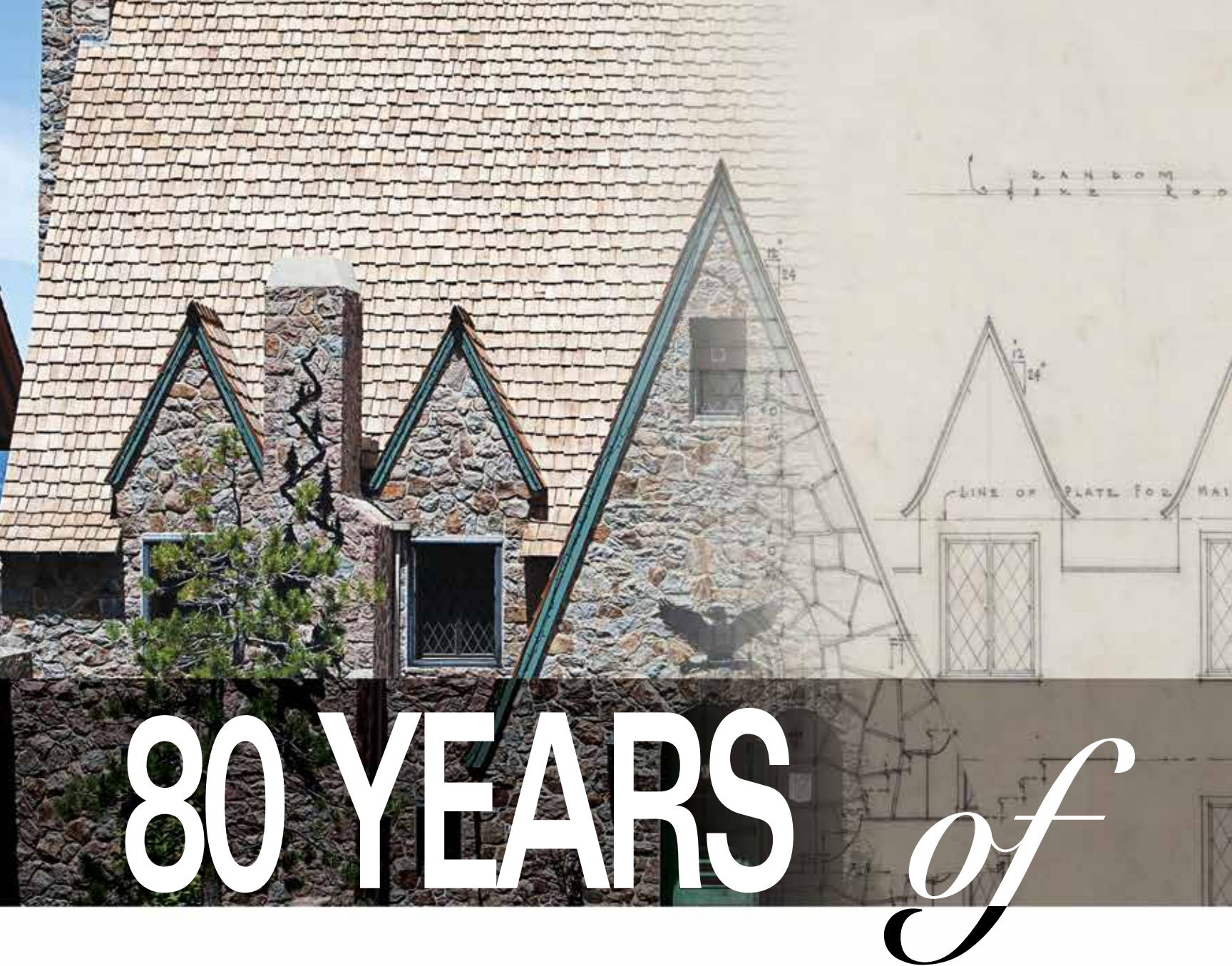
Thunderbird Lake Tahoe has partnered with Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation to oversee Thunderbird's permanent Preservation Fund endowment, develop programs to benefit the communities of the greater Lake Tahoe area, and collaborate on a wide range of substantive issues. Thunderbird encourages families to establish their donor-advised funds at Parasol where the multiplier effect results in superior returns, reduced administrative fees, and philanthropy directed at regional endeavors you can measure including Thunderbird's art, history, and environmental programs.

## 5. GRANT AWARDED, BOATHOUSE STABILIZED

Constructed in 1940, Whittell's boathouse was crumbling. Wind and wave action, along with receding lake levels, eroded passages in the concrete sidewalls allowing sand and silt to penetrate the boat well. With monies received from the State of Nevada's Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation (CCCHP), the Thunderbird team undertook emergency action to stem the infiltration and stabilize the boathouse. Thunderbird thanks CCCHP which has helped rescue dozens of Nevada heritage sites.







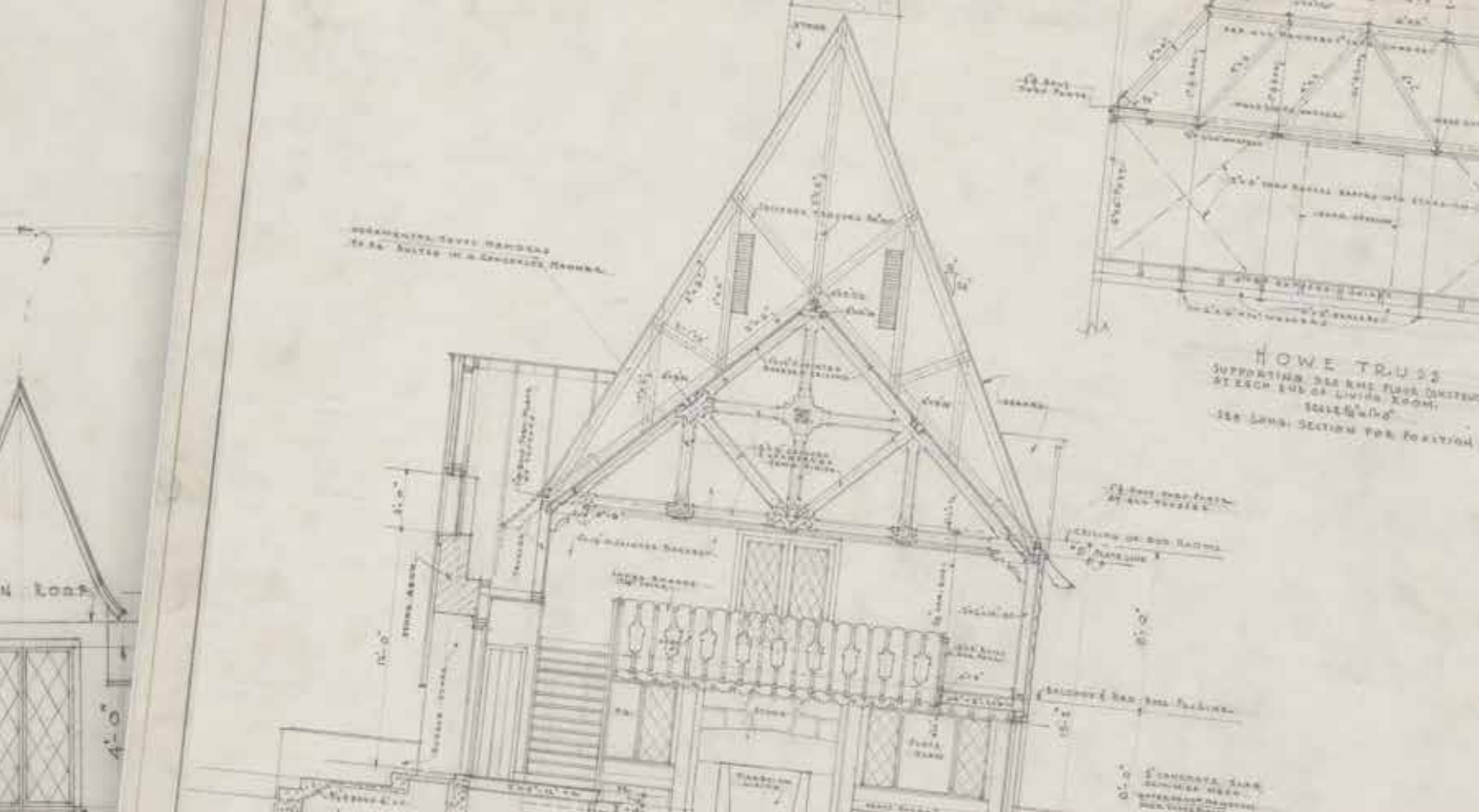
# 80 YEARS *of*

John D. Rockefeller once said, “The way to make money is when blood is running through the streets.” Few had the intuition or insight to take advantage of the times. When most of the United States was suffering the long Great Depression, Captain George Whittell Jr. had the foresight to cash out ... and he was living very, very well. The ‘30s marked his buying spree of planes, cars, and mostly property. He fell in love with the Lake-in-the-Sky, and, if only just another conquest at the start, we now know he had a change-of-heart which culminated in his conservation of nearly all of Lake Tahoe’s east shore.

What is said of Whittell’s vision is very different than the open space we enjoy today. Thankfully, casinos, ski lodges, businesses and buildings never came to pass. Instead, plans were drawn up for the Thunderbird Lodge and

outbuildings. They stand as the only edifices Whittell ever built on his vast holdings.

We may never know why Whittell set aside more expansive development but, between America’s economic troubles, an insatiable desire to control his own land, and seemingly never-ending family problems, an intimately private estate might have been the answer to all that ailed him. When construction began on Thunderbird Lodge in 1936, Whittell was coming into his money due to the death of his mother and divesting family businesses. With those fortunes, he bought Tahoe land and more Tahoe land. As he and his partners drew up blueprints for casinos and subdivisions, Whittell quietly retained Nevada’s former state architect, Frederic DeLongchamps, to create a retreat away from the bustle of his then tumultuous life.



# THUNDERBIRD PRESERVATION

By this time, Lake Tahoe had long been a destination for San Francisco's elite. They holidayed to partake in what we now call "rustification." Rusticators returned to what they saw as simpler times — living in nature in log cabins and cooking food over a fire (with a French chef, of course). It was turn of the last century escapism. While this tradition started in the early 1900s, Whittell arguably exemplified it in his subsequent creation of Thunderbird Lodge.

Tudor Revival was an extremely popular building style in the 1920s and '30s. At Thunderbird Lodge, Tudor Revival influences are apparent in the steeply pitched gables, use of stone, large rounded-top front door, and multi-pane casement windows. However, once we step inside, we are transported to an interior that is more reminiscent of a Swiss chalet. Elia

spent many winters enjoying her time on the Alps, and perhaps her love of the area called for this juxtaposition of interior and exterior designs.

Architecturally speaking, Thunderbird Lodge is remarkably different from Whittell's traditional home at Woodside, California. It is easy to speculate that Elia either had a large role in the Tahoe design or Whittell had her in mind when he chose his themes.

80 years later, Thunderbird Lodge remains representative of the well-heeled who came to Lake Tahoe yearning for a more rustic lifestyle, while still maintaining the sense of luxury they were accustomed to. While many area homes and businesses were built in this manner, few survived, and even fewer exemplify this culturally and locally specific idea of rustification as does Thunderbird Lodge.



# 80 YEARS *of* LAKE TAHOE WATER

Melting snow becomes the spring and summer runoff that fills the region's reservoirs and recharges groundwater wells. As the levels of snowpack vary from year to year, so does the health of our water supply. Drought can result in Lake Tahoe dipping below the rim so that water no longer flows over the outlet dam at Tahoe City into the Truckee River. These natural fluctuations can be seen in historic photographs from over the past 80 years at Thunderbird Lodge.

## HIGHEST RELEASE YEAR

1983 marked the highest release year (highest annual mean) on record. An average of 1150 cubic feet per second.

1940

1950

1960

1970

Annual High

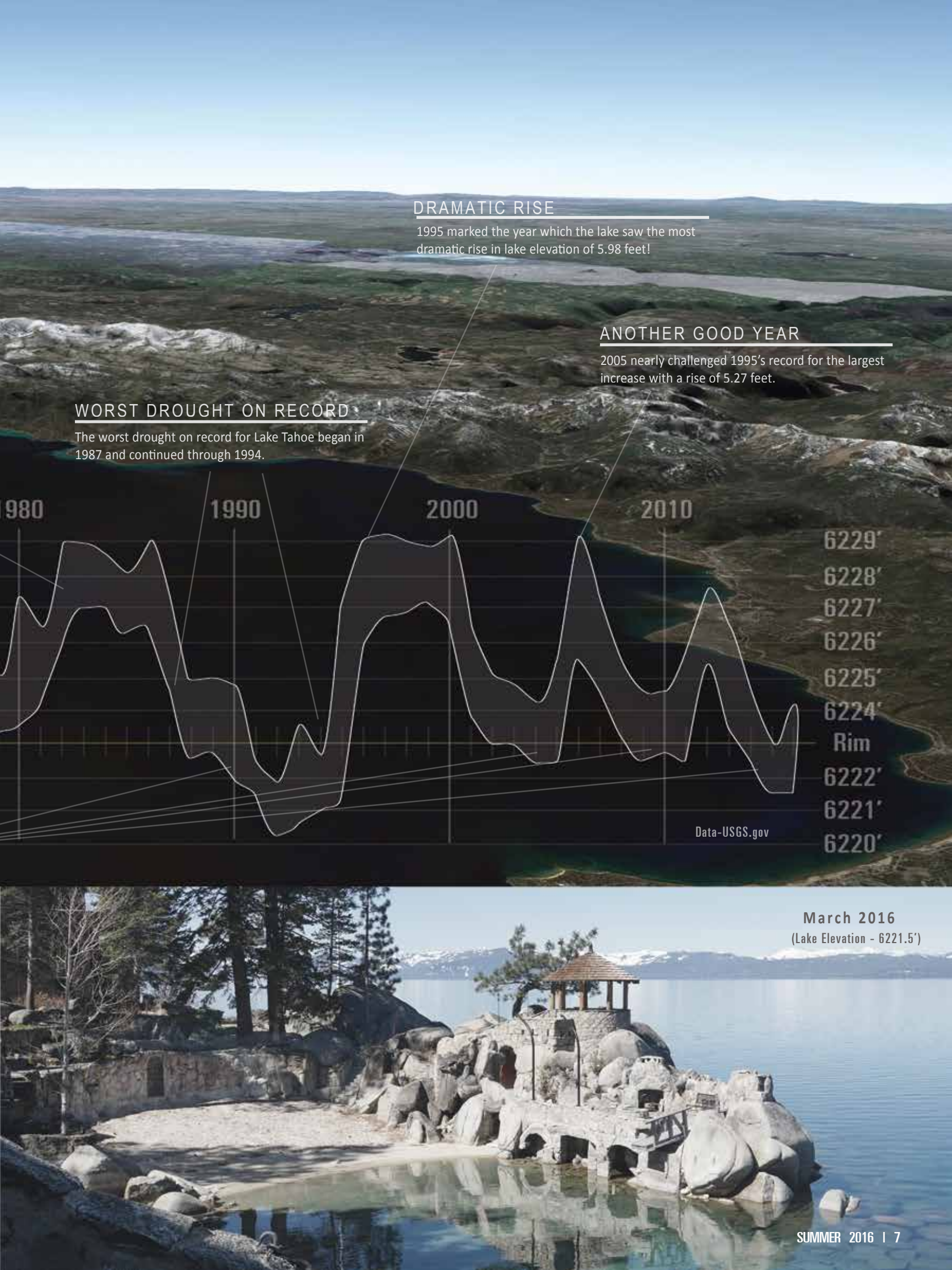
Annual Low

## DROPPING BELOW THE RIM

Lake Tahoe has dipped beneath the rim of the dam several times over the past 80 years.

July 1941  
(Lake Elevation - 6228.5')





**DRAMATIC RISE**

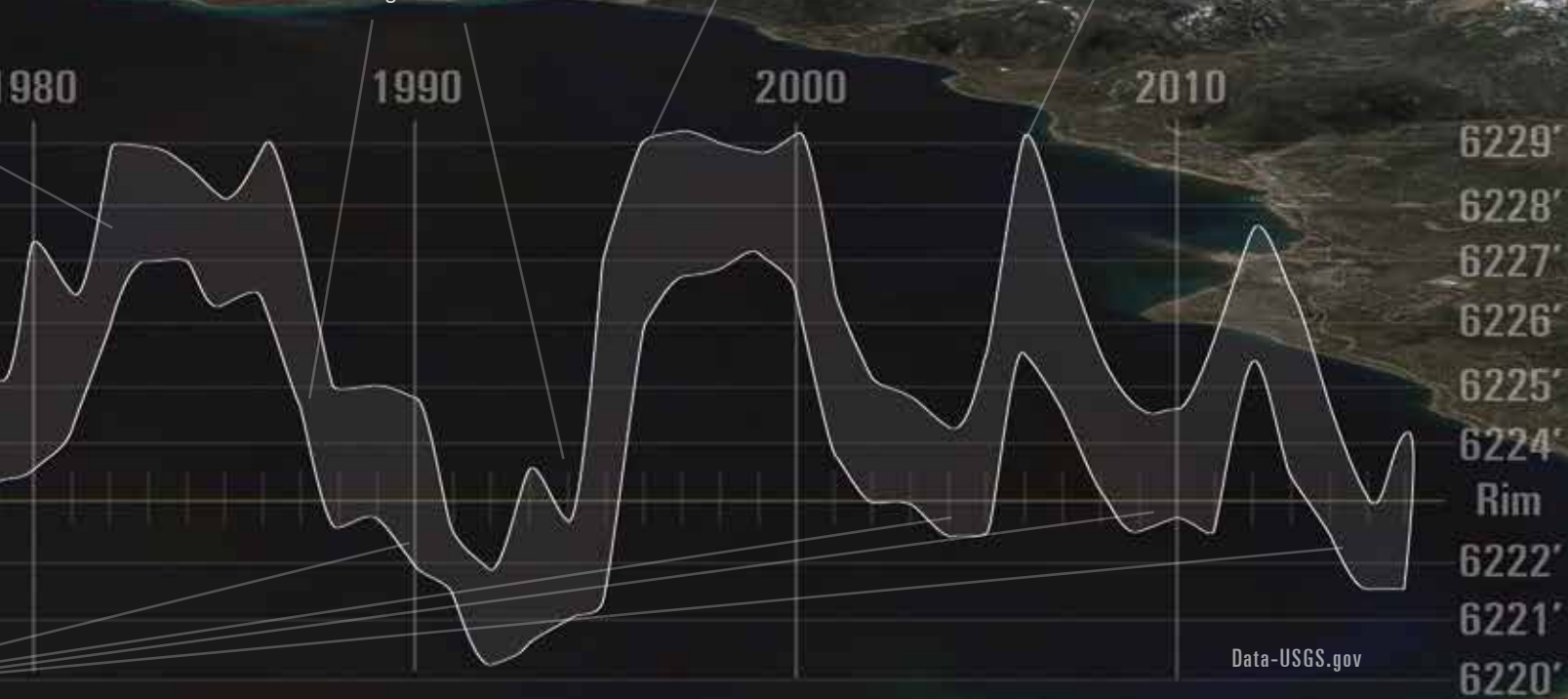
1995 marked the year which the lake saw the most dramatic rise in lake elevation of 5.98 feet!

**ANOTHER GOOD YEAR**

2005 nearly challenged 1995's record for the largest increase with a rise of 5.27 feet.

**WORST DROUGHT ON RECORD**

The worst drought on record for Lake Tahoe began in 1987 and continued through 1994.



March 2016  
(Lake Elevation - 6221.5')





# THUNDERBIRD Art • History • Environment PROGRAMS



## SPEAKERS' BUREAU

Staff and volunteers are available to groups, schools, clubs, and service organizations to speak about a wide range of Lake Tahoe art, history, and science topics.

## ART, HISTORY, AND LIFESTYLE COLLECTIONS

Thunderbird safeguards more than 20,000 items in its extensive collection of Lake Tahoe maps, paintings, photography, drawings, artwork, documents, films, and 3D artifacts. Presently campaigning for funds to become one of America's first digital museums, Thunderbird is developing the facilities and systems necessary to make its entire collection available on-line to researchers and the public at-large.





## THUNDER KIDS

---

A framework for teachers to develop and implement unique curriculums in a historic setting. In peak years, more than 2,000 students engage in Thunderbird's K-12 educational programs.

## ARTISTS-AT-THE-CASTLE

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These grants give local artisans unprecedented access to create and sell art at Nevada's only cultural heritage center at Lake Tahoe.

## FACILITY GRANTS

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During off-peak times, qualified public charities and government agencies utilize the Whittell Estate for board and staff retreats, public meetings, and program activities. Past beneficiaries include the Nevada Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation, Boys and Girls Club of North Lake Tahoe, Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation, U.C. Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center, Nevada Museum of Art, Make-a-Wish Foundation, Tahoe Maritime Museum, and many more.

Inspiring curiosity, appreciation, understanding and stewardship of Lake Tahoe's art, history and environment through preservation, education and conservation.

Thunderbird Lake Tahoe offers a multi-disciplinary array of programs and receives no government support for operations. Thunderbird is funded entirely by gifts from families, business, and foundations. Contributions in any amount are appreciated.



## HISTORIC PRESERVATION

---

Thunderbird Lake Tahoe spends more than 80% of its revenue, expertise, energy, and human capital on preservation projects, operating and maintaining Thunderbird Lodge and Thunderbird yacht, and caring for its collections. Each activity is leveraged to educate the public about preservation methods and practices: architecture, stone masonry, archiving, shipwrighting, and more. Volunteers perform much of this work supervised by paid staff and skilled craftsmen.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION TOURS

---

Guided public tours of Thunderbird Lodge are offered Tuesday – Saturday from May through October. Hosting nearly 10,000 visitors annually, volunteer docents share what we know about Lake Tahoe's art and architecture, maritime heritage, land use, conservation, the legacy of the enigmatic Captain George Whittell Jr., and more.





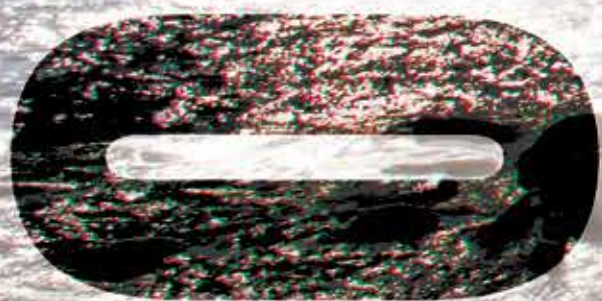
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THUNDERBIRD

## CRUISES

Licensed cruise operators offer scenic boat tours to Thunderbird Lodge.

### Cruise Tahoe from South Shore

June — October

Tuesday — Saturday

9:30am check-in Zephyr Cove (Nevada) Resort Pier.

Daily cruise includes continental breakfast and picnic lunch on the estate grounds.

For reservations call +1 775.230.8907 or book on-line at [CruiseTahoe.com](http://CruiseTahoe.com)

### Action Water Sports of Incline Village from North Shore

June — October

Thursday — Saturday

8:30am check-in Hyatt Regency beach gazebo.

Daily cruise to Thunderbird Lodge including continental breakfast.

For reservations call +1 775.831.4386 or book on-line at [AWSIncline.com](http://AWSIncline.com)

## PADDLE TOURS

For the ecologically-minded, local adventure guides offer kayak or paddle tours to Thunderbird Lodge.

### Tahoe Adventure Company

By appointment, June — October. Mornings from Nevada Sand Harbor State Park.

For reservations call +1 530.913.9212 or book on-line at [TahoeAdventureCompany.com](http://TahoeAdventureCompany.com)



## LAND TOURS

All land tours include shuttle bus transportation departing from the Incline Village and Crystal Bay Visitor's Center located at 969 Tahoe Blvd, Incline Village, Nevada. For reservations call 1-800-GO-TAHOE or book on-line at [ThunderbirdTahoe.org](http://ThunderbirdTahoe.org)

### Estate Tours

May 24th — October 22nd

Tuesday — Saturday

Check in 9:30am, 11:00am, 12:30pm, 2:00pm.

\$39 adults, \$19 children ages 6-12.

A 90-minute tour of the Thunderbird Lodge and grounds.

### Garden Wine Tours

July 13th — September 7th

2:00pm, Wednesdays

\$100 adults only, please no minors.

An expanded 2-hour tour including Thunderbird Lodge, grounds, and gardens, followed by wine tasting and a selection of cheeses.

### Wine and Cheese Tours

July 8th — October 14th

2:00pm, Fridays

\$100 adults only, please no minors.

An extended 2-hour tour followed by wine tasting, a selection of artisan cheeses and hors d'oeuvres.

## PRIVATE AND GROUP TOURS

Thunderbird offers private and group tours at select times. For private and group tour information, call +1 775.832.8750 or visit [ThunderbirdTahoe.org](http://ThunderbirdTahoe.org)

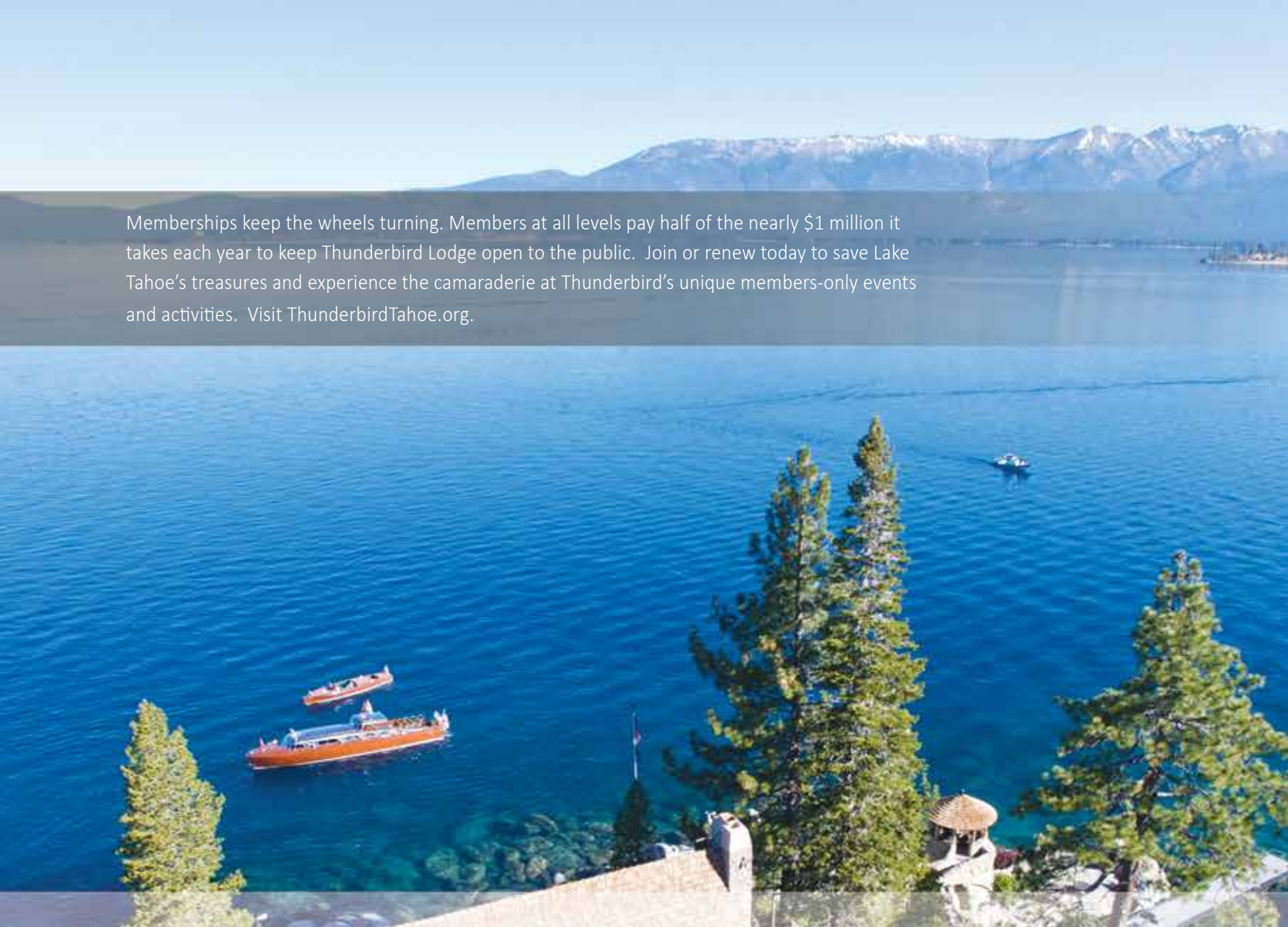
## READY TO EXPLORE HISTORIC LAKE TAHOE?

Docent-guided tours reveal the mystery and legacy of George Whittell Jr., the tycoon who purchased and protected nearly 45,000 acres of Lake Tahoe's landscape. You'll discover the Lighthouse Room, Old Lodge, the servants' quarters with original kitchen, as well as the 600' underground tunnel leading to the cavernous boathouse. You might glimpse the fabulous wooden speedboat, *Thunderbird*, built for Whittell in 1939 and powered by twin Allison engines from vintage WWII fighter aircraft. Walk along the serpentine Dragon's Tail path to the enchanting Card House with its celebrated poker stories. All tours offer breathtaking views of Lake Tahoe, the nearby mountain ranges, elegant gardens, lagoons, waterfalls and fountains. Discover the magic of Thunderbird Lodge—the history, the architecture, and the men and women of Lake Tahoe's gilded age.

From May through October, public tours of Thunderbird Lodge are available by land, tour boat, and kayak. Wine tours feature Thunderbird Lake Tahoe wines by Darcie Kent Vineyards.

- 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 walking shoes are required and a warm jacket is recommended.
- There is no self-parking at Thunderbird Lodge.
- Tours are offered at special events throughout the season, including Thunderbird's Winemakers' Dinners.
- Private boats may not dock at Thunderbird Lodge. This privilege is reserved for Flagship and Castle Club members only.





Memberships keep the wheels turning. Members at all levels pay half of the nearly \$1 million it takes each year to keep Thunderbird Lodge open to the public. Join or renew today to save Lake Tahoe's treasures and experience the camaraderie at Thunderbird's unique members-only events and activities. Visit [ThunderbirdTahoe.org](http://ThunderbirdTahoe.org).

Your charitable gifts...

THUNDERBIRD

# MEMBERSHIP

support art, history, and the environment





## CASTLE CLUB

### \$100,000+ Lifetime Gift

A premier membership program for legacy gifts to the permanent Preservation Fund endowment. Contributors at this level are automatically inducted into the Castle Club with unprecedented access to the programs of Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht. Additionally, Castle Club contributors enjoy the privileges of members-only events and activities, including all of the offerings of the Flagship membership program.

There are many ways to structure your Castle Club contribution including multi-year gift commitments, transferring highly appreciated stocks or securities, directing mandatory I.R.A. distributions, or gifting from family foundations or donor-advised funds.

## FLAGSHIP

### \$5,000 • \$10,000 • \$25,000 Annual Gift

Elite Flagship members are covering operating expenses with annual gifts at the Captain, Commodore, and Admiral levels. A substantial matching gift is available if Thunderbird can maintain 50 families and businesses gifting \$10,000 in each of 5 consecutive years.

Flagship members share in unparalleled programs including Thunder Thursday receptions all summer long; Thunder de Mayo, Independence Day, and Thundersnow holiday parties; the Chairman's Reception; invitations to exclusive members-only winemakers' dinners; and private guided tours. Additionally, Flagship members at the Commodore and Admiral levels enjoy boat docking privileges during events and may partake in periodic, scheduled cruises aboard *Thunderbird* yacht.

## FRIENDS

### \$100 – \$2,500 Annual Gift

Whether the child who gives from her piggy bank, the family making an annual gift matched by an employer, or the retired schoolteacher, Friends are the bedrock of Thunderbird and provide critical support for programs.

Friends receive a variety of benefits tailored to the giving level including complimentary tour passes, invitations to attend certain events, and discounts on merchandise at the Thunderbird Museum Store.

Membership levels and privileges are subject to change at any time without notice. Membership subject to Thunderbird Lake Tahoe rules, terms, and conditions.



# MEMBERS' HAPPENINGS

BECOME A FLAGSHIP OR CASTLE CLUB MEMBER OF THUNDERBIRD LAKE TAHOE AND EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF THUNDERBIRD LODGE AND YACHT AT THESE MEMBERS-ONLY EVENTS.

See the Winemakers' Dinner Series pages for exclusive members-only wine dinners!

## THUNDER THURSDAY RECEPTIONS

Savor summer evenings at Lake Tahoe every Thursday at the historic Thunderbird Lodge. A dazzling array of gourmet hors d'oeuvres, fine wine, and beer will be served while you bask in a summer sunset from the gazebo or Old Lodge terrace. We've invited a variety of artists, entertainers, and winemakers to make each week a unique experience. Thunder Thursday is the perfect time to show off the George Whittell Estate to your friends, or to see and be seen before dining on Lake Tahoe's North Shore.



FLAGSHIP AND CASTLE CLUB MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS ONLY

**THURSDAYS**  
JULY 7 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2016  
5-7 PM

## THUNDER DE MAYO CELEBRATION



AT

LAKE TAHOE!

Fiesta at Thunderbird Lodge!

Margaritas, Mariachi music, and your south-of-the-border favorites will 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.

EAST SHORE, LIGHTHOUSE, LAKESIDE, FLAGSHIP AND CASTLE CLUB MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS

**THURSDAY**  
MAY 5TH, 2016  
5-7 PM



## CHAIRMAN'S RECEPTION

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2016, 5-7 PM**

Thunderbird Governing Board Chair, Pete Sturtevant, hosts an intimate evening at Thunderbird Lodge to thank you for your support. There will be a brief program accompanied by a selection of fine wine, beer, and appetizers.

LAKESIDE, FLAGSHIP AND CASTLE CLUB MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS ONLY



# CELEBRATE AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY



**MONDAY**  
JULY 4TH, 2016,  
2–6 PM

Celebrate America's birthday at historic Thunderbird Lodge. This is a home-style 4th of July cookout for the entire family. Bring your own adult beverages and a favorite side dish to share. We'll grill up some Bently Ranch beef and supply fixins', desserts, music, and an incomparable lakeside setting.

FLAGSHIP COMMODORES, FLAGSHIP ADMIRALS, CASTLE CLUB AND INVITED GUESTS ONLY

# THUNDERSNOW



**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, 2016**  
5–7 PM

It's our favorite time of the year when we invite our members to ring in the holiday season. A decorative end to the season is toasted with special wines from the Thunderbird cellars paired with festive cuisine.

LAKESIDE, FLAGSHIP, CASTLE CLUB AND INVITED GUESTS

# HOLIDAY PARTY



These happenings afford members the opportunity to bring like-minded family and friends to support the charitable and educational programs of the non-profit Thunderbird Lake Tahoe including saving Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht.

Reservations are required for all member happenings and events.

Unless otherwise indicated, attendees must be at least 21 years of age.

**RESERVATIONS 775.832.8750**  
OR EMAIL: [RESERVATIONS@THUNDERBIRDTAHOE.ORG](mailto:RESERVATIONS@THUNDERBIRDTAHOE.ORG)



# 2016 WINEMAKERS' DINNER SERIES

To Benefit the Programs of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe

The highlight of Lake Tahoe's summer season, these elegant affairs pair renowned chefs and vintners to create the most memorable occasions. These popular fundraisers offer a unique composition of wine, cuisine, castle tours, glorious grounds, panoramic sunsets, and unparalleled auction and raffle items. Each event sells out. Make your reservations early!

JOIN  
US  
FOR

# SUMMER

## MEMBERS-ONLY DINNERS

OPEN TO LAKESIDE, FLAGSHIP, & CASTLE  
CLUB MEMBERS & GUESTS ONLY

**Saturday, June 18th 5PM**

**Wolfdale's Cuisine Unique and Palmaz Winery**

Celebrated chef Douglas Dale will pair inimitable cuisine with selections from the Palmaz family's 18-story subterranean gravity-flow cellar on the rocky flank of Mount George.

Members-only winemakers' dinner tickets are priced at \$250 per person per event (\$150 is a charitable contribution).

**Saturday, September 17th 5PM**

**Hyatt Lone Eagle Grille and Rombauer Vineyards**

Autumn harvest brings Chef de Cuisine Shane Hammett for a Lone Eagle redux together with the unrivaled K.R. Rombauer and selections from his family's Rombauer Vineyards. At this event, members may upgrade to enjoy a pre-event VIP cruise aboard *Thunderbird* yacht.

Members-only winemakers' dinner tickets are priced at \$250 per person per event (\$150 is a charitable contribution). All-inclusive event including VIP Thunderbird yacht cruise and dinner is \$1,000 (\$750 charitable). Shuttle transportation is provided to and from Incline Village.

**For Reservations**

+1 775.832.8750

ThunderbirdTahoe.org

Winemakers and Chefs Subject to Change without Notice





# FUNDRAISERS

## AT THUNDERBIRD LODGE



HEIDI HUBER PHOTOGRAPHY

### THUNDERFAIRE: GRAPE & GOURMET

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

ON THE LAKE

**Saturday, July 16th 5PM**

**Hyatt Lone Eagle Grille and Southern Wine and Spirits**

The first in a new series of outdoor lakeside wine and food festivals at Thunderbird Lodge. Hyatt Lone Eagle Chef de Cuisine, Shane Hammett, and Southern Wine and Spirits present a dazzling array of Napa's finest wines paired with savory summer fare in a garden setting. For an additional donation, enjoy a pre-event VIP cruise aboard *Thunderbird* yacht with a celebrity winemaker sharing rare library wines from the winery's estate cellar.

**Saturday, August 20th 5PM**

**Crystal Bay Club Steak House and Encore Beverage**

Rev up your Duesenberg as Crystal Bay Club Executive Chef, Evan Carsman, and Encore Beverage recreate the lawn party from the Great Gatsby. At the second of our lakeside wine and food festivals at Thunderbird Lodge, period costumes are encouraged with prizes, rewards, and good times. As before, there's a pre-event VIP cruise aboard *Thunderbird* yacht with a celebrity winemaker sharing distinctive library wines from the winery's estate cellar.

Thunderfaire tickets are priced at \$250 per person per event (\$150 is a charitable contribution). All-inclusive event including VIP *Thunderbird* yacht cruise and dinner is \$1,000 (\$750 charitable). Shuttle transportation is provided to and from Incline Village. Limited on-site parking is reserved for Thunderbird Flagship and Castle Club members.



The former home of flamboyant Captain George Whittell Jr., Thunderbird Lodge is a distinctive hideaway, fairy-tale wedding location, and an elegant off-site meeting venue. Mostly, Thunderbird Lodge is a world apart.

Whittell's historic estate was the most exclusive venue on the Lake in its iconic heyday ... and it still is today. As its buildings and grounds have been preserved at great expense, so has its spirit of celebration. Thunderbird has hosted heads-of-state, Hollywood stars, famed authors, poets, celebrated heroes and history's brightest minds. Share in the magic and help save Lake Tahoe's Castle-in-the-Sky for future generations to enjoy and appreciate.

## NEW BEGINNINGS

Thunderbird Lodge is idyllic for a distinctive Lake Tahoe wedding. Intimate and dramatic, no matter the season or climate, the stunning indoor and outdoor spaces make planning simple and the outcome unforgettable. As such, we are discerning, hosting only 4-6 gala weddings and a limited number of champagne ceremonies each year in order to protect this special place.

## CASTLE DINNERS

2-24 guests come together for an intimate lakeside luncheon or dinner at the Whittell Estate. Following hors d'oeuvres and a private tour, our Thunderbird chef will present a tailored 4-course gourmet menu sourced from local purveyors.

# THUNDERBIRD OCCASIONS?

WHAT'S  
YOUR





## ENHANCE your EXPERIENCE

The “lady of the lake”, the *Thunderbird* yacht, will soon return to grace the pristine blue Tahoe waters: up to 20 passengers may join a breathtaking cruise. Virtually all of our private guests ask our Curator for his behind-the-scenes tour including the 600-foot underground tunnel and secret loft above the Captain’s bedroom. Finally, cap your evening with an overnight stay in one of our stone cottages—rusticate in luxury at Thunderbird Lodge.



## ENCHANTED GATHERINGS

A grand reason for every season! Family gatherings, a special anniversary, a long-awaited reunion, birthdays, proposals, and more. Endless possibilities. Our regional network of professional event partners will assist you in expertly crafting each detail from start to finish.

The charitable, educational, and preservation programs of the non-profit Thunderbird Lake Tahoe are supported entirely by philanthropy. As the stewards of Lake Tahoe’s art and history, we make Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht available a select few times each year to major supporters of Thunderbird’s programs. To protect Lake Tahoe and its treasures, sponsor a special occasion or memorable event today.

Memorable Occasions and Events +1 775.832.8750 • [ThunderbirdTahoe.org](http://ThunderbirdTahoe.org)



The Preservation Fund represents a portfolio of major gifts received from individual donors, businesses, family trusts, private foundations, and donor-advised funds at community foundations. The Fund's corpus—or principal balance—is never touched and only the investment income the Fund earns is used for regular maintenance of Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht.

To sustain preservation and ensure public access for generations to come, the Preservation Fund must grow to \$20 million by 2020. We remain extremely grateful to the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation and all our individual donors who started us on this journey. The Thunderbird team is proud of its success in growing the Preservation Fund to 45% of its target goal!

# THE FUTURE OF THUNDERBIRD LODGE LAKE TAHOE RESTS WITH BUILDING A PERMANENT PRESERVATION FUND...





ERIC RUSSELL PHOTOGRAPHY

# ...THUNDERBIRD HAS A PLAN TO ACHIEVE THIS.

LEGACY  
THUNDERBIRD

## CASTLE CLUB

Despite numerous economic challenges over the past 7 years, Thunderbird Lake Tahoe is occasionally blessed with gifts of \$100,000 or more to its Preservation Fund. Major contributors at this level are automatically inducted into Thunderbird's Castle Club to enjoy unparalleled access, programs, and members-only events.

**Matching gift opportunities are presently available. Passionate donors eager to grow the Preservation Fund have pledged to match \$100,000 and higher contributions dollar for dollar.**

There are many ways to structure your Castle Club contribution including multi-year gift commitments, transferring highly appreciated stocks or securities, gifting an I.R.A. distribution, donor-advised funds, or make a bequest from your estate.

## MAKING A BEQUEST

Bequests let you 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 of your estate, or a specific dollar value. Your bequest may be designated for general purposes, the permanent Preservation Fund, or for a specific program or preservation project.

Although you are not obligated to disclose any intended gift, doing so will allow us to appropriately thank you for your generosity and update you about charitable works and progress toward achieving the Preservation Fund goals.

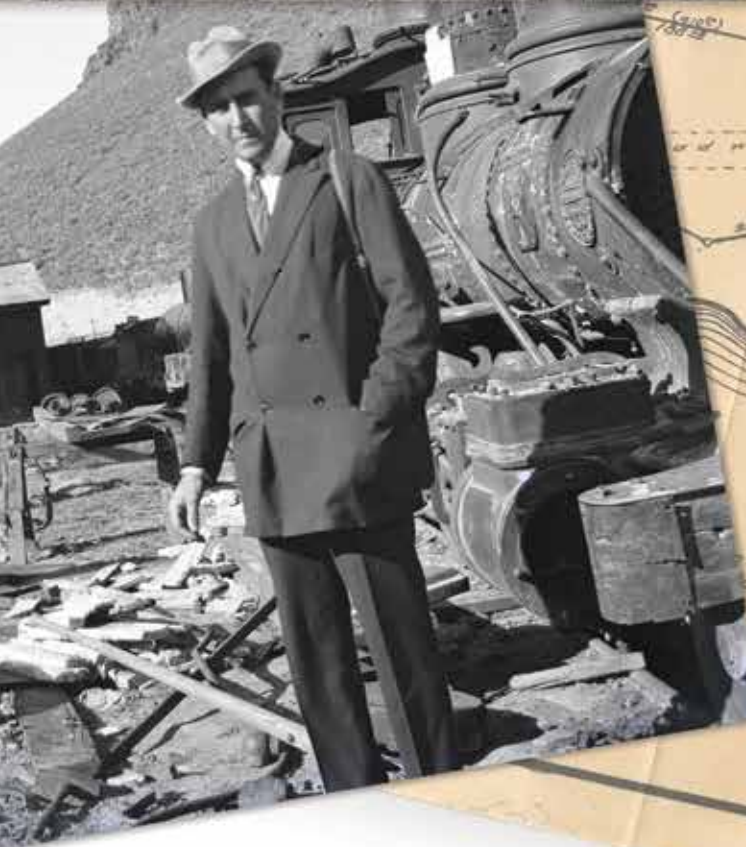
## GIFTS OF ALL KINDS

Over the years, Thunderbird has benefited from gifts of all types: including real property, highly-valued boats and cars, appreciated securities, bonds and historic artifacts consistent with the Thunderbird mission. If you wish to support our long term preservation efforts, please do not hesitate to have a conversation with us.

For more information about making a Legacy Gift to Thunderbird Lake Tahoe, please contact Chief Executive and Curator, Bill Watson, at +1 775.832.8755 or email [Watson@ThunderbirdTahoe.org](mailto:Watson@ThunderbirdTahoe.org).



# Treasures of Tahoe



## EUREKA and PALISADE RAILROAD

Auctioned to former stockholder, George Whittell Sr., who in turn dispatched his 31-year old son in 1912 to inspect the Eureka and Palisade Railroad following a disastrous flood two years earlier. Renaming it the Eureka-Nevada Railway, the dapper Jr. reorganized and revitalized the line while operating it profitably for several years before the family sold its position. Photos from a vast collection of film negatives gifted by a dear friend who wishes to remain anonymous.

(Previously unseen images from the Thunderbird Collection)



## HISTORIC PAPERS

Within Thunderbird Lake Tahoe's vaults lies an invaluable collection of Lake Tahoe maps going back to the 1870s. The material Whittell amassed includes surveys, ancestral papers, maps, inventories, and hydrologic records. Through a series of fortuitous events and gifts, many of his files have reverted to Thunderbird Lake Tahoe. If you have historic Nevada or California papers or images, like the one shown here of actor Jim Stack's estate and adjoining Crystal Bay properties, please convey them to Thunderbird Lake Tahoe where such material will remain available to researchers in perpetuity.



## HOLMES movie PROJECTOR

One of two 16mm film projectors remaining at Thunderbird Lodge. George Whittell loved watching movies and the science of filmmaking. Not content to change reels during the intermission of a long film, Whittell installed two such projectors so that his viewing would not be interrupted. The second projector disappeared years ago and we continue to plead for its return.

## FOREVER YOUNG

Concourse-quality 22' Chris Craft "Fishing Utility" boat donated by Jean Anne and Pete Jensen of Glenbrook. We'll operate this vessel if the larger *Thunderbird* yacht cannot be launched due to low lake levels. For their generosity, we are not only grateful for their gift, but count Jean Anne and Pete among the best of our Thunderbird Lake Tahoe treasures!







# THUNDERBIRD VOLUNTEERS

## OUR MOST VALUED CONTRIBUTORS

### 10,000 VISITORS

Nearly 100 volunteers come together each year to help preserve Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht and welcome over 10,000 visitors from around the world.

### SKILLED

Some trained volunteers become highly skilled tour guides, educating and entertaining our guests about the historic estate and legacy of bon vivant, George Whittell, Jr.

### PASSIONATE

These passionate people are donors, employees, long time Tahoe residents, or dedicated friends who give their time to maintain the beautiful grounds, assist with events, and help with restoration projects such as archiving, painting, stonework, yacht maintenance, and anything else that may come up around the Estate. The list is never ending!

### YOUR TURN?

Our volunteers will agree, their rewards are the friendships they form that will last a lifetime. Fireside chats and potluck dinners are just a few of the times our volunteers gather to share their passion for all things Thunderbird.

If you wish to join the Thunderbird volunteer family, please phone us at +1 775.832.8750 or visit [ThunderbirdTahoe.org/volunteering](http://ThunderbirdTahoe.org/volunteering).





Raymond Jesch and his family are captured on film at Harrah's Tahoe "South Shore Room" in 1966, waiting for a live show.



# SPOTLIGHT

## GARY JESCH – DOCENT, BOAT HAND, and WITNESS TO HISTORY

Gary Jesch is a third-generation Nevadan, whose grandmother Peg Wheat authored "Survival Arts of the Primitive Paiutes" while working as Whittell's caretaker at the Thunderbird Lodge from 1964-69.

Gary has worked as a freelance photographer, writer and computer graphics artist before pioneering a virtual reality technology. In 2014, he started a new company, Invirtua, aimed at helping autistic kids have more successful therapy sessions through live animation. Jesch graduated from University of Nevada with a degree in broadcast journalism. Gary and his wife Sue live in Carson City.

*Here is Gary's interview with Thunderbird Lake Tahoe Chief Executive & Curator, Bill Watson:*

**BW: It's common knowledge that your father skippered the Thunderbird yacht for Mr. Harrah. How did he get that dream job?**

GJ: Dad started working for Harrah's Auto Collection (HAC) in 1960. He advanced rapidly in the shop at HAC because of his skills as a mechanic. When the *Thunderbird* yacht showed up in the HAC Boat Shop in 1963, Dad used his expertise with Allison engines and boating to get onto the restoration team. By 1970, he was named Manager of HAC by Harrah himself.

**BW: What are your earliest memories of Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht? Any cool stories?**

GJ: Winter of 1963, as a 9-year-old with two younger brothers, our attention was primarily on sledding on the hill above the boathouse. We tobogganed straight down to the water's edge from the caretaker's cabin, nearly killing ourselves in the process!

**BW: Did you meet Mr. Harrah or Mr. Whittell? If so, what do you recall about the meeting?**

GJ: I recall meeting Bill Harrah at his Tahoe casino. He came over to check on my family when we went to see a live show there. Ruth Casey, Mr. Whittell's manager at the time, warned us not to disturb Mr. Whittell.

**BW: Did you ever drive the boat as a kid?**

GJ: By about 1965, Dad taught me to drive the yacht from both helms. The aft helm was tricky for a short little 12-year-old, so we kept a milk crate handy!

**BW: Later, as an adult, you joined Thunderbird Lake Tahoe as a volunteer. How did this happen and what was it like returning after all of these years? What has changed?**

GJ: I had returned to Lake Tahoe as a resident of Incline Village and over those years, I would occasionally see *Thunderbird* in Tahoe City, under the ownership of Joan and Buzz Gibb.

In 2006, after learning that the University of Nevada, Reno had handed stewardship over to the newly formed Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society, I decided to reconnect. With my dad and brothers, we returned after 37 years to take our first-ever guided tour and to produce the audio recordings for the shuttle bus.

Under the present leadership, and understanding how much work had gone into accomplishing the survival of *Thunderbird*, I decided I wanted to become a part of the community of volunteers.

**BW: What's the magic of this place and why is it worth saving?**

GJ: It's best said by quoting Mark Twain in "Roughing It." Not only did I grow up breathing "the air that angels breathe," but the spiritual power and energy of Lake Tahoe and the George Whittell Estate is something I longed to return to. A favorite memory of mine is being aboard the yacht...sun setting in a majestic splash of magenta, orange and purple, the shore and Lodge directly ahead, glowing in the same light...truly spectacular.

**BW: With your magic paintbrush, how would you paint the future of Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht?**

GJ: I'm thankful the yacht has been permanently integrated into Thunderbird Lake Tahoe's holdings where it will be kept safe for a long time to come. That said, we still need to focus on building our endowment by giving what we can and bringing in others to help support this cause. I cherish my job as docent, tour guide, and all-around volunteer. It's part of my DNA!



# a CONVERSATION with BONNIE, TONY & BILL

Chief Executive and Curator Bill Watson sat down with Castle Club, Flagship and Board members, Bonnie and Tony Addario to discuss common interests, what is important, and the strength that comes about as a result of overcoming adversity. This snapshot of their conversation about life-changing endeavors reveals all three as passionate people driven to make the world a better place.

**BW: How did you both come to learn about Thunderbird Lodge?**

**BA:** We attended a wine dinner in the early 2000s as guests of J.T. Ravizé. As a native San Franciscan, my family spent a lot of time in Tahoe, but I had never heard of Thunderbird. We fell in love and became lifetime members on the spot!

**TA:** We then received a beautiful letter and gift from then chairman, Joan Gibb. Shortly thereafter, Bonnie joined the Board.

**BW: But Bonnie, you faced a life-altering experience while on the Thunderbird Board?**

**BA:** I was diagnosed with lung cancer and couldn't serve out my term. I still wanted to help ensure Thunderbird's future, so my final vote on the Board was to bring you in, Bill, as Chief Executive, and to recommend that Tony take my seat.

**TA:** Those were difficult times. My first Board meeting was truly somber. I remember Bill led a discussion about whether or not to shut Thunderbird Lodge and revert the property for potential demolition.

**BW: That was not an easy meeting. After I retired from a career in casino gaming, former Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn asked me what I thought about Thunderbird Lodge. From what I knew, I didn't think anyone could save the place. He and Thunderbird board members Nancy Fennell and Joan Gibb cajoled me into helping out. The place was a mess. The University of Nevada had been involved, but had pulled out. The one remaining employee had turned in his resignation. The roof leaked in dozens of spots, Pulte Homes had foreclosed for failure to pay a \$10 million note, and it was doubtful the place would open to the public again. If that wasn't enough, the land was owned by the U.S. Forest Service and there were severe penalties for failing to pay the note, including the possibility of demolition.**

**BA:** But you fell in love with the place, too. You committed to 90 days and now 10 years have passed since you made it your personal mission to save Thunderbird.

**BW: Losing Thunderbird Lodge would have been a blow to the community. With the help of many good people including Greg Nelson and his team at Pulte Homes, Fred Smith and the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, our partners at the U.S. Forest Service, and families**

**like you, Pulte finally agreed to gift Thunderbird Lodge to us. Pulte made it a condition that we establish a permanent Preservation Fund endowment to care for the buildings in perpetuity. Today, that Fund has \$9 million and, with generous matching gift offers about to expire, there is considerable incentive for us to reach our \$20 million goal within the next 2-3 years.**

## BONNIE'S WISH:

“I want people to know about us before they need us.”

It doesn't discriminate – non-smokers, athletes, teens.

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For every \$27 given to breast cancer research, only \$1 is invested in lung cancer.

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BONNIE J. ADDARIO  
**LUNG CANCER**  
FOUNDATION

**BW: All the while, as Tony was helping us, Bonnie had taken on her own massive challenge.**

**TA:** Did she ever! While in remission, Bonnie founded the Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation to raise awareness, fund research, empower patients and transform lung cancer into a chronically managed disease. It's our goal to do so by 2023.

**BW: Like my cause, yours is all-consuming. How do you do it?**

**BA:** My passion for these causes drives me. Many people aren't aware this jewel at Lake Tahoe exists or how important it is to save it. Similarly, facts about lung cancer are unknown. I sit outside at Thunderbird and feel inspired by its beauty. It helps energize me in fighting to help other people. 1 out of every 3 cancer diagnoses is lung cancer. The common understanding is that it's caused by smoking. Not true! Athletes who have never smoked, kids in their teens, people in otherwise perfect health have lung cancer. Yet, we don't routinely screen for it like we do other cancers and so, tragically, the diagnosis is often made far too late.

**BW: What does the future hold for BJALCF finding a "cure"?**

**TA:** Research and reform. First is to make an accurate diagnosis. Lung cancer is misdiagnosed 85% of the time and when finally detected, patients are in the advanced stages. Improvements in detection are occurring with genetic biomarkers, through enhanced imagery, and more.

**BA:** Like Thunderbird, BJALCF must build up its permanent reserves. Investment income from Thunderbird's endowment will maintain the historic buildings and collections while BJALCF funds underwrite research, treatment, and patient programs. In the end, we both have the same needs and both endeavors are important. One is about life, and the other is about art—one can't exist without the other.



# THUNDERBIRD Yacht UPDATE

Three circumstances conspired to keep *Thunderbird* off the Lake since 2013. Although we are optimistic and accepting reservations for yacht cruises, as of this writing in mid April, we're not certain when the lake level will permit her to operate again.

## Engine Refurbishment

Following nearly simultaneous component failures, we took *Thunderbird's* twin Allison V-1710 vintage WWII aircraft engines out of service for the 2014 season. After an exhaustive bid and proposal process, we raised nearly all the necessary funds and shipped the engines to Mike Nixon and Jose Flores at Vintage V-12s in Tehachapi, California. If you ever need to repair your vintage engine, these are the guys—professional, fair, and on-schedule. We drove down in April 2015 to watch the “run in” or testing of *Thunderbird's* rebuilt power plants. Under the guidance of Dave Triano, the engines returned home to await installation in the yacht. Barring the unforeseen, we are confident these engines will serve her well for years to come.



## Bottom Replacement

By early 2015, we realized there would be insufficient snowmelt to restore Lake Tahoe to a level where *Thunderbird* could operate. (Painful, since the yacht generates \$150,000 - \$200,000 of our nearly \$1 million annual operating budget.) Making the best of a bad situation, our Yacht Advisory Board elected to use the downtime to replace *Thunderbird's* bottom. Jokes aside, a wooden boat's bottom has a lifetime of 20-30 years at best. Much of our girl's underside hadn't been replaced since her construction in 1939. Assisted by John Malagon and Dennis Maloney, Dave Triano used his expertise to find the right material for rebuilding all of the rotted structures. Additionally, the U.S. Coast Guard requires upgraded fire suppression systems and once we raise the funds, we shall replace these as well.



## Lake Level Forecast

Despite an average (or slightly below) winter, precipitation may still be too little to mitigate the effects of 5 uninterrupted years of drought that has the Lake down by 8 feet from capacity. From the low point, we need 4-5 feet for the yacht to operate from her boathouse. By some accounts, this season may only see the Lake up by 2-3 feet, at best. We are hopeful and still looking at options to operate her from an alternate location, water permitting.





# the LAST BARK

Hi everyone! It's Calliegh the Thunderdog writing my second installment of the award winning article aptly titled, "The Last Bark." Don't ask for references, I'm a dog for Pete's sake.

It's been a long winter in dog years. First, I asked for a pet elephant for the holidays, but Curator Bill was too busy to throw *yet another fundraiser* to get me a new Mingo. On top of that, I've had to work the entire season! I was supposed to go on a long vaycay, but apparently everyone was "boots on the ground" at the Castle-in-the-Sky. So Mingo-less and overworked, I ask you...is this the life for a regal beagle?

But I digress. Since I last wrote to you, there has been much going on at Thunderbird Lodge. We have some really cool new members and staff. They all like dogs, or so they say. They're a very polite bunch. I'm looking forward to getting past all the hoopla about the boat. A big birthday party, new engines, a new bottom. PUHLEEZE, SO SHE'S 75! I'm 8 and I can easily back out of the boathouse (with or without water). And...thanks to great genes, I don't even need a new bottom! I mean c'mon....just imagine the number of tennis balls one can buy for the price you pay to gas up that barge! Although, you must all agree, I look pretty good aboard.

Anyway, I look forward to seeing you all this summer. The water is rising and everyone is in a good mood. It should be a great season. *Shhhh*...please bring me cookies.

AUERBACH  
ENGINEERING CORP

## PRESERVATION PARTNER

In 2009, the small lighthouse in Thunderbird Cove had been so damaged that a large wave could have taken down the structure. Thunderbird turned to its base of preservation-minded supporters and raised the funds needed to rescue the lighthouse. After a long slog of regulatory approvals requiring maps, permits, authorizations, studies, and reviews, costs had significantly escalated. When all appeared dire, Wally Auerbach, PE, and his team stepped in to render civil engineering, survey, and mapping assistance.

As one of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe's charter Partners-in-Preservation, Auerbach Engineering consistently outperforms in every project they've undertaken at Thunderbird Lodge. Historic preservation and environmental planning often go hand-in-hand. Our friends at Auerbach excel at both. The Thunderbird lighthouse will shine brightly for years to come thanks to Wally and his crew.

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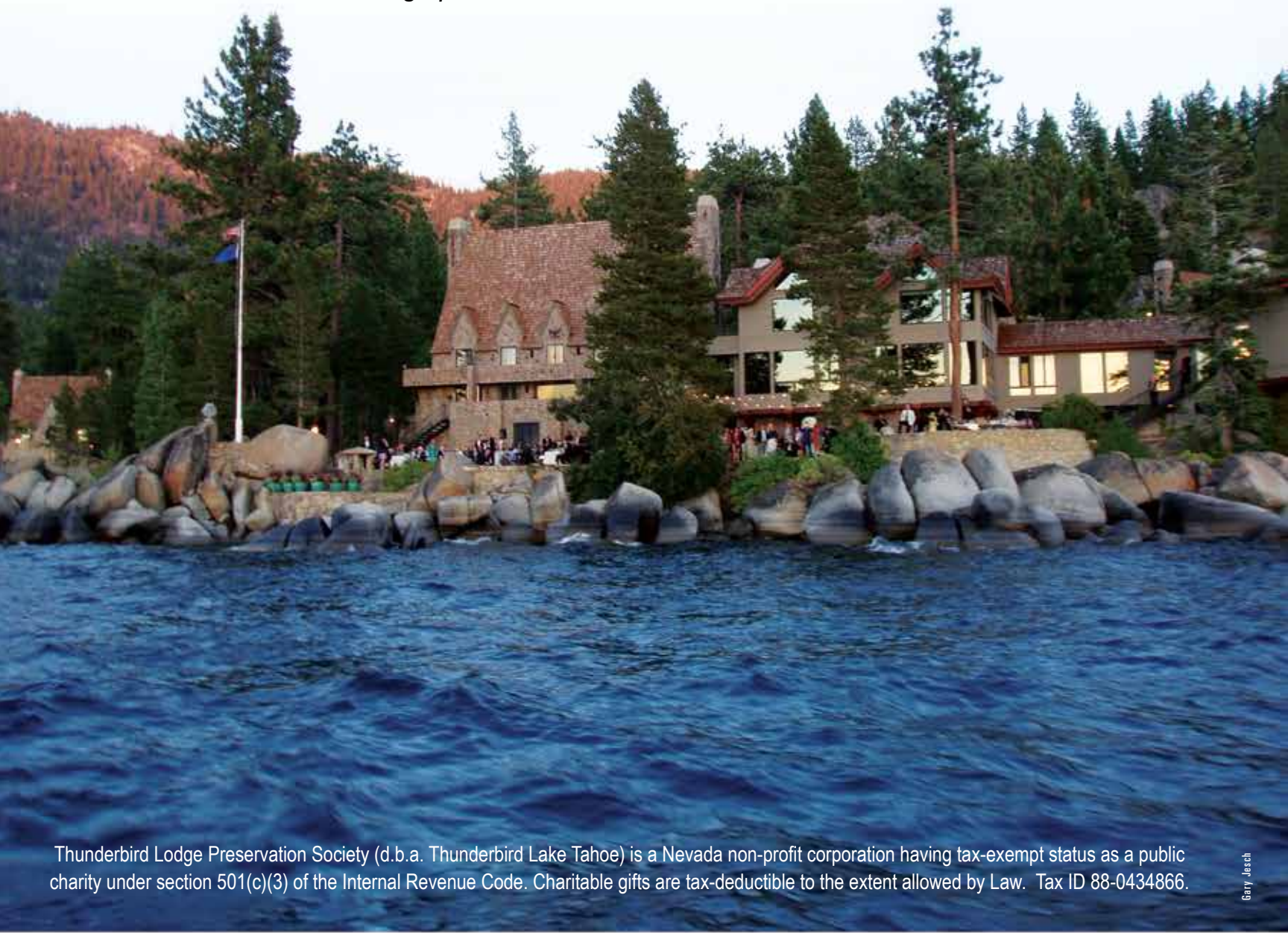


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