

28TH ANNUAL MURIE AUDUBON SOCIETY BANQUET & FUNDRAISER

Our world is not as calm as it appears. Powerful seismic sensors installed in Yellowstone National Park are detecting rhythmic wave action in Yellowstone Lake. The waves on the lake are small, but wide and displace a sizable amount of water taking a few days for the waves to dissipate. No one is quite sure what causes this phenomenon, seiche (a wave that oscillates in lakes, bays, or gulfs from a few minutes to a few hours as a result of seismic or atmospheric disturbances) at Yellowstone. Seismic events can trigger seiches. The odd thing is that the sensors are picking up seiches on the Lake even when it is iced over. The bottom of Yellowstone Lake is said to be an “otherworldly” place. Much like other areas in the park’s ancient caldera, there are steam vents, craters and evidence of lava flows on the lake’s bottom. This phenomenon has probably been going on as long as the lake has been there, only now there are sensors to detect it.



Kenneth Warren Sims, an Associate Professor of Geology at the University of Wyoming, will share his knowledge and experiences in geologic studies at high altitudes in tough terrain and cold weather, and yes, even Yellowstone Lake. He exemplifies peering over a crater ridge into a lake of fresh lava as “looking into the eye of God”.

When Sims visits a volcano he’s after two things – a whiff of ultra-fresh volcanic gas and samples of brand new lava. That means climbing into craters and getting uncomfortably close to bubbling lava lakes and noxious gases. Sims insists it’s the data he craves, not the danger. He says: “You only feel the heat when you’re very close or if the wind is blowing the lava towards you. In Hawaii, there are breakouts so you can just reach down with a hammer and scoop up a little dribble. In explosive types of volcanoes like Stromboli and Mount Erebus, it’s hard to approach the lava because there can be a big

splatter which can kill you if it hits...”

Be prepared to enjoy a “hot night in the ol’ town”! The annual MAS Banquet and Fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, February 08, 2014, at the Parkway Plaza. Cash bar and silent auction bidding begins at 5:30 p.m. Contact a Karen Anfang, Banquet chairperson, 472-0278.



