



Week of July 26 - August 1



Columbia Lily in bloom

Lindsey Brown

Special Events This Week

Ranger Programs

Free Ranger programs will be offered each day. Check the blackboard in the Visitor Center for fascinating topics and times. Candlelight tours that present a unique perspective of the caves will take place on Friday and Saturday evenings. Reservations for the adventurous off-trail tours are now being accepted.

Join Ranger Suzan Thursday night for a free evening program: "Caves of the National Park Service." Ranger Jonathan presents a program on Saturday night: "2010: A Cave Odyssey."

Chateau Programs

Entertainment at the Chateau is in full swing this week. Monday is "Artist's Adventure," featuring interviews with local artists Bob Klumpf and Kights Krafts. Classical pianist Lindsey Brown plays on Tuesday, while David Hodges brings poetry to life on Wednesday. Saturday features Ross Welcome on contemporary guitar. Visitors on Sunday afternoon can enjoy the Celtic harpist, Bob Clark. Inquire at the Chateau's front desk for the finer details of these hotel events.

Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*)

The area between the Chalet and Chateau is one of the best places to spot Steller's Jays. These striking birds have dark blue wings, tails, and bellies, and black heads, necks, and chests. They have a pointed black crest on top of their heads, which they can lift at will.

Steller's Jays are common in conifer forests, where they will place their nests as high as 90 feet in the trees. They usually lay 3-5 eggs per year. Their call is suggestive of a Red-tailed Hawk, usually described as a "shaar" or "shaack" sound. These jays eat berries, acorns, nuts, seeds, insects, and occasionally frogs and some small invertebrates. They will also beg for picnic handouts, so don't indulge them! These birds make a colorful addition to the Monument.



Steller's Jay outside the Chalet

Columbia Lily (*Lilium Columbianum*)

The open woodlands of the Monument provide habitat for the Columbia Lily, currently in bloom. Sprouting from an underground bulb year after year, this true lily features large, showy orange flowers with maroon spots. The leaves are arranged in whorls around the stem of the plant. Traditionally, indigenous people used the peppery-tasting bulbs as a food source.

Just one example of the Monument's biodiverse plant life, Columbia Lilies can be found blooming near the Chateau's lower waterfall pool or on Highway 46 between mileposts 18 and 19.

Look, but please leave the flowers for others to enjoy; picking the flowers impairs the ability of the plant to reproduce. Along with all natural objects, the Lily is protected at Oregon Caves.