Bridgeport News
South Yuba River State Park
South Yuba River Park Association

SYRPA Newsletter October 2015

COME ONE

BRIDGEPORT FALL FESTIVAL
South Yuba River State Park

SUNDAY OCTOBER 25TH 2015
11am – 4pm

Hayrides • Gold Panning • Food & Drinks • Barn Tours
Children’s Games & Crafts • Pumpkin Painting • Music
Live Birds • 1930’s Gas Station • Ghosts of Bridgeport

FREE ADMISSION—Parking $5.00

Bridgeport is located at 17660 Pleasant Valley Rd,
Penn Valley, CA  530•432•2546
http://southyubariverstatepark.org/

SAVE OUR BRIDGE
BRIDGE UPDATE

Progress is being made!

Although there is no outward appearance of work being done on the bridge, progress is being made. The assessment work to determine exactly what needs to be repaired or replaced on the bridge is complete. The engineering drawings should be 80-90% complete by the end of November this year. By December 2015 we should have a fairly accurate estimate of costs for the renovation and repair work. The Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee will be meeting again with Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) staff in December to review these findings. We will be made aware at that time of the recommended work to be done, the cost estimate and DPR’s plans to move the project forward. The Committee will let everyone know of these finding following this meeting.

With the engineering drawings near complete, the next phase of the project involves obtaining all of the necessary permits from several Local, State and Federal Agencies. Applications for the permits should begin in early 2016. We have been warned this can be a long process however we hope to move the process along faster with help from our supporters, including Local, State and Federal officials. Stay tuned for alerts on how you may be able to help encourage agencies to fast-track these permits so the actual construction work on the Bridge can begin. We look forward to the restoration and reopening of Our Bridge as soon as possible.

Doug Moon, Chair Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee
Spread the word! Help recruit new SYRPA members! Here's the information to tell your friends, neighbors and family:

* Annual Individual Membership: $20
* Annual Family Membership: $25
* Lifetime Individual Membership: $150
* Lifetime Family Membership: $200
* Annual Small Business Sponsor: $50
  (up to 5 employees)
* Annual Business Sponsor: $100

Make Checks Payable and mail to:
SYRPA
ATTN: Membership
P.O. Box 1658
Penn Valley, CA 95946
You can also pay on-line! It’s easy!
Go to the SYRPA website:
www.southyubariverstatepark.org
and click on “Become a Member”

CHECK OUT THE NEW SYRPA WEBSITE!

www.southyubariverstatepark.org

◊ New easier to navigate format.
◊ New graphics.
◊ New content
◊ Great History, Nature and Geology sections.

Also, “Like” the SYRPA facebook page and share your photos and great experiences that you have had at our beautiful park.

President’s Message

As Summer winds down, your Association has been busy. The river has seen many visitors this Summer. Although the effects of the drought are evident, we are grateful that our Parks have (so far) survived the season unscathed.

The Nevada County Fair featured the State Parks booth with a number of displays and the ever popular gold panning. The booth was coordinated by Park Aide Lori Spencer, who is to be commended for her organization and efforts. Thanks are also due to the many volunteers who staffed to booth. Volunteers from all three State Parks in western Nevada County stepped forward to serve visitors. Your Association (along with Empire Mine Park Association) purchased gold, silver and gems for the gold panning troughs. Donations received at the booth largely offset the cost.

On September 19th, the South Yuba River Citizens League organized its annual Yuba River Cleanup. 736 volunteers removed more than 12,487 pounds of trash and 1,555 pounds recyclables from 79 miles of river, creek and lake shoreline at 31 sites within the Yuba River and Bear River watersheds. The day was capped by an appreciation barbeque at Bridgeport. Kudos to SYRCL!

The next big event on our calendar is the Fall Festival at Bridgeport on Sunday, October 25th. The Fall Festival provides an opportunity for the public, especially families, to experience Bridgeport and enjoy the entertainment, activities, displays and food that will be there. A Committee has been formed to plan the event. It is a full team effort that needs many volunteers. Please be willing to join the team. Please respond to the email request for volunteers for the Fall Festival or contact any board member if you would like to volunteer.

Please remember that your Association relies strictly on volunteers and the generosity of its members. The Association in turn supports the interpretive and educational efforts of our State Parks. I encourage all members and volunteers to share their interest in the South Yuba River State Park and Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park and encourage people to join our Associations and to become a State Park volunteer. Those interested in volunteer opportunities should contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Ranger Marc Wetherbee at marc.wetherbee@parks.ca.gov

Lastly, our traditional holiday potluck dinner is scheduled for Thursday, December 3rd at the Lake Wildwood Community Center. Mark your calendar!

Please take advantage of the Fall weather and visit our Parks.

Robert Coats
Volunteers needed for the Fall Festival
There are many opportunities to help out with this family fun day at Bridgeport! Help is needed for set-up and clean up, raffle ticket sales, pumpkin painting, gold panners, hay rides, parking direction…

Please contact Margaret Vodicka
Margaret_vodicka@hotmail.com

HELP WANTED!!
We are in dire need of Docents at the Park! If you are a SYRPA member and not trained as a Docent, PLEASE consider offering your time and talents to help staff our many activities at the Park. We need help in the Visitor Center, Wild Flower walks, Gold Panning, Greeters, Barn Tours and Trail Rovers.

Please call:
Paul Keasberry 530-432-1947 or
Ranger Dan Youngren: 530-432-2546

September Ranger Report
For the Sierra Gold Sector and State Parks as a whole, September is the month to give thanks to our dedicated State Park volunteers. In our case, if our volunteers decided one day to stop volunteering and walk away from the South Yuba River State Park, the best analogy would be going from high definition color to black and white. State Park volunteers bring our parks to life. They give them personality. They give them memories for visitors that come from all around the world. Without our dedicated South Yuba River volunteers, we would just have a bridge, a barn, a gas station and a building without a voice or interpretation. So...thank you for everything you do. We really appreciate every minute you spend giving your time and efforts at our beautiful park.

Dan Youngren

Info snippets of the park… did you know...
After the initial gold rush, silver was discovered in the Comstock Lode in Nevada. The Virginia Turnpike was a crucial link between the port in Marysville and the Henness Pass, which was passable more months per year due to its relatively low altitude. Portions of the Turnpike and Henness Pass road are still navigable today. Hay stored in the Barn fed the teams on their way to Nevada.

Early pioneers, the Coles and Kneebones, lived at Bridgeport from the 1850’s through the 1940’s. Through the years they ran a farm and ranch, built the stone walls still standing at Bridgeport, operated the barn to provide hay and rest for hardworking horses, worked as teamsters, and ran a swimming resort and gas station.

...these and many other fascinating historic stories can be found on the SYRSP website!
http://southyubariverstatepark.org/index.html
A SPECIAL WISH FULFILLED

It isn’t often we, as Docents at the South Yuba River State Park, get a request as poignant and touching as happened in July this year. Ranger Marc Wetherbee was contacted by the Sofsky family with a special request, for the family to be able to bring their terminally ill Father down from Oregon on a week day to fulfill a last request. He wanted to learn how to gold pan and then try out his new skills in the River. Ranger Wetherbee arranged to have one of our Gold Panning Docents, Helen Albano, meet the family at the Park for a demonstration. A large family contingent arrived to help with the event. Below is a first-hand account and photos by Docent Albano of their visit:

Marc,

I thought you would like to see some photos of the visitor that came from Oregon to pan at the Yuba. They are a wonderful family and very positive with nothing but smiles. It took a great deal of effort for them to transport their father and 2 large liquid oxygen tanks on a wagon to the troughs, and then down to the river, but their comment was always, We'll get him there. I was very much touched by the love that came from them. Leonard, their father, was able to fulfill his dream of panning at the Yuba, thanks to his family!

Helen Albano

A big Thank-you to Ranger Wetherbee and Docent Albano for fulfilling this very special request!

VISITOR CENTER

Come by the Visitor Center and check out the new merchandise on display!

A big thanks to Bev Fuller, as she continues to add new designs to the selection of towels and aprons that she makes for sale in the Visitor Center, along with new pillows and satchels. A new addition is the South Yuba State Park/Bridgeport logo on the sleeves of the “Advice” T-Shirts that have been so popular. This will provide an attractive memento for our visitors to the SYRSP. The gold leaf necklaces have proven to be popular to our younger visitors who are attracted to the gold history of the park. Please take the time to come by and visit with our Docents who staff the Visitor Center. They enjoy sharing information on the history of the park and surrounding area. We are always looking for volunteers who might have an interest in becoming a Visitor Center Docent. It provides the opportunity to greet and meet a lot of interesting people who visit our park from many areas around the world.

To volunteer contact:
Ranger Marc Wetherbee, phone: 530-432-2546; email: marc.wetherbee@parks.ca.gov

The Visitor Center is open Thursday thru Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by Carol Berry
Annual SYRPA Member and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Bridgeport

Thursday evening, September 24th, was a lovely evening that was more like summer than early fall. We gathered at Bridgeport to honor and show appreciation for all of the efforts of the Volunteers and Association Members in 2014-2015. The event was hosted by the SYRPA Board and the State Park Staff.

Nearly 50 Association Members and Volunteers were there, including three volunteers from the South Yuba River Citizens League’s River Ambassadors. Park Staff barbequed chicken, bratwurst and veggie burgers for everyone. The menu included delicious salads and, baked beans. Dessert was a sheet cake with a reproduction of the photo of the bridge from the Home Page of the SYRPA website.

Robert Coats, SYRPA President, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their continuing support of the South Yuba River State Park. He gave a brief update on status of the bridge reconstruction project. He encouraged those present to share with others their love for the Park and encourage them to become Volunteers and members of SYRPA.

Ranger Dan Youngren, Supervising Ranger for our sector, expressed his and the State Park’s gratitude for all of the SYRPA and Volunteer efforts that go into making the South Yuba River Park such a special place for the public.

Ranger Marc Weatherbee, South Yuba River Volunteer Coordinator, gave out recognition pins to those docents who have worked at the park for one, five, and ten years. He also awarded an eleven year pin to Steve Pauly since Steve had been overlooked and/or not present when his class was recognized. If a Volunteer believes he/she missed a recognition pin, please let Marc know. He wants to make sure each Volunteer is properly recognized.

Marc honored Ardie Orbert for recording 2,000 volunteer hours. Marc also specifically acknowledged some Volunteers who have shared a great deal of their time and talents with the Park and have moved or will be moving out of the area.

All in all it was a fun and enjoyable evening, seeing some of friends we haven’t seen in a while, getting to know new members and docents, and enjoying the barbeque the staff prepared for us. Plan to come next year. We hope to have many new volunteers to get to know and honor.

Remember – our call for action:
RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Robert Coats
CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015
South Yuba River State Park
All events held at Bridgeport
17660 Pleasant Valley Rd. Penn Valley CA 95946

BIRD WALKS: Saturday Dec 12th; meet at 8:00am Bridgeport North Parking Lot

FALL FESTIVAL: October 25th at Bridgeport ~11am–4pm; free

VISITOR CENTER Open Thursday-Sunday 11am-4pm

HOLIDAY POT-LUCK: Thursday December 3, 2015 ~ Oak Room Lake Wildwood Community Center

**For more information on any of these events, please visit the SYRPA webpage at

www.southyubariverstatepark.org

Or call Visitor Center: 530-432-2546

Mark your calendars for upcoming events in 2016

GOLD PANNING Memorial Day - Labor Day Sat & Sun 11:00am-2:00pm; Bridgeport Visitor Center; donation $1 per pan

WILDFLOWER WALKS - Every Saturday and Sunday at 11:00 am, beginning in March, and continuing through May.