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New Park Supervisor
Twenty-some years after patrolling the South Yuba River canyon, Don Schmidt has come home as Supervising Ranger for South Yuba River SP and M a k a k o f f Diggins SP. He replaces J e r e m y McReynolds who has been promoted to Superintendent at Marshall Gold Discovery SP in Coloma. Most recently, Don served as Supervisor for Donner Memorial SP and Plumas Eureka SP in the upper Sierra District. A member of an elite fraternity of individuals who were born in Yosemite National Park, Don has nearly 30 years of ranger and law enforcement experience with State Parks, U.S. Forest Service and Nevada County Sheriff.

Gas Station Restoration
Progress is being made on the restoration of the Shell Gas Station. Alfred Kneebone operated the gas station and country store for several years starting in the late 1920s. The station and store were part of the Bridgeport Pleasure Resort which included a swimming beach, dining hall, dance pavilion and a few cabins. For years Staff and the Association considered the gas station an important restoration target. The task was divided
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Preservation Conference Visits SYR
After 14 months of planning and preparing for the California Preservation Conference, the day finally arrived and our fine group of volunteers from Bridgeport and the California Department of Parks and Recreation put on one
Continued on Page 3

2010 Spring Festival
The Spring Festival and Living History Day held April 26 at South Yuba River State Park was a smashing success. This year we were excited to see so many children bring their families out to enjoy the day. Wagon rides, live Blue Grass music, gold panning, blacksmith demonstrations, and food were highlights. Of course the visits from our historical friends including Mr. Wood, the bridge builder, and Mr. Kneebone, the entrepreneur, who is quite excited about the remodeling of his gas station, provided interest throughout the day. And what would a Living History Day be without the encampment and demonstrations by the Mountain Men, to remind us of early day exploration of the West!
We had perfectly marvelous weather to greet old and new friends. The Living History Day in April and the Fall Festival in October are the two events that truly showcase this incredibly beautiful piece of real estate. It takes
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President’s Message

According to the calendar, spring should be approaching the transition into summer. This year, Mother Nature is not paying attention to the calendar. We are approaching the end of May and the hills and meadows are still covered with green grass and colorful wildflowers. The Yuba River is running clear and cold and is still subject to increased flows from snow melt. Swimmers need to be especially cautious this year once the hot weather arrives, as the river will be flowing cold and fast.

The State Park Access Pass initiative is approved for the November ballot. Passage of the initiative will result in secure State Park financing commencing in 2011. Passage will result in an $18.00 addition to the annual vehicle license fee, but will eliminate the uncertain future of our State Parks.

All who have visited the Park recently have seen the progress of the gas station restoration project. The first phase involves the structure and external features of the building including the foundation, walls, roof, portico, electrical, and interior wall covering. Phase II, which is still under study, involves completion of the interior.

Effective May 25th, Supervising Ranger Don Schmidt will assume his post at the Park, replacing Ranger Jeremy McReynolds. Ranger Schmidt has previous experience with our Park. We welcome him and look forward to a productive working relationship.

Ron Ernst

SYRPA Newsletter July 2010

Gas Station, cont’d.

into Phase I, the external restoration, and Phase II, the signage, gas pumps and internal restoration. The Department of Parks and Recreation approved the Phase I of the project earlier in 2010, and work began in April. The objective is to restore the Shell gas station to its 1927 external and internal appearance. To date, the roof and siding shingles have been removed, dry rot has been removed from the roof and walls, and a replacement concrete island for the gas pump has been poured. Framing of the portico is underway to replace the structure removed many years ago. A new electrical panel has been installed inside the building, and outlets for plugs and lighting have been installed. Details of the long-since removed original shutters were discovered during the siding demolition, and rough frames have been constructed for the window openings. New roof and siding shingles were installed in June.

Association volunteers including Bill Haselhorst and George Case are helping with the restoration under the on-site direction of Pete “Ace” Flewelling. Steve Moses, District Maintenance Supervisor, is the overall project manager. An ad hoc committee led by Hal Tiegs is evaluating concepts for Phase II, including a facsimile gravity feed gas pump, exterior signs, interior furnishings, products (or facsimiles) on stock shelves. A vintage Shell kerosene hand pump, in storage in the Barn, will be installed. When complete, the gas station will be a center for interpretative materials about the Bridgeport Pleasure Resort, a history center for the gas station, a point of interest for auto club tours to Bridgeport and will be open during Festivals and other events.
Beware High River Water!

This year's heavy snowfalls and cooler spring temperatures have resulted in a vast, late-season snow pack in the Sierra. Now, as the snow is finally melting, our river rushes full, fast and cold because Lake Spaulding is releasing water to ensure that reservoir has enough room to hold the snow melt. In early June the river flow was between 3000 and 4000 cubic feet per second; in comparison, on a nice late summer day the flow can be around 300 cfs.

The heavy flow is great news for our water supply, but bad news for river safety. When visitors arrive with floaty toys in hand, they will see their favorite beaches underwater and their favorite swimming hole a churning, white water trap. Most have sense enough to stay out of the water when the flow is this high. But not all do. We Rangers walk around and advise caution. Inevitably, some people still end up swimming. The unseasonably high flow rates and cold water are expected to last into July.

Please welcome Nellie Smittle, daughter of Ranger Mike, as our summer Park Aide at 49 Crossing. Nellie will answer questions, give directions, sell water, provide safety warnings and be a deterrent to potential rule violators. Nellie and the roving docents are important extra eyes and ears on the river this summer. You may also see Nellie in the Bridgeport Visitor Center in the mornings or late afternoons. Congratulations to Nellie on graduating high school this June and beginning Santa Barbara City College this August!

Jennifer McCallan

Kudos!

- **Roberta Canier** for her production of the Spring Festival
- **Wildflower docents** for Saturday and Sunday guided walks on the Buttermilk Bend Trail
- **Vicki Macdonald** for her leadership of the Wildflower Committee
- **Diane Marten and Don Denton** for planning the Bridgeport visit for the California Preservation Convention attendees
- **Clint Gunderson** for completion of his six-years on the Board

Recent Contributors

- Pat Riley
- Herb Lindberg
- Dick Lindberg
- Jay & Sharon Kramer
- Elmer & Carol Tretten
- John & Gretchen Morris
- John Oldham Chapter DAR
Retiring Newsletter Editor Herb Lindberg has been a volunteer at the Park since 2000 when taking digital wildflower pictures for Bert Hall's wildflower placards along the Buttermilk Bend Trail. He and his wife Mary became docents in 2003. Eventually, he became Publicist and Newsletter Editor in addition to photographer of park activities for which he's become so well noted. Before SYRPA had a website, Herb featured Park events, photographs and information on his own website and created videos from still pictures. Later, he helped Ranger Jennifer McCallum create the official SYRPA website.

Since early 2009 and up to the present he has been temporary Newsletter editor and publisher. Herb also continued to support the wildflower work inspired by Bert Hall, in the form of a small 16-page wildflower guide, Spring Flowering Plants of Bridgeport and a 128-page book, Wildflowers of Bridgeport that summarizes much of the material gathered by wildflower docents over many years. Herb earned a PhD in Applied Physics from Stanford in 1957 and finished his career as Director of Applied High Pressure Physics research at Stanford Research Institute.

Spring Festival, cont’d

months to organize a Festival, but no matter how much preparation goes into planning, it doesn’t happen without the wonderful help from our docents. They make the day. A big thank you goes to Jean Wilson who spearheaded advertising to selected schools and was co-director of the event.

All are looking forward to the Fall Festival to be held on Halloween Sunday, October 31. Tell your friends and family that we have heard rumors that “Ghosts of Bridgeport” may be returning in a different presentation for that event. Thanks again to all who helped, and we’ll see you on October 31.

Sue Bowden of Grass Valley had the winning ticket for a framed barn photograph at the Bridgeport Spring Festival. The high dynamic range 13 by 19-inch print was produced and donated by Dave Taylor, also of Grass Valley. In the early 1980s, Dave and his family were living at Bridgeport in the rented house that is today’s Visitor Center. He remembers swimming in Kentucky Creek and in the South Yuba River, playing in the Barn, shooting rifles and attending Pleasant Valley School. Dave also kept a rattlesnake in a cage. He took several photos of the barn in early April 2010 with a Nikon D700 DSLR camera with a Nikkor 24-70mm lens at different exposure values and used high dynamic range software to combine three of the photos into a single striking image. Then he donated the print to SYRPA for the Spring Festival Raffle. By coincidence, Sue also won The Dandelion Seed, a children’s book, donated by Docent Bev Morgan.

Roberta Canier
Meet Our Business Sponsors

June’s Café and Deli

June Okada opened her Café and Deli in 1999 near the Holiday Market in the Wildwood Shopping Center. Open from 7 am to 4pm Monday through Saturday and 9am to 3pm on Sunday, the shop features homemade soups, pastries, bread, deli sandwiches, coffee and cold drinks. The walls are lined with crafts and cooking accessories.

The popular store has become busy at noon and a favorite of locals in the morning. The morning locals seeking coffee and conversation include folks returning home from exercise class and tennis. SYRPA members known to frequent June’s include your President (Ron Ernst), Vice President (Dave Anderson) and Newsletter Editor (Steve Pauly).

Between 10 and 12am, June bakes bread, pastries, pies and cakes—she says “customers like the smell of fresh-baked goods when they walk in the door.” June, her husband Lincoln and sons Clinton and Calvin live on a 37-acre ranch in Penn Valley near the Park.

Farewell Party for Jeremy McReynolds

Staff, members, and volunteers gathered at the Park May 1 for a potluck supper to give Supervising Ranger Jeremy McReynolds a hearty send-off to his new State Park position. After four years supervising South Yuba River and Malakoff Diggins State Parks, Jeremy has been promoted to Superintendent II at Marshall Gold Discovery Park at Coloma. The already festive occasion was enhanced with a lovely, warm, dry, breezy late afternoon, which was very welcome after a seemingly endless rainy and overcast season.

Ranger Mike Smittle began the event with a champagne toast to Jeremy. The dinner selections included salads, vegetables, and several main dishes (including Mike’s renowned elk chili). Ranger Jennifer brought a cherry-chocolate cake decorated with two huge silver bars (Jeremy has been promoted to the equivalent of Captain). Several persons came to the front to relate serious, ironic, or hilarious recollections of their experiences with Jeremy. Several gifts were presented including a SYRPA T-shirt and a new high-dynamic range photograph of the Bridge by Dave Taylor.
**Beautification Committee**

I think we are now going into summer. Spring was short-lived but lovely due to the prolonged rains we have had. Because of those rains, it was difficult to keep up with the weeding in the Native Plant Garden and in other areas at Bridgeport. We had two work parties in April and May—one just before the California Preservation Conference group visited. A big thank you goes to all who responded to the email requests to come out for a few hours to spruce up the VC area. We even had brand new docents volunteering. I assure you there will be another work party or two this summer, so stay ready for more email requests! When the Shell Gas Station restoration is complete, we will be ready to help re-create the 1920s outside appearance: vines, a bench, milk cans??

*Mickey Springer*

**The Visitor Center is Open 11-4 Every Summer Day!**

Experienced and recently-trained docents are working together to staff the VC 7-days a week through Labor Day. The VC Committee (below) has been updating stock and adding Park-specific items such as men’s and women’s logo polos and T-shirts. Sales at the VC are an important part of SYRPA’s support to the Park.

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**SYRPA Newsletter July 2010**

**Wildflower News**

Well, we certainly had an interesting season! Several of our wildflower tours were rained out and the flowers acted in unpredictable ways to the strange weather pattern. Some, such as the Caterpillar Phacelia, bloomed profusely while others barely made a showing. The poppies started out well but then fizzled and we didn’t have the masses we usually see on the hillside. But each year is different and we always appreciate the show that Mother Nature provides.

One of our field trips was also rained out but we had a great time on the other two! The first was to Hidden Falls (pictured) Regional Park outside of Auburn. We hiked to the falls and then on many of the other splendid trails at the park. We saw numerous flowers, enjoyed each others’ company and had some good laughs. The second trip was to Hell’s Half Acre on Ridge Road near Twin Cities Church. It was absolutely gorgeous with a carpet of yellow, purple, white and pink. We spent time with our books trying to identify flowers we were unfamiliar with. Darlene Ward brought her discovery scope so we could get a very up-close look at the blossoms. We ran into Wayne Schwartzkopf from the Native Plant Society and he helped with identification of a flower or two that we were uncertain of.

Lastly, after acting as Program Coordinator for 7 seasons I am passing the torch on to someone else. As I write this, I have the torch in hand but don’t yet know who to pass it to-stay tuned. I want to thank all the docents I have worked with over the years. You have all taught me so much! I will continue to lead wildflower tours and my husband David and I will continue to make the wildflower signs to put on the trail. I would also like to thank Ranger Mike for his wonderful support and kind personality! See you on the trails!

*Vicki Macdonald*

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**Sierra Fawn Lily on Point Defiance Loop**

In March, Docents Bev Morgan and Glenn Fuller hiked the Defiance Loop Trail starting at the North parking lot. About 300 yards down the road, in the roadside ditch on the left side, they found six beautiful lilies which were identified Erythronium Multiscapoideum, Sierra Fawn Lily, also known as an Adder’s Tongue. The flower is green to white with leaves which are medium green with dark spots. These six were the only ones found. Finding the Sierra Fawn Lily was the highlight of the hike. Greg Archibald took the accompanying photo.

*Glenn Fuller*