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Fourth Annual Prospective Volunteer Reception
Sunday, March 13 from 2-4pm

Area residents interested in volunteer opportunities at South Yuba River State Park are invited to the annual Reception March 13 at the Visitor Center. This is the time to hear short presentations on every aspect of volunteerism at the Park, including auto tours, bird walks, beautification, cultural and natural history interpretation, facilities maintenance, gold panning, greeter station, history research, living history, native plant garden, newsletter, publicity, school tours, trail monitoring, visitor center operation, and wildflower tours. A question-and-answer period and refreshments will follow the briefings. The State docent training for new volunteers will be held March 23-25 and will be followed by a session at Bridgeport specific to the Park. Current members and volunteers please suggest new volunteers to Don Denton at 432-1888.

SYRPA Newsletter January 2011

Fall Festival Features a Haunted Bridge
Even the Ghosts Said it was a Total Success!

The Fall Festival at Bridgeport was wonderful. The “friendly” ghosts returned to occupy the Haunted Bridge at Bridgeport on Halloween, October 31. They appeared before packed houses at both the 12:00 and 2:00 performances. Each ghost told a portion of its life on the South Yuba River, and Mark Lyon of Nevada City set the scene and brought the history to each of us.

The event had excellent weather and food. The Penn Valley Chamber of Commerce served hot dogs, sodas, chile and baked potatoes—which were a sell out. June’s Deli provided cakes, pies, brownies and cookies—pleasing everyone. Lazy Dog ice cream was there and seemed to have all the flavors anyone could wish. Members of the SYRPA Board sold coffee and cider.

There were activities for everyone: face painting by Jeanine Priance, pumpkin painting by Barbara Breuckner, pioneer games for kids by Debbie and Lorrie (Malakoff staff), a worm garden by master gardener Nedra Graves, a craft table by Vickie Macdonald, wagon rides by Ann Tatum, gold panning organized by Denia Pearson, a mountain man encampment, tours of the gas station by Howard Voshell and George Case, Barn tours by Hal Tiefs and blacksmithing by Dennis Monax and Ray Shepherd. All this took place while music from Bite the Bullet, the Emily Brockway duo and Alkali filled the air. Local author Carol Malnor signed her book “The Blues Go Birding Across America” and told the children about birding at Bridgeport.

The Board of the South Yuba River Park Association feels events like this are educational, they introduce new visitors to the Park and are part of the
**Strategic Plan Status**

Two years ago your Board of Directors developed a five-year Strategic Plan. Its purpose was to: 1) install a sustainable, disciplined planning culture for the Board, 2) provide a framework for planning that results in measurable objectives and achievable resource requirements, and 3) produce a flexible document for the next five years. To ensure currency and viability, the Board reviews and updates the plan every two years. The Board is now in that process.

The plan currently identifies five key goals and lists a number of important projects for action by the Association in support of the Park. The Key Goals are: 1) complete the Strategic Plan and implement the strategic planning process, 2) obtain historic designation for the ranch area of the park, 3) complete the restoration of the Shell gas station, 4) expand Association membership, and 5) increase Park visitation and public awareness and emphasize its role as an historic transportation center.

As the Board hopes you have noticed, it has actively pursued these goals with some complete and others ongoing. As a part of the review and update process, the Board would appreciate your inputs for their consideration. We all love and enjoy our park, and with that in mind, we should all have thoughts on how to make it more enjoyable and relevant for the public. Please capture those thoughts and relay them to any board member, or put them in writing and mail to SYRPA, PO. Box 1658, Penn Valley, CA 95946, or email them to Dave Anderson at dgslanderson@att.net.

Dave Anderson

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**President’s Message**

2010 was a good year at South Yuba River State Park. The completion of the Self-guided Trail identifying the trees and shrubs of the Buttermilk Bend Trail added special interest to the already beautiful walk. During the spring we saw the removal of most of the exterior of the gas station. The roof, exterior walls, and much of the framing had deteriorated beyond saving. Over the spring and summer the gas station was transformed into a beautiful, strong building. Phase I, the exterior of the building is now mostly complete pending painting, and installation of the gas pump and signage. We anticipate completion of Phase II, the interior, during 2011.

During 2010 our Board of Directors has had ongoing discussions with the Sequoia Challenge Board regarding the transfer of oversight and care of the Independence Trail from Sequoia Challenge to SYRPA. SYRPA is committed to this action pending the transfer of the Sequoia Challenge lands to the State Park. The Independence Trail is currently part of South Yuba River State Park under an agreement between State Parks and Sequoia Challenge, similar to the agreement between SYRPA and State Parks.

Effective December 31, my two year term as SYRPA president expires. I want to thank all volunteers, Association members, and State Park staff for the cooperation and hard work to make our beautiful Park a place we can show with pride. Effective January 1, 2011, Dave Anderson becomes SYRPA’s new President. Dave has served as Vice-President for the last two years and has been very active with projects and activities at Bridgeport and also at Empire Mine. Dave is extremely talented and motivated and I am confident that SYRPA could not be in better hands.

The success of the Park is the sum of all the efforts from the many volunteers. To stay on a path of success we need the ongoing support of current and new volunteers. If you have had the training but have not found your niche at the Park, we ask that you visit and renew your Park experience. Volunteers are our greatest asset.

Happy New Year and see you at the Park.

Ron Ernst
Winter greetings to everyone! I apologize for bringing that first cold blast of snow and rain with me from Truckee. I never seriously thought that I would be shoveling snow at my house in Grass Valley, or that we would be dealing with so much storm damage at Malakoff Diggins and Empire River SP. Thankfully, South Yuba River SP has had no real weather-related problems so far.

State Parks continues to face some very serious budget challenges in the coming year, many of which we’re just now dealing with due to the lateness of the budget. South Yuba River State Park is fortunate to have a strong cooperative association and dedicated volunteers who support our operations. Thank you for all that you do to help during this rather stressful time.

I’m looking forward to filling the vacancy left by Ranger Jennifer before late spring, and will be working with SYRPA and the other Sierra Sector associations to develop creative solutions to our staffing needs. Also, I thank Ranger Mike for helping me get settled during his transition to semiretirement, and Rangers Marc and James for stepping up to help move things forward into the new year.

As of early December, I have taken on much of the role of the Sector Superintendent for Matt Green, who is currently the Acting District Superintendent for the next few months. Because of this, I haven’t been able to get down to Bridgeport as much as I’d like, but I’ll be there as much as possible. As always, please let me know if you have questions or comments about our park.

Enjoy the quiet season and go for a hike today!  

Don Schmidt

The Gas Station Restoration Committee has always considered the gas pump in front of the Kneebone gas station and camp store to be a primary focus of the restoration. It will be highly visible and one of the first things that visitors will notice coming into the park. The pump must be of the exact same model and make as the original pump installed over 80 years ago. In addition, the pump should be in excellent condition to be able to withstand the rigors of always being outdoors and subject to the weather at the Park.

After a great deal of searching, the committee finally found the exact pump on eBay in Southern California for a price within the committee’s budget. A deal was struck and the seller transported the disassembled pump to the park on December 1st. Transportation was a major issue as the entire pump weighs in excess of 300 lbs, is 10 feet tall and is fragile. Fortunately, the pump arrived in good condition and several docents were gladly on hand to receive it.

The pump had almost all of its parts but was branded as Texaco. In order to restore it to the desired original condition, sandblasting and painting will be necessary. The final touches will be to place Shell decals on the side and a Shell logo globe on the top. Installation will be in the center of the concrete island in front of the station portico.

Hal Tiegs

Glenn Fuller, Ron Ernst, Bob Caser, Hal Tiegs, Charlie Bertness
Ranger James Carey

James is the newest addition to the Ranger staff at the Park. Shortly after assignment to SYRSP, he attended the Defensive Tactics Course for Instructors at Asilomar and recently conducted a course for Sector Rangers at Empire Mine.

James was born on the Kenai Peninsula of Alaska and moved to California in 1986. He grew up in Redding, moved to Arcata to attend college at Humboldt State University in 2001, and graduated from HSU with a BS degree in Wildlife in 2005.

After graduation, he spent two seasons as a visitor services park aide at Jedediah Smith State Park and time as a maintenance park aide at Patrick’s Point State Park. After attending the DPR Academy in the beginning of 2008 he was assigned to Tolowa Dunes State Park in the North Coast Redwoods District. After two two years at Tolowa Dunes, he transferred to South Yuba River State Park. James lives with his wife Jessica and too many cats to mention.

Wildflower Walk Plans for the Spring

Check the SYRPA website, southyubariverstatepark.org, in March for the latest information. Or contact Ruth & Pete Peterson (432-2372) or Judy McAlilffe (432-9994). Docents will lead Buttermilk Bend Trail walks on Saturdays and Sundays from about early March to early May. Following the wildflower season, some docents may want to lead walks to the 24 identified trees & shrubs along the Buttermilk Bend Trail.

Fall Festival, cont’d

mission of the State Park and the Association. A significant portion of the expenses were covered by the raffle. Through the efforts of Mickey and Bud Springer and Jeannine McGowan over 800 raffle tickets were sold. The volunteers, docents and visitors that very generously bought raffle tickets were directly responsible for this financial support. The raffle items were donated by members of the Board, SPD Market, Holiday Market, Caroline’s Coffee, Sierra Star Winery, Dave Taylor (Bridge photo) and Jerry Levitt (gold jewelry). Glenn Fuller wrote several articles for publicity.

A large part of the success of the day has to go to the 72 volunteers that made visitors feel welcome and a part of Bridgeport history. State Park Rangers, Don Schmidt and Mike Smittle, directed many of the unseen necessities and welcomed visitors throughout the day. Sector Superintendent Matt Green and his two daughters were seen around the grounds in costume. The Ghostly Living History cast of Judy Nichols, Barbara Pixley, Charles Atwood, Chuck Scimeca, Donna Brown, George Tilley and drama production by Janine Martin provided great entertainment and education. The Visitor Center had a good sales day thanks to Sharon Anderson and Bev Morgan. Steve Pauly, Doug Evans and Herb Lindberg photographed the day’s activities. Many other Docents were instrumental in making it such a great day–Thank You!

Special thanks to Jean Wilson, Diane Marten and Janine Martin who were the organizers of this Fall Festival. The day would not have been so successful, come off without problems nor appeared so easy to put on without hours of planning and talented work by these three volunteers. Final note: the ghosts have agreed to return next year.

Glenn Fuller
Independence Trail Update

Most major work has been put on hold as State Parks assesses the overall needs of the Trail. It is hoped by Sequoya Challenge and SYRPA Board Members that a work party can be formed to replace boards on the currently closed wheel chair ramp, so we can open it up again. The Over The Hill Gang volunteers at Empire Mine are in the process of building and placing two wooden benches on the Trail. This was made possible by a very generous donation to Sequoya Challenge by the Nevada City Rotary Club. Tired hikers will be thanking them for their support. Also, work is underway to repair a NO SMOKING sign at the Trail entrance that was damaged by vandals.

Warren Wittich

Bald Eagle Observations at Bridgeport

Several times since discovering the eagle's nest at Bridgeport in 2009, I've been asked “where do the eagles go from here?” I never had a good answer because I'd not seen juveniles flying with adults nor adults hanging around Bridgeport. This past fall, on seeing bald eagles back at the same nest on November 5 and November 30, I began looking for eagles in the areas surrounding the Park. They were seen in the rice fields this side of Marysville. Another local birder reported seeing a juvenile bald eagle and adult at Bridgeport in August. As a result I think these birds may stay in the surrounding area year round. So if you’d like to see bald eagles in our area, don't neglect the summer and fall months.

Bill Cortright

2011 Bridgeport Birding Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Expect to See</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 29</td>
<td>Red breasted sapsucker, bald eagle, American dipper, Nutall’s woodpecker, western bluebird, phainopepla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>Bald eagle, fox sparrow, common or hooded merganser, phainopepla, chipping sparrow, kingfisher, American dipper</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>Cliff swallow, bald eagle, phainopepla, lark sparrow, Audubon warbler, hermit thrush</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>Bald eagle, white pelican, phainopepla, Bullock’s oriole, western kingbird, American dipper, violet-green swallow, yellow breasted chat</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>Yellow breasted chat, bald eagle, ash throated flycatcher, western tanager, Nashville warbler, Wilson’s warbler, cedar waxwing, Bullock’s oriole</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 11</td>
<td>Bald eagle, yellow breasted chat, phainopepla, western tanager, American dipper, olive sided flycatcher, cedar waxwing, wrentit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 17</td>
<td>Olive sided flycatcher, Nashville warbler, cedar waxwing, phainopepla, wrentit, yellow breasted chat, American dipper</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>American dipper, common merganser, white crowned sparrow, phainopepla, rock wren, Audubon warbler, wrentit and (possible) canyon wren</td>
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