South Yuba River SP is on the Proposed Closure List

On Friday, May 13, 2011, for the first time in the history of the state park system, a closure list naming 70 state parks was released. While the Department of Parks & Recreation battled "proposed" state park closures for the past several years, this list is an actual list of parks slated for closure. The proposal is that these 70 parks will remain open at their current operating level through September 2011, when they will begin the ramping down process leading up to caretaker status, which will take place on or before July 1, 2012.

You can help by responding to the action alert of the California State Parks Foundation and writing your local legislators. The action alert is available at www.calparks.org/parkclosures/. Secondly, make it a priority to explore state parks this year and visit each of the 70 state parks slated for closure.

(Adapted from CALPA press release)

President's Message

This year our Spring festival was a wonderful event. There was a great turnout and lots of activities for children. The raffle was a huge success with lots of prizes. Our thanks to Janine Martin, Glenn Fuller, Bev Morgan and the rest of the organizing committee. They have set a high mark for our Fall Festival.

As you all know by now, we were all very surprised to find that our park was included in the State Park closure list. There is very little yet known about how the closures are to be carried out and, obviously, South Yuba State Park does not lend itself being closed in a manner such that our irreplaceable resources can be protected. Our Rangers know little or no more than we do but are supportive of our efforts to keep the Park open. We have provided a list of related questions for clarification but I don’t believe the answers are known at this time. For now, we are proceeding on a “business as usual” basis. We will continue with our plans for special events, our financial support to the Park, provision of interpretive materials, beautification efforts, and our support of docent activities and tours.

We have been in communication with community, district, and State leaders and are working with other non-profits, social organizations and our Chambers of Commerce to build a grass roots effort to support our parks. A lot can and will happen over the next year, and I am confident that reason and cooler minds will prevail. Meanwhile, I appreciate your efforts in informing others, including your representatives, and your continued support of the Park. I firmly believe that our best approach is to show an active and well-attended park with a strong volunteer organization and park Association providing support. In our conversations with others we should express our concerns factually but not present a sense of desperation or gloom.

Our Fundraiser, held on the 21st of June (Summer Solstice) was a wonderful success. Although the day was hot we had a good turnout and everyone had a good time. Alex Szabo and his wines were a hit and the appetizers paired beautifully with the wines. The event was profitable and we’ll be sure to repeat the event next Summer Solstice.

See you in the Park.

Dave Anderson
Summer News at the Visitor Center

Thank you to all the docents that are helping keep the visitor center open every day from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The park store has done very well the past couple of months, in spite of the weather. Since all the profits from the store stay here in our park to fund educational and interpretive efforts, we are very happy that people seem to like what we have to offer.

We have recently added some new items including lovely bandanas made by our own Bev Morgan. The bandanas are embroidered with birds or flowers and carry the bridge logo. In addition to their use as bandanas, they make great liners for baskets to serve bread and snacks. For those interested, the bandanas can be customized with patterns selected by the customer. We are also considering a napkin version. In addition, we also have stainless steel water bottles with the bridge logo and carabiners with the South Yuba Park Association logo on them. Remember the visitor center store for gift and birthday present ideas.

Patricia Stein

History Research at the Park

The History Research Committee is at work seeking information about the earliest trails and the route of the old road from Anthony House to Bridgeport prior to construction of the Virginia Turnpike. The Committee consists of Dick Alexander, Chuck Scimeca, Mike Baca, Marc Wetherbee, Steve Pauly, and Hank Meals. Hank is a local historian and is author of The River, which is for sale at the Visitor Center.

Steve Pauly

Spring Festival

The South Yuba River State Park Spring Festival, sponsored by the Association on May 1st was a huge success. The Bridgeport weather was finally nice and the sun was actually shining. There was a steady flow of people to the park all day–so much that the Chamber of Commerce ran out of food at its stand! This year included many activities for children: face painting, games (State Park employees Debbie and Lori provided pioneer games for the children), Audubon bird feeders, a SYRCL coloring activity, wildflower crafts, and a display by children’s author Carol Malnor. The raffle items were plentiful this year, and lots of tickets were sold. Thanks to the board members and local artists for donating items and to Mickey and Bud Springer for their energetic ticket sales. The local band, Road Test, did a great job playing the oldies while many sang along.

Our wagon ride was busy all day as was the selling of Lazy Dog ice cream. June’s Deli provided tasty treats next to gold panning. A variety of very talented local artists spent the day showing their wonderful items from jewelry to paintings and so much more. Thanks to the many volunteers this year, set up and take down went smoothly. The barn, gas station, bridge, blacksmithing, and gold panning docents helped our visitors learn about the history of Bridgeport. The Visitor Center had a very successful sales day helped along by the participation of volunteers. There are too many docents and volunteers to list but special thanks go to Glenn Fuller and Bev Morgan, co-chairs of this fun event, and to Ranger Don Schmidt. We’re looking forward to the Fall Festival on Oct. 30th when the ghosts will return again. Please give me a call if you would like to volunteer.

Janine Martin, Festival Coordinator
263-5894
Trail Rover Docents Needed!

We need more support for Rovers on weekends and weekdays for the rest of this summer. Rovers are used at Bridgeport and Hwy 49 to answer questions, provide a presence, report unsafe or malicious behavior to the rangers, and support the park aide or VC docent on site. You don’t have to hike miles to be of support. There are the beaches around Bridgeport to patrol that are easily accessible and at the Hwy 49 crossing you can rove around the bridge area. Another option that has come up is to rove on Independence Trail up from the Hwy 49 crossing which is shady. If you are only available on weekdays then that is appreciated also, especially Fridays or Mondays.

Please help us, the parks and rangers need your support.

Donna Brown

Barbara Pixley

Longtime volunteer Barbara Pixley has moved to be with her family in the eastern U.S. She will be remembered especially for her dedication to the wildflower walk program. Barbara was honored at the Spring Festival with a bridge photograph and by remembrances from fellow docents Judy Nichols and Howard Voshell.

Fred Huberty Recognized

Anyone who has visited the park recently has seen the transformation of the Kneebone gas station. Sitting on top of the restored building portico is the colorful reproduction of the original Shell sign. Passers-by are immediately drawn to this feature. Perhaps the most striking feature, however, is the restored gas pump. The pump is a fully restored, historically correct antique pump. It matches the original pump from 80 years ago in almost every detail. One of the persons most responsible for bringing the pump to the park is Fred Huberty. Fred has been a volunteer and docent at the park for the past two years. Since the work on restoration of the gas station began, Fred has been busy, along with other members of the “Bridgetenders,” sawing and pounding nails. After docent Hal Tiegs found the pump on the internet and had it delivered to the park, he asked Fred to help restore it. The pump arrived in reasonably good condition but with deteriorating Texaco paint and branding. To make it correct, the paint needed to be removed, the pump resurfaced and everything correctly painted and branded.

Fred had successfully restored an antique Porsche sports car and was currently restoring another one. It seemed to be an ideal preparation for this project. The appearance of the pump today is a direct result of many volunteer hours of sanding, prepping and painting by Fred and a few others. Fred is a retired colonel from the Air Force Medical Services Corps. After retirement from the Air Force, he managed the Auburn VA outpatient clinic. Connecting him even more to the project, Fred comes from a family that immigrated to the California gold country in the mid 1800’s. Fred currently lives in Lake Wildwood with his wife Annette.

Hal Tiegs

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**Summer Solstice Party**

On June 21, 2011 the South Yuba River Park Association held its first annual Summer Solstice Party. This was the first fundraiser the Association has held in many years. The event was planned around wine tasting, paired appetizers and updates on the California State Park closure proposal.

Alex Szabo poured four of his excellent Szabo Vineyards red wines. Each wine was paired with appropriate appetizers prepared by members of the Association. Alex commented on each of the wines and on his decision to locate his vineyard on Bitney Springs Road. Everyone had a grand time sipping wine, tasting new treats and visiting with friends and new members. A good many members of the local community came out to support the Park and Association. When the Solstice Party was planned, the committee decided to make the event special—one that attendees would want to revisit again next year. According to many comments, they succeeded. After expenses the event brought in just over $2,400. The entire Board wants give special thanks those that did all the planning, food preparation, serving, and clean up. The Board also wants to thank the 49 people that paid $60 each to attend this evening of support for the Park Association. Everyone had a great evening, even though it was nearly 100 degrees.  

**Wildflower Season Wrap-up**

The 2011 season was one to remember but not because of beautiful flowers. The weather was the biggest factor. It should have been a sign when the early spring WF docent meeting couldn’t even get off the ground due to scheduling conflicts. And there was a snowstorm that day! We finally got together for the preseason walk and had a pretty good turn out. But our numbers declined this year because several veteran docents were having medical or family issues. March came and went with not one tour. April ushered in more sun, more visitors and some tours, but the flowers were less than spectacular. Just like faithful sports fans whose team never wins.....there's always next year. We do want to thank the docents who conducted tours and the visitor center docents who came rain or shine to provide the radio, Park guides and brochures for the visitors. We especially want to welcome new docents Carol and Ron Berry and the trainees from the 2011 docent class: Annie McNutt, Doug and Shirley Moon, and Bill and Margi Nielson. There will be a training program for the new and not so new WF docents in late fall or early 2012. We thank Judy McAuliffe for her help as co-coordinator and Vicki Macdonald for arranging and conducting the field trips. If there is anyone who could help coordinate the Wildflower Committee next year please let me know. We could really use help with training, preparing the press release, and other publicity related tasks. Looking ahead to the 2012 season!

**Car Clubs Visit**

The Sierra Mustang Club visited the Park June 26 in the morning, and the Porsche Touring Group visited in the afternoon. Both groups had nine vehicles. Docents Howard Voshell and Ardie Obert met the groups and gave them tours of the Bridge, Barn, Gas Station and Visitor Center.

**SYRPA Newsletter July 2011**

**Page 4**