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

SYRPA Newsletter
October 2014

Bridgeport Fall Festival
South Yuba River State Park
Sunday October 26th 2014 11a-4p

Free admission, parking $5.00
Hayrides • Gold Panning
Food & Drinks • Barn Tours
Children’s Games & Crafts
Pumpkin Painting • Music
Blacksmith & Composting Demos
Live Birds • 1930’s Gas Station

Ghosts of Bridgeport
Join the dramatic portrayal of Yankee Jim’s funeral procession to the cemetery

Save our Bridge

Bridgeport is located at 1760 Pleasant Valley Rd, Penn Valley, CA 530-432-2548
GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR PHASE I

A Ground Breaking Ceremony and Celebration was held September 2, 2014 to commemorate the start of construction on the bridge. This stabilization work (Phase I of construction) will help the bridge maintain its integrity until the restoration work (Phase II) can begin.

The event was held on the grassy area right below the bridge so that the bridge was the backdrop for the event. Almost 100 people made it out to Bridgeport on a Tuesday at noon to celebrate the fruits of their hard labor, the start of construction that will ultimately Save Our Bridge. There were so many people in attendance that were instrumental in the Save Our Bridge Campaign. Almost the entire Nevada County Board of Supervisors, the Mayor of Nevada County, the Vice-Mayor of Grass Valley, Congressman Doug LaMalfa and his local representative, members and officers from about every Nevada County Chamber of Commerce, the local representative from Assemblyman Dahle’s office, the District Supervisor and Construction Manager from State Parks and the owners of the construction company that will be performing the Phase I work. One of the highlights of the ceremony was when Congressman LaMalfa presented the Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee with a Congressional Proclamation recognizing the community’s efforts to Save Our Bridge. Another highlight was the photo opportunity with many of the elected officials donning hard hats and grabbing shovels to turn over the first mound of dirt to commemorate the start of construction. Topping off a great event were Ranger led small group tours into the bridge, one last time, before construction begins.

This was a wonderful event to celebrate all of the hard work the community has put in to achieve the funding and commitment by the State to this project. But we are not done! We need to stay involved and vigilant to ensure that the project is completed in a timely manner and that our beloved bridge is once again open to everyone.

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Public Safety During Bridge Construction
Sierra Gold Sector Superintendent Matt Green reminds us of the need to respect the construction contractor’s work area during the stabilization project. The fenced off areas around the two sides and under the bridge are there for our safety. Please do not enter these work spaces. We want the contractor to finish this vital work as quickly and as safely as possible.
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 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”

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

President’s Message

October 2014

Time seems to be flying and our Association has been busy on several fronts. Events this last quarter included our participation in the Grass Valley Gold Rush Days. It was well attended and our booth attracted a lot of attention because of the continued community interest in our efforts for restoration of the bridge. It was rewarding to see how much people knew and the types questions they asked which demonstrated that our efforts to inform the community have been effective.

All three of our sector parks participated in the Nevada County Fair with good displays and the always popular gold panning. Donations from the gold panning offset the cost of the gold, silver, and gems that were provided.

On 2 September the contract for the stabilization of the bridge started and in this newsletter you will read about our groundbreaking event to celebrate that occasion. Again, community support was highlighted by the many dignitaries, including Congressman Doug LaMalfa, in attendance. With very little time to plan and execute, Doug and Shirley Moon did a tremendous job of making this highly successful event happen. Please thank them for their efforts. I want to remind everyone that our Save Our Bridge Committee will continue to meet, monitor progress, especially toward Phase Two (restoration) and suggest action when necessary. Please follow us on our website and be ready to act when called.

As our membership ages we, like all organizations, suffer attrition. I would encourage all of you to actively seek new Association Members and to encourage people to apply to become park volunteers. The best form of recruitment is personal one-on-one interaction with others that you feel will make positive contributions. As you know, working for our park can be great fun and very rewarding.

By the time you read this you will hopefully have attended our Appreciation BBQ and I expect that everyone had a wonderful time. Congratulations to the awardees of special recognition and service year pins. Next on our calendar is our premier autumn event, our Fall Festival scheduled for 26 October. This is an immensely popular event that allows the Public to see and appreciate the wonders of our park and to enjoy the entertainment, activities, displays and food that will be available. A Committee has being formed to plan, prepare and staff the event. Please sign up with any board member to assist. It is a full team effort that needs a lot of support. Please be a part of that team. There will also be an unveiling of a new plaque commemorating the expansion of our State historic designation to include the Bridgeport District of our Park.

Finally we will hold our traditional Holiday potluck dinner on 13 December (Note that this is a change to the previously announced date) at the Lake Wildwood Community Center. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

See you in the Park.

Dave
SUPERVISING RANGER REPORT

As I am settling in to my new job as a Supervising Ranger, I am developing a better understanding and appreciation of how important Cooperating Associations (Co-Ops) are to the California State Parks system. The South Yuba River State Park Association (SYRPA) is a Cooperating Association officially registered with the California State Department of Parks and Recreation. Co-Ops began to develop within State Parks in the mid-1970’s when the funding levels for the State’s General Fund, (which includes the budget for State Parks) began to decline. These Co-Ops were mostly made up of current State Park employees and their wives. They were developed to help fund interpretive programs on a very small scale such as printing park brochures, funding end of the season parties and other small-scale purchases that would help keep the interpretive presentations given by Park Rangers special.

As the 1980’s and 90’s came and went, the State’s General Fund continued to shrink while State Parks’ operating costs continued to increase. The Cooperating Associations developed into much larger and more broadly based community supported organizations and have taken on a much more vital role in support of State Parks. With the upcoming “Parks Forward Commission” report coming out in October, we will see that these partnerships between Co-Ops and the park staff are the key to the survival of the California State Parks System.

I would like to personally thank all of you for being a part of something as special as the South Yuba River Park Association. Your continued support and contributions will never go unnoticed. I am so thankful that I am a part of this special partnership and look forward to many years of working together with SYRPA on what the future has in store for our great park.

Supervising Ranger Dan Youngren
Annual SYRPA Member and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Bridgeport

Thursday evening, September 18th, turned out to be a beautiful evening at the Park to honor and show appreciation for all of the efforts of the Volunteer, Docent and Association Members in 2013/2014. There were nearly 80 association members and docents in attendance for this annual event hosted by the SYRPA Board and Ranger Staff. The rangers barbequed chicken, bratwurst and veggie burgers for everyone, there were delicious salads, baked beans and all the condiments to go with everything. And for dessert there was a wonderful two flavor (just to satisfy every taste) sheet cake with the Bridgeport logo.

Dave Anderson, SYRPA President, welcomed everyone and provided an update on the status of the bridge repair. Phase I work has actually begun on the stabilization of the bridge! He thanked the efforts of Nevada City, Grass Valley and Truckee City Councils, and especially the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, for their support in the effort to have our famous bridge repaired and reopened. Dave presented a special appreciation gift to District 4 Supervisor Hank Weston for his extraordinary work and efforts on our behalf during this campaign. Dave especially acknowledged Supervisor Weston’s amazing work at the State Capital to help secure the funding necessary to restore our iconic bridge. Knowing Supervisor Weston’s fondness for horses, the appreciation was a large framed photograph of Hank proudly sitting upon his horse.

Dan Youngren, Supervising Ranger for our sector, then expressed his and the State Park’s gratitude for all of the SYRPA, Volunteer and Docent efforts that go into making the South Yuba River Park such a special place for the public. He gave out recognition pins to those docents who have worked at the park for one, five, and ten years. Special recognition was given to those of our docents who are leaving us but have given a great deal of their time and expertise to the park. They are: Donna Brown, Betty McCown, Bill Cortright, Patty Swindling, Daphne Townes, Ruth Peterson and Denia Pearson. Special honors went to Al Yates and Bev Morgan-Fuller for volunteering 1,000 hours this past year, and Steve Pauly and Bill Haselhorst for recording 2,000 hours. Also, Diane Marten was highlighted for her contributions to the park activities, both historical and educational, Mark Allen for designing, having built and installed much needed new gold panning troughs, and Denia Pearson for running a great gold panning program for years.

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 rangers prepared for us (now we know their other talents!). Come back next year everyone, we hope to have many new volunteers to get to know and honor.

And remember – our new call to action:

RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Submitted by Mickey Springer
Community Thank You from the Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee

During the Groundbreaking Ceremony on Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2014 local leaders, state representatives and the community came together to celebrate the first step in construction to stabilize our beloved wooden covered bridge at Bridgeport, South Yuba River State Park.

Over the past year, the community united in a big way to save something important to all of us. You tirelessly wrote letters, made phone calls, sent emails to state lawmakers and made multiple trips to the state capitol until the legislature and governor approved full funding in June 2014. You made your voices heard!

Now, with the start of the first phase of a $1.5 million stabilization and restoration project, we are seeing the fruits of our hard work. We are well on our way to saving this historic icon, the longest single span covered wood bridge in the world. Our new slogan is: Save Our Bridge – Get It Done!

The project has two phases. In Phase I, contractors will stabilize the bridge to help secure the structure before a more comprehensive restoration can be completed. The stabilization work is scheduled to be completed by December 30, 2014 just in time for winter.

Phase II will include the repair and restoration of the bridge so that it is safe and reopened to the public. The planning, permitting and engineering work necessary for Phase II begins in the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

We want to thank the entire community for all of your support and energetic participation in the campaign. You made the difference! A big thank you goes to: Governor Jerry Brown, Senators Jim Nielsen and Ted Gaines and Assembly Member Brian Dahle. Special recognition goes to the unanimous support we received from the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, the City Councils of Grass Valley and Nevada City, the Town Council of Truckee, all of the Nevada County Chambers of Commerce, the Economic Resources Council, the Grass Valley Downtown Association and the Nevada County Historical Society.

We also want to thank all of the officials and dignitaries who attended the Groundbreaking Ceremony, Congressman Doug LaMalfa, Nevada County District 4 Supervisor Hank Weston, Nevada County District 1 Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County District 2 Supervisor Ed Scofield, Nevada County District 3 Supervisor Terry Lambier, Nevada County Assistant Executive Officer Alison Lehman, District Representative for Congressman LaMalfa Jennifer Horne, Legislative Director for State Assemblyman Brian Dahle Cheri West, Nevada City Mayor Terri Anderson, Vice Mayor of the City of Grass Valley Jason Fouyer, South Nevada County Chamber of Commerce Director Carol Scofield, Executive Director Fire Safe Council of Nevada County Joanne Drummond, Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce Director Jerri Glover, General Manager Nevada Irrigation District Rem Scherzinger, Sierra District Superintendent Marilyn Linkem, Sierra District Sector Superintendent California State Parks Matt Green, Supervising Ranger Dan Youngren, State Parks Construction Manager Rod Tuttle, Retired Supervising Ranger Don Schmidt.

Thank you from all of us in the Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee: SOB Committee Chairman Doug Moon, South Yuba River Park Association President David Anderson, South Yuba River Citizens League Executive Director Caleb Dardick, Nevada City Councilman Robert Bergman, Regional Chambers of Commerce President Susan George, Bear Yuba Land Trust Outreach Coordinator Laura Petersen, South Yuba River Park Directors Mickey Springer, Ginny Brown, Bill Stamatis, Paul Keasberry and Robert Coats and community members Don Denton, Sandy Alves, Jean Wilson, Ron Ernst and Shirley Moon.

Stay tuned for updates about the bridge on South Yuba River Park Association’s website and Facebook page!

Now let’s follow through to Save Our Bridge – Get It Done!
BYLT Acquires Rice's Crossing Property

Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT) recently acquired 2,707 acres in Nevada and Yuba counties - including six miles of Yuba River frontage - known as Rice’s Crossing. Beginning just upstream from South Yuba River State Park at Bridgeport, the property is located about a quarter of a mile above the historic Rice’s Crossing and follows the river corridor up to Bullard’s Bar. With the deal finalized, this property, the largest owned by BYLT, will become home to miles of outstanding river corridor trails open to the public for mountain biking, equestrian riding and hiking. Eventually, these trails will provide connectivity to public lands in South Yuba River State Park, Plumas National Forest, New Bullard’s Bar Recreation Area and Tahoe National Forest.

The $3.25 million acquisition was funded by Proposition 84 funds through the California Natural Resources Agency’s River Parkways Program ($1.9 million) and Sierra Nevada Conservancy ($1 million) in addition to funding from the CalTrans Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program ($350,000).

The lower reaches of Rice’s Crossing near Bridgeport will require road building and the creation of safe river points, which is expected to take several years to construct. In the meantime, this particular stretch of river shorelines will be closed. When work is complete, anglers and kayakers will have unprecedented river access, helping to alleviate pressures on neighboring State Parks. “That’s going to happen as quickly as we can make it happen. We are kicking off our annual Trails Appeal fundraising campaign which will build much needed financial resources to do this work,” said BYLT Executive Director Marty Coleman-Hunt.

Submitted by Steve Pauly
Calendar of Events

⇒ **Visitor Center**: Open Thursday through Sunday; 11:00am – 3:00pm

⇒ **Bird walks**: Saturday mornings 8:00am **See below**

⇒ **Fall Festival** at Bridgeport: Sunday, October 26: 11:00am - 4:00pm

⇒ **SYRPA Holiday Party**: Saturday December 13th 6:00pm

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**Birding at Bridgeport with local expert Bill Cortright**

8:00 AM Saturdays for 2 hours. Bring snacks, water, binoculars, a field guide & wear good shoes.

**Meet at the North Parking Lot** (across the Pleasant Valley Rd. bridge)

**Two Saturdays left in the year to enjoy these local birds:**

**Oct 18**: American Dipper, Phainopepla, Red Breasted Sapsucker, Yellow Rump (Audubon)Warbler, Kingfisher, White Crowned Sparrow

**Dec 13**: Acorn Woodpeckers, Wren Tit, Nuttal’s Woodpecker, Common Merganser, Fox Sparrow, Black Phoebe, Song Sparrow

Thank you, Bill for all the wonderful walks and information you have given us all!