BRIDGEPORT FALL FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH 2015
11am - 4pm
Free Admission
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
Hayrides, Gold Panning, Barn Tours,
Crafts, Pumpkin Painting, Music,
Blacksmith & Basket Weaving Demonstrations,
Raffle, Live Birds, Food and Drink
Friends of North Bloomfield and Malakoff Diggins

The Friends of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins (a division of South Yuba River Park Association) hosted the 49th annual Humbug Day at Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park on Saturday, June 13th. Humbug Day celebrates California’s gold mining history and welcomes home one time residents of North Bloomfield and their descendants. It is estimated that over 550 people attended Humbug Day. On Humbug Day the park’s North Bloomfield town site came alive with wagon rides, demonstrations of gold panning, candle making, tin punching, weaving, blacksmithing and other period crafts and old fashioned family games.

North Bloomfield’s historic buildings were open. There was live music, dancing, food provided by E Clampus Vitus, Chapter 10, Lazy Dog Ice Cream, root beer floats, the “world’s smallest parade” and the annual shooting of the monitor (water cannon). This event was the result of the efforts of many volunteers (including many State Park volunteers from South Yuba River State Park and Empire Mine State Historic Park) and State Park staff. A big thank you goes out to each of them for making it possible for FNB&MD to continue this tradition.

The park’s visitor center and museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week this summer. Tours of the historic buildings of North Bloomfield are offered at 1:30 p.m. during the summer.

The 3,500-acre park is open on a self-guided basis from sunrise to sunset daily year round. Day use fees are $8 and can be paid at the museum or by self-registration when the museum is closed.

The park’s campground is open. Reservations may be made online at www.reserveamerica.com. For more information contact the park’s visitor center at 530-265-2740 or visit malakoffdigginsstatepark.org.

President’s Message July 2015

It has been a very busy and eventful spring indeed! The Association has been very involved in the continuing effort to assure the restoration of our iconic Bridge (please see the Save Our Bridge article). We have been working diligently to incorporate Malakoff Diggins Historic State Park into our Association and launch the Friends of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins. The SYRPA Spring fundraiser, “Celebrate Spring at Bridgeport” was held on May 15th and nearly 100 people attended the event. The funds raised from this event will be used to support educational and interpretive activities in the South Yuba River State Park. A special thank you goes to Bruce Stanton and the committee that made this event possible.

Summer brings many visitors to the Park. They are enjoying the many beach, wading and swimming opportunities along the South Yuba River. Although water levels may be low and the river looks calm, safety in and around the water is always important. Enjoy the river, but please keep safety in mind.

Looking forward, there are a number of special events being planned for the balance of the year:

The date for the Member and Docent Appreciation BBQ has been set for the evening of Thursday, September 24th. The Park Ranger and Aide staff will be assisting with this event. This is always a special event for all of the Docents and Members, as they are thanked for all of their efforts throughout the year. Be sure to mark your calendars (and check out the calendar included in this newsletter) and please RSVP when you receive your invitation.

The Fall Festival will take place Sunday, October 25th from 11am to 4pm. This is a popular event that permits many visitors, especially families, to experience the Park and to enjoy great entertainment, activities, displays and food. The Committee is being formed to plan, prepare and staff the event. Please let any board member know if you would like to participate. This is a big event and requires a full team effort to make it a success. Please join the team.

We also plan to have the annual holiday pot luck for SYRPA members in early December. We will let you know when we have a date and a venue.

The restoration of the historic wood covered Bridge continues to be a major focus of the Association’s efforts and concern. Please check the SYRPA website from time to time for updates.

Finally I encourage you to bring your family and come experience the beautiful South Yuba River State Park this summer. It will probably be warm, so plan on taking a dip or wade in your beautiful river.

Robert Coats
SAVING FOOD CAMPAIGN UPDATE

PROGRESS REPORT COMING SOON

With the Stabilization part of the project completed in February this year, the Assessment phase of the Repair and Restoration project has been in full swing. The findings of the team working on this stage of the project should be wrapped up by the end of June. We are looking forward to an update report from the State Park’s Acquisitions and Development Division in mid-July 2015. We hope to learn what repairs need to be made to reopen the Bridge and the recommended plan to accomplish this goal. Also, we should learn of any update to the schedule for the completion of the project and a more exact and updated estimate of the costs.

We will put out an informational update to everyone shortly after the meeting. The Committee continues to ask you to stay informed and engaged in the project as it progresses. And to, once again, come to the aid of the campaign if we need help contacting legislators and government officials and/or need to gear up for a fund-raising effort. Together we will Save Our Bridge.

Submitted by Doug Moon, Chair, Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee

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 restoration 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.
SUPERVISING RANGER REPORT

School is out. The weather is hot. And crowds of visitors are now entering our area parks in droves. That’s right folks… SUMMER IS HERE! Both the visitor service staff and maintenance staff have been putting in long hours so that our visitors will have the most enjoyable experience possible. We have people from all over the world coming to our area parks for the first time in their lives and it is vitally important that get it right for that first time.

I do like to keep these reports positive, however, I do have to mention that for the month of July, the Ranger ranks across the Sector will be very thin. Our seasonal Ranger that was working at Malakoff Diggins SHP for the summer has accepted a position with the National Park Service in Yosemite. So, I have been promoted as the “new” patrol Ranger for Malakoff Diggins SHP on the weekends in July. But…very good news is on the horizon. We are in the process of having a Ranger from Lake Tahoe transfer down the hill to become a Sierra Gold Sector Ranger. His duty area will be mostly covering the much needed visitor service operation of Malakoff Diggins. On another positive note…I have been told that our seasonal employee budget will be about the same as this past year. We were able to develop a Senior Park Aide position that assisted Ranger Marc with our volunteer program. Park Aide Christian Layton proved to be a valuable asset to the volunteer program and I am looking to expanding that role in the next year.

I hope to see all of you out enjoying this warm weather at the South Yuba River. Stay safe and cool out there.

Dan Youngren

NEW FENCING AT VISITOR CENTER!

Thanks, State Parks Staff!
The South Yuba River Park Association
Website Upgrade is Completed

The SYRPA website has a great new look and is now live at www.southyubariverstatepark.org.

The new website was designed and implemented by SYRPA Volunteers Mike Baca, Sandy Alves, Steve Pauly and Ardie Obert over the past several months. Doug Moon was the liaison to the SYRPA Board. The project began with a recommendation from a State Parks Foundation consultant to upgrade the old website to make it more attractive and easy to use. She recommended pull-down menus, an environmental color theme, more photos, and clear links to the Facebook page and the Newsletter. All of the content of the former website; articles, information, directions, natural history, cultural history, membership applications and archived Newsletters, have been moved to the new site. Each page has a banner photo of a Park feature with photos by Robert Lowe, Herb Lindberg, Bruce Pauly, Steve Pauly, John Field, and Dave Taylor. Please visit the new website; your comments are welcome!

Steve Pauly

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Park Reptiles & Amphibians Guide now on SYRPA website

Randy Oliver recently updated his Quick Key for identification of Park reptiles and amphibians. The Key is now online at the Plants and Animals page of the SYRPA website. Randy is well known to Park docents; over the years he has lectured to many docent classes and conducted field walks on Park natural history. He has even been known to bring a lizard in his pocket to disclose at a lecture! As a professional beekeeper, he keeps about 1000 hives and provides bees for crop pollination. Randy is active in bee and colony health issues; his website is scientificbeekeeping.com

Steve Pauly
The Bridgeport Star Party

The Bridgeport Star Party, held Saturday, May 23rd from 9pm to midnight was a success. Around 100 people attended the event. The Nevada County Astronomy Club led by David Buchla brought 9 telescopes for viewing. We saw Jupiter’s storm rings and three of its moons, star clusters, galaxies, double stars, Saturn and it’s rings, the moon up close and personal and much, much more. Six docents from the Empire Mine Security team led by Bob Jennings volunteered at the event and staffed some of the telescopes helping people view, adjusting the scopes as the earth rotated and sharing information about what visitors were looking at. Bridgeport Docents Cicely Brookover and Sally Herrera also helped with the event and our very own Ranger James Carey provided security.

“As a first time event I personally consider this a success because we have exposed our park to an entirely new type of visitor. Just because we are a “day use” only park doesn’t mean we cannot enjoy the park at night. I want to give my sincerest gratitude to the docents that helped make this event possible. I look forward to our next Star Party at Bridgeport.”

Ranger Marc Wetherbee

Toll Takers Sign Installed in Barn at the South Yuba River State Park

A new sign to commemorate Bridge toll takers Perkins Hutchinson (1856-64) and Gideon Graves (1876-99) was installed in the Barn June 25, 2015. Descendants of Perkins Hutchinson, David Wood’s toll taker, including his granddaughter, Sue Hutchinson Walker, attended the ceremony and funded the sign. Later the sign will be relocated near the Bridge when the renovation work is complete. An article about the toll takers is on the SYRPA website at the Cultural History page.

Steve Pauly
Field Trips for SYRPA Docents

Special Field Trips for SYRPA Docents were arranged by Ranger Marc Wetherbee this spring. They were all both fun and educational.

**North Star House (Foote Mansion)**
The North Star Conservancy House is a 10,000 square foot home designed in 1905 by the renowned California Arts and Crafts architect Julia Morgan. The House is located on a portion of the former North Star mine, a 14-acre site.

**Bidwell Mansion in Chico**
Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park is a beautiful, three-story, 26 room Victorian House Museum that stands as a memorial to John and Annie Bidwell. John Bidwell was known throughout California and across the nation as an important pioneer, farmer, soldier, statesman, politician and philanthropist. Annie Ellicott Kennedy Bidwell, the daughter of a socially prominent, high ranking Washington official, was deeply religious, committed to a number of moral and social causes, and was active in the suffrage and prohibition movements.

**Sutter Buttes**
This is a very special place to visit, as it has very restricted access. The trip included a short 2 mile hike learning about the geology, history, pre-history, and the flora and fauna within Peace Valley. The hike lasted about 2 hours and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

**Empire Mine**
Another fun field trip was a tour of Empire Mine; Behind the Scenes. Part 1 included a tour of the Cottage & Clubhouse and Part 2 was a visit to the Empire Mine Yard.

Become a Docent at the South Yuba River State Park and join in on these special opportunities for Docents only!

Watch for future tours arranged by Ranger Marc.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
2015
South Yuba River State Park

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BIRD WALKS: Saturdays: Tuesday July 7th, Sat. Sept 5th and Dec 12th; meet at 8:00am Bridgeport North Parking Lot

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

GOLD RUSH DAYS: Note location: Downtown Grass Valley Oct 10th & 11th 10am-5pm; free

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

MEMBER AND DOCENT APPRECIATION DINNER: Thursday, September 24th, 5:00pm at Bridgeport

NEVADA COUNTY FAIR: August 12th-16th; Nevada County Fairgrounds, State Parks Booth; Gold Panning

VISITOR CENTER Open Thursday-Sunday 11am-4pm

**For more information on any of these events, please visit the SYRPA webpage at www.southyubariverstatepark.org
Or call the Visitor Center: 530-432-2546
SYRPA Newsletter JULY 2015

SYRPA MEMBERSHIP
JOIN TODAY!
TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!
The South Yuba River Park Association (SYRPA) is a registered 501-c3 non-profit organization assisting the California Department of Parks & Recreations in the operation of the South Yuba River State Park. Your membership in SYRPA will:

**Help preserve, protect and enhance the cultural and natural resources of the South Yuba River State Park.**

**Support the interpretation of the river canyon’s rich biological diversity, scenic geologic features and historic cultural resources.**

**Provide you with a quarterly newsletter and other notices of Park activities.**

**Entitle you to receive a 10% discount on purchases made at the Bridgeport visitor Center.**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM
Please fill out and mail an application form to the address below or leave it at the Bridgeport Visitor Center with your check, which is a tax deductible donation.

Make check payable to: SYRPA

Mail to: SYRPA Membership
        P.O. BOX 1658
        Penn Valley, CA 95946

You can also become a member at the SYRPA website: [www.southyubariverstatepark.org](http://www.southyubariverstatepark.org). On the menu bar, click on the tab “About SYRPA”, then click on “Become a SYRPA Member” tab. You may then join or renew your membership by paying with PayPal. You can also print a membership form from the SYRPA website and mail it with a check to the above address.

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

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South Yuba River Park Association—www.southyubariverstatepark.org
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