COME ON DOWN TO BRIDGEPORT FOR A FUND RAISER TO HELP SUPPORT THE SOUTH YUBA RIVER STATE PARK

It’s the “Celebrate Spring” Event
Sponsored by the South Yuba River Park Association
May 15, 2015
4:00pm—7:00pm
An evening in the Park of fine food, hosted bar, and live entertainment.

Donations of $50.00 per person
For more info, see page 5 article
Or call Jean 530-265-8401
President’s Message April 2015

This year has gotten off to a running start. The stabilization of our iconic covered bridge, although a few months behind schedule, has been completed. The stabilization structure is not particularly pretty, but it assures the bridge will be protected as the restoration process proceeds. We hope to have an indication this summer of how much it will cost to complete the restoration. The committee leading the “Save Our Bridge” effort has members from SYRPA, The South Yuba River Citizens League, Bear Yuba River Land Trust, the Chambers of Commerce, the Nevada City Council and other interested citizens and is working to save our iconic covered bridge. It continues to be a truly community effort.

This quarter, SYRPA agreed to act as the cooperating association for Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park. This decision was reached after a careful review and discussion by the board. Please see the separate article “Friends of North Bloomfield and Malakoff Diggins” for more information.

Planning is underway for SYRPA’s spring fundraiser, Celebrate Spring at Bridgeport. The funds raised will be used to support educational and interpretative activities in South Yuba River State Park.

Save the date, Friday, May 15th, 2015, for a lovely evening at Bridgeport that will include delightful live entertainment, good food and drink.

With the dry weather, the wildflowers started blooming early on the Buttermilk Bend trail. Wildflower season is now in full blossom. Docents lead walks on Saturdays and Sundays during the season. Whether you go with a docent or on your own, do not miss your chance to experience the wildflowers and vistas on the beautiful Buttermilk Bend trail.

I wish to express my and our Association’s appreciation to the outgoing members of the Board who each served on the Board for six years and worked to assure SYRPA’s success. Dave Anderson served as President for over five years and leaves some big shoes to fill. Mickey Springer was particularly devoted to the Native Plant Garden and beautification efforts and also stepped up to serve in many other critical roles. Both Dave and Mickey will continue to be active in the Association and in the park.

See you in the park.

Robert Coats

Friends of North Bloomfield and Malakoff Diggins

In March, the South Yuba River Park Association Board (SYRPA) agreed to act as the Cooperating Association for Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park. We are beginning a process of reinvigorating the role of a group of individuals to serve as a division of SYRPA to help administer operations at this special Park.

SYRPA will serve as the Cooperating Association through a division of SYRPA to be known as “Friends of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins”. Friends of North Bloomfield and Malakoff Diggins will be separate from the other activities of SYRPA, allowing SYRPA to maintain its focus on support of interpretative and educational activities and volunteers at South Yuba River State Park.

The activities of Friends of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins will be overseen by a committee appointed by the SYRPA Board. One of our first action items is to recruit individuals to serve on this new committee. If you would like to serve in any capacity to help support activities at Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park please contact Dave Anderson at 530-432-2359 or Robert Coats at 530-264-7092.

See you in the park.

Robert Coats
SAVE OUR BRIDGE CAMPAIGN UPDATE

PROGRESS IS BEING MADE!

There is now highly visible evidence on the progress being made to Save Our Bridge! Stabilization, the first phase of the work on the historic wood covered Bridge at Bridgeport is now complete. The twin steel beam towers are up, the supporting beams under the Bridge are installed and all of the stabilizing cables are tied down and adjusted to provide support during the next phase of work. It is not the prettiest of structures however now the real work can begin, Restoration!

State Parks have asked us to spread the word to Please stay away from the stabilization structures, beams and cables. Remember this is an ongoing construction zone and is very dangerous to go in areas around and under the Bridge.

The Restoration and Repair stage of the work (Phase II) has already begun. The general contractor for the first part of the work, a very well-known and respected firm, Buehler and Buehler Structural Engineers Inc., has begun inspections, testing and in some cases removal of material for further analysis. They are also employing geotechnical, schematic design wood/timber and historical assessment experts to determine the extent of damage to the Bridge and come up with a plan for repairs. They also will be able to determine an up-to-date estimate of the costs to complete restoration. It is estimated that this preliminary assessment work will be completed by July 2015.

We are looking forward to meeting with representatives from State Parks in July 2015 for a report on the assessment and estimate of costs. In the meantime the committee is still meeting regularly, preparing and distributing press releases at meaningful junctures, attending community events and maintaining our contacts to keep this important project in the public’s and media’s awareness. We are also starting to explore possible monetary grants, and with help from a grant from the California Parks Foundation, to employ a grant-writer. We want to be prepared in case additional funding is necessary to complete repairs. We 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 fund-raising.

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 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.
SUPERVISING RANGER REPORT

So… what is the saying…”Spring is in the air”? I do believe it is. Without mentioning that the air is warmer and the birds are chirping, you can really tell that it is spring just by the smells as you walk around town or by taking a guided wildflower walk on the Buttermilk Bend trail on the weekends between now and the first part of May. Spring is sometimes referred to as a fresh start or a new beginning. When it comes to our volunteer program, I really believe that this is true. For those of you that may not know, Ranger Marc Wetherbee has become the Volunteer Coordinator at the South Yuba River State Park. Since the beginning of this assignment, he has taken ownership of program and has truly made it his own. He has injected new life into the program by coordinating and scheduling a “Guest Speaker” series that will help give our docents the knowledge and creditability that they will need when interacting with our visitors. Ranger Marc has also scheduled area field trips for this spring that will take our docents to other area parks and locations. We also have a new addition to our volunteer management team, Senior Park Aide Christian Layton, who is assisting Ranger Marc with his vision and will be developing and presenting Jr. Ranger programs this summer at the river.

During the first two weekends in March, we conducted our annual volunteer orientation. I am extremely happy to announce that we were able to add 11 new volunteers to our ranks. This may not seem like a lot but this year has doubled our last two years combined of volunteer recruitment. Ranger Marc was also instrumental in the recruitment of three new volunteers. So, now is the time to get the word out that the volunteer program at the South Yuba River is full of energy and life. If you have not been an active volunteer in the past or you have not become an official State Park Volunteer, it is time for a new beginning!

Supervising Ranger Dan Youngren

New Full time Senior Park Aide for South Yuba River State Park

Hello everyone! I’d like to introduce our new Senior Park Aide at the South Yuba River State Park. Her name is Christian Layton. She is a Nevada County native and grew up in Penn Valley on her family’s cattle ranch, off Spenceville and Indian Springs Roads. She attended Nevada Union High School, where she played volleyball and basketball. Christian received a volleyball scholarship to Biola University, in Southern California, playing all four years that she attended. She studied and received her BA in Communication studies and a minor in Biblical studies. Her husband and their dog “Ranger” live in Grass Valley and enjoy hiking, camping, and gardening. It has been 2 years since she started her career with State Parks and has worked at both Bridgeport and Empire Mine. She looks forward to furthering her career with State Parks and joining our team of Rangers and Volunteers at Bridgeport. She hopes to help make our Park a special place for people to enjoy high quality outdoor recreation. Christian will be running the School Group Tour program and the Junior Ranger Program as well as helping out the Rangers with various tasks. She will working Monday through Friday 8AM-5PM. Please stop by the Visitor Center and say “Hi” to her next time you are down at Bridgeport.

Submitted by:
Park Ranger Marc Wetherbee

Rangers Dan and Marc sporting their “winter coats”
Celebrate Spring at Bridgeport Event

Come support the South Yuba River State Park at the May 15, 2015
“Celebrate Spring At Bridgeport” Fundraising Extravaganza!

One of the most important missions of the South Yuba River Park Association (SYRPA) is to raise funds to support the South Yuba River State Park. Our efforts have contributed to keeping the Park open. We have also played a significant role in securing funds for the restoration of the bridge at Bridgeport. We have restored the historic barn and 1927 Shell gas station.

A continuous flow of funds is needed to continue our support of park programs and projects. The major funding sources are membership dues, profits from the operation of the Visitor Center at Bridgeport, and some generous donations. Over the past two years we have also held a Spring fund raising event. Both the John Muir event at Empire in 2013 and the Spring Fundraiser at Bridgeport last year provided additional resources that we applied directly to benefit the Park. This year we will again welcome Spring with an evening of fine food, a hosted bar, and live entertainment by the Consolations Vocal Band (Jed Dixon, Andrew Kerr, Isaias Acosta, and JR Lewis). Antonio Ayestaran catering will provide hearty appetizers for event goers.

Our “Celebration of Spring” fundraising event will be held at Bridgeport on May 15, 2015 from 4:00PM to 7:00PM. Donations to attend are $50.00 per person. Reservations can be made at the Visitor Center or by calling Jean Wilson at (530) 265-8401. Seating is limited, so make your reservations early!

SYRPA is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization and your donations may be tax deductible.

Please plan on attending. Support your beautiful Park. And have a great time too!

Independence Trail Repairs

On January 31, 2015 a volunteer work party met at the trail head of the Independence Trail to repair a bridge in poor condition. The work group consisted of 3 South Yuba River Park Association (SYRPA) members, 4 Bear Yuba Land Trust members, and 4 girls & 4 boys from the AmeriCorps. We moved all the material for building the new bridge 1 ½ miles down the trail to the worksite using wheelbarrows and our backs!

Before the bridge could be built, we had to dig a 150 foot ditch in order to allow the water to go along the trail and not through the work site. We also had to remove brush from about 200 feet of trail, as it was very over grown. The addition of the AmeriCorps group enabled us to finish the job within 4 hrs. More work is planned to help drainage, and build ramps up to the bridge. When the work was completed, the AmeriCorps youth received a history lesson about the history of John Olmsted and the establishment of the Independence Trail.

The materials for this project were provided through a grant from the California Parks Foundation (CPF) to SYRPA. It was all made possible by a generous anonymous donation of $450.00 given to CPF specifically for the Independence Trail.

There are still funds available for material from the grant to repair a second bridge 1/2 mile further up the trail from the recent bridge repair site. Another work party is being planned in a couple months to complete this repair.

Submitted by Warren Wittich
COME EXPLORE BRIDGEPORT’S VISITOR CENTER

Spring is definitely here at Bridgeport and the wildflowers are in bloom. This is a good time to visit our historical Visitor Center, open Thursday thru Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We have a good supply of Wildflower Books to identify the wildflowers in our area. There are also some great items for sale as keepsakes of your visit. A new item is the Gold Panning Vial Necklace with real 24K gold in the vials. In addition to an inventory of Children’s books which continue to be popular as gift items or special treats for our younger guests; there are T-Shirts, handmade totes, aprons and tea towels, mugs, butterfly earrings, and much more. There are always cold bottles of water and granola bars for sale for your hikes around the park. We also carry gold pans so you can try your luck and skill finding gold in the river!

Another good reason to visit our Visitor Center on one of your visits to the Park is to check out the many historical items and pictures telling the history of Bridgeport. You will be warmly welcomed by one of our docents who staff the center and are willing to provide information on hiking trails, picnic areas, best swimming holes and many more valuable tidbits of information. We look forward to seeing you at the Park!

Submitted Carol Berry, Visitor Center Committee

There is always a lot of “behind the scenes” work being done by SYRPA volunteers. Here are two examples. Thanks to the many volunteers who work to improve and keep the Park activities running smoothly!

South Yuba River Park Association Website Upgrade Underway

A website upgrade committee has been working for several months to modernize and improve the Association’s web pages. The committee has been upgrading the use of colors and photos more effectively, enhancing menu navigation, upgrading content and featuring our Newsletter and our Facebook page. The project is coming along well and should be completed and ready to go “live” in the next few months. The committee members are Mike Baca, Steve Pauly, Sandy Alves. Doug Moon is acting as SYRPA Board of Directors liaison.

Submitted by Steve Pauly

New Bridgeport Historical Toll Takers Sign

This June 25, 2015 descendants of Perkins L. Hutchinson, 1856-1864 toll taker for David Wood, builder and owner of the historic covered Bridge spanning the South Yuba river at Bridgeport, will be visiting the Park. The occasion is the dedication of a new sign, The Bridgeport Toll Takers, to be mounted in the Barn gallery. When the Bridge repairs are complete, the plan is to move the sign to a post near the Bridge entrance. The sign commemorates the work of Hutchinson and of Gideon Graves, 1876-1899 toll taker for Charles Cole. The Hutchinson family is sponsoring the manufacture of the sign. SYRPA Historian Steve Pauly has been working with State Park staff and the Hutchinson Family on this project.

Submitted by Steve Pauly, Don Denton
Bridgeport
Walk Among the Wildflowers
2015 tours

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 11:00 AM
MARCH 7 - MAY 10
Meet at North Parking Lot on Pleasant Valley Road

Each spring between March and Mid-May, State Park docents lead weekend wildflower walks along the Buttermilk Bend Trail at Bridgeport. The Buttermilk Trail is an easy 2.5 mile hike and the walk should take about 2 hours. Group tours are available weekdays by appointment for a nominal fee. Call the Visitor Center for reservations and information, (530) 432-2546.

Walking tours and flower blooms are subject to the whims of Mother Nature, so it's always a good idea to watch for news or call our Visitors Center to be sure the flowers and docents are blooming and ready to perform.

You never know what wonderful surprises await

Pretty Face (Triteleia hioides)

Bowl-Tubed Iris (Iris macrosiphon)

Fairy Lantern or Globe Lily (Calochortus albicans)
FOR MORE INFO CALL 530-432-2546

Call this number the night prior to event for potential cloudy sky cancellation notice

DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 23RD, 2015

STAR PARTY

Bridgeport

Come join us at the river for a spectacular up-close look at our neighbors in the sky.

The Nevada County Astronomy Club will be setting up their telescopes for you to see planets, galaxies, star clusters, double stars, and nebula and learn a little about the heavenly creations.

ALL AGES WELCOME!

Location: Bridgeport, South Yuba River State Park, North Parking Lot

*Free Admission*

FREE PARKING

TIME: 9:00PM-MIDNIGHT

Suggestions to Bring: Warm clothes, a chair, snacks, water, cellphone with “Night Sky” App.

What NOT to bring: Alcohol & glass are prohibited, red light flashlights only within the telescope arena.

This event brought to you by:
California State Parks & Nevada County Astronomers
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 In the left column, click on “Become a Member of SYRPA”. 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:

Annual individual membership:       $20.00
Annual family membership:           $25.00
Lifetime individual membership:     $150.00
Lifetime family membership:         $200.00
Small Business sponsor < 5 empl.    $50.00
Business sponsor                     $100.00

Name: ________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City/State/Zip ____________________________
Phone: _______________________________________
Email address: ____________________________