HAPPY 2017!
START YOUR NEW YEAR WITH A WALK IN THE PARK WITH THE BIRDS!

2017 Bird Walk Dates:

Saturday, January 14
Saturday, February 11
Saturday, March 11
Saturday, April 8
Saturday, May 6
Friday, June 9
Saturday, July 8
Saturday, September 9
Saturday, October 14
Saturday, December 9

All of the walks will start at 8:00 AM except for the June, July and September walks which will start at 7:30 AM.
Meet at the South Yuba River State Park's north parking lot. Wear weather-appropriate clothing and bring binoculars.

For more information, contact South Yuba River State Park at (530) 432-2546 or Bird Walk Leaders:
Bob Slyker bg@ly@aol.com
Carol & Bruce Mahor cmahor@Comcast.net
No new major news on the Bridge Project. This is the quiet time before the Governor’s Budget is compiled and released to the public on January 10, 2017. We will at that time find out if funding for the Bridge Project is in the Governor’s 2017-2018 Budget. We thought it would be helpful to include a review and history of the Project in this newsletter. Below and on the follow page is the current “Fact Sheet” regarding the Bridge, its history and financial status. We wish you all a very happy New Year and it will be an even happier new year if the funding is in the 2017-2018 budget!!

Doug Moon

FACT SHEET

History

◊ Constructed in 1862 by David Wood as a part of the Virginia Turnpike
◊ Granted National Historic Designation July 14, 1971
◊ California Registered Landmark #390, listed August 26, 1947
◊ American Society of Civil Engineers Historic Civil Engineering Landmark #14-1970
◊ Built to move supplies and people along the Virginia Turnpike toward the gold and silver fields during the late 1800’s, a vital link to California’s Gold Rush and transportation history.

It is the longest single-span wooden covered bridge remaining in the world.

Over the past 155 years the Bridge has suffered from aging and extreme weather conditions creating dry rot of the structural supports, twisting of the arches, and misalignment of the end supports with the possibility of total collapse of the entire Covered Bridge.

An engineering survey conducted in 2011 found structural problems so severe that the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) determined that the Bridge had to be closed to all visitor traffic.

Financial Summary

◊ August 2012 engineering estimate $1.1million for immediate repairs
◊ DPR, working with CalTrans secured $545,000 Federal Grant which required matching funds of $43,000
◊ South Yuba River Park Association (SYRPA) received $10,000 Grant from California State Parks Foundation and added $20,000 for a donation of $30,000 to the States Donor Match Program; creating a fund of $60,000 to secure the Federal Grant.

The Governor’s Proposed 2014 Infrastructure Capital Funding Plan, which was approved by the Legislature, contained a specific line item for the repair and restoration of the Bridge identifying $318,000 for 2014-2015 and $943,000 for 2016-17. The Legislature approved $1million from Proposition 84 funds and $318,000 from the General Fund in the 2014-15 Budget to commence work on the Renovation Project.
FACT SHEET cont’d

Current Status

Temporary stabilization efforts for the Bridge have been completed with a cost of $268,000 (Phase I). The State budgeted $114,500 in 2013-2014 and covered the remaining cost from a fund provided by in-kind match monies identified for hours worked by Volunteer South Yuba River Park Docents. DPR completed the stabilization effort in February 2014.

The restoration project is on schedule. In 2016, following an extensive assessment of the condition of the Bridge and the work needed to completely renovate the structure and raise the Bridge by two feet, a new cost estimate for the work now stands at $3.9 million. This is an increase of $2.6 million over the original $1.3 million in the 2014-15 State Budget.

The initial $1.3 million already allocated is more than sufficient to cover all of the engineering and architectural plans, the assessment and all permitting processes. The engineering and architectural plans are in the final stage of completion. The permitting phase has started with DPR hiring a consultant to shepherd the project through an extensive permit process.

The permit process began in February 2016. The agencies involved include Army Corps of Engineers, California Depart of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Historical Preservation, CalTrans and a CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) and NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process.

The project is proceeding on schedule, with a projected completion date in 2019. DPR has assured us that the project is of the highest priority and the additional funding needed of $2.6 million is projected to be requested in the 2018-2019 State Budget.

What you can do:

Communicate with your State elected officials expressing your concern and requesting their efforts to ensure that this iconic Bridge project is fully funded and that the Bridge is fully restored. Please contact:

* Governor Brown website: http://govnews.ca.gov/gov39mail/mail.php
* Senator Nielsen website: http://district4.cssrc.us/
* Senator Gaines website: http://district1.cssrc.us/
* Assemblyman Dahle website: http://arc.asm.ca.gov/member/AD1/

Spread the word. Make sure your friends, acquaintances, organizations and business contacts are aware of the danger of losing this irreplaceable historic Bridge. Stay informed, check the SYRPA website below for updates on the project and any help that may be needed to ensure the project is funded and completed.

Join the South Yuba River Park Association, see website at www.southyubariverstatepark.org to lend support to the restoration effort and to assist in providing financial and interpretive material support to the Park.

TOGETHER WE CAN “SAVE OUR BRIDGE”
President’s Message

Winter is a quiet time at our Park. Lake Spaulding is full. So the South Yuba River is running bank to bank through the Park.

This edition of the newsletter is an opportunity to reflect on the events of this last year and to look forward to the new year. Happy New Year everyone!

2016 has been very busy for our Association, including our very successful Celebrate Spring fundraiser, our Fall Festival, the Member and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in September, and our Holiday Potluck.

I wish to thank the other officers and directors for their efforts this past year and their willingness to serve in the coming year: Carol Berry, Vice President, and Bill Stamatis, Treasurer, Paul Keasberry (who also serves as Co-Chair of Friends of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins), Doug Moon (who also serves as Chairman of the Save Our Bridge Committee), Bruce Stanton, Margaret Vodicka and Warren Wittich. In January, John Field, who has been doing a wonderful job on publicity and promotion, joins the Board. Welcome, John. This is a very talented and congenial group. If you have any interest in joining the Board or learning more about the activities of the Association please contact me or any other Board Member. I also wish to thank the members of the Association for their support of the Board – it is much appreciated.

Thanks are also due to the Friends of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins Executive Committee, chaired by Paul Keasberry and Dave Anderson. The committee continues to work to reinvigorate the role of the Cooperating Association in supporting educational and interpretive activities at Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park.

Looking forward, our most critical challenge is the effort to assure that our iconic covered bridge is fully restored and maintained. We are hopeful that the balance of the funding required to complete the restoration will find its way into the governor’s proposed budget due out in early January. (See the article from the Save Our Bridge Committee for a fuller update.) The Board also will be looking at other strategic initiatives and action plans. Please let me or any other Board member know if you have ideas or issues that you believe we should address.

Please remember that it is time for us to renew our annual memberships. Membership dues play a large role in our ability to perform our mission of providing interpretive and financial support to our park. It is also a good time to invite others who enjoy our park to also join our Association or to volunteer.

The Association also needs help for events, including the Celebrate Spring Fundraiser, fund raising and many other activities in support of our goals. Please consider volunteering your time. We have a very talented pool of members.

Robert Coats
SUPERVISING RANGER REPORT

The New Year is upon us and I keep asking myself, “where did 2016 go?” I guess that time flies when you are having fun or… I’m just too busy to stop and smell the roses as they say. 2016 was yet another challenging year for the Sierra District and the South Yuba River State Park. California State Parks is still trying to recover from past budgetary problems which are reflected in neglected park facilities, projects not getting off the ground or completed and areas of our parks not getting patrolled. If you ask any Parks person, “Why are these things not getting done?” or “Why don’t we ever see a Ranger when we need one?” the simple answer is that State Parks need staff in order to fulfill our obligations to our visitors and tax payers. Some of you may know that the Sierra District has been hit hard, twice, since 2010 when full time positions were taken away since the Sierra District budget did not allow us to fill these much needed positions. Did you know that at one time (2010), just the South Yuba River SP alone had one full-time Maintenance worker, a Supervising Ranger and five rank and file Rangers? Our current staffing consists of zero full-time Maintenance workers, a Sector Supervising Ranger to cover the three Sector parks and two rank and file Rangers. Times are tough but… relief may be on the horizon.

Our Department is on the verge of announcing a major reorganization. The term that has been used by the *Transformation Team is “streamlining”. Finding ways to cut costs and eliminate redundancies from the headquarters level down in order to better serve the field staff. I am hoping that 2017 brings this change and that it will allow our Department to get back on the right track in order to better serve our visitors and to protect our most valuable resources, our Parks. Cheers, and a Happy New Year to all!

*The Transformation Team is a group of park professionals and outside individuals tasked with implementing the “Parks Forward” report that can be viewed on the California Department of Parks and Recreation website. [https://www.parks.ca.gov/](https://www.parks.ca.gov/)

Dan Youngren

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SPECIAL NOTICE

South Yuba River Park Association Board of Directors’ Meeting Dates have been changed.

The Board now meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 9:00am at Bridgeport

As always, Board meetings are open to all SYRPA members and the public.
On a perfect day for weather, The South Yuba River Park Association (SYRPA) hosted the annual Bridgeport Fall Festival on October 23rd, 2016.
The Park came alive with fun, food, games, music, exhibits and demonstrations. Volunteers from SYRPA, State Park Rangers and Park Aids participated in putting on this wonderful event.
The day’s activities included music by The Buffalo Gals, hayrides provided by Rod Hisken driving his 1956 John Deere tractor, wild bird exhibits and presentations by Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release of Grass Valley. There were tables with representation by Sierra Foothills Audubon Society, Bear Yuba Land Trust, the Nisenan Tribe, SYRCL, Fire Safe Council of Nevada County, Nevada County Search and Rescue, California State Parks, and of course SYRPA.
Although the iconic covered bridge is closed for renovation, several people were able to peer into it from behind a chain link fence. There was a "Save Our Bridge" (S.O.B.) table where updated information on the status of the bridge renovation project was made available.
Families enjoyed a special feature for this year consisting of two magic shows performed by magician Bernard Bradshaw.
Among other activities were basket weaving, wool spinning, face painting, pumpkin painting, gold panning, children's games, barn tours and much more for kids of all ages. The 1920's gas station was open for serving our popular and delicious root beer floats and observing the beautiful new diorama of Bridgeport housed within. Food and drink was available from vendors including Penn Valley Chamber of Commerce (great food including their famous baked potato recipe), Culture Shock Yogurt and scrumptious homemade cakes by Marji Kerhart.
The day concluded with a raffle and a silent auction of items donated by many very generous docents and merchants.
Attending the Bridgeport Fall Festival was, once again, a great way to experience one of our local treasures in Nevada County...The South Yuba River State Historic Park at Bridgeport. The annual Fall Festival is a free event. All costs are paid by the South Yuba River Park Association. Any donations received at the event go directly into funds that support the Park. Please see the next page for a list of the generous business sponsors of the Festival Raffle.
Thank you, from all of us, for making our Bridgeport Fall Festival of 2016 a success. Without you, it would not have been possible.
SYRPA Fall Festival Committee and Publicity Team.
BELOW IS A LIST OF THE GENEROUS BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORTED THE FALL FESTIVAL RAFFLE. PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE BUSINESSES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<th>Phone</th>
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<td>Abercrombie &amp; Co. Stoves &amp; Awnings</td>
<td>17593 Penn Valley Dr</td>
<td>Penn Valley</td>
<td>432-2499</td>
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<td>Bookseller</td>
<td>107 Mill St</td>
<td>Grass Valley</td>
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<td>BYLT</td>
<td>12183 Auburn Rd</td>
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<td>Maria's Restaurant</td>
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<td>Grass Valley</td>
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<td>Mountain Pasttimes</td>
<td>320 Spring St.</td>
<td>Nevada City</td>
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<td>255 S. Auburn St.</td>
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<td>Players' Pizza</td>
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<td>615 Maltman Dr</td>
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<td>Penn Valley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wild Birds Unlimited</td>
<td>119 Neal St</td>
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<td>272-7744</td>
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The SYRPA Holiday Pot Luck held on Dec 6, turned out to be a very merry party indeed!

We just got off the phone with John, from the Marine Corps calling with a heart-felt Thank You to all the attendees who were so generous in their giving of new toys for “Toys for Tots”. As the room was being cleaned up after the party, everyone was commenting on how much they enjoyed the music by Heather MacAdam. She played her gentle guitar and sang to all of us throughout the night. In that same vein, she privately observed to Doug Moon that during her performance and interactions with attendees, she felt this was a very special group of people. She got THAT right! Everyone came with wonderful food, good cheer and a warm smile. They were greeted by Ardie Obert, who had name tags prepared for everyone. The room was beautifully decorated and set up by Bev Morgan, Sharon Anderson, Carol Berry and Ardie Obert.

Our illustrious bartenders, Bill Stamatis and Paul Keasberry were joined by Milan Vodicka with the difficult task of keeping everyone’s glasses full. John and Kathy Field put out all the publicity for the event and Kathy kept track of who was coming. It was great team effort! There were delicious appetizers, a wide variety of scrumptious entrees, salads and desserts, the highlight being the beautiful cake created by Marji. And Patti’s chili chicken was a huge hit. What a remarkable variety of dishes! Our illustrious leaders; Robert Coats, the distinguished President of SYRPA, David Anderson, Co-Chair of FNB/MD Committee and Dan Youngren, Sector Supervising Ranger each spoke briefly about this passion, our Park, the work the volunteers have done, and the challenges ahead for both the South Yuba River Park Association and Friends of North Bloomfield and Malakoff Diggins.

As always, a big Thank You to Lake Wildwood Association for the generous use of the beautiful Oak Room. We hope more members and volunteers join us next year. It is a great way to celebrate all we have accomplished during the year.

Doug and Shirley Moon
WILD ABOUT WILDFLOWERS

It may be just a few days before Christmas but I already have the 2017 Wildflower Season on my mind. Because we have seen a significant amount of rain so far this fall I am encouraged that we will be seeing another bumper crop of wildflowers. And speaking of bumper crops, the 2016 season saw our Wildflower Docent numbers blossom as well. We are so thankful for the new volunteers because as with the rainfall over the past several years we experienced a drought in new docents.

As I have done for the last few years I will be offering two training classes prior to the Wildflower season. The first class will be a Beginning Plant Identification class for the very new and nearly new Docent. A Refresher class is offered for those of us who just need to jog their memories a bit before hitting the trail again. These classes are not only offered to Wildflower Docents but to any Docent or park employee who may not have any interest in leading a Wildflower Walk but would just like to know more about the flowers on the Buttermilk Bend Trail. These classes are usually scheduled for the end of February. On the first or second Saturday in March we will have a docent meeting to review procedures and Docents can sign up for the days they would like to work. This year I would like to propose another meeting for the newest docents who joined our team after the classes were given last season, many of whom made the effort to shadow Docents during the season but I never had an opportunity to meet. I will be getting the word out on that meeting and the class schedule in late January.

I would like to acknowledge and thank those Docents along with Ranger Marc who have been working to update our Wildflower brochure during the off season. Thank you Darlene, Karen and Vicki for just jumping in to help get the brochure ready for the season. I also wanted to mention that Karen has found a Bryophyte Specialist who is willing to lead a walk to teach us more about ferns and mosses. Thank you Karen for facilitating this. We will set up a time and date and you will be advised as soon as we can arrange it.

I am hoping that you all had a wonderful Christmas holiday and are looking forward to a great 2017 Wildflower Season. By now the demands of the holidays are behind us so you should have the time to dust off your Wildflower books and start quizzing yourself on all those darn yellow flowers and reviewing the difference between the Douglas and Miniature Lupines.

Wildflower Coordinator
Ruth Peterson
New Volunteer Sign Up (Training) for 2017

I wanted to let everyone know that we had a very productive Sierra Sector Park Staff meeting to plan the 2017 Open House and training dates for new volunteers for our three Parks. First scheduled are the three “Open House” dates for the three Parks. The Open House is an opportunity to recruit new volunteers and give those interested in volunteering information as what is needed at each Park. This is also an excellent opportunity for current SYRPA Members to inform new volunteers about the Association and the activities we support.

Volunteer Open House:

⇒ Empire Mine Saturday, February 18th, 10 am-12 noon
⇒ South Yuba River Saturday, February 25th 10 am-12 noon
⇒ Malakoff Diggins Saturday, February 25th 1pm-3pm

Next on the schedule are the training sessions for new volunteers. ***Notice that we are now calling this a "sign-up" rather than a training. Prospective volunteers need to only attend one Saturday session. They need to bring a check made out to Capital Live scan or cash for the $10 Live scan fee. We will have time for each Co-Op president/representative to speak but we will not have time for each park volunteer group to speak. There will be a 1 hour lunch break where interested volunteer coordinators can mingle with our perspective volunteers.***

Volunteer “Sign-up”:

◊ Empire Mine Saturday March 4th 9am-3:30pm
◊ Empire Mine Saturday March 11th 9am-3:30pm

Dan Youngren

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SYRPA MEMBERSHIP?

Would you like to become a member of SYRPA?
It’s easy and you will be helping support the many activities at the Parks.

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 and mail to:
SYRPA
ATTN: Membership
P.O. Box 1658
Penn Valley, CA 95946
CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2017
South Yuba River and Malakoff Diggins Historic State Parks

SAVE OUR BRIDGE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE MEETING: Feb 6th: 2:00pm~ SYRCL Headquarters
VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE: Feb 25th 10am-12 noon ~ Bridgeport, 1pm-3pm ~Malakoff
VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP: March 4th or 11th: 9am-3:30pm ~ Empire Mine
WILDFLOWER WALKS: March-May (dates and times to be determined)~ Bridgeport
MOTHER’S DAY: May 7th; Empire Mine
S YRPA CELEBRATE SPRING FUND RAISER: May 18th: 5pm-8pm~ Bridgeport
MALAKOFF FISHING DERBY: May 13th: 9am-2pm~ Malakoff Diggins
MALAKOFF HUMBUG DAY: June 10th: 11-4pm ~ Malakoff Diggins
NEVADA COUNTY FAIR: August 9th-13th ~Nevada County Fairgrounds
MINER’S PICNIC: August 26th ~Empire Mine
ICE CREAM SOCIAL: September 3rd ~ Malakoff Diggins
DOCENT APPRECIATION DINNER: September 20th: 5-7:30pm ~ Bridgeport
STAR PARTY: October 7th; 7:30pm-10:30pm~ Bridgeport North Lot
FALL FESTIVAL: October 22nd: 11am~ 4pm ~ Bridgeport
HOLIDAYS AT EMPIRE: November 24-25 ~ Empire Mine
HOLIDAY POT-LUCK: December date and place to be announced

Reoccurring events

◊ VISITOR CENTER Open Thursday-Sunday 11am-3pm until Spring; then 10am –4:00pm
◊ BIRD WALKS: Saturdays: Jan 14, Feb 11, March 11, April 8, May 6, Friday, June 9, Saturdays, July 8, Sept 9, Oct 14 and Dec 9: All walks start at 8:00am except for June, July and September which will start at 7:30 AM – Meet at the Bridgeport North parking lot.
◊ GOLD PANNING Memorial Day–Labor Day Sat & Sun 12:00am-2:00pm~ Bridgeport; donation $1 p/pan
◊ SYRPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS: Fourth Tuesday of each month; 9:00am~ Bridgeport
◊ FNB/MD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: First Friday of each month

**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

South Yuba River Park Association—www.southyubariverstatepark.org
Newsletter Editors: Doug Moon, Shirley Moon