It’s Been a Long Time Comin’
Historic Bridge Construction to Begin Soon!

Since 2011... it’s been seven long years that the beloved wood covered Bridge at Bridgeport has been closed to the public. Tens of thousands of visitors to the South Yuba River State Park over these years have missed the opportunity to walk across the longest single span historic wood covered bridge left in the world. That’s about to change!

Due to the concerted efforts of citizens, organizations, associations, local governments, non-profits and the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the renovation of the Bridge is about to begin. The assessment of damage is done, the plans for reconstruction are drawn, the permits from numerous State and Federal agencies have been approved, the full funding is in place and now the contractor to do the work has been selected and the contract is signed! Preliminary work on the Project can now begin with the contractor providing submittals for the processes and materials they will use. Timelines and staging areas will be determined. Construction work will begin in the spring of 2019, with the bulk of the work to be completed during low river flows in summer/early fall 2019. We have recently been informed that the work will be completed by the end of December 2019! What great news!

The company selected to do the work is a California firm, Spectra Company. Spectra specializes in the area of historic preservation and specialty construction. They have worked on the rehabilitation of over 300 historical, architectural and cultural landmarks over the past 30 years. We look forward to a complete rehabilitation and renovation of the Bridge that will help it endure for many more generations to experience and enjoy. A huge thank you to every person and organization that has worked so hard for so long to Save Our Bridge!

Doug Moon; Chair, Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee
President’s Message

The river has seen many visitors this summer. The fall is a quieter time to experience the Park.

We had expected the restoration of the historic covered bridge at Bridgeport to begin this past spring. Uncertainty about the timing of the restoration affected many of our plans for 2018. Unfortunately, it was necessary to cancel the 2018 Fall Festival. Patience and flexibility are virtues. We have recently learned that the restoration should be in full swing in 2019. Please see the separate Save Our Bridge Committee article.

The Nevada County Fair featured the State Parks booth with a number of displays and the ever popular gold panning. Thanks are due to the many volunteers who staffed the booth. Volunteers from the three parks in western Nevada County stepped forward to serve visitors. Your Association (along with Empire Mine Park Association) purchased gold, silver and gems for the gold panning troughs. Donations received at the booth offset a portion of the cost.

On September 15th, the South Yuba River Citizens League organized its 32nd annual Yuba River Cleanup. SYRPA was a sponsor of the Yuba River Cleanup. SYRPA and State Park Volunteers put together a team to work at Bridgeport. We look forward to expanding our team next year. The day was capped by an appreciation barbeque at Pioneer Park in Nevada City where SYRPA staffed an informational booth. Kudos to SYRCL!

The cleanup was followed shortly by our Member and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Thursday, September 19th. Please see the separate articles on the dinner.

In mid-October, SYRPA and its Friend of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins committee hosted the 4th annual meeting of the Sierra District Cooperating Associations at Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park. It was an opportunity for us to meet and share with Empire Mine Park Association, Bodie Foundation, Sierra State Parks Foundation and several State Park Staff. We also had presentations by Matt Green, Paige Rogowski of the State Parks Partnerships Office and Kate Litzky of the California State Parks Foundation. Thanks go to Empire Mine Park Association for hosting an informal gathering the evening before the meeting. Thanks are also due to Holly Mitten, Carol Berry, Marianne Bryant and Margaret Vodicka for organizing the event.

Please remember that your Association relies strictly on volunteers and the generosity of its members. The Association in turn supports the interpretive and educational efforts of State Park volunteers. I encourage all members and volunteers to share their interest in the South Yuba River State Park and Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park and encourage people to join our Association and to become a State Park volunteer. Those interested in volunteer opportunities should contact the Volunteer Coordinators.

If your time and interest permits, please consider stepping up to serve as a volunteer coordinator or trying out other volunteer activities. Also, SYRPA needs additional folks to help out with its events, including fundraisers and the Fall Festival, and to serve on the board. If you are interested, please touch base with me or any other board member. More hands will lighten the load for all.

Lastly, our traditional holiday potluck dinner is scheduled for 5:30 pm Tuesday, December 4th, at the Lake Wildwood Community Center.

Please take advantage of the fall weather and visit our Parks.

Robert Coats
SUPERVISING RANGER REPORT

As fall nears and summer passes I would like to thank all of our staff, volunteers and the SYRPA Board members for all of their hard work and dedication in making this another successful year. I would also like to thank Elliott and Jacob for their hard work and congratulate them on getting into the State Park Ranger Academy. They will both be missed, but I hope they are able to come back as Rangers one day to South Yuba River State Park. We will also be losing Ranger Greg Sherr on January 1st to retirement. Thank you Greg for your years of service and we wish you the best in retirement.

As many of you know we will not be having the Fall Festival this year as we were anticipating the bridge being dismantled this summer and being worked on in the South Parking lot and Visitor’s Center lawn. The good news is that a bid for the bridge project was accepted and the project is scheduled to start in the spring or early summer of 2019. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2020, after being closed for nearly 9 years. We all look forward to opening the bridge back up to pedestrian travel.

Did you know that State Parks is on AirBnb? Well we are not. It was brought to our attention by the Nevada County Assessor’s Office that there was someone renting out a “fort” on State Park property at Purdon Crossing. We were able to locate the property on AirBnB’s website and Ranger Carey started an investigation. He was able to book the so called “Fort Resort” on AirBnB’s website. Ranger Carey gathered all needed evidence and then signaled uniformed Rangers to come in to apprehend the suspect. The “fort” was complete with air mattresses, fire rings and a rock cook stove. This was a great example of State Park Rangers working with other Nevada County Agencies to protect our resources and prevent a large scale fire from happening in our community. Eight employees from our maintenance team went to the location two days later and spent 8 hours dismantling the site and removing 600 pounds of garbage. Thank you to all that were involved.

Speaking of fires, we recently had a wildfire at Bridgeport. State Park Rangers Marc Wetherbee and James Carey were first on scene and did a great job requesting resources and directing them in as they arrived. Because of their actions we were able to keep the fire to around one acre. This was yet another multiagency incident that State Parks was able to be a part of. Great job team!

We look forward to the season slowing down and wish you all a happy and healthy upcoming holiday season.

Ryan Randar, Supervising Ranger
SAVE THE DATE
FOR THE ANNUAL
SYRPA HOLIDAY POT-LUCK

For SYRPA & FNB/MD Members, Docents, & Park Staff

TUESDAY EVENING
december 4th
5:30pm–8:00pm

Lake Wildwood Community Center,
Lake Room

There will be music, libations, great food and a fun time for everyone.
**Toys for Tots donations will be collected as well**

Look for your invitation coming soon in your email!
**INDEPENDENCE TRAIL WORK PARTY**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!**

**Know and Go**

**What & Where:** Work Party at Independence Trail

**When:** Thursday, November 8

**Time:** 9am to 1pm

**Details:** Please join SYRPA, BYLT, and State Parks for a work party on Independence Trail on Thursday, November 8th from 9:00 to 1:00 pm...Arrange at least 15 minutes before the start time to fill out liability forms. We will be meeting at the trailhead off of HWY 49, and will continue to spread the pile of decomposed granite in the parking lot, replace boards, clean off structures, clean culverts, brush the trail corridor, and improve the overall quality of the trail.

Safety: Long sleeve shirts, trousers, and work shoes/boots, and gloves are a must. Please come prepared with plenty of water, a lunch, and everything you need to have a safe and fun work day!

BYLT, SYRPA, and State Parks will provide the tools and materials needed to complete the work.

Questions about this work party can be emailed to: shaun@bylt.org

Thank you.

*Warren Wittich, SYRPA
Shaun Clarke, Bear Yuba Land Trust*

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**Still time to go on a Bird Walk!**

**There is one more this year!**

The LAST scheduled Bird walk starts in the Bridgeport north parking lot at 8:30 AM Saturday, December 8th. Come and enjoy the beautiful winged creatures in our Park.
GEOLOGY WALKS AT
SOUTH YUBA RIVER STATE PARK

By Karen Synowiec and Bob Slyker

The rocks that provide the setting for the South Yuba River and the Buttermilk Bend Trail have a story to tell. Approximately 50 geo-fan participants showed up at Bridgeport on Saturday September 22, to learn about the origins of these rocks and the geology of the South Yuba River State Park.

A discussion of the park’s complicated geologic history - how the ancient rock formations came to be present along the river, and the influence of geologic processes such as plate tectonics on their deposition - were all part of a short presentation prior to the walk. Participants learned that all of the bedrock at the Bridgeport portion of SYRSP is considered by geologists to belong to the Smartville Complex, an assemblage of related rocks formed about 160 million years ago (late Jurassic period). These rocks were subsequently intruded (invaded from below) by large bodies of buoyant molten rock (magma) which filled fractures and cooled. Rocks formed in this way are called dikes. The dikes (illustrated in the picture below) are also considered to be part of the Smartville Complex.

Participants observed some of the features discussed above in their walk along the South Yuba River Buttermilk Bend Trail. These features included the gravel and boulder deposits in the river bed, and how they were derived, as well as the unique and complex outcrops of diabase (a fine-grained igneous rock of basaltic composition), cross-cutting sheeted dikes, and weathered metamorphosed granite seen along the trail.

As the river slices through the 20-mile long scenic canyon within the park, rocks seen in and along the river’s edge represent Jurassic and older oceanic-continental plate tectonic plate boundaries, uplifted, faulted and folded to provide the beauty we see today. Rocks from the ancient Sierra uplift, as well as auriferous gravel deposits that formed during the 50-million-year-old Eocene Ancestral Yuba River provide the setting for the multiple well-loved adventures of gold-panning, swimming, and hiking, enjoyed by visitors to the park.

Bob Slyker and Karen Synowiec
South Yuba River State Park Association Member and Park Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

September 20, 2018

What’s better than a beautiful fall day at the South Yuba River State Park? Answer: a beautiful fall evening at the Park with some of your good friends! The 2018 SYRPA Member and Park Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held on Thursday, September 20th hosted by the SYRPA Board of Directors and State Park staff. Many SYRPA members, park volunteers, SYRCL River Ambassadors, park staff and friends came to enjoy a meal together in the park and to celebrate those who help make it one of the foremost State Parks in California!

Park volunteers were recognized for their hours of service in various capacities at the Park. Think of over 20 years of volunteer service – Jean Wilson was honored for meeting that particular milestone! Special recognition was also extended to a number of others who have dedicated much time and effort into improving the park – retiring Park Superintendent, Marilyn Linkem, was recognized for her years of support of the SYRSP and the effort to Save Our Bridge and was given a unique plaque made from original shingles of the Bridge to honor her as she retires from service. Doug and Shirley Moon were there in the spotlight as well, for their countless hours Saving Our Bridge! Shaun Clarke, Land Manager from Bear Yuba Land Trust, alongside Warren Wittich, SYRPA Board Director, were also in attendance and recognized for their support and work on the Independence Trail. It was great that Park Staff and Rangers were able to be there as well, and we are grateful for the cooking skills of Matt Green, Marc Wetherbee and Ryan Randar not only for helping support our volunteers, but for grilling the brats, burgers and chicken. A big thanks to SYRPA Board members for the great bean dishes and to Ron Berry and Paul Keasberry for tending bar. Thanks, too, to Jenna Randar, State Park Interpreter I, for the wonderful applesauce cake, and Allyssa Borich, Park Interpretive Specialist, for the brownies – both delicious! Also tagging along with Jenna was our newest, very Junior Ranger, Carson Randar. Welcome Carson! Allyssa presented service pins to volunteers, and made special recognition of long-time volunteer, Artis (Ardie) Obert for her countless hours helping with the visitor Center. Thank you to all the Park staff and SYRPA volunteers who made this year’s Appreciation Dinner such a success.

Ann Wright, SYRPA Board Director
Recognition of Volunteer Time and Dedication: Thank You!

Our volunteers work in the Visitor’s Center, and give guided hikes about local birds, flowers, and geology. They give tours, clear trails, work the sales center, and teach visitors how to gold pan at our picturesque Park. Thank you to all of our volunteers; SYRPA board members, and activity coordinators; the Park wouldn’t be as wonderful as it is without all the time and dedication you give!

Over 170 volunteers each bring something special to our Park, and in doing so, help support and preserve the local history and natural beauty of Nevada County, and our unique place in Gold Rush history. Some of our volunteers are new, while many have been active for over a decade. So far this year our volunteers have donated over 2,000 hours to the Park, and interacted with more than 8,000 visitors. At our Docent Appreciation Dinner, we commemorated many of their achievements.

Janet Peters, Pam Hall, Frank Herwatt, and Mary Ann Coleman all were awarded one year pins. Janet is a devoted trail walker and photographer, capturing our elusive eaglets on camera this season. Pam always brings a smile when working the Visitors Center, talking with over 150 people just this year. Frank is a skilled gold panner, teaching visitors the special skills to find a nugget of their very own. Mary Ann brings her joy of teaching to inspire visitors in learning about the world around them.

Both Susan Ernst and Bob Slyker were presented 5 year pins. Susan brings a friendly and welcoming atmosphere to the Visitor Center, and Bob enjoys sharing his knowledge of both Geology and Birds; leading hikes all year long that inspire our visitors.

Ardie Obert, Paul Keasberry, and Darlene Ward were all awarded 10 year pins. Ardie is a vital member of the Visitor Center Volunteer Committee, Paul is an integral part of the SYRPA board since 2011, and Darlene is a dedicated enthusiast on the spring Wildflower Walks.

Jean Wilson has been a volunteer at the Park for 20 years; a constant delight in the Visitor Center with a wealth of knowledge of the Park; it was a pleasure to award her a 20 year pin.

Over the years, our volunteers accrue thousands of donated hours. This year we updated the commemorative plaque displayed in the Visitor Center with the names of four volunteers. Lori Gunderson reached 1,000 donated hours this year, and her name was engraved on a bronze nameplate. Jean Wilson and Sue Hughes both reached 2,000 hours, and Ardie Obert has given 3,000 hours, and their nameplates now bear a new star for their achievements.

Thank you to the hardworking SYRPA directors who can often be found at community events, parades, and park activities, advocating and fundraising for the Park throughout the county. Thank you Robert Coats, Carol Berry, Paul Keasberry, John Field, Doug Moon, Robert Slyker, Bill Stamatis, Bruce Stanton, Margaret Vodicka, Warren Wittich, Ann Wright, and Rhea Williamson.

Thank you also to our coordinators and committee members: Margaret Vodicka (Visitor Center Scheduling), Ardie Obert, Bev Morgan-Fuller, Carol Berry, & Shirley Moon (Visitor Center Committee), John Field (Publicity), Bob Slyker & Karen Synowiec (Geology Hikes), Ron Berry (Gold Panning Scheduling), Carol Malnor & Bob Slyer (Bird Walks), and Karen Loro (Point Defiance Hikes) our programs wouldn’t be the same without them!

Allyssa Borich;
Park Interpretive Specialist, South Yuba River State Park
**THE FRENCH CONNECTION**

Friends of North Bloomfield and Malakoff Diggins together with California State Parks celebrated historic French Connections at the park on Saturday, September 8, with a charming French Festival. A highlight of the day was a guided tour of historic French-occupied buildings and sites in the “ghost town” of North Bloomfield, historic cemetery interpretation, with more than 25 French and French Canadian grave sites marked with French flags. The festival featured live French music, petanque games, and a mesmerizing marionette show, which explained how the park got its very Russian-sounding name. Retiring Sierra District Superintendent Marilyn Linkem attended, as well as two County Supervisors (Hank Weston and Heidi Hall), and Supervisor-elect (Sue Hoek). Emmanuel LeBrun-Damiens, the Consul Generale de France made the journey from San Francisco, and Guy Micheleir, Honorary Consulate of France at Sacramento, also attended. The day had a “Brigadoon” feel to it, as this normally sleepy, deserted town came alive with music, abundant delicious food and drink, costumed characters wandering the streets, and the echoes of foreign tongues, as native French-speakers discovered the magic of Malakoff.

Submitted by Syd Brown

Please enjoy many more fun-filled photos at:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ywev3pd5l47mdd9/AAA1zGujG7eqMpUaN-oWE_8a?dl=0
Seasons Change, but the Yuba River Remains a Delight

The South Yuba River is a highly seasonal park, with wildflower walks in the spring, gold panning and swimming in the summer, and hiking in the fall and winter. The beauty of the Yuba River makes it stunning to photograph during winter highs, and refreshingly serene to enjoy in the heat of the summer. As summer comes to a close, and the weather turns cooler, hiking once again comes to the forefront for visitors to the South Yuba River State Park.

The fall and winter rain are an investment in the spring beauty of the valley, when wildflowers dapple the verdant hillsides like an impressionist painting. Thousands of tourists come every year to view these natural wonders, each a lovingly crafted miniature masterpiece. Our knowledgeable docents guide people down the scenic Buttermilk Bend trail, pointing out the immense floral variety within a single mile, and sharing interesting facts and stories about the blooms.

When the sun warms the canyon, and lifts the icy river chill, droves of people come to enjoy the Yuba’s refreshing water. Like a necklace of emeralds, the cool Yuba River rests against the golden hillsides, radiating warmth under the summer sun. It is alluring; with pools, rapids, and sandy beaches tucked away along its banks, the perfect spot to spend a sunny afternoon might be just around a corner of the river.

Gold glimmers in the troughs by the visitor center, but some may choose to rough it like the early miners, chasing their elusive prize in its native place. Placer mining is a test of patience with a simple pan. Finding gold that was deposited thousands of years before anyone thought to look for it; waiting, hidden in layers of auriferous gravel. Year after year, new minds are filled with gold fever when our volunteers demonstrate how easy it can be to find gold with a little patience. It is the unique geology of the region, exposed by the Yuba River that makes this such a gold rich area. Our geology hikes guide interested individuals through the ancient history of our park, and how the river canyon came to be formed.

Bird walks share some of our most elusive wildlife with the public. With each season comes another set of feathered visitors, each coming to the river canyon for their own reason. While the swallows make a grand display nesting along the bridge, the bald eagles roost in distant treetops away from inquisitive eyes.

Each and every season has its own distinctive beauty along the Yuba River canyon. From vibrantly colorful spring, to warm and lazy summer, with crisp fall hikes, and winter’s quiet stillness, the Yuba always has something to share.

Allyssa Borich; Park Interpretive Specialist, South Yuba River State Park
Fall comes to the Visitor Center and Gift Shop

The Visitor Center and Gift Shop at Bridgeport is now on its Fall/Winter schedule opening at 11:00 a.m. and closing at 3:00 p.m. Beginning in October, we are no longer open daily; we will be open Thursday thru Sunday. We experienced a busy summer with many visitors coming to the Park to enjoy the South Yuba River and other amenities. We are now moving into the quieter time of the year at the Park but there are still many activities to enjoy beyond swimming in the river. Take time to visit the Park, take a hike, tour the barn, gas station and our Visitor Center and Gift Shop which provides information on the history of the park, flora, birds, and hiking/walking trails. We carry a small supply of books with topics ranging from the history in the surrounding area and exploring Nevada County to the Lake Tahoe area. We have recently been advised that Hank Meals’ book; “The River” will no longer be available as he is moving in a different direction from writing books to starting a blog on Google: “Yuba Trails and Tales”. We will be offering new items such as these colorful magnets.

Our congratulations go to our Senior Park Aide, Elliott Bringman, who has been accepted as a Cadet into the Ranger Training Program beginning mid-October.

Submitted by Carol Berry

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Ardie Obert Receives Poppy Award

Ardie Obert has donated thousands of hours to the South Yuba River State Park Visitor Center; inspiring other volunteers to direct their time and dedication toward improving our Park and what opportunities we offer to the visitors. Her positive attitude, willingness to help, and constant presence are invaluable to the operation to the Visitor Center at Bridgeport. She encourages and patiently trains new volunteers, in addition to stocking the Sales Center, and serving on the Visitor Center Volunteer Committee. Her interactions with staff and visitors are a credit to the State Park mission. Over her decade of service, Ardie has interacted with countless volunteers, ensuring that their visit to our Park has been safe, enjoyable, and educational. Friendly, welcoming, and always ready to lend a hand; Ardie is an essential member of our team. We are proud to honor her with a Poppy award for her exceptional merit. The Poppy Award is a statewide recognition granted to individuals who have made significant contributions to the betterment of California State Parks through their voluntary service.

Allyssa Borich
Park Interpretive Specialist, South Yuba River State Park
MEET YOUR SYRPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Below is a list of the current South Yuba River Park Association Board of Directors. If you have any suggestions, questions or concerns, please feel free to contact one of your Board Members. This is a highly dedicated group of volunteers who put in many hours each month to preserve, protect, support and promote the South Yuba River State Park and Malakoff Diggins Historical State Park. They can always use more help. Please consider becoming more active in Park activities, helping staff events and the Visitor Centers. New Coordinators are needed for programs such as Gold Panning, Wildflower Walks, and Beautification of Park grounds. Please contact any Board member or Park Interpretive Specialist Allyssa Borich 530-432-2546, email Allyssa.Borich@parks.ca.gov to volunteer.

SOUTH YUBA RIVER PARK ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS 2017
(Term Limits Dates) Three 2 year terms, 6 years total (Jan 1 to Dec 31)

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Start/End</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Coats, President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Slyker, Director</td>
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
FALL / WINTER 2018
South Yuba River and Malakoff Diggins Historic State Parks

◊ BIRD WALKS: Saturday Dec 8; 8:00am ~Meet at the Bridgeport North parking lot.
◊ HOLIDAYS AT EMPIRE: November 23rd-24th ~ Empire Mine
◊ SYRPA HOLIDAY POT-LUCK: December 4th ~ 5:30 - 8:00~ Lake Wildwood Community Center-Lake Room

Reoccurring events

◊ VISITOR CENTER Open Thursday - Sunday~ 11:00am-3:00pm
◊ SYRPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month; 9:00am~ Bridgeport
◊ FNB/MD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Meetings: First Friday of each month

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**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
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For information regarding Malakoff Diggins and Friends of North Bloomfield, please visit: http://malakoffdigginsstatepark.org/

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
You can also pay on-line! It’s easy!
Go to the SYRPA website: www.southyubariverstatepark.org
and click on “Become a Member”