



Meet Paul Tebbel New EYNC Head Offers Insight to Job

by Paul Tebbel

The Effie Yeaw Nature Center has a long and impressive history. Effie Yeaw and her supporters started using the Deterding Woods for nature education classes and eventually worked with Sacramento County to have it buy the land.

It is a pleasure to be able to introduce myself as the new executive director of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center (EYNC). By the time you get this issue of *The Acorn*, I'll have been on the job for about three and a half months. Needless to say, I am still busy learning about EYNC, ARNHA, and the preserve.

My background is running non-profits, including nature centers. I've lived in Sacramento for about three years after moving here from northern New Mexico, where I had managed a wildlife hospital and education center. My parents live in a retirement home in Sacramento, which is one of the reasons I moved to California.

From 1995–2006 I was the director of Audubon's Lillian Annette Rowe Sanctuary, a 1400-acre wildlife sanctuary on the Platte River in Nebraska. This is the site of one of the greatest migration spectacles in the world, which brings thousands of visitors every spring to see over a half million sandhill cranes congregate on the river every night. When I first came to the sanctuary, it did not offer any environmental education pro-

grams for local youth, but by the time I left, over 7,000 kids came to the sanctuary each year to learn about the Platte River, water use, wildlife, and the Native Americans and pioneers who were part of the history of that region.

Taking over the directorship of EYNC meant coming to a place where high quality environmental education programs had existed for over 40 years. Effie Yeaw started these programs, and they have flourished under a number of directors, including Marilee Flannery, who retired this spring after 17 years at EYNC and over 30 years of education and outreach efforts for Sacramento County.

You all know the story of what happened in 2010. Sacramento County, looking for ways to reduce a significant budget deficit, asked for a nonprofit organization to take over Effie Yeaw. ARNHA, with over 30 years of experience supporting EYNC and a focus on educating the public about the lower American River environment, stepped up and was selected to take over EYNC. Suddenly ARNHA was responsible for raising four times as much money as ever before and running what is essentially a small business. The staff all took significant cuts in pay, lost all of the benefits that the County used to provide, and has worked to maintain

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Second Annual Art Gala "Wildly" Successful

By Stephanie Monzon

On May 21, the second annual "Painting Where the Wild Things Are" gala and art auction took place at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Amid trees aglow with sparkling lights and with music from the Sacramento Brass Quintet and from Lisa Phenix wafting through the idyllic spring evening air, servers



from Hannibal's Catering immediately greeted guests with hors d'oeuvres in hand.

The attendees were abuzz about the art and the setting. Susan DeVore, ARNHA member and art gala attendee, called the event "fabulous" and said, "It is a perfect evening for it—the weather is just ideal, and the art is beautiful—quite a

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Read about Imported Species Surprises on page 6

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President's Message

"Don't waste yourself in rejection, nor bark against the bad, but chant the beauty of the good."
—Ralph Emerson

The Effie Yeaw Nature Center is in full fall swing after a successful summer of fun, including our first ever musical concert by Native American flutist Mary Youngblood. Along with our new director, Paul Tebbel, we are revamping our programs to reach more people and make them affordable for everyone. Please get the word out that we are in our second successful year of running the Nature Center as a nonprofit, and we are planning great events for the whole family. We are also open more hours. Please let your children's teachers know that the programs are affordable, and ask them to bring their students to the Center for our award-winning programs.

The Nature Center is continuing to offer programs during the week and also on the weekends. Call (916) 489-4918, or go to the EYNC website at www.Sac-NatureCenter.net for details.

Thank you to all members who have stayed with us during our first year and who embrace the future of Effie Yeaw as a rich cultural center. Thank you to the dedicated ARNHA Board of Directors that continues to put out wonderful publications, including *The Acorn*, and the new, updated *Biking and Hiking the American River Parkway*, and who have stepped up with such enthusiasm to take on these new challenges. I also want to thank our new director Paul Tebbel and the EYNC staff who have worked exceptionally hard to continue to provide all the services and programs of the center.

I especially want to thank one of our board members, Carol Doersch, who is as humble as she is strong and who has been the backbone of our organization throughout the tumultuous first year of transition. Our courtyard has a new trellis that is dedicated in her honor for her exceptional efforts at the Nature Center.



We are better and stronger than we were last year, and the future looks bright. Act now, and become part of our success story at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center run as a nonprofit by your organization ARNHA. Come and join us here at Effie Yeaw, where there are all kinds of opportunities to make new discoveries about nature.

Please consider giving a donation to the Nature Center, upgrading your membership level, or volunteering with ARNHA and the Nature Center.

Spread the word to encourage others to join our efforts! Your own inspiration can be a call to action. Come and bring your family and friends to see our resident animals and those in the preserve; wander quietly along our trails as you listen to the sounds of nature and catch sight of the ever present acorn woodpeckers, turkeys, and deer.

Larry Washington

Larry Washington
President, ARNHA

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EYNC’s programs while working with ARNHA to create the structure needed to keep EYNC running. Those of you with business experience know how tough this is, and it all had to happen fast.

So if I have painted this picture accurately, you now see what brought me to EYNC. ARNHA was looking for someone with nature center management experience and an understanding of nonprofit organizations, and I was looking for a job that would keep me in Sacramento at the same time. You can call it fate, luck, or both—but I am proud to be part of this incredible environmental education institution and look forward to working with ARNHA to continue to do what EYNC does best.

What is the future of EYNC? That is a question I’m often asked, but it is not my place to say. ARNHA is now the entity responsible for EYNC’s future, and I will be working with the board and staff to move that process forward. However, I can give you some insight to what I know we will be working on.

The world of environmental education has been strongly influenced by the technological advances of the last two decades. Phones can now provide guides to birds, plants, and more and we

envision guided tours of the preserve available as a phone app. Now you and I might not be interested in such things, but the young people of the Sacramento Valley are, and one of our goals will be to embrace these opportunities to make sure our environmental programs continue to attract people of all ages. A major part of our mission is connecting young people with nature, and if that means embracing new technology,—then we should adjust.

Our live education animals will continue to be an essential part of our programs. The power of seeing a hawk, owl, or snake close up (and safely) never loses its impact. Plus our outreach programs (done at a location other than Effie Yeaw) are always more powerful when we have one or more live animals.

We are looking for another large owl to fill the voids left when our resident owls Virginia and Luna passed away.

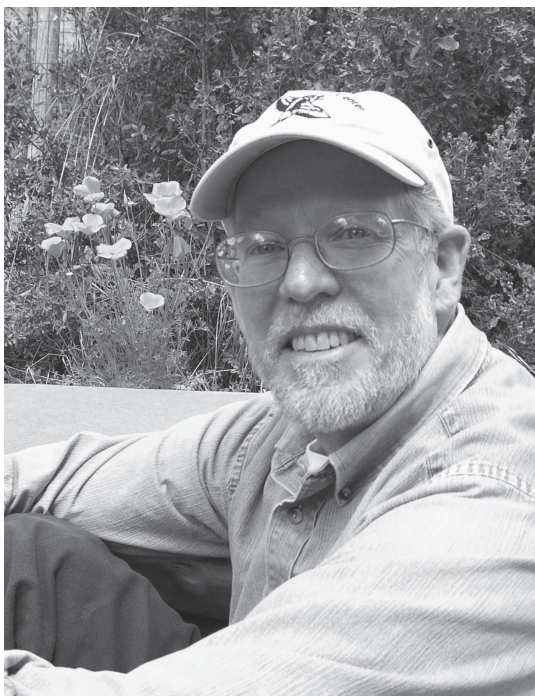
One major project for me will be the management of the 77-acre preserve. My background is in wildlife ecology and the management of land for the preservation of vegetation or wildlife species. Sacramento County still owns the preserve but has limited staff and resources for doing the actual management. ARNHA will be entering into a long-term preserve management agreement with the County that will include a vision for what we want the preserve to look like and how we can cooperate to reach these goals.

For those of you familiar with the property, it has changed a great deal in the last 30+ years, and the impact of deer (which eat any plant small and tasty—including small oak trees) and exotic invasive weeds (star thistle, bull thistle, Himalayan blackberry, etc.) will be immediate concerns. Over the next year, I will be organizing a committee to create the long-term vision for the preserve and put together work

Paul Tebbel, EYNC Executive Director

plans to get us there. Plus we’ll need to raise money for the needed equipment or management that the County cannot provide, and, of course, we’ll depend on volunteers to do most of the work. I think this is one of the most exciting opportunities I can offer ARNHA members—if you have any interest in the management of the preserve, either from a planning or a hands-on perspective, I encourage you to contact me, and I will put you on the list of people to receive my communications.

My door is always open to ARNHA members. I’m interested in what you think about EYNC and the work we do out here—any constructive input will be appreciated. You can reach me via email (pault@sacnaturecenter.net) or through my direct number (916-489-5080). Drop me a line anytime. Thank you for supporting ARNHA and EYNC. We would not be here if it were not for your interest and support. ■



It’s Clean Up Time!

The Great American River Clean Up is coming Saturday, September 17, from 9 a.m. to noon. Once again ARNHA is responsible for collecting trash and recyclables in Ancil Hoffman Park, reports steward Linda Thomas.

Please wear long pants/shirts, closed-toe shoes, sunscreen, and a hat. Follow the sign to the “River Clean Up” station in the picnic area.

Sponsored by the American River Parkway Foundation (ARPF), the event is a real contribution to the health of the Parkway and the river. Removing trash and debris prevents pollutants from entering the watershed, harming wildlife, or creating hazards for recreational users of the river and Parkway. For more information, call ARPF at (916) 486-2773.

EYNC BRIEFS

Maidu Cultural Program and Ecosystems Program Offered for Teacher Inservice at Effie Yeaw Nature Center

On Saturday, September 24, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., teachers are invited to learn more about the historical life of the Valley Nisenan Maidu people in our area.

Informed EYNC staff will use PowerPoint presentations, present classroom activities, and lead an ethnobotany walk. All participants will receive a copy of The Valley Nisenan Curriculum guide and lunch. This standards-based program addresses social science and science standards. The cost is \$60.

On Saturday, October 15, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., another teacher inservice program will explore nature's ecosystems using the senses, arts, and language. This workshop addresses the K-8 science standards and includes lunch. Each participant will receive a binder filled with information and classroom activities. The cost is \$60.

Luna, Resident Barn Owl, Passes Away

"A bird never doubts its place at the center of the universe."

--Barbara Kingsolver (*Prodigal Summer*)

Luna, the Barn Owl resident at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center for the last 14 years, passed away on June 29, 2011. During her time at EYNC, Luna educated and touched the lives of so many who visited the Nature Center or saw her in a classroom presentation.

Taken to the California Raptor Center in 1997, it was thought Luna had fallen from the nest and that she might have some brain damage. She would not eat, and ultimately had to be force-fed to keep her alive. Efforts to rehabilitate her failed. Having such close contact with humans, Luna became imprinted on them and, consequently, could not be released back into the wild. Luna came to the Nature Center at only a few months old, and throughout the years she helped teach the public the important role that barn owls play in our environment. A stealth hunter, barn owls primarily use their acute sense of hearing to detect and capture their prey—mainly rodents. Unfortunately, in the wild, a large percentage of barn owls do not make it through their first year! We were lucky to have Luna in our lives for 14 years. We will miss her very much!



Audubon Moves Meetings to Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Sacramento Audubon Society general meetings, held on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., are moving to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Assembly Building from the Shepard Garden and Arts Center at McKinley Park, beginning September 15.

"We all hope that our partnership can blossom into a mutually beneficial collaboration," an Audubon spokesperson said.

That sentiment was echoed by Larry Washington, president of the American River Natural History Association, who said the move will advance an already fine partnership with Sacramento Audubon. "We'd like to make more connections on projects with Audubon and do more 'cross-pollinating' with other nonprofits," he said.

Sacramento Audubon's experienced birders have been key participants in ARNHA's annual American River Wildlife Count and Bird and Breakfast event, the latter a major fundraiser. The Save the American River Association also holds its annual meeting at the EYNC.

Wish List from EYNC

If you can donate any of the following, you will help the staff at Effie Yeaw Nature Center immensely:

- 8-foot fiberglass ladder
- Gift cards for Incredible Pets or PetSmart
- Gift cards for Home Depot
- Gift cards for Staples (for cases of toilet paper & paper towels)
- Small 4WD tractor with a brush hog to control invasive weeds in the preserve

For these and/or other useful items you may have, please contact Paul Tebbel at pault@SacNatureCenter.net.

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variety.” Another ARNHA member and art patron, Paul Williams, commented, “I discover such promising artists at this wonderful event while appreciating inspiring art.”

Sponsored by the American River Natural History Association and the Sacramento Fine Arts Center, the day included a *plein air* event in the morning, with a children’s art show, silent auction, live auction, and dinner to follow later in the evening.

Altogether, the gala brought in a net total of \$30,100 this year, a figure on par with last year’s event. At \$40 each, 236 tickets were sold, and artists donated at least half of their sale proceeds to the cause. This year the gala committee, led by EYNC’s development director Betty Cooper, was very successful in attracting several generous corporate sponsorships and other cash sponsors as well.

David Peterson, acclaimed Sacramento watercolor artist and active member of the Sacramento Fine Arts Center, organized the *plein air* activities and also served as an enthusiastic announcer for the silent auction. ARNHA president, Larry Washington, said to the crowd that Peterson “is the person that made this all happen and showed us the way.” David Stone, the auctioneer for the gala, also proclaimed Peterson as an artist “right here in River City who shows us Sacramento landmarks beautifully, simply, and in a unique manner.”

A highlight of the *plein air* paintings was a rendering of the recently retired Sacramento County Parks Chief Ranger Steve Flannery by Debbie Gualco. Marilee Flannery, Steve’s wife and recently retired director of EYNC, remarked on stage before the live auction began that “I had to buy a portrait of a certain ranger . . . well, I *got* to buy it.” The audience gave a rousing applause for the beloved Flannery pair. She continued, “Thank you for helping keep this place

going—you don’t know how much it means to me and the staff here.”

ARNHA board member Linda Thomas and associate board member Molly Keller organized a children’s *plein air* event. After buying a child’s painting, volunteer and event attendee Liz Dolezal said the gala “really showcases the Nature Center and the talent in the community. This place is a gift.”

Highly-esteemed local artist Patricia Mahony served as judge for the art competition prior to the gala itself, and her painting “Fall River White Rocks” was featured on the front of the gala program. Sponsor and gala attendee Kim



“Fall River White Rocks” by artist Patricia Mahony, left, is shown with its buyer, Kim Pacini-Hauch. Photo by James Cooper.

Pacini-Hauch, a local Realtor with Lyon and Associates, purchased the piece during the live auction. Pacini-Hauch said, “Pat’s a longtime friend, and I’ve aspired to own one of her paintings for more than 20 years. I love her exquisite use of color in her interpretation of the local landscape, the American River . . . I’m so excited; this is my first valuable piece of art!”

During the live auction, Susan Skinner, local journalist, photographer, and advocate for EYNC, gave an eloquent introduction to the late artist Alan Post and his vintage watercolor that was up for bid. Post, considered by some to be one of the most preeminent California painters, is said to have known Effie Yeaw herself.

The live auction ended with a bang following a spirited interchange between the auctioneer David Stone and art patron Rick Heron. After outbidding himself several times to the audience’s amusement, Heron purchased a piece for the corporate art collection of sponsor Western Health Advantage. Heron said that “Sandbar” by Bruce Leavitt, which was voted best in show, was “fabulous, gorgeous.” Heron was “glad to represent a local company and purchase a local piece of art by a local artist.”

Sacramento County supervisor Susan Peters, who was in attendance, remarked about this year’s successful gala: “I’m so glad to see so many people out here to support the parks.”

Congratulations go out to this year’s “Wild Things” award winners, who included 1) Best of Show: Bruce Leavitt, 2) First Place: David Peterson, and 3) Third Place: Beth Winfield. Merit Awards went to Jennifer Pochinski Tsiopou and Maria Winkler. Honorable Mentions went to Tatyana Fogarty, Debbie Gualco, Debra Roberts, Thomas Sellas, and Susan Bernard Webb.

Again, many thanks to our sponsors to whom we are incredibly grateful: Ted and Melza Barr; Ralph and Janice Livingstone; Western Health Advantage; Sacramento Municipal Utility District; Kim Pacini-Hauch, Lyon and Associates Realtors; Capital Public Radio; Inside Publications; Sabbadini Appraisal Services; California Wilderness Coalition; Abba Daba Rentals; Raley’s; Larry Washington & Two Rivers Architects; Fort Hemenway Manor B&B; Rubicon Brewery; Beyond Napa Wine Merchants; Dr. James Cooper; ENC Valet.

Stephanie Monzon is an Effie Yeaw Nature Center volunteer and member of the ARNHA Associate Board. A Carmichael native, she has a BA and MA from Stanford University and is a freelance book editor. ■

Best Laid Wildlife Schemes May Surprise

by Bill Dillinger

At Mt. Tamalpais State Park some years ago, there was a great uproar when Parks officials tried to restore the native plant community by clearing out the eucalyptus trees.

“Eucalyptus trees ARE California,” people screamed.

Well, not exactly. These ubiquitous trees were introduced from Australia around 1900, first for timber (a flop) and then as windbreaks. They were the chinchilla of their day. Author Jack London planted groves of them at his model farm in the Valley of the Moon.

Today’s California landscape, and its plant and animal inhabitants, are nothing like the landscape seen by Jed Smith, John Sutter, and the mission fathers.

The Central Valley was a vast rainy-season swamp, turning into an enormous field of wildflowers in the late spring. Great herds of elk and antelope grazed there in summer and fall.

And in the fall, you could almost walk across streams on the backs of salmon. In winter, swans “covered 30-acre fields like snow.” Geese were so unwary they chased Jed Smith and his men, hissing at them “like intruders in a barnyard.”

But people coming into the state were unsatisfied. They wanted to hunt and fish for the kind of game they were used to back home. Typical was the report of a couple of young Navy officers hunting in the Monterey backcountry in the early 1800s. Flushing California quail at every step, they bemoaned the absence of the eastern bobwhite to provide “real hunting.”

So when the State Board of Fish Commissioners was established in 1870, one of its major duties was to import popular game species from the East.

Striped bass and shad were introduced in the Delta, as well as carp, which was “expected to become one

of the state’s most valuable food fish,” predicted noted fish culturists like Seth Green and Dr. Livingston Stone.

Efforts to stock Atlantic eels and salmon, pike, and muskies were unavailing. And a collapsed railroad bridge in Nebraska wrecked an elaborately outfitted fish car and dumped its load of California-bound black bass, glass-eyed perch, catfish, tautogs, brook trout, saltwater eels, lobsters, and oysters into the Elkhorn River. (The fish stories that must have spawned in Nebraska!)

An attempt to plant lobsters in San Francisco Bay failed, partly because no one knew to remove the wooden plugs wedged in the lobsters’ claws that had immobilized them for shipping.

But oysters got a start in San Francisco Bay when an importer couldn’t sell three carloads in an over-stocked market and dumped the shellfish in the Bay.

Imported Game

When the Fish Commission’s authority was extended to game in 1878, it expanded its stocking mission to match.

An effort to import pheasants from England was a failure, but the birds were successfully brought in from Oregon in 1897, and others came in a bit later from Hong Kong. Soon state game farms were raising them by the thousands and stocking them to the gun clubs on state waterfowl areas and private lands all over California.

Wild turkeys were introduced on Santa Cruz Island in 1887 but didn’t take. Nor did they later, until they finally caught hold in the 1960s plants, described by John Speth in the last ARNHA newsletter.

Hungarian partridges were tried unsuccessfully as were bobwhite and other quail. In the 1930s and 40s, Chukar partridges did catch on in a few

places after being tried unsuccessfully a number of times.

Today, California Department of Fish and Game carefully studies proposed introductions, but the law of unintended consequences still takes a hand at times. Threadfin shad, planted as food for game fish, grew far too large in some waters, and the biologist who had recommended them was kidded ever after for his “rope-fin shad.”

And at the Salton Sea, where the Department had tried for years to provide a sport fishery, a crew was sent to the Sea of Cortez in a last desperate effort to bring back some specially chosen species. But, as the story goes, the crew was stymied by weather and other problems. Unwilling to return empty-handed, they filled their hatchery truck’s tanks with whatever they could net, drove back, and with low expectations dumped the load in the salty inland sea.

And for a long time, it did seem another failure. Then fishermen began catching great numbers of dinner-plate sized corvina. There were even tales of hooking a monster fish—a giant sea bass? It turned out that a pile worm, the missing link in the food chain, had come in with the random collection.

Escapees

Tilapia that had escaped into drainage ditches from fish farms have now invaded the Sea, in turn replacing the corvina.

And escapees from commercial fox farms are crowding out the native red foxes of the Valley, as a speaker studying the few remaining natives told the audience at a recent Audubon meeting.

Fortunately, nutria farming never caught on in California, so the oversized cousins of the beaver never spread as they did in the southern states.

continued next page

Private Introductions

Some exotic species have come in as pets. Parrots and budgies, of course.

But that also may have been the case for fox squirrels, which are said to have been brought in around 1904 by old soldiers from eastern states when they retired to the Sawtelle veterans' home in the Los Angeles area. The squirrels soon spread to urban areas all over the state, pushing out the shyer native gray squirrels.

And despite the danger to the wild, ferret-lovers battle Fish and Game annually in the legislature to legalize their predatory pets.

Well-meaning efforts by hunters and fishermen have also introduced some now-common species. Possums were apparently brought in by possum hunters, and it was probably fishermen who introduced those pike in Lake Davis.

The big mackinaw planted as trophy fish in Lake Tahoe finished off the native cutthroat, already reduced to near extinction by commercial fisheries that shipped them by the carload to San Francisco restaurants and to the miners in the Comstock Lode.

Moving 'Em Around

We've moved a lot of things to where they weren't within the state, too. Early day packers carried milk cans of

¹*The lakes' Indian-sounding names are really made from the first syllables of the names of club members – "Ropi" is named after club stalwart Ross Pierce, par exemplum.)*

rainbow trout fingerlings into the sterile mountain lakes. So did organizations like the Mount Ralston fish club, which also built check-dams to create new lakes in Desolation Valley.¹

Such efforts were probably beneficial on the whole. But not always.

Rainbows stocked in the lower reaches of Silver Creek worked their way upstream and bred with the native silver trout, so now even the existence of a pure strain of this subspecies is doubtful.

Beavers, once trapped almost to extinction, were restocked, some dropped in remote areas in burlap parachutes, in the hope they would build dams and enhance fishing. Build dams they did—like the current explosion of introduced beavers raising havoc in Argentina—and the same state trapper who had overseen their planting in the 30s was assigned to hike out to the areas and exterminate them in the 1940s.

Some species have moved in on their own. House sparrows and

starlings have spread from introductions on the East Coast (lately our house finches have been reciprocating.) Grackles have spread from the southwest into Southern California and are working their way north. Our rats came by sea, carried by ships.

Habitat

We've also drastically changed the habitat. Ornamentals brought in by gardeners—like Jack Hiehle's nemesis, Scotch broom—have spread widely.

The perennial native grasses have been almost entirely replaced by annuals

brought in with livestock. Logging for selective species has changed the forest make-up in many areas. Dams and canals have changed water patterns.

Clear Lake hasn't been clear for a hundred years. Success in preserving Lake Tahoe is measured in decreasing the rate of decline. So "things, they are a-changin."

We can't go back to the world of the Maidu, the Pomo, and the Ohlone, which was relatively stable for thousands of years.

Parkway

What does all this mean to the Parkway?

Like the rest of California, it has a lot of introduced species, both plant and animal, and a lot of incursions by humans.

When the Parkway Plan was first developed, there was furious debate over whether the goal should be to preserve the parkway in a "natural" state.

Sticklers pointed out that with all the irreversible changes and incursions, it wasn't truly natural and couldn't really be restored to a completely "natural" state. So the planners settled on "naturalistic."

But that has a phony ring to it, as though all we hope to preserve is a façade. I'm sure what Elmer Aldrich and the other original planners meant was to keep the Parkway "as truly natural as possible," given all the changes and incursions that had already been accommodated.

Bill Dillinger was chief of public information for State Fish & Game (1962-68) and for State Parks (1968-84), president of Sacramento Audubon (1986-87), and an early-day ARNHA board member. He also edited the 1991 edition of ARNHA's "History of the Lower American River." He's currently publicity chair for Sacramento Audubon. ■

"Clear Lake hasn't been clear for a hundred years. Success in preserving Lake Tahoe is measured in decreasing the rate of decline. So "things, they are a-changin." We can't go back to the world of the Maidu, the Pomo, and the Ohlone, which was relatively stable for thousands of years."

Wild Animal Count Seeking More Team Members

The ARNHA Wildlife Count, originally organized as a fundraising Bird-a-thon in 1985, will take place this year on Saturday, December 3.

Twelve teams (including one team with six counters in canoes) competed in the 2010 Wildlife Count on December 4, tallying a record-setting 123 bird species, 8 more than the 2009 count high of 115 species. Despite the damp start, the day turned out almost balmy with a bit of sunshine poking through during the afternoon. And NO WIND! The high, fast flow of the American River discouraged shorebirds and made all of the water birds appear to be “flying” by. The outflow from Nimbus Dam was 6,766 cubic feet per second; last year it was 1,833 cubic feet per second.

There were no new species seen. The Mew Gull was not seen for the first time in Count History. The rarities included the Western Grebe, Snow Goose,

Gadwall, Red-breasted Merganser, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Virginia Rail, Sora, Long-billed Dowitcher, Say’s Phoebe, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pacific Wren (formerly Winter Wren, before the split by the AOU), Townsend’s Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson’s Warbler, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, & Tricolored Blackbird (underlined birds were seen for only the second time on the count).

Fourteen mammal species were seen, including 70 whitetail deer (down from 114 seen last year), 50 ground squirrels, 46 western gray squirrels (five eastern gray squirrels), 10 house cats, and one California Sea Lion. There were no coyotes seen in the 2010 Count.

Folks who are interested in participating in the 2011 Wildlife Count can e-mail their name, e-mail, and phone number to Count Coordinator Lea Landry at llandry46@earthlink.net or

phone her at (916)-638-1141. Unless you have a specific area of the Parkway you’re interested in, your name will be provided to the team leaders who need more participants on their teams. The Count starts about 7 a.m., finishing by 3 p.m. Different leaders have different start times and specific meeting places.

The count is used by EYNC and ARNHA to follow the population trends of various wildlife species in the American River Parkway as well as the animal’s affects on other aspects of the Parkway.

Jack Hiehle provided the impetus and organization to get the first bird-a-thon going. He then maintained the momentum and records through its transformation into the Wildlife Count in 1993. In 2010, Jack served as a mentor while Lea Landry took over the coordination of the 26th Annual Count. ■

The weather was wet, but spirits were high when the family of the late William B. Pond, first director of the Sacramento County Regional Parks Department, was present on June 4 for the unveiling of a monument dedicated to Bill Pond at the William B. Pond Recreation Area as part of the Save the American River Association’s 50th anniversary celebration.

Family members present, from left to right in the photo, were Karen Pond, Bill’s daughter; Rachel Pond Camero, Bill’s granddaughter and daughter of Bill’s son, Steve, who lives in New York and was unable to attend; Lorenzo Camero, Rachel and Isaac’s son and Bill Pond’s great-grandson; Isaac Camero, Rachel’s husband and father of Lorenzo and Naomi; Naomi Camero, Rachel and Isaac’s daughter, and Bill Pond’s great-granddaughter; and Cade Kavouras, Karen Pond’s son and Bill Pond’s grandson. ■

Bill Pond Monument Unveiled



Photo by Pam Lapinski

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- Arden Park Garden Club
- AT&T Employee Giving Campaign
- Kathleen Beavers
- Barbara & Bruce Berg
- Margaret & Thomas Blankenship
- Dianne Boal
- David Bolen
- Derek Brown
in memory of Doug Brown
- Frank Brown
- Mary Jane & William Calvo
- Rene Carr
- Merick Chaffee
in memory of Janet Gartner
- Mel Chorich
- Illa Collin
- Construction Industry Education Foundation
- Betty Cooper
in memory of Milton Baygell
in memory of Jim Washington
- Vivian Counts
- Marie Cruzen
- Gay Currier
- Susan Davis
- Mary Davy
- Deterding Elementary School PTA
in honor of Molly Keller
- Carol Doersch
- Marilee & Steve Flannery
in memory of Milton Baygell
in memory of Jim Washington
- Emily Giza
- Laura Graff
in memory of Paul Graff
- Lynn & Ken Hall
- Judith & Steve Harrison
- John Havicon
- Rick Heron
- Janet & Jim Hill
- Joyce Hilsabeck
- Bobie & Ben Hughes
- Claudia Hulbe
in memory of Milton Baygell
- Helena Hurst
- Brenda Kelso
- Peggy & Bruce Kennedy
in memory of Brigitte Meyer
in memory of Milton Baygell
- in memory of Mary Canon
in memory of Forbes Burness
- Kathleen Kinney & Steve Sherman
- Kiwanis Club of Carmichael
- Judith Lamare & James Pacht
in honor of Paul Tebbel
- Christina Lewis
- Mary Maret
- Mary McCall
- Sean McCartney
- Christopher and Gabriella Neubuerger
- Barbara & Gerald Pauly
in honor of James Pauly
- Scott Peters Landscape
- Janice and Ralph Livingstone
- Lyle Ray
in memory of Russ Petrotta
- Lynne & David Pinkerton
- Sallie Reynolds
- Sacred Heart Daisy Troop 2090
- Laura Sanz
- Lanna Seuret
in memory of Charlie Klinger
- Beth & Stephen Smith
- Judy and Jack Sohl
- Sunburst Projects
- United Way
- Jamie & Larry Washington
in memory of Milton Baygell
- Betsy & Fred Weiland
- Liz Williamson
- Sylvia & Doug Enoch
- Nancy Fisher
- Marilee & Steve Flannery
- George & Doni Foxworth
- Bev Geremia
- B. J. Gothmann
- Pete Hayes
- Anne Hibbitt
- Sally & Steve Huffman
- Carolyn Johnson
- Muriel & Ernie Johnson
- M. J. & Neil Kelly
- Peggy & Bruce Kennedy
- Della & John Knowles
- Majorie & Ralph Koldinger
- Donna Lane
- Sevim & Eric Larsen
- Suzanne & Ron Leineke
- Dorothy Lien
- Sonya Lyons
- Judy & Gene Marquart
- Elisabeth & Ian McPhail
- Marilyn McRae
- Mimi & Burnett Miller
- Evelyn & Frank Palumbo
- Betsy & Robert Peabody
- Marilyn & James Poindexter
- Sharyn Rich
- Sharon Richer
- Edie & Bill Richmond
- Shirley & Stan Rock
- Marilyn Sands
- Julia & Bill Schaw
- Lisa Smith
- Sandy Smoley
- Gladys & George Snyder
- Jim & JoAnn Speakman
- Mary Lou & Ray Stone
- Joan Taylor
- Moni Van Camp & Greg Kondos
- Diane Miller & Brian Van Camp
- Katie & Alan White
- Joyce Whitney
- Jill Wright
- Melinda Wulff
- Sandra & Franklin Yee
- Anne & Keith Young

Grants

- River Cats Foundation

Donations for the Carol Doersch Courtyard

- Anonymous
- Dona & Jim Affleck
- Barbara & Jim Andras
- Pat Baker
- Karen & Bud Banker
- JoAnn & Solon Barbis
- Melza & Ted Barr
- Lexy & Keith Barrett
- Mary Alice & George Basye
- Joan & Walton Brainerd
- Kiefie & Art Breuer
- Joan & Alan Calkin
- Linda Clayton
- Ann & Todd Doersch

Thank you!

A Rousing Salute to Marilee

by Peter Hayes

June 9, 2011, was a red-letter day for **Marilee Flannery**, former executive director of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. That was the day of the retirement party when well-wishers showered her with compliments for her leadership of award-winning programs for children, teens, and adults, to exhibiting a rare talent for snaring rattlesnakes found sunning themselves on Nature Area trails.



With Marilee's successor **Paul Tebbel** serving as master of ceremonies, EYNC staff members, ARNHA members, family members, and friends saluted Marilee for her 18 years as EYNC interpretive specialist, director, and executive director. Altogether, about 65 people attended the luncheon at the EYNC Assembly Building.

A Sacramento County Board of supervisors resolution honored Marilee for her "total dedication" as Executive Director and wished her and husband Steve, former County Parks Chief Ranger, good health and great happiness in the future.

The Supervisors cited her for inspiring "staff members and volunteers to present compelling programs based on state academic standards for schools, during vacation 'Fun Days,' and in weekend nature tours for nearly 100,000 children, teens, and adults annually."

She was also praised for her artistic talents that went into the design and construction of interpretive exhibits that not only fascinate EYNC visitors but also generate revenue by being rented. Further, she "ably performed the strenuous management balancing act of maintaining EYNC buildings, caring for the Center's wild animals, and overseeing EYNC's 77 acres of wildlands . . ."

It was regarding the lands oversight responsibility that ARNHA President **Larry Washington** drew a laugh from the audience when he commented that one of Marilee's unscheduled duties was to use a stick with a hook on the end to gently lift a rattlesnake off a trail and drop it in a bag. The snake would then be released in a far-off Ancil Hoffman Park meadow.

Marilee's virtues were extolled by many others, including the following:

Carol Doersch, ARNHA Board Member and past president: "Marilee developed displays that were just fabulous. And when Greg (Voelm) and I needed to write an RFP (Request for Proposal to the county for ARNHA to take over EYNC), Marilee supplied all the accurate data. It has been an honor to work with her."

Jamie Washington, EYNC Volunteer Coordinator: ". . . your inspiration, your courage are remarkable."

Greg Voelm, ARNHA Board Member and past president: "She has a lot of heart. As an artist, she designed one of the most beautiful nature centers anywhere. I know we'll see you again."

Betty Cooper, EYNC Development Director: "I have seen 14 years of your enthusiasm, creativity, and leadership. It's been an amazing, fabulous experience. You always say 'thank you.' Now I say 'thank you.'"

Joe Flannery, Marilee and Steve's

son: ". . . Effie Yeaw Nature Center is what we strive for. Hopefully it will be there forever."

Colleen Flannery, Marilee's and Steve's daughter: ". . . Her enthusiasm is so infectious."

Steve Flannery: "I always knew Marilee gave 100 percent on everything she worked on at the EYNC, but it's nice to hear what others have to say about the work she did."

Warren Truitt, President, Save the American River Association: "I just want to note that Effie Yeaw was on the first SARA Board of Directors. We're grateful to Marilee for arranging to let SARA hold its annual meeting here on the same day that ARNHA's annual holiday sale is held."

Marilee Responds . . .

Marilee Flannery offered the following summing up at her June 9 retirement celebration:

"Working these 18 years at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center has been extremely rewarding:

- I've worked with so many talented, generous, intelligent, compassionate, and fun people—the staff, volunteers, friends, and supporters over these years. Just think how many people we have touched in this community with our message about nature. We have shown people of all ages in this community their place in this landscape.

- their place in this ecosystem and
- their connection to this living system we simply name—NATURE.

- As a bonus, many of the people we have served have also learned about how others from the distance lived and thrived here for hundreds of years by knowing their part in their ecosystem." ■

ARNHA BRIEFS

Why Leave Your IRA to the IRS?

Mary Youngblood to Play at ARNHA Annual Meeting

by Carol Doersch

Friday, September 9, promises a blockbuster annual meeting for ARNHA. At 5 p.m. the Carol Doersch Courtyard will be dedicated to honor one of ARNHA's founders, former president, and long-time activist of the first rank.

At 5:30, EYNC animal care specialists will present some of EYNC's favorite animals for close inspection. Light refreshments will be served.

The new 4th edition of *Biking and Hiking the American River Parkway* will be on view. Still only \$14.95 (ARNHA members get 10% discount), the new edition has beautiful art work by Molly Keller on the front cover and endorsements by area environmental leaders

and a dramatic photograph by Betty Cooper on the back cover. Inside, all information is updated, and information about horse staging areas has been added.

Outstanding volunteers, those that make the Effie Yeaw Nature Center the best nature center in Sacramento County, will be honored.

The entire meeting is designed to celebrate the accomplishment of the first year of ARNHA management and funding of EYNC. The award-winning environmental education programs remain robust, visitor numbers remain strong, special events attract large participation, and fund-raising is the highest in ARNHA's history.

December 31, 2011, is the last date you can make a tax-free gift from your IRA of any amount up to \$100,000 to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center without paying income tax on it.

Remember that IRAs are nifty little savings accounts into which you contribute during your earning years with before-tax money that then goes on to earn interest over the years. But, when you are 70 ½ and older, you pay your regular income tax rate on withdrawals. This is the last year you can make a gift to a charitable and educational organization from your IRA tax-free. Deadline: 12/31/11.

Effie Yeaw needs your help, and now is an ideal time.

Pathfinders

We marvel at the mystery of migratory animals, especially birds such as the tiny warbler that flies thousands of miles from its winter home in Central America to the same tree in the Sierra Nevada where it raised its brood the year before.

No heavier than a half dollar, the little dynamo finds its way with internal compass and internal clock, taking advantage of the winds and barometric pressures. Our weather forecasters should be so accurate!

These feathered migrants also may make use of the earth's magnetic field and even the gravitational field. Some scientists say they remember the terrain visually, or even use their sense of smell.

Now the autumn days grow shorter, alerting ducks and geese and other

northern nesters to start for wintering areas in the Sacramento Valley and elsewhere in the continent's midlands. Meanwhile, smaller songbirds are departing from Sierra pines and firs in pursuit of winter food sources in Latin America.

Unfortunately, a glitch in their internal direction-finder may send them off course. Thus did a black-throated gray warbler recently appear suddenly among a flock of gulls congregated around a party boar 12 miles out in Monterey Bay.

The tiny bird swooped like a roller coaster as it flew around and over the boat. It had probably spent the summer in the northern Sierra, then started the long journey to its winter home in the highlands of Mexico. Perhaps the nighttime coastal fog obscured the stars, and it was unable to navigate. A young woman reached out and tried to coax the warbler to rest on her hand. But no, it kept on flying, finally disappearing

toward the south, leaving one to hope it would find its way back to rest and nourishment.

From "An American River Journal," published by ARNHA. It features drawings by ARNHA co-founder Jo Glasson Smith and nature essays by Peter J. Hayes, retired newspaper editor and ARNHA Associate Board member. It is available for \$9.75 at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, arnha.org, and selected stores. Visit arnha.org "Podcasts" to hear readings of the essays by the author.



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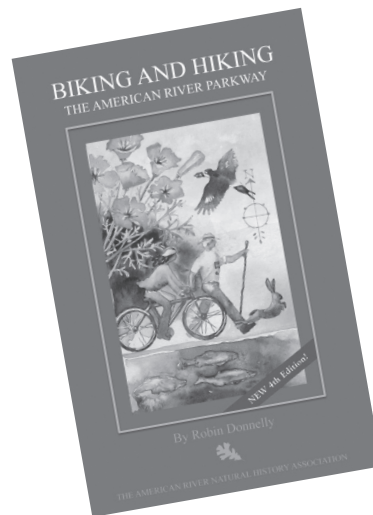
ARNHA Calendar of Events

- **ARNHA Annual Meeting**
Friday, September 9, 5 p.m. to dusk
Effie Yeaw Nature Center (See story page 11)
- **Great American River Clean-up**
Saturday, September 17, 9 a.m. to noon
Ancil Hoffman Park (See story page 3)
- **Maidu Cultural Program Teacher Inservice**
Saturday, September 24, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Effie Yeaw Nature Center (See story page 4)
- **Ecosystems Program Teacher Inservice**
Saturday, October 15, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Welcome, New Members!

- Wendy Bogdan
- Michelle Brown
- Janet L Button
- Bill Cordonnier
- Ken & Melissa Craft
- Shardool Doongursee
- Bradley Frago
- Jim Guigli & Frances R. Baxter-Guigli
- Cheryl Hawes
- JoLynn Jarrett
- Kit Kirkpatrick
- Judy Link
- Mindy & Izzy Maxwell
- Landon McLatchey
- Jon and Petrica Misca
- Sue Mortensen
- Molly Mosher
- Erin Naylor
- David Novak
- Joyce C Peterson
- Dennis & Sherry Rogers
- Corinne Scrima
- Charles & Linda Stechman

- Carri Stokes
- Lorene Vanzandt
- Bettie Wade
- Lori Ward
- Don West
- Jane Wheaton



4th Edition of Biking & Hiking the American River Parkway now ON SALE!

The stunning new 4th edition of *Biking and Hiking the American River Parkway* is hot off the presses and ready for purchase. Available at The Discovery Shop at EYNC, at selected area bicycle shops, online at ARNHA.org, and by using the enclosed order form, the new edition still costs only \$14.95, and ARNHA members get a 10% discount.

All information about trail additions and improvements, drinking fountains, picnic tables, and access points is updated. In addition, information about human history, natural markers along the trail, and horse staging areas is detailed and often illustrated. The new edition also has historic photographs, a beautiful new front cover by Molly Keller, a dramatic photograph by Betty Cooper and endorsements on the back cover. Without a doubt, this new edition will enrich your experience of Sacramento County's outdoor crown jewel. Don't leave home without it!

Pete the Coyote on Facebook Wants to be Your Friend