



## 'Awesome' Response for EYNC Programs

*"Not many of my students ever get the opportunity to be out in nature with a naturalist to show them what to look for. I loved seeing my students in this setting—it was an awesome experience!"*

That was the enthusiastic reaction of a Jedediah Smith Elementary School teacher whose class participated in a recent Effie Yeaw Nature Center program funded by the Urban Nature Project (UNP).

And what's more, the Wells Fargo Foundation has awarded the Nature Center a new UNP \$5,000 grant to give low income K-8th grade students in Sacramento County schools an opportunity at no cost to receive a visit from a naturalist with a live animal or an educational field trip to the Effie Yeaw nature area by the American River.

For teachers, it is a chance to supplement their science curriculum with engaging programs about the natural history of Sacramento County. They may view UNP program offerings by visiting [www.sacnaturecenter.net](http://www.sacnaturecenter.net) and follow up with calls to EYNC office manager Denise Booth at 916, 489-4918.

This is the third year in a row that Wells Fargo Foundation has contributed to the Urban Nature Project. This year's grant doubled the grant they awarded in each of the two previous years.

EYNC Executive Director Marilee Flannery points out that the Urban Nature Project is only one of an array of educational programs that the former county-managed nature center of-

fer young and old. Naturalists still present school and group tours off-site and on the 77-acre woodland preserve, programs covering Maidu culture, aquatic ecosystems, Life Science, and cultural history. Hour-long, guided nature walks are still offered on weekends.

In addition, there will be many winter vacation fun days, nature walks, story-telling, and holiday craft workshops described in detail at [www.sacnaturecenter.net](http://www.sacnaturecenter.net) (*Details, page 11*).

"We're also seeking to be a lot more flexible about serving the Sacramento area and the education community," Marilee said. "This fall we presented a photography workshop by photographer Lewis Kemper and a watercolor workshop by David Peterson. We

also are looking at ways to capitalize on the beauty, the wildlife, and the serenity of the area by offering our Assembly building as a venue for classes, retreats, memorial services, and the like."

ARNHA volunteers and EYNC staff alike are looking ahead to an important fundraiser, the Discovery Shop Annual Holiday Sale at the EYNC, on Saturday, December 4. ARNHA members will benefit from a 20 percent discount in purchases of ARNHA publications, games, toys, jewelry, Native American baskets, ceramics, and paintings by Molly Keller.

"It's a great opportunity to buy locally and benefit the nature center," Marilee said. ■

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## A Generous Donation to Nature Center

*By Peter J. Hayes*

When the deficit-ridden Sacramento County government turned over the well-loved Effie Yeaw Nature Center (EYNC) to the American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) in July, it was quickly apparent to the all-volunteer ARNHA membership that fund-raising would be a top priority. Fortunately, the family of one of the founders of the non-profit organization, the late Jo Glasson Smith, has stepped up to jump-start the fund drive.

The nature center has received a \$60,000 donation from the Smith Family Trust, made in memory of Jo Smith, who died December 29, 2008, after a lifetime dedicated to environmental and civic causes. Jo's husband George Smith presented the gift to Effie Yeaw Nature Center executive director Marilee Flannery at the grand re-opening of the center on September 10 on behalf of himself and his family – daughters

*see "Jo Smith," page 3*

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# President's Message

*"Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do..."*  
Johann Wolfgang Van Goeth

These are exciting times for ARNHA and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. ARNHA now funds and operates the Effie Yeaw Nature Center without County funding or administration, and the Nature Center is working!!! We have been able to continue the thirty-four-year traditions of the Nature Center, providing the wonderful programs that have made the center unique. Teachers continue to bring their students to the center for our award winning programs, and individuals and families come to see our resident animals and to wander our trails.

The Nature Center is continuing to offer weekend programs, and the popular EYNC Winter Fun Days and Family Crafts will once again be offered this winter break. Call 489-4918 or go to the EYNC website at [www.sacnaturecenter.net](http://www.sacnaturecenter.net) for details.

At this time, I want to thank the dedicated ARNHA Board of Directors that continue 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 Kathy Fleming, Executive Director of Fairytale Town; Warren Truit, President of Save the American River Association; and Paul Tebbel, Executive Director of Friends of the River, for giving us guidance and support. I especially want to thank the EYNC staff, led by Director Marilee Flannery, who have continued to work exceptionally hard to continue to provide all the services and programs of the center.

We are especially grateful to George Smith and his family for their generous donation to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in memory of Jo Smith, one of ARNHA's founding members and a lifelong supporter of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

REMEMBER, WHEN WE FEEL INSPIRED, IT IS ONLY GOOD IF IT IS FOLLOWED BY ACTION. There are opportunities for all of us to make new discoveries about nature and about ourselves. We can be inspired by nature, and we can inspire others by bringing them to our beautiful nature preserve. Sacramento needs a nature center, and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center needs your support. Act now, and become part of this very historic first year of the private operation of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Please consider giving a donation to the Nature Center, upgrading your membership level, or volunteering with ARNHA and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

AND...DON'T FORGET TO DO SOME OF YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY SALE ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4.

Please spread the word to encourage others to join our efforts. Your own inspiration can be a call to action!



*Larry Washington*  
President, ARNHA

*“Jo Smith,” from page 1*

Cindra J. Smith, Susie Durant, and Shelley Smith, and son William F. Smith. It is the largest gift ever given by an individual or family in the 34-year history of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

A gifted artist, editor, and organizer, Jo Smith led children on nature walks with her friend and mentor, kindergarten teacher Effie Yeaw, in the same area of Ancil Hoffman Park where the Effie Yeaw Nature Center is now located.

“The family wants to keep the Effie Yeaw Nature Center going because it was one of the biggest things in Jo’s life,” her husband said. “She was in love with that area and with the center. The \$60,000 was her bequest. She was ‘Mrs. Environmentalist of Sacramento County’.”

Marilee Flannery hailed the generous gift, declaring “I can’t think of a more fitting tribute to Jo Smith, who has done so much to promote education and stewardship for our environment. This donation will help the Effie Yeaw Nature Center continue its popular nature tours for the children of the Sacramento community.”

Besides leading tours as “one of Effie’s girls,” Jo Smith had volunteered to develop and teach programs at the nature center named for Effie Yeaw, who died in 1970. When county budget problems threatened closure of the

center four years later, she worked with the late Fred Gunsky, Carol Doersch, and others to start the American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) to support the center. One of ARNHA’s chief roles then and now was to publish nature and history publications that Jo Smith edited and illustrated with elegant drawings, including *An American River Journal* with her drawings and essays by Peter J. Hayes, and *The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region*, a field guide to the flora and fauna.

Active in many other organizations, she was instrumental in founding the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council, was a member of the Sacramento County Recreation and Parks Commission, the League of Women Voters, and the County Grand Jury, and served as an advisor on park issues to the county supervisors and county parks directors.

Perhaps her most over-arching public service contribution was her emphasis on the importance of nature education, as expressed in her comment as a Girl Scout leader to an interviewer in a Girl Scouts publication:

“It’s good to see young children learn an appreciation for the environment and wildlife because, if we don’t start teaching them when they’re young, we may not have adults who will care for our open spaces in the future.” ■

*Left to right: Susie Durant, George Smith, Cindra Smith, ARNHA president Larry Washington, EYNC staff Betty Cooper and Marilee Flannery, and EYNC barn owl resident Luna.*

## *Social Media and EYNC*

Between issues of *The Acorn*, you can keep up with ARNHA and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center online in several ways.

**www.sacnaturecenter.net**—the new Nature Center website includes the following:

- an up-to-date list of current Nature Center activities, including weekend guided nature walks, art and photography classes, and children’s holiday and vacation programs;
- descriptions of all the tours and programs available for schools and groups, including Maidu Field Days, Nature Area Tours, and Outreach programs;
- trail maps, information on native plants, photographs of our resident animals, and much more.

**www.arnha.org**—The ARNHA website includes information on ARNHA events and publications and, new this year, Pete Hayes’ delightful podcasts, short talks on the natural history of the American River (at [www.arnha.org/podcasts.html](http://www.arnha.org/podcasts.html))

**Facebook**—Our presence on Facebook is two-fold. One page is for the American River Natural History Association itself. Link to it, and you’ll get news of ARNHA and Nature Center events. Our second page is for “Pete the Parkway Coyote” and is a whimsical look at the happenings on the Parkway. You can find links to both these pages at [www.arnha.org/podcasts/facebook.html](http://www.arnha.org/podcasts/facebook.html). ■

—Liz Williamson

## *Volunteers Clean Up*

Seventy-five volunteers of all ages turned out to collect 120 bags of recyclables and trash at Ancil Hoffman Park October 2 in the annual Great American River Cleanup, Pete Hayes, ARNHA’s site captain reported.

The haul was part of more than nine tons of debris and approximately one-half acre of invasive plants collected from the Parkway by 2,018 volunteers in the event sponsored by the American River Parkway Foundation. Among oddities picked up at Ancil Hoffman were a leg cast and a crutch. ■



Susan Skinner

# Our sincere thanks to these generous donors!

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## A Bountiful Harvest at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center

by Stephanie Monzon

The flowing of the seasons, the heartbeat of the land—these formed the rhythms of the Nisenan Maidu culture before contact with European explorers and settlers. Come discover the early traditions of the people who lived here along the American River for hundreds of years, and see how their spirit and wisdom live on through their ancestors, the Maidu people of today, by visiting the most recent exhibit at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center (EYNC), *A Bountiful Harvest*.

The Legend of the First Oak tells how the creator made an oak that bore many different kinds of acorns so that the people would never be hungry. Acorn was a main staple food of the Maidu, and the women and children spent a great deal of time gathering and preparing them. The “Nuts About Acorns” activity gives you the opportunity to crack and grind some acorns the ancient way.

The “Gifts of the River” diorama depicts native fishing and hunting with life-sized figures, a tule boat, waterfowl mounts, and hunting and fishing implements. Sit in the **hu** (pronounced “who”), a shelter made of tule, and view the beautiful mural that recreates life in a traditional village along the river.

More than an art form, baskets were used for many activities including gathering, carrying babies, and cooking. How do you cook in a basket? Try your hand at using long sticks to transfer rocks from the “fire” to the basket. Or, see how many pounds you can carry in a burden basket strapped around your forehead!

Also on display are examples of the excellent craftsmanship involved in the creation of men’s and women’s dance regalia for large gatherings, still carried on today, called “Big Times”—a tradition featuring music, dancing, speech-making, and games. You can even test your own rhythm using a clapper stick.

In the exhibit hall loft is “Discovery, Devastation, and Survival,” an exhibit from the California State Indian Museum that has since been donated to the EYNC that tells the story of what happened to the Maidu people during the Gold Rush and the issues that are facing them today.

The original “Bountiful Harvest” exhibit was built in 1993, and a revamped version opened at the EYNC in 2001 under the direction of Marilee Flannery. Now the exhibit is back and will be on display until summer 2011.

ARNHA owns three other inspired exhibits that are currently traveling to other nature centers across the nation, including: *Mountain Lions!*, which just returned from a four-year tour of Iowa; *A Salute to Songbirds*, which has been touring in Iowa for two years and will continue until September 2011, and *Wild About Wetlands*, which now is on display at the Lake Solano Nature Center in Winters. All of these exhibits not only further our mission of fostering an appreciation and love of nature to children, their families, and communities, but they also help bring in extra revenue to the EYNC.

Marilee Flannery and Betty Cooper have both served as Exhibit Director at the EYNC with additional staff helping over the course of many years, including Linda Maurer, Libby Harmor, Marsha Schindler, and countless volunteers, especially Richard Horgan, who has done most of the construction and put in thousands of hours of time. Special thanks go out to our sponsors of the *A Bountiful Harvest* exhibit—*The Sacramento Bee*, Jane Horgan on behalf of Austin G. Smith, and Nancy O’Neill—as well as the volunteers who contributed their valuable time to install this exhibit: Tracie Ballensky, Colleen and Rich Draffin, Walter Dong, Richard Horgan, Georgia Jones, Wilhelmina Loree, Gina Marie, Gail Philippart, and Linda Thomas. ■

## Where There’s a Will, There’s a Way

by Carol Doersch

Have you enjoyed – maybe even loved – the Effie Yeaw Nature Center through the years? I have. And now, in my ripe years, I have placed the future of the Center in my estate plan. It can’t be a huge bequest, although I wish it were, but it’s there in writing for my heirs to see and act upon.

Such planning ahead will help to sustain the Center’s wonderful programs that bring our area’s children into the magic of nature. Adventures in the nature preserve’s 77 acres of beauty and wildlife along the American River stay with children forever. Too many children have no other opportunity to experience nature. After a tour, one little boy said,

“This is the happiest day of my life!”



Carol Doersch

Would you like to talk about doing something like I did? There are many ways of giving that we can mention and that can easily be addressed by your attorney, estate planner, or accountant. Or perhaps just reminding you of this way to ensure that the Effie Yeaw Nature Center will continue and thrive after us will be enough to spur you to plan your bequest on your own. You may have already provided for the Nature Center in your estate plan. If so, will you please notify us so that we may give you appropriate gratitude and recognition.

- Contact Betty Cooper, 489-4918  
bettyc@sacnaturecenter.net

# ARNHA BRIEFS

## Honors for 6 Volunteers

Six of the more than 250 volunteers who come to the aid of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center annually were singled out for a special salute by volunteers coordinator Jamie Washington at the ARNHA annual meeting September 10. They were the following:

- Elaine Hujambojoie, for clerical office support, over 250 hours this year.
- Richard Garrison, for receptionist support, over 250 hours this year.
- Hollyn Johnson for data base building and computer support, over 250 hours this year.
- Erin Landry, Lead Animal Care Assistant, over 250 hours this year.
- Jack Hiehle, for his help this year and in the past as a naturalist, teacher, and inspiration.
- Peggy Kennedy, ARNHA Publications Committee Chair, Benchmark Award for reaching the 1,000 hours mark. ■

## Be Careful Parking -Display Your ARNHA Membership Card

Parking in the Effie Yeaw Nature Center parking lot could be expensive if you don't display proof of payment such as your ARNHA membership card or your annual county parks parking pass, EYNC executive director Marilee Flannery reminds.

The fine for a citation of non-payment of the Ancil Hoffman Park entry fee is \$54.50 while the county vehicle pass is just \$50 and gets you into all Sacramento County parks for one year. The ARNHA membership card, which should be left on the driver's side dashboard so it is clearly visible, lets you park free in the EYNC lot, not in the picnic area or any other part of Ancil Hoffman Park. ■



## Eagle Scout and Friends Transform Amphitheatre Area

On Saturday, October 16, Benjamin Robarts finished his Eagle Scout project by leading a team of volunteers to refurbishing the amphitheatre area at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. They removed the fire pit that can't be used anymore because it is too close to the trees and dry hillside, re-sanded and re-painted 18 benches, replaced the seats on some of the benches, and built a beautiful deck with treated lumber, redwood, and Trex, a plastic replica wood made from recycled plastic bags. California Cascade Industries of Sacramento donated the decking materials. ■

*Ethan Foell, Ron Brown, Jim Born, Benjamin Robarts (from left to right) build new seats at the amphitheatre area of Effie Yeaw Nature Center.*



## Scouts Celebrate National Public Lands Day at EYNC

Volunteering at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center can be a family affair for many. For instance, Ellie Browne is one of the center's animal care volunteers, and in September her mother, Emily Browne, organized a worthwhile project in the nature area in connection with National Public Lands Day.

On Sunday, Sept. 26, members of Cub Scout Pack 53, Boy Scout Troop 53, and Girl Scout Troop 819, along with several parents, assembled to put finishing touches on a new nature play area that had been started earlier this year by young Mormon Church members in a community service project. The follow-up effort involved installing weed block material and then covering it with playground-quality wood chips. The volunteers also scrubbed down the picnic tables and washed off all the interpretive signs in the preserve.

"Besides adding safety to the play area, the wood chips will add another element of play as children use their imagination to scoop and mound the chips on the logs and tree stumps," EYNC volunteer coordinator Jamie Washington said.

The volunteers representing Cub Scout Pack 53 were Jenny and Ted Davini with son David, and pack

members Alex Locke, Jack Stassi, Jack Murphy, and Soren Cleland; from Boy Scout Troop 53, Corwin Benskin with his mother Karena Benskin, and from Girl Scout Troop 819, Emily Browne with daughter Ellie, and Kaya Isaman. ■

# Effort Launched to Save Our Regional Parks' Legacy

by Lea Brooks

Our magnificent Regional Parks and Open Space System is in peril because of Sacramento County's continuing budget crisis.

Operated by the Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks, the system includes the American River Parkway, Dry Creek Parkway, Deer Creek Hills, Mather Regional Park and vernal pools, Sherman Island, and other treasures.

The number of ranger patrols and maintenance staff has been sliced in half, which means bicycle and hiking trails and other popular recreational facilities and open spaces aren't as safe or pleasant for users. Fewer rangers are available to enforce illegal camping, leash laws, and courtesy rules and to respond to reckless and illegal behavior. Restrooms aren't as clean, and trash isn't picked up as often.

Gibson Ranch Regional Park was closed to the public after Labor Day, and the Dry Creek Parkway is largely unattended. Deer Creek Hills and other open spaces have not been fully developed by the county and remain largely unavailable for residents to enjoy. The County has eliminated funding for the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, turning its care and funding over to the American River Natural History Association.

Gibson Ranch Regional Park is being offered to the private sector.

To reverse this trend and secure adequate, stable, long-term funding for operations, maintenance, development, expansion, and connection of these natural and developed recreational sites and open spaces, a Grass Roots Working Group, supported by Save the American River Association (SARA), has launched Save Our Regional Parks' Legacy.

The Working Group is pursuing a vision for future generations: an integrated system of Regional Parks and Open Space linked by a bicycle and pedestrian transportation network. This system would be safe, accessible and well-maintained and provide recreational and educational opportunities to Sacramento County's diverse communities. It would also help relieve overuse of the American River Parkway.

Preserving and linking these unique areas would provide Sacramentans with abundant opportunities for bicycling, hiking, rafting, paddling, picnicking, and watching birds and other wildlife. The system contributes to the well being of the Sacramento region and attracts businesses and residents considering relocating here.

The Working Group has raised more than \$50,000 in donations for a feasibility study by the Trust for Public Land

(TPL) and the Dangermond Group.

TPL helps communities and agencies identify and raise funds for conservation from federal, state, and local sources. TPL is researching four governance options: a new independent regional district, a new dependent regional district, a new countywide community services district, and the existing county department with a dedicated revenue source. Its efforts will include a public opinion survey.

The Dangermond Group is studying a nonprofit conservancy option and will provide review and assistance in consideration of budget estimates for operation and maintenance of the Regional Parks and Open Space System.

The Working Group will review the TPL and Dangermond Group results and other information and make a recommendation to the public in late January 2011, followed by a community summit in early February. Sacramento County has specified that a measure needs to be on the November 2012 ballot for voter consideration.

For more information, contact SARA at 916/482-2551 or INFO@SARAriverwatch.org or visit its Web site at <http://www.sarariverwatch.org/grassroots.html> and click on Grassroots Process." The group's meetings are open to the public. ■

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## Calling All Cyclists. . .

. . .Classy blue and green cycling jerseys that show that you support the American River Parkway are now available for sale at the EYNC Discovery Shop and selected cycling shops. All profits go to ARNHA to benefit the Parkway.

Created by ARNHA past president Lou Heinrich and designed by Brian Clifton, these high-quality Canari jerseys are made in the USA and feature a lifetime warranty.

Shops where they're available, besides EYNC, include Steve Rex Cycles, 1811 E St. Sacramento; City Bike Works, 2419 K St., Sacramento and 7885 Greenback Lane, Citrus Heights; Carmichael Cycles, 5142 Arden Way, Carmichael; and Whitworth Cycles, 2311 St St., Sacramento. ■

## EYNC Programs for Seniors

You're never too old to enjoy a leisurely walk along winding trails or to meet an owl or hawk up close. The Effie Yeaw Nature Center is now offering "Young at Heart ~ Walks & Talks" programs, designed for the 55-plus folks.

An EYNC naturalist will come to your location — adult living communities, senior centers, etc., or you can visit the Nature Center for an on-site nature program or guided walk through the lovely preserve by the American River. The programs make an ideal gift for the seniors in your life who "have everything."

Cost for an on-site, hour-long program for up to 15 people is \$150; total cost for an off-site program for up to 40 people is \$175.

Please call Denise at 489-4918 x234 for more information. ■

# 'Miracle,' Challenges Mark Annual Meeting

Two months after ARNHA shouldered full responsibility for running the Effie Yeaw Nature Center (EYNC), some 150 members and friends gathered at the ARNHA annual meeting and grand re-opening of the center on September 10 to be brought up to speed on the past, present, and future of the 29-year-old nonprofit organization.

In his welcome, President Larry Washington declared that the takeover from the county has been a daunting task, necessary to preserve the nature center's award-winning environmental and cultural programs for children and adults alike. He pointed out that the nature center's staff had been cut back from 26 persons employed by the county to just nine with ARNHA. All nine have accepted significant pay cuts, reduced hours, and no benefits.

At the same time, "We have done a minor miracle in two months," past president Carol Dorsch, a member of the ARNHA Board's EYNC Advisory Committee, said in opening remarks. Achievements have included setting up a payroll plan, workers and organizational insurance plans, and developing a new website ([www.sacnaturecenter.net](http://www.sacnaturecenter.net)) with the ability to register teachers and their classes to attend our programs for school children. The staff led by Executive Director Marilee Flannery has designed and implemented the year's programs for bringing children to nature.

But Carol offered a reality check when she pointed out that ARNHA's newfound responsibilities for all programs, facilities, and administrative

details add up to \$400,000 per year and growing. Our educational programs generate revenue of \$100,000, and ARNHA memberships and our books and store, another \$30,000. That means that upwards of \$270,000 must come from outside the organization each year. "Our fund development staff and committee has its work cut out for them," she said.

That work was given a big boost at the meeting in the form of a \$60,000 gift from the George Smith family in memory of the late Jo Glasson Smith, ARNHA founder, environmentalist and civic leader. *(Story on page one)*

ARNHA's  
newfound  
responsibilities  
for all programs,  
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details add up  
to \$400,000 per  
year and growing.

ARNHA has received, as well, a \$25,000 matching challenge grant from a Carmichael family. Meanwhile, Carol announced that EYNC staff and ARNHA volunteers are hard at work writing grant requests, crafting planned giving and bequest programs, and planning a 2011 "Painting Where the Wild Things Are"

art sale and gala, that raised more than \$30,000 this year. Also planned are innovative money-raisers such as rental of the Assembly Building for business retreats, memorials, weddings, and scouting programs.

In another meeting highlight, Volunteer Coordinator Jamie Washington saluted volunteers who contributed more than 11,000 hours of service, which she valued at \$21-\$22 per hour. (Story, page \_\_\_\_). Jamie and two other staff members, Betty Cooper and Denise Booth, presented Marilee Flannery, on behalf of the staff, a Proclamation of Appreciation for "Extraordinary and

Inspirational Leadership."

Marilee introduced County Supervisor Don Nottoli who praised ARNHA for stepping in to keep the nature center doors open when budget deficits forced the county to turn to a non-profit group. He said he looked forward to working with ARNHA in the future.

Tim Taylor of the County Office of Education announced that ACE (Architects Contractors and Engineers Mentor Program) would "adopt" EYNC this year. Students from 11 high schools would tour EYNC, develop ideas for improving the facilities, and present them in April. Business sponsors may pay to construct designs that are feasible and meet with ARNHA approval.

President Washington thanked Betsy Weiland for taking the lead to plan the grand re-opening meeting and Linda Thomas for producing the ARNHA annual report. He also thanked the Board of Directors and Associate Board for their efforts in 2009 and 2010 and announced officers for 2010 and 2011:

## **President**

- Larry Washington

## **Vice-President, Membership**

- Lee Wilner

## **Vice-President, Publications**

- Peggy Kennedy

## **Recording Secretary**

- Claudia Hulbe

## **Corresponding Secretary**

- Paula Baldi

## **Treasurer**

- Don Mongeau

The slate was elected unanimously. Marilee Flannery invited everyone to go on a twilight nature walk with Brena Seck and Shawna Protze and to stay to view the heavens with members of the Sacramento Valley Astronomical Society, who had set up telescopes near the butterfly garden. ■



# EYNC Advisory Committee to Aid ARNHA Board

Now that ARNHA has the full responsibility for the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, the ARNHA Board has created a new committee charged with the task of working through all aspects of EYNC and reporting to the full ARNHA Board, which will remain the decision-making body of ARNHA. The new committee is called the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Advisory Committee. **Carol Doersch**, one of ARNHA's founders says, "This committee of the ARNHA Board of Directors has taken on the task of coordinating staff and board efforts to sustain educational programs and provide adequate funding. They are performing yeoman work and deserve our warm thanks."

Following are the committee members and a short resume of each.

**Greg Voelm** is an ARNHA Past President, the administrator of a large medical group in Sacramento, and a member of the boards of directors of several charitable and educational organizations in Sacramento and the Bay Area. His business interests include property management. He is a published historical author and a successful writer of grant proposals. He spurred the recent successful ARNHA takeover of Effie Yeaw Nature Center administration and financial responsibility made necessary by Sacramento County's fiscal problems.

**Noah Baygell** is an ARNHA Past President, is the owner/CEO of Bay West Realty in Sacramento, and owns and manages extensive commercial and investment properties. He has extensive knowledge of the requirements of land use, the economic development of the Sacramento area, and the potential of fund development. He has served on many boards of directors in Sacramento and Carmichael, most recently those of ARNHA and the American River

Equestrian Patrol.

**David Wade** has operated a large scale planning consulting business for 30 years, designing hundreds of recreation facilities and parks, and creating master plans for parks, open space, and creek restoration for many agencies. He has extensive experience in communication and business practices. He brings a keen sense of the means to expand revenue opportunities and the value of communication.

**Liz Williamson** produced educational programs for the American Bar Association Center for Professional Education for over 30 years, retiring as Associate Director. She also served on the Executive, Technology, Internet, and Awards committees of the National Association for Continuing Legal Education. She volunteers currently at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, where, among other projects, she produces the ARNHA podcasts and has designed the website [www.sacnaturecenter.net](http://www.sacnaturecenter.net) for the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and ARNHA.

**Betsy Weiland**

Available Soon

**Lou Heinrich** is an ARNHA Past President and owner/CEO of Heinrich Properties in Sacramento. He owns and manages apartment complexes and commercial properties and served as

a member of the committee to update the American River Parkway Plan. An avid bicyclist, user of and advocate for the Jedediah Smith Memorial Bike Trail along the American River Parkway, he has extensive knowledge of planning, funding, and administration of both private and public services.

Carol Doersch is an ARNHA Past President and member of the founding committee of ARNHA, Carol Doersch has 45 years of volunteer board of directors' experience in Sacramento. Editor of two newsletters for non-profits, she is a successful grant writer. She chaired funding and construction for Camp Fleming Lodge for 100 girls for the Girl Scout Council and completed it debt-free. She received the highest national award from the Girl Scouts, Member of the Year from the Sacramento Medical Auxiliary, Volunteer of the Year (twice) from Sacramento County, and Pioneer of the Year award from the Sacramento Pioneer Association. ■

## New Effie Yeaw Nature Center Hours

**Monday**

Closed

**Tuesday**

Closed

**Wednesday**

Open 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

**Thursday**

Open 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

**Friday**

Open 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Saturday**

Open 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Sunday**

Open 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

# Effie Yeaw Nature Center's Assembly Building Available for Rent for Mission-Matching Events

The Effie Yeaw Nature Center's Assembly Building is available for rent to organizations and agencies for **meetings, workshops, and educational programs**, and for a restricted number of special events that are compatible with the Effie Yeaw Nature Center's mission.

The Assembly Building was dedicated in 2004 and is a special program use building. It's a large assembly building, able to hold 100 - 130 people or, when the building's two interior movable partitions are pulled across the width of the room and locked into place, the space is divided into three rooms that can hold 30 seated people each. This three-classroom layout works well for classes or meetings and workshops.

An important detail restricts certain uses of the building because of its location in the American River Parkway. We must be sure that events that take place do not interfere with the 2008 American River Parkway Plan and policies guiding the use of the Preserve that is adjacent to the Assembly Building. For example, no loud amplified music is allowed anywhere in the building or on the grounds. Non-amplified acoustic music is permissible.

Call the scheduling desk at 489-4918 ext 229 to get more information about renting the EYNC's Assembly Building. ■

*EYNC Assembly Building was dedicated in 2004*



## Holiday Shopping Day

Saturday, December 4, 2010  
9:30am to 2:00pm

- ARNHA Publications
- Whimsical and nature-themed ceramic bowls and gifts by Libby Harmor
- Watercolor paintings and cards by Molly Keller
- Local wildlife photographer, Lon Yarbrough
- Native American baskets and jewelry by Four Star
- Local author and photographer, Susan Maxwell Skinner
- Live music provided by a combo from the Sacramento Symphonic Winds Orchestra
- Refreshments and free gift-wrapping

**Come early for the best selection!**

The Nature Discovery Shop offers wonderful books for all ages, puppets, toys, jewelry, cookbooks, nature T-shirts, and more! Profits support the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and environmental education programs on the American River Parkway.

***Extra 10% discount (20% of retail) for ARNHA members (Excludes sales from independent vendors – they are 10% off) Questions? (916) 489-4918***



# Winter Vacation Fun Days & Holiday Craft Workshops

Look to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center for lots of things to do during the winter vacation break.

Winter vacation classes for kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will keep your child busy and active. Your child can sign up for one class or more depending on the grade in which he/she is currently enrolled. Each class is three hours in length and will include a hike in the winter woods, a chance to get close to the Nature Center's live animals, hands-on educational discovery, and a craft activity.

The classes are guaranteed to make your child's cheeks rosy and to keep their hands and minds busy. While they have a great time exploring and learning you can put your feet up or go shopping.

Each Winter Vacation Fun Days class begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 12:00 noon.

**\$20 ARNHA Members**  
**\$25 non members**

**Amazing Salmon** – Explore the amazing journey of the Chinook salmon from its start as a tiny egg to the time it battles its way back to the American River to complete its life cycle. Play a game, take a hike to see where salmon lay their eggs, and learn much about this fishy adventurer.

**Fur, Feathers & Scales** – Learn to classify critters by their special characteristics such as feathers, fur, scales, egg laying, or ability

to give live birth. Using dramatics and newly learned scientific knowledge, students will learn the different characteristics and meet and classify some of the EYNC's live animals.

**Coyote Tales** – Listen to stories Nisenan Maidu told their children, make crafts from nature's bounty, play hoop and lance, and take a hike to learn how the very same plants in our nature area were used for food and medicine by the Maidu people.

**Owl Moon** – Learn about the world as an owl would sense it. Listen to the many different calls of the owl species found in our woods and take a hike to spot their favorite nesting and resting spots.

## **Windy Wanderings**

– Let the wind capture your imagination as we study about the weather of this area. We will wander the Nature Area to look for signs of wind and weather, play a game, and build a wind chime.

**Keepers of the River** – Take a hike through the woods to explore our beautiful American River, listen to stories about rivers, and paint your very own water color river to take home. Learn how stewardship is the key to saving this wondrous watery world.

**Beaks, Claws & Jaws** - Students will receive a close-up view of many different structural adaptations to beaks claws and jaws that have helped animals survive in the wild. Students

will use scientific techniques to compare and contrast animals' survival abilities based on their body structures. Games and fun CSI-like quizzes will reinforce the cool stuff they learn.

**Winter Wildlife** – What secret strategies do animals have to survive winter? Students will feel different furs to learn which keeps an animal warmest. Take a hike through the winter woods to see how the animals of the Nature Area have adapted to winter. Meet the Nature Center's animals, learn their winter stories, and design an animal to survive winter. ■

## Family Holiday Craft Workshops

Auntie Libby is again offering her popular Holiday Craft Workshops. Learn to make charming crafts from everyday household items in time to decorate for the holidays.

**Each class begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 12:00 noon. \$6 per class per person**

When these classes were in session last year, you could hear laughter and cheery voices from friendly people having a great time! ■

Tuesday Dec. 21  
Libby Family Crafting  
**Snowman Sock Puppets**

Wednesday Dec. 22  
Libby Family Crafting  
**Wreaths**

Tuesday Dec. 28  
Libby Family Crafting  
**Windsocks**

Wednesday Dec. 29  
Libby Family Crafting  
**Make Unusual Crafts from Recycled Materials**

Monday Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>  
**Amazing Salmon**  
Grades: K – 1<sup>st</sup>

Tuesday Dec. 21  
**Fur, Feathers & Scales**  
Grades: 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Wednesday Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>  
**Coyote Tales**  
Grades: 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>

Thursday Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>  
**Owl Moon**  
Grades: 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

Monday Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>  
**Windy Wanderings**  
Grades: K – 1<sup>st</sup>

Tuesday Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>  
**Keepers of the River**  
Grades: 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Wednesday Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>  
**Beaks Claws & Jaws**  
Grades: 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>

Thursday Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>  
**Winter Wildlife**  
Grades: 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

American River Natural History Association  
P.O. Box 241  
Carmichael, CA 95609-0241  
(916) 489-4918 • www.arnha.org  
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## ARNHA Calendar of Events

- **Holiday Sale Discovery Shop**  
Saturday, December 4, 9:30 am to 2 pm
- **Winter Fun Days**  
Monday, Dec. 20 to Thursday, Dec. 30, 9 am to 12 noon  
Effie Yeaw Nature Center (see story page 11)
- **Fashion Show at Katia's Collection**  
Thursday, January 27, 6 to 8 pm  
56619 H Street
- **Bird and Breakfast**  
Saturday, March 12, 8 am to 10:30 pm  
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
- **Painting Where the Wild Things Are**  
Saturday, May 21, 4 pm to 7:30 pm  
Effie Yeaw Nature Center

## Welcome, New Members!

- Gary Agid
- Catharina Amir
- John and Dayle Barry
- Vicotr Binsacca
- Susan Birusingh
- Gayle F. Boyle
- Jean and Greg Burke
- Carmichael Creek NPA
- Don Coelho
- Charlotta B. Cohen
- Katie Cook
- Deborah Davis
- Betty Diamond
- Wayne and Judy Eastburn
- Anne Fleuret
- Sarah Foley/Dave Decker
- Ken Furstenau
- Donald Gerigk
- Gail Gronert
- Sandra Hallsted & Nilesh Solanki
- Patrik Iderbitzin
- Alan Kilgore
- Maya Land
- George & Erin Landry
- John & Callie Lindsey
- Meg & Arthur Mark
- Susan McClatchy & Brenda Kaku
- Ken Moody
- Robert & Briana Nelson
- Jonilynn F. Okano
- Olaf Olsen
- Shaun Phillippart
- Ted & Joan Phillips
- Tawnly Pranger
- Sayre Rickhardt
- Tami Rowen & Alen Shindel
- Fernandoe E. Russell
- Douglas & Carol Souvignier
- Victoria M. Stoffers
- James Trawick
- Constantine & Gea Tung
- Keith & Nancy Turner
- Wally & Colleen Weaver
- Dan & Amy Welsh
- Wendy Williams & Griffin Toffler
- Stefany & B. J. Yarborough

## New Effie Yeaw Nature Center Hours

- Monday**  
Closed
- Tuesday**  
Closed
- Wednesday**  
Open 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Thursday**  
Open 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Friday**  
Open 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Saturday**  
Open 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Sunday**  
Open 9:00 am to 4:00 pm