



## The Parkway Deer

by Bill Dillinger

Deer seem part of the landscape in the Effie Yeaw Nature Area and surrounding Ancil Hoffman Park. And they can be seen in one's and two's almost anywhere along the Parkway.

They're not even averse to swimming across the river, if the grass looks greener on the other side.

Until the Gold Rush, they were plentiful in the Foothills and Central Valley, as were elk and antelope.

But they were nearly wiped out to feed hungry miners. In later years, numbers were kept down as clearing for agriculture, then urban development, destroyed much of their habitat.

But deer are tenacious. In small numbers, they hung on here and there in the foothills. And where habitat exists, as in the Parkway, wildlife will wander in, like the wolf wandering in Northern California recently.

or as plentiful.

They also, to his consternation, relish the oak seedlings planted to restore riparian woodlands but not the alien pampas grass or scotch broom he wants to eliminate.

And they have an annoying taste for the rosebushes and other ornamentals in gardens adjoining the Parkway.

*Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region* identifies them as Black-tailed Deer, a subspecies of the mule deer found throughout the West.

The mule deer name comes from their big ears—up to 8" long. (Back when shooting does—except for “camp meat”—was a big issue, an outdoor writer wondered if doe hunters would mount their prize “mollies” over the fireplace, ears extended.)

Rutting season runs from October clear into March, and fawns are born in May and June. The fawns are helpless at

*see Parkway Deer, page 4*

## EYNC Room Dedication Honors ARNHA Co-Founder Jo Smith

By Peter Hayes

“Teacher, Artist, Editor, Champion of Creeks, Steward of the Land, Inspirational Leader.”

That was the remarkable “resume” of the late Jo Smith as noted on the brushed brass plaque unveiled on January 11 as more than 75 friends and family members gathered in the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Courtyard Room to dedicate it as the “Jo Glasson Smith Room.”

It was special recognition for the insightful, quiet-spoken environmentalist who led children on nature walks with Effie Yeaw; helped found the American River Natural History Association to support the EYNC when it was threatened with closure; and as an editor, writer, and illustrator shepherded publications that projected core ARNHA educational values.

Besides her key roles in ARNHA, she served on the Sacramento County Recreation and Park Commission and the County Open Space Task Force and helped organize the Sacramento Area Urban Creeks Council.

In opening remarks at the dedication, Sacramento County

*see Jo Smith, page 5*



*Black-tailed buck explores the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Preserve.*

These days, perhaps a hundred or so deer wander Ancil Hoffman Park and adjacent areas, according to volunteer naturalist Jack Hiehle, who has spent years leading nature tours and helping to manage the Parkway flora and fauna.

The population can vary widely, however, depending on the fall and winter rains and the resulting abundance of grass, their principal food. Deer can feed on shrubs – even poison oak – as well, Jack says, but such feed is not as desired

# President's Message



## A Peek Under the Hood

ARNHA is a remarkable organization with many diverse talents contributing to the fundamental mission of bringing people to nature. The flagship is, of course, the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, but ARNHA provides other services to the community. The Publications and Media committee, for example, is a publishing group responsible not only for the quarterly *Acorn*, but over the years for publishing an impressive list of unique books and pamphlets on the natural and cultural history of the American River.

It takes a great deal of work and creativity to sustain a non-profit organization at the high level of performance that ARNHA has achieved these many years.

The “nuts and bolts” operational committees, such as the **Executive Committee**, **Finance Committee**, and **Personnel Committee** are made up primarily of the elected ARNHA officers. However, member-driven committees are the core structure of that effort, and it is important to regularly augment those committees with new energy and ideas. The work is sometimes challenging, but it is invigorating to develop your ideas with a group and see the positive results that a small group can create.

In addition to the **Publications and Media Committee**, ARNHA currently includes the following committees that are open to ARNHA members and Associate Board members:

- The **EYNC Advisory Committee** works with the EYNC Executive Director and staff on issues relating to operation of the 4.4 acres and nature center building leased from Sacramento County.

- The **Preserve Management Committee** works with the County staff to provide guidance and a work force for restoration, management, maintenance, and educational opportunities of the 77+ acre Preserve Area adjacent to the nature center.

- The **Special Events Committee** works on planning and executing the fund raising and educational events that are keys to the success of this non-profit.

ARNHA is also developing and reorganizing committees to meet the responsibility of operating the EYNC. These include the following:

- The **Development and Membership Committee** will combine the efforts of the existing Membership committee to provide greater outreach to the community, develop new funding opportunities, and grow our membership.

- The **Education and Program Development Committee** will develop new ideas for extending the environmental awareness and education aspects of the ARNHA mission to our community, and work with the EYNC staff to enhance the nature center programs.

Throughout 2012, ARNHA will be recruiting new members for these committees. No doubt the ARNHA membership includes remarkable individuals with talents and experience that would greatly enhance the organization. The range of activities represented in our existing and planned committee structure provides significant opportunities to exercise your interests and talents.

If you have an interest in working on a particular aspect of the ongoing ARNHA mission, please contact me. I would love to hear from you. (dwade@wadeassociates.com, or 916 955-1117).

Sincerely,

*David Wade*

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President  
David Wade

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\*EYNC Advisory Committee Member  
Representatives to other groups:

Commission on History and Science  
Greg Voelm

Parkway Advisory Committee  
Betsy Weiland

Save the American River Association  
Betsy Weiland

American River Parkway Coalition  
Katie Baygell & Peggy Kennedy

### ARNHA

American River Natural History Association  
P.O. Box 241 • Carmichael, CA 95609  
916-489-4918 • [www.arnha.org](http://www.arnha.org)

*The Acorn* is published quarterly on partly-recycled paper by ARNHA, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Letters to the editor should be sent to the address above.

## Bird and Breakfast

Explore the miracles of spring in the beautiful oak woodland and meadows of the **Effie Yeaw Nature Area**, in small groups guided by **Sacramento Audubon** experts. Then, return to a delicious breakfast prepared by members of the **American River Natural History Association**.

Saturday, March 10  
8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

\$35 per person

Participants must be at least  
twelve years of age.

Phone 489-4918 for reservations

## EYNC Hosts New Speaker Series

The Nature of Things, ARNHA's new distinguished speaker series, began on Friday, January 20, with Mike Cardwell, who spoke on venomous bites and stings.

Five more speakers have been scheduled so far: on February 17 Art Shapiro on butterflies, on March 16 Connie Wade speaking on Preserving our Oak Woodlands, on April 20 Cheryl Buckwalter on eco-landscaping/water efficiency, on May 18 Lewis Kemper on Outdoor Photography, and on June 15 Kate Marden on falconry. The May 18 program on Outdoor Photography is from 6:30 to 8:30. All other programs are on Friday from 6:30 to 7:45.

Each lecture costs \$5 per person and begins at 6:30 p.m.

For more information go to [sacnaturecenter.net](http://sacnaturecenter.net), or call 916-489-4918. ■



## American River Parkway Wildlife Count Documented

by *Lea Landry*

Once again, as has happened on the first Saturday of December for 27 years, teams of intrepid birders gathered along the American River for the American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) Wildlife Count. The Count, established by Jack Hiehle in 1985, covers both sides of the American River, from Nimbus Dam to Discovery Park.

During this year's count, on December 3, unexpectedly robust winds contributed to the relatively low numbers of bird species found. 108 species were seen this year, compared with a record-setting 123 species in 2010 and 115 species in 2009. On the other hand, the outflow from the Nimbus Dam was only 2,200 cubic feet per second, compared with last year's 6,766 cu. ft./sec., which gave the shore birds and waterfowl a better chance of being spotted this year.



Over 65 counters and their 12 Team Leaders scoured the water, land, and air to find both usual and unusual mammal and bird species for this time of year. The Yellow-headed Blackbird captured the honor of never having been seen before in this early December count.

For planning purposes, next year's count will be on December 1. Mark your calendars!

The Results of the 2011 ARNHA Wildlife Count are posted on the ARNHA website at [www.arnha.org/images/WildlifeCount2011.pdf](http://www.arnha.org/images/WildlifeCount2011.pdf) and on the Effie Yeaw Nature Center website at [sacnaturecenter.org](http://sacnaturecenter.org).

*Lea Landry is a member of Sacramento Audubon and leader of the 2011 Wild Animal Count.* ■



The new 4th edition from ARNHA Press is available at the Discovery Shop inside the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, and selected local bookstores, for \$14.95.

ARNHA, P.O. Box 241, Carmichael, CA.  
95609-0241 • [www.arnha.org](http://www.arnha.org)

## All Artists Invited!

On Friday, April 27, and Saturday, April 28, the Sacramento Fine Arts Center will accept all entries for the Third Annual Painting Where the Wild Things Are.

Subject matter of all artworks must be the American River Parkway and the plants and animals that are native to it. Entry fee is \$15 per artwork, limit 3 artworks per artist. Original work completed within the last two years of the following media are sought: Watermedia, oil/acrylic/soft pastel, graphics/pencil/pen and ink/hard pastel, mixed media, textile, and sculpture. All artwork must be for sale.

Terry Pappas, fifth generation California native, will jury the show -- on display at the Fine Arts Center from May 8 to May 26. On June 9, the show will be featured at a gala reception and auctions, both live and silent, at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.



For details go to [sacfinearts.org](http://sacfinearts.org) or call David Peterson at 916-716-5951. ■



first, but within just a few days they can run with the adults.

With their mothers, they join in loose family groups, usually led by the eldest doe, and spend the summer grazing through the Parkway.

When rutting ends, the bucks, like Victorian gentlemen, retire to groups of their own, not to smoke and sip sherry, but to graze peacefully together while dropping their old antlers and growing new ones.

The antlers grow through the summer, at first covered in skin ("velvet") and a bit tender. But by early fall, the bucks are rubbing the velvet off against tree trunks and getting ready for battle.

When young bucks grow their first antlers—unforked "spikes"—they leave the family group to join the adult males.

With few predators, a Parkway deer may live ten years or more. In captivity, deer have lived to nearly twenty years of age.

The Parkway's coyotes may take fawns and cripples but can't handle adult deer. Good evidence is the three-legged deer,

affectionately named Tripod, who lived for a time in the nature area.

Mountain lions? There have been a few sightings over the years, Jack notes. But they're wary of people and dogs, and no mountain lion attacks have been recorded in the Parkway.

Nor has poaching been a problem, according to Park Naturalist Sabreena Kasbati.

Deer overpopulation is the deer's worst threat, Jack says. By browsing together on limited feeding areas, they create ideal conditions for the spread of parasites and diseases, resulting in periodic population ups and downs.

Why aren't the deer more plentiful down the river? Too much urbanization, Sabreena says. And major floods from time to time have discouraged permanent residence in places like Discovery Park, Jack notes.

But the Parkway deer are basically healthy, and the population fairly stable, Jack and Sabreena agree.

*Bill Dillinger, an early ARNHA board member, was chief of the Public Information Division of the California Department of Fish & Game before his retirement.* ■

## DEER DATA

Parkway deer have become unafraid of humans – perhaps too much so.

But it's best not to get too close to them. A buck in rut can get belligerent, and a doe protecting her fawn can be a bit violent as well.

However cute they may be as fawns, as they grow they become unpredictable and don't make good pets.

Not just the antlers, but those sharp front hoofs make formidable weapons. I remember a DFG warden who balked at picking up an ornery pet deer, not wanting to get his new uniform dirty, and he ended up with his outfit not only dirty, but in shreds.

And if, wandering the parkway trails, you come upon a tiny fawn curled up like a kitten, don't try to "rescue" it. The mother is probably nearby, and for the first few days, before the fawn can get its legs under it, its best protection is its camouflaged coat and lack of scent.

Let it be.

The mother will come back.

●

—Bill Dillinger

## Holiday Sale Pays Off

The Effie Yeaw Nature Center Holiday Sale on December 3 netted \$3,235 after payments to vendors, the highest total in the past four years, for which there are numbers, Office Manager Denise Booth reports.

Best sellers were the gourd ornaments made by artisans in Peru, with 40 of 45 finding eager buyers on sale day. Others included books (mainly field guides), stuffed animals, puppets, and the handmade "Owlies" (crocheted pouches for cell phones and iPods) that ARNHA Board member Liz Williamson makes. ■



## Creeks Clean-up Set

**First We Clean! Then We Celebrate!**

That'll be the battle cry of an expected couple of thousand volunteers who turn out Saturday, April 14, to collect trash along 32 miles of creeks in Sacramento County. Besides "junk and gunk," they'll be picking up e-waste such as cell phones, toasters, or "anything with a plug," Creeks Council President Alta Tura said.

In the climax to the 22nd annual Creek Week conservation effort started by Frank Cruzen and ARNHA co-founder Jo Smith, volunteers will clean creeks from 9 a.m. until noon and then celebrate at Carmichael Park, 5750 Grant Avenue, Carmichael, until 2 p.m. Volunteers will receive free T-shirts and lunch.

Volunteers may register by visiting [www.creekweek.net](http://www.creekweek.net). ■

*Jo Smith, from page one*

Supervisor Susan Peters noted that the full Board of Supervisors approved naming the Courtyard Room in honor of Jo, upon the recommendation of ARNHA.

"She contributed so much," Supervisor Peters said. "Like Effie Yeaw, she'll be forever remembered."

Gary Kukkola, retired director of Sacramento County Regional Parks, recalled how Jo played a key role as a member the Parks and Recreation Commission to help settle a controversy with neighbors over a County plan to develop tiny Sarah Park on the north side of the river. "She had the ability to seek compromises," he said. "She was a facilitator."

He added that she also served on the "Lunch Bunch," the informal group that became the American River Parkway Advisory Committee, the County committee established to review Parkway matters. "She was very kind and thoughtful and served with great grace," he said.

Alta Tura, Sacramento Area Creeks Council President, offered a clue to Jo's

leadership skills, telling how she teamed up with Frank Cruzen to start the creeks council 22 years ago. She recruited Alta as president and many other volunteers, created artistic brochures and signs, and coordinated annual creek cleanups. After about five years, Alta said, Jo told her "you can do it. You don't need me." Notably, Alta is still President, and annual creek cleanups continue, with the next one set for April 14. (Details, page 4)

Jo's husband, T. George Smith, who happened to be observing his birthday on January 11, headed a nine-member family delegation at the dedication. He said, "I'm very proud of the work she has done," and drew laughs from the audience when he recalled that during one period of their life together she served as a legislative advocate for the League of Women Voters at the same time he served in the same capacity with the State Department of Transportation -- sometimes on opposite sides of an issue.

An elegant dedication program created and produced by retired EYNC Executive Director Marilee Flannery included what might be termed Jo's credo for public service:

"I believe we must give of what talents we have to improve the quality of our environment and act to insure a fair and responsive government. We must personally care for our natural world through learning and action. We must actively participate in government, not only by casting informed ballots, but constantly working to influence legislation and decision makers. We must accept responsibility for the condition of our society and the environment and do what we can to make a better world." ■

# Trust Me ! Estate Plans and Living Trusts

By Carol Doersch

If you want to have a say in what happens to your savings and assets after you leave this earth, you definitely want to have an estate plan. Leaving such an important matter to the probate court is asking for trouble for your heirs and organizations like Effie Yeaw Nature Center that you love.

Probate is the legal process of administering an estate -- appraising, distributing, paying debts and taxes, transferring titles, and more. And it can be a hassle, sometimes costing as much as 10% of an estate's value, and is a process that can last years. You can avoid probate through a living trust where you formally transfer the title of assets to your heirs before you die. You retain control over everything while you are alive. You designate specifics like contributions to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center that would be so very much appreciated.

Your trustee will then carry out your requests. If you have enjoyed your times at Effie Yeaw through the years, please consider helping this wonderful community service with a lasting bequest so that our programs can continue to bring joy to thousands of children each year. Talk with your attorney about this. It really isn't difficult. ■



photo by BETTY COOPER

*Jo Glasson Smith, ARNHA co-founder and environmental leader in Sacramento County, was honored with room dedication.*



# Lizard? No, a Rattlesnake

by Peter Hayes

Peter Hayes is co-chair of ARNHA's Publications Committee. A career journalist, he is author of *THE AMERICAN RIVER ALMANAC* and *AN AMERICAN RIVER JOURNAL* and editor of several ARNHA publications. In 2009, he was named county parks Outstanding Volunteer by the County Board of Supervisors.

Effie Yeaw Nature Center Volunteer Coordinator Jamie Washington was on duty at about 12:40 p.m. last October 21, when Alex McHardy, 29-year-old visitor from the East, walked in and reported that he had been bitten by a snake in the nature preserve.

"He was reaching for a lizard outside when a small snake with a triangular-shaped head struck and bit him," Jamie said in an accident report. "His thumb was swollen, and his fingertips were tingling.

"I had him sit in the extra chair by Margie Denham, our volunteer receptionist. I got him a cool-pack from the animal care cabinet, gave it to him, and then called 911."

She then headed for the parking lot to direct the Emergency Response team inside. The team arrived in an ambulance in eight minutes, placed Alex on a gurney, and took him to the UC Davis hospital.

Doctors confirmed that Alex had been bitten by a rattlesnake and said the snake was probably a young one so small it may not have had a rattle to warn the victim. Alex spent two days in the hospital before being discharged. In a phone call to EYNC Executive Director Paul Tebbel on November 19, Alex said he was fully recovered.

"Even though we have many rattlesnakes in our region, bites are very, very rare," Paul said. "The snakes don't want to bite you and probably only do so because they see your hand or foot near them and strike in defense. Always stay on the trail, and avoid reaching into brushy areas where a snake could be hiding."

Former Executive Director Marilee Flannery said the only previous rattlesnake bite incident at EYNC that she knew of occurred sometime before 1993 when a boy was bitten when he reached for what he thought was a lizard inside the wall of a tule shelter in the replica Nisenan Summer Village. ■

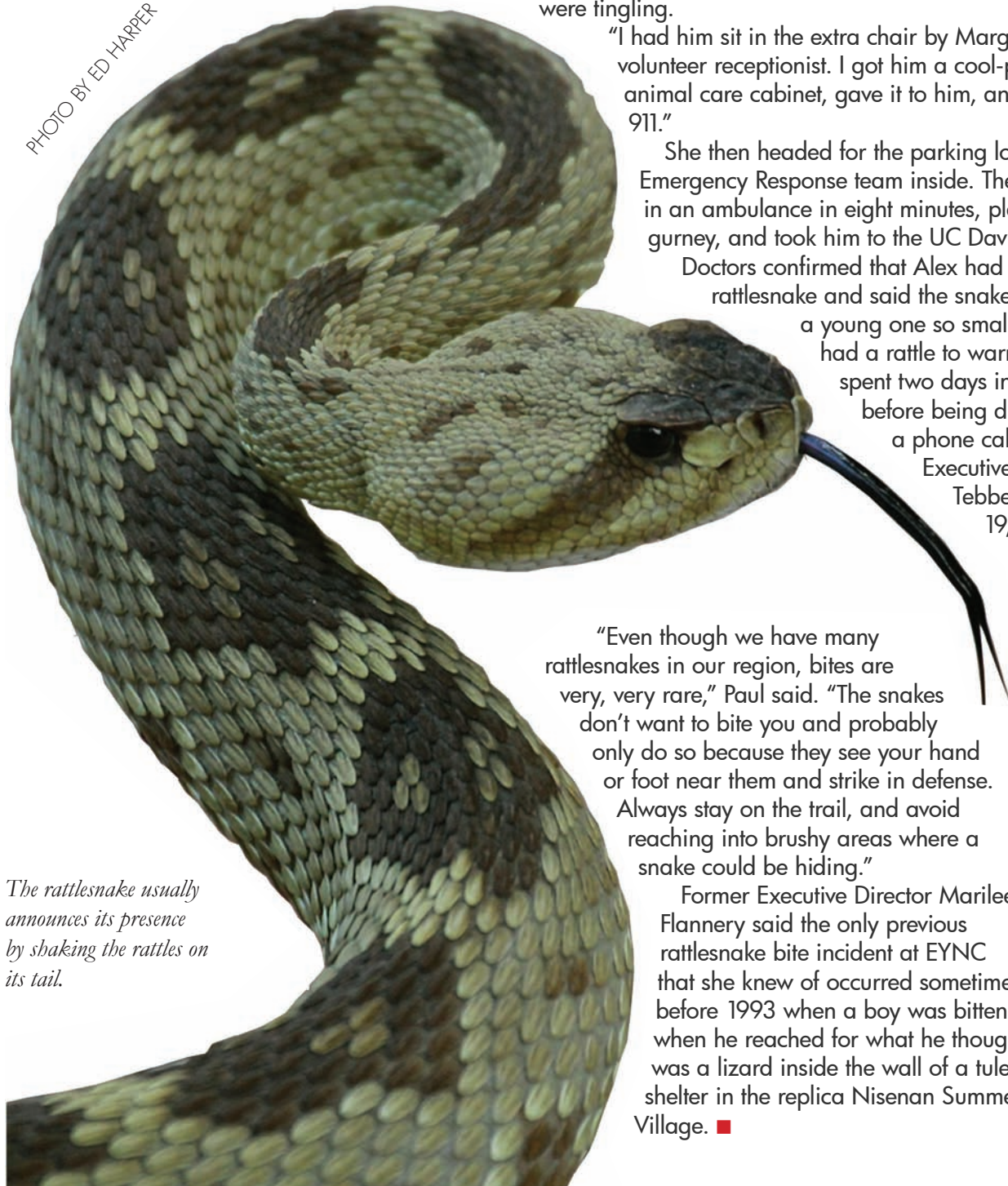


PHOTO BY ED HARPER

*The rattlesnake usually announces its presence by shaking the rattles on its tail.*



# Presenting: An Echo to Virginia

One year after the passing of beloved Great Horned Owl Virginia, the Effie Yeaw Nature center is proud to present Echo, a very young Great Horned Owl uniquely qualified to serve as an educational ambassador.

Echo was found in the South Lake Tahoe area crying (begging) in the night. When a volunteer rehabilitator called to her, she flew down and readily ate the food offered to her. This behavior meant that Echo was imprinted or raised by humans as a young owl. Unfortunately, she did not know how to hunt for food or take care of herself and was looking to people to feed her.

The volunteer took her to Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care where she was determined to be 6-7 months old, an infant compared to Virginia who was said to be 35-plus years old. An imprinted bird cannot survive on its own in the wild, so Echo was offered to EYNC. Since Echo is accustomed to being around people, she is seen as perfect for EYNC naturalists to exhibit in programs for the public and in schools.

The Nature Center is also giving Echo the opportunity to earn her keep, so to speak. Anyone who would like to be her adoptive parent for a \$50 donation, will receive an adoption certificate, the parent's name on the animal adoption plaque in the lobby, a photo of Echo, a thank you card, and a laminated Echo bookmark.

For \$250, a donor receives all of the above plus a full color thank you plaque and a special visit with Echo. This donation provides Echo and her fellow animal residents with food for one month. ■

## Fair Oaks Bluffs Donor Plaza Dedication Set for April 29

On Sunday, April 29, 2012, at 2:00 p.m., ARNHA members and friends are invited to the dedication on the Fair Oaks Bluffs Donor Plaza. Fair Oaks Bluffs, a 4.5-acre park, was saved from development by a group of citizens who worked for over ten years to buy the land and create the interpretative panels of the Plaza.

The Park is located on the south end of Bridge Street in Fair Oaks, on the north side of the old Fair Oaks Bridge, next to the Fair Oaks Bluff.

For more details see ARNHA's website at [www.arnha.org/books/fobluff.html](http://www.arnha.org/books/fobluff.html). ■



*Great Horned Owl "Echo," shown with Lead Naturalist Shawna Protze, is recent addition to Effie Yeaw Nature Center's cast of wildlife performers. Photo by Kari Bauer*



# EYNC Preserve Due for Renewal

ARNHA Associate Board Member Connie L. Wade, a professional ecologist with more than 30 years experience, recalls being alarmed by two major land management challenges when she first visited the Effie Yeaw Nature Center's 77-acre Preserve in mid-2010.

"I was astounded by the amount of fire fuel there, primarily exotic dry grasses, the very aggressive yellow star thistle that would take over the world if allowed," she said. "It was imperative to reduce the fire danger from it all.

"I was also alarmed by the condition of the oak trees. Although the majority of the oak trees in the Preserve appear to be healthy and thriving, many are dead and others are dying as shown by their broken branches and bearing leaves only at the tops of the trees."

For Connie, such threats were the impetus to propose, in cooperation with EYNC Executive Director Paul Tebbel, formation of the ARNHA Preserve Management Committee (PMC) last Fall. The mission of the Committee, approved by the ARNHA Board, is to provide guidance and a work force to restore, manage, and maintain the Preserve, plus provide educational opportunities. The PMC will prepare a draft Management Action plan in collaboration with Sacramento County and EYNC staffs, in six months or so, Connie said.

Last December 16, she scheduled a walk through the Preserve by Committee members and others to view aspects of the environmental planning that lay ahead. She asked

Committee member Mary Maret, Senior Natural Resource Specialist with the County Department of Regional Parks, to lead the tour. EYNC Development Director Betty Cooper, longtime Nature Center staff member, took over when Mary needed to leave early.

The first stop on the tour was at the yellow star thistle-infested area of the meadow next to the EYNC Maidu Indian village. Connie said a major task is to prevent the Eurasian native from choking the entire meadow, as well as preventing it from possibly spreading into other sunny areas of the Preserve not already infected.

She attributed the plight of some of the Preserve's oak trees to lack of water probably as the result of water regimen changes in the area, old age, and the impact of hungry mule deer browsing on seedlings and young trees.

"Oaks are near and dear to my heart," she said. "Volunteers Jack Hiehle, Walter Dong, and Jack Kemp have already begun fencing and caging many oak seedlings that naturally occur to protect them from the deer. She added that in addition to existing valley oaks, she would like to see more acorns of blue oaks planted in the dryer terrain of the Preserve that they prefer.

A half a dozen Wood Ducks entertained the visiting Committee members last December, paddling in and out of the cattails ringing the Nature Study Pond in the southwest corner of the Preserve. A problem arises here if too much recycled water from the Aerojet plant across the river is piped into the

Ancil Hoffman Golf Course and thence the pond. If the pond gets too full, the cattails die off and have to be cleaned out. Greg Blik of the Ancil Hoffman Park Golf Course, suggested that a cut-off valve could be installed to control the flow, Connie said.

Connie, who with her husband, ARNHA President David Wade, are Principals in Wade Associates, Land Use and Environmental Planning, Sacramento, said, "Once we get moving, we'll need lots of volunteers planting acorns, cleaning the pond if it gets choked out, removing the yellow star thistle, and planting native grasses. These are only a few of the tasks we will need to tackle, not to change, but to restore and manage the Preserve." ■



*ARNHA Ecologist Connie Wade checks one of the cages around a young oak installed to protect it from browsing deer. Photo by Kari Bauer*





# Donations July – Dec 2011

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- Chevron Corporation
- County of Sacramento, Environmental Mgmt. Div.
- County of Sacramento Fish & Game Propagation Fund
- Melina A. Ose Fund for Board Excellence
- REI
- Save the American River Association
- Wells Fargo Foundation

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- Christina Lewis
- Dorothy & Norman Lien
- Dawn-Marie & Jeffrey Lillie
- Marsha & Ed Littrell
- Sonya Lyons
- Kelly Mahoney
- Brenda Main
- Kim & Nick Majetich
- Mary Maret
- Judy & Eugene Marquart
- Craig Martini
- Marty Maskall
- Brian Matson
- Rosemary Mayfield
- Tessa McCarthy
- James & Susan McClatchy
- Fund of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation
- Carol McKenzie
- Marianne & Christopher McMorris
- Ian McPhail
- Marilyn McRae
- Sylvia Mehlhaff in memory of Stroube Richardson
- Linda Melching
- Betty & Robert Metcalf
- Claire & Jay Michael
- Beryl Michaels & John Bach
- Joyce Mihanovich
- Mary Glide Miller & R. Burnett
- Margaret & Donald Mongeau
- John K. Moore
- Deborah Moskovitz
- Emily & James Moulton in memory of Rick Hoffelt & Thomas Russel
- L.K. Smokey Murphy
- Judy Murray
- Meegan Nagy
- Kenneth Nahigian in honor of Janet Rezos
- Christy Navarro
- Lestelle & James Nichols

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*from previous page*

- Ellen Nishimura
- Andrew Northcutt
- Page O'Connor
- Sara Osborne & Terry Eggleston  
in honor of Marilee Flannery & Luna
- Our Lady of the Assumption
- Outdoor Writers' Association of California
- Evelyn & Frank Palumbo
- Terry Pappas  
in honor of Liz Williamson
- Miranda Parkin
- Jean Pavaglio
- Elizabeth & Robert Peabody
- James Pearce
- Gertrude & John Pefley  
in honor of Andrew Kadie
- Carol & Frank Poelman
- Marilyn and James Poindexter
- Shirley Poirier
- Prietto Cueto Fund of the  
Sacramento Region Community Foundation
- Noreen Rademacher
- Dr. Raghavan
- Elizabeth Ragle
- Diane and Joe Ramsey
- Nancy Reid & Richard Price
- Ruth Rezos  
in honor of Janet Rezos
- Sharyn Rich
- Sharon Richer
- Bill Richmond
- Jane Robinson & Michael Sands
- Shirley & Stanley Rock
- Amy & Jason Rogers
- Anne Rudin
- Vivian Russell
- Cherie & Robby Sabini
- Claudia & Jim Sandberg-Larsen
- Carolyn Sandie
- Marilyn Sands
- Laura Sanz
- Sam Scarlett
- Julia & William Schaw
- Rosemary Seck  
in honor of Rocky
- Julie & John Serences
- Lanna Seuret  
in memory of Charlie Klinger
- Diane & Anthony Shakal
- Benjamin Sher
- Susan Skinner
- Mary & Michael Sloss
- Julia & Christopher Smith
- Lisabeth Smith
- Sandra Smoley
- Jean Snuggs

- Gladys & George Snyder
- Judy & Jack Sohl
- JoAnn Speakman
- Donald Spiegel & Marilyn Barrett
- Kris Stevens
- Holly & Michael Stiles
- Mary Lou & Ray Stone
- Sylvia Suverkrop
- Jacquie Taber
- Janet & Daniel Tankersley
- Shannon Tarter
- Joan Taylor
- Paul Tebbel
- Alice Timmins
- Mary & Warren Truitt  
in honor of Betsy Weiland
- Alta & Del Tura
- Two Rivers Architects
- Diane & Brian Van Camp
- Moni Van Camp & Greg Kondos
- Traci Verardo-Torres
- Diana Wallace
- Frank Wallace
- Cheryl Ward
- Dee Warencia
- Jamie & Larry Washington  
in memory of Chris Hulbe
- Jamie & Larry Washington  
in memory of Marsh Lee Durand
- Steve Watson  
in memory of Ellen Watson
- Betsy & Fred Weiland
- Val Weinberg
- Sally Weinland
- Laurie Weir
- Cathy Weitzner
- Western Health Advantage
- Gregory Wheeler
- Katie & A. Alan White
- Joyce Whitney
- Walter Wiley
- Shirley & Earl Ray Willey
- Liz Williamson
- Mary Wilkinson
- Mary Jess Wilson
- Nancy Crawford Wise
- Trish & Brad Wood
- Jill Wright
- Melinda Wulff
- Thomas Yeates
- Franklin & Sandra Yee  
Foundation
- Anne Young
- Penny & Kenneth Zacher

*Wow!  
Thanks to all!*

## From the American River Journal

### Harbingers

Leaves of the willows, alders, and cottonwoods have long since come tumbling down. Bacteria and the rains have begun recycling the leaves' nutrients back to the soil, aided by the warmth of the sun filtering around the bare-boned limbs of the valley's deciduous trees.

But look again--there's activity stirring. Pussy willow catkins near the bottom of slender willow branches are starting to change. Yellow flower parts are sprouting from the fluffy "cat's tails."

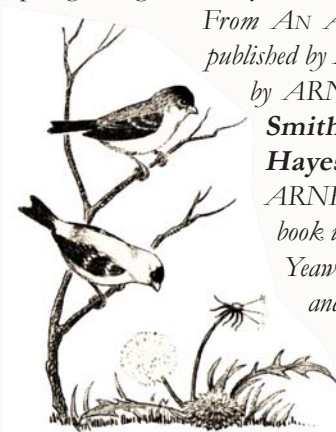
As the weather warms, the yellow pollen on the male flowers will attract the bees. Some pollen will stick to the hairs on their bodies. Then, they will be drawn by the fragrant scent of the female flowers' promising sweet nectar, resulting in fertilization.

But for now, a leafless alder alongside the river is alive with goldfinches acrobatically visiting female catkins that resemble tiny pine cones, searching for winged nutlets.

And swelling buds presage action along the branches of the towering Fremont cottonwood trees named for John Fremont. The explorer-Army officer wrote of the tree in his diary January 6, 1844, while on his second Western expedition:

"Taking Kit Carson with me, I made a thorough exploration of the neighboring valleys and found in a ravine in the bordering mountains a good camping place where was water in springs and sufficient quantity of grass for a night. Overshadowing the spring were some trees of the sweet cottonwood which after a long interval of absence we saw again with pleasure, regarding them as harbingers of better country."


And so it is today, the increased stirrings of life in the cottonwoods, willows, and alders are silent harbingers of spring along the valley's watercourses.



*From AN AMERICAN RIVER JOURNAL, published by ARNHA. It features drawings by ARNHA co-founder Jo Glasson Smith and nature essays by Peter Hayes, retired newspaper editor and ARNHA associate board member. The book 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. ■*



## EYNC Spring and Summer Nature Camps Scheduled



**Nature Day Camps and Family Nature Hikes are planned for Spring Break**, April 2 through April 6. These fun and educational day camps are for kids in kindergarten through sixth grade. Planned and led by Effie Yeaw naturalists, these **nature programs** are always fun and interesting, and children learn something *new* about the birds, reptiles, mammals, and insects of the American River Parkway. They are priced at a reasonable \$25/child per day and discounted to only \$20 per day for ARNHA members. The **Family Nature Hikes** are scheduled for Monday through Friday of that week, only \$3 per person. These hikes include meeting one of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center's resident animals and, then, going on an extended nature walk led by one of the center's amazing docents.

**6 weeks of Summer Nature Day Camps** will be offered beginning on **June 18, June 25, July 9, July 16, July 23, and July 30**. Each week will include weeklong programs for children entering 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Children will participate in nature crafts, games, science activities, and nature walks, all designed to help kids learn about nature and to connect more to our natural world. *Children who complete our summer programs go back to school in the fall impressing their teachers with both their comprehensive knowledge of animals and plants along the American River and a stronger self confidence as they share this knowledge with their classmates.*

**Go to [www.sacnaturecenter.net](http://www.sacnaturecenter.net) to find out more about these exciting opportunities and to learn how to enroll!** Brochures will also be available at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. **Preregistration is required** for the Day Camps and is *recommended* for the Family Nature Hikes. Registration is available in person at the nature center, or call us at 489-4918. ■



## ARNHA Calendar of Events

- **Speaker Series**  
February 17, March 16, April 28, May 17, June 15  
Fridays at 6:30 pm (see page 3)
- **Bird and Breakfast**  
Saturday, March 10, 8 am to 10:30 am. EYNC (see page 3)
- **Spring Fun Days** • April 2 to 6 EYNC (see page 11)
- **Creek Week** • April 6 to 14 (see page 4)
- **Fair Oaks Bluff Donor Plaza Dedication**  
Sunday April 29, 2 pm (see page 7)
- **Great American River Clean-Up**  
Saturday, April 21, 9 am to 12 noon, Ancil Hoffman Park  
Phone 486-2773 for more information
- **Painting Where the Wild Things Are - Art Received**  
Friday, April 27, 1 pm to 5 pm  
Saturday April 28, 11 am to 3 pm (see page 3)
- **Painting Where the Wild Things Are**  
Saturday, June 9, 4 pm to 7:30 pm  
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
- **Summer Nature Camps**  
June 18 to August 3. Effie Yeaw Nature Center (see page 11)

## New Members

- |                                  |                         |                               |                                    |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Diane Abbey & James McGrew     | • Carol Gannon          | • Gregg Hutchison / Bev Lewis | • Maurya Perazzo                   |
| • Bruce & Ann Anderson           | • Dan & Pauline Gilmour | • Anne Jacobson               | • Nancy Perkovich                  |
| • Jo Ellen Arnold                | • Ronald Graff          | • Tamara Joslin               | • Gayle Reinwald                   |
| • Jo Ann & Dave Auble            | • John Graham           | • Tanya & Mark Kleinman       | • Fiona Renton                     |
| • Dr. Lawrence & Mrs. Carol Bass | • Kathryn Griffin       | • Judy Laird                  | • Tammy Sandow                     |
| • Barbara & Bruce Berg           | • Linda & Art Grix      | • John C Lance                | • Laura Sanz                       |
| • Ruth Bossenmaier               | • Rachael Guerrero      | • Brian Lewis                 | • James Silvernail                 |
| • Betty Bowles                   | • Kenneth & Lynn Hall   | • Mark & Jenniffer MacDonald  | • Donald Spiegel / Marilyn Barrett |
| • Derek Brown                    | • Jane Harper           | • Ellen & Jon Martin          | • Hiroko Sugitani                  |
| • Helen Buchanan                 | • Erin Hauge            | • Brian Matson                | • Anita Swanson                    |
| • Cauthen Family                 | • The Hennessy Family   | • The Miller Family           | • Diana Tasker                     |
| • Courtney Dillingham            | • Bobbie Jo Henry       | • Melisa Molina               | • Larry Tasker                     |
| • Gary O Fregien                 | • The Henry Family      | • Mark Noel                   | • The Waldrep Family               |
| • Roger Gambatese / Jane Poole   | • Linda Holmes          | • Judy Orcutt                 | • Patrick Wall                     |
|                                  |                         | • Kim Pacini-Hauch            | • Val Weinberg                     |
|                                  |                         | • John Payne / Peggy Cranston |                                    |



## We're on Facebook!

Next time you log in, be sure to "like" us so your newsfeed contains our posts.

You'll love "Pete the Parkway Coyote," a fictional character who prowls the Parkway, ambassador for the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and the American River Natural History Association. He'll keep you informed of their activities from the wild animal perspective.

The American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) page shares important information, such as news and events as well as linking you to the Effie Yeaw and ARNHA websites and calendars.

**Check out EYNC Programs at [www.SacNatureCenter.net](http://www.SacNatureCenter.net)**