



## All Hail EYNC "Superstar"

*story by Peter J. Hayes*

"I think he's beautiful," said nine-year-old Grace Miller-Creasey of Folsom as she watched Tanner, the Effie Yeaw Nature Center's resident Red-tailed Hawk on the gloved hand of Docent Jim LaNier. "I'd love to have him at home with me."

Grace's response to a recent public appearance of Tanner in the Carol Doersch Courtyard was understandable. With his chocolate brown head, mottled brown back, pale orange breast, and reddish-brown tail, the husky raptor is "a superstar," in the words of EYNC Animal Care Supervisor JoLynn Jarrett.

Raptors, which hunt live prey, are especially charismatic members of the avian world, and the nature center is fortunate to have five of them. They include Sophia, a tiny but tough Northern Saw-whet Owl; Echo, a Great Horned Owl; Skye, a Red-shouldered Hawk; and Rocky, an American Kestrel.

And then there's Tanner, who at age 18 is the oldest and, at three pounds and with a wingspan of 50 inches, the biggest of the resident raptors.

JoLynn tells how Tanner may behave when she brings him from his nearby enclosure, called a mew, to exhibit him in the nature center lobby. "I'm holding him, and if he's in a good mood, he'll let out a piercing cry," she said. "He'll try to jump off the glove (called bating) in an attempt to get away from the jesses (leashes) attached to his ankles. He never bites or grabs with his talons, and he takes food from the hand. It's been such a thrill to work with him for the past four years."

Naturalist Melanie DuBoce says visitors seeing the big raptor flopping around at the end of the jesses worry whether JoLynn is able to help him onto his podium ("Is he ok?")

But JoLynn has made it a priority to help Tanner be comfortable with to the public, and she knows how to keep Tanner safe."



## Art Where Wild Things Are

On Saturday, May 30, ARNHA and The Sacramento Fine Arts Center will present the sixth annual Art Where Wild Things Are, an art show, auction, and gala celebrating interpretations of local nature subjects. This event brings together art patrons, philanthropists, artists, and nature-

lovers for what has become the most important fundraiser of the year for the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

The evening gala will feature elegant food, beverages, music, and silent and live auctions with the charismatic David Sobon as auctioneer and Dave Bender as Master of Ceremonies,



benefiting ARNHA & the  
Effie Yeaw Nature Center

*see Superstar, page 3*

*see Art on page 3*

# President's Message

Dear ARNHA Members:

It's been a busy and productive spring for ARNHA and the Nature Center.

Our school classes are flourishing. From the start of the school year to the end of March, we presented 431 school programs, a 40% increase over the same period in 2013, and 6% increase over the same period in 2014.

Thanks to the generosity of attendees at last year's Art Gala in funding our Urban Nature Project, we have been able to give 136 programs at no cost to Title I schools. It is very moving to see children experience for the first time the "wild country" of the Nature Study Area. One of the teachers, Holly Hunt, let us know how much the opportunity meant to her children:

*"My class was lucky enough to be chosen (out of a hat) to go to Effie Yeaw Nature Center today for a field trip! Such a wonderful place! Most students in my class had NEVER seen a river until today!...much less deer, a snake, owls, birds of prey, etc. Thank you generous donors of Effie Yeaw for giving us this fantastic opportunity." -- February, 2015*

But our programming is not only for schoolchildren. As I write we are beginning another session of the California Naturalist program, a rigorous 40-hour series of lectures, workshops and field trips, held over a six-week period to prepare attendees for the California Naturalist certification. This program is held in cooperation with the University of California and was fully subscribed virtually as soon as it was announced. So we are planning an additional series of sessions in the Fall.

Other recent events filled the busy Spring Calendar, many of which you can read about elsewhere in this newsletter:

- Family Programs every weekend
- Spring Kids' Camps
- The opening of the Endangered Species Exhibit
- Bird and Breakfast with much appreciated help from the Carmichael Kiwanis, who provided an excellent pancake breakfast on Sunday, and from Sacramento Audubon, whose members volunteered as birding guides
- The Great American River Clean Up
- Nature of Things evening programs on Vernal Pools and *Plein Air* Painting.

Keep up with all our programs and events at [www.SacNatureCenter.net](http://www.SacNatureCenter.net).

Finally, thank you to all who donated to our Spring Appeal. I am happy to report that we exceeded our target and will be able to purchase a purpose-outfitted van to transport our native animals to more off-site programs. And thank you to all our volunteers. We could not grow and flourish without you.

I hope to see you at our Art Gala at the end of May which is shaping up to be a stellar event.

Sincerely

Liz Williamson, ARNHA President



photo by Susan Skinner

*Above: Liz and Echo, our animal ambassador Great Horned Owl.*

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## ARNHA

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

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### Superstar, from page one

Tanner was just a year old when, with permission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, he arrived at EYNC with a droopy left wing. He came from a wildlife bird rescue center via the UC Davis Raptor Center. He had broken his shoulder when he fell, was pushed by a sibling, or tried to fly too soon. Efforts to rehabilitate him failed, his flight permanently impaired.

Since his arrival, Tanner has been on a diet of two to six mice or one quail per week. He is medicated for arthritis in his legs. His life span is up to 35 years in captivity, compared to 20-25 years in the wild. He weighs two-thirds as much as a female Red-tail.

Docent Jim LaNier, whose EYNC mission is “nature education about raptors,” provides a wealth of information about Tanner and Red-tails in general in his appearances with the bird, which are usually held on Sundays at mid-day. For instance, he says a Red-tail’s eyesight is so sharp that from his perch in the courtyard it can detect a small animal like a mouse or a vole 100 yards away in the nature center picnic area.

On the day on which Tanner drew the admiration of young Grace Miller-Creasey, another Red-tailed Hawk had stationed itself atop a tall oak on the hill overlooking the courtyard and intermittently emitted its hoarse call. Tanner appeared agitated and bated but didn’t return the call. When someone asked JoLynn what the newcomer might have had in mind, she replied, “It was probably just saying hello.”

Naturalist Rachael Cowan is another EYNC member of Tanner’s fan club. “When I approach him, he never hurts me with his sharp talons and beak,” she said. “He makes a sweet, happy sound when he knows he’s going to eat. It’s a very abbreviated Red-tail call, more of an endearing chatter. He’s a real gentleman. Sometimes I call him Lord Tanner.”

He often stars in EYNC outreach programs at local schools. When Rachael shows him to youngsters from kindergarten to sixth grade, they keep their

hands in their laps and, if they have a question, are instructed to touch their noses to avoid distracting the bird. Some ask to pet him, but Rachael tells them the birds don’t like to be touched. She describes Tanner from top to bottom, what he eats, how he hunts, how he compares with other raptors.

She tells the youngsters: “If a raptor cannot fly, it will not be able to hunt and, therefore, will not be able to survive in the wild. This is what makes a bird non-releasable. Tanner is an education bird, and we’ll take care of him for the rest of his life.”

It would be fair to say that Tanner’s caregivers hope that that will be for a very long time.

*Peter Hayes is co-chair of ARNHA’s Media/Publications Committee. A career jour-*



Photo by Kari Bauer

*Tanner and his handler entertain and educate visitors to the Nature Center.*

*nalist, 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 Board of Supervisors. ■*

### Art, from page one

and Honorary Chairpersons Moni and Gregory Kondos and Congresswoman Doris Matsui. Featured artists include David Peterson, David Lobenberg, Tim Collum, Gregory Kondos, and Maria Winkler.

A special segment of the live auction raises money specifically for ARNHA’s Urban Nature Program, which provides free programs to Title 1 Schools from throughout the greater Sacramento area. During this school year, ARNHA provided over \$23,000 worth of free programs. For many students, this was their first visit to a nature preserve or even to the Lower American River.

All of the funds raised by this event will allow the Center to continue providing science, history, and environmental programs for adults and children year round. The Nature Center has a

special history in this community, and the support of caring people is what keeps the Center open and available for future generations.

This year’s sponsors include Fred & Betsy Weiland, Western Health Advantage, Marcy Friedman, Bank of Sacramento, Bank of the West, Carmichael Chamber of Commerce, David Girard Winery, Dr. Dennis and Mrs. Nancy Marks, Eskaton Foundation, Fitzpatrick & Casimiro CPAs, Inc., Fort Hemenway Bed & Breakfast, Genovese, Burford & Brothers, Lou Heinrich, Inside Publications, Peggy and Bruce Kennedy, Pat Mahoney and Randy Getz, and Sacramento County Regional Parks,

To learn more about Art Where Wild Things Are and to purchase tickets, visit the Nature Center’s website at [www.sacnaturecenter.net](http://www.sacnaturecenter.net) or call them at (916) 489-4918. ■

## Introducing the ARNHA Oak Leaf Legacy Circle

ARNHA and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center are pleased to announce formation of the Oak Leaf Legacy Circle with its founding members. The Legacy Circle honors the generous people who have named ARNHA and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in their estate plans and, by doing so, are protecting the Nature Center and Preserve for generations to come.

Legacy Circle Members include the following:

- Betty Cooper
- The Kurtz Family Trust
- Donald Mongeau
- Susan Skinner
- Jamie & Larry Washington
- Peggy and Bruce Kennedy
- 2 anonymous donors
- Carol Doersch
- Peter J. Hayes
- Nancy Oprsal
- Paul Tebbel
- Liz Williamson

We thank our Oak Leaf Legacy Circle members for their loyalty, generosity, and foresight. Their gifts will help ensure that the wildlife, trails, Visitor Center, and replica Maidu Village remain community treasures for many years to come.

Oak Leaf Legacy Circle membership is easy. If you notify us that you have named ARNHA or Effie Yeaw Nature Center as a beneficiary in your will, trust, retirement plan, or insurance policy, then we'll recognize your commitment by inviting you to join our Oak Leaf Legacy Circle.

Membership in the Oak Leaf Legacy Circle offers a variety of benefits, including the following:

- You will be acknowledged in publications including our Annual Report, unless you wish to remain anonymous.
- You will receive invitations to special Legacy Circle members-only receptions.
- You will receive recognition at ARNHA events, such as our Spring Gala, annual meeting, and Bird and Breakfast.
- We will honor you by listing your name at many ARNHA functions, unless you wish to remain anonymous.
- Educating the environmental stewards of the future will be part of your legacy!

For more information or to notify us that you've named ARNHA/EYNC in your estate plan, please contact Betty Cooper, Development Director, at 916-489-4918 or [bettyc@sacnaturecenter.net](mailto:bettyc@sacnaturecenter.net)



## Peter Cross

Effie Yeaw Nature Center lost a valuable friend with the death of volunteer Peter Cross on March 2. You may not know his name, but if you have walked the EYNC trails early in the morning, you may have seen Peter, laden with photography equipment, observing and photographing the deer who call the area home. A quiet, unassuming man, Peter generously offered his knowledge about wildlife to anyone fortunate to strike up a conversation with him.

Raised and educated on the East Coast, Peter developed an early and enduring interest in birdwatching and wildlife. After earning a B.S. and M.S. in wildlife biology, Peter worked as a wildlife biologist for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. In 1991, he and his wife, Lindsley, relocated to Sacramento where Peter joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species Program. Upon retirement, both Peter and Lindsley began volunteering at EYNC.

Peter was a founding member of ARNHA's Nature Study Area Resource Management and Monitoring Committee where, according to EYNC Director Paul Tebbel, "Peter's scientific background was extremely valuable to those on the committee." In addition, Peter, along with Kelly Cohen and Paul Tebbel, designed the on-going deer and turkey monitoring effort in the preserve which has been in place since 2012. "As a wildlife biologist, Peter offered a great deal of insight into the animals that utilize the preserve," commented Paul Tebbel. "And he was the go-to guy for questions about deer."

A memorial service was held for Peter at EYNC. He is survived by his wife, Lindsley, two daughters and four grandchildren. Peter's invaluable wildlife expertise and his early-morning presence on the EYNC trails will be greatly missed. ■



# Bird and Breakfast *Avian Life on Display*

The weekend of March 21 and 22 saw Bird and Breakfast attendees, their Sacramento Audubon guides, ARNHA volunteers, and Carmichael Kiwanis volunteers enjoying the sport of observing local wild birds at the height of their courting and nest building behavior. The weather was beautiful, the hot breakfast tasty, and tiny hummingbird nests and larger Bushtit nests and even larger hawk nests were in full display. The event netted \$6,200 for ARNHA and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.



*Collin spots an Acorn Woodpecker.*



*Birds... and so much more*

*Birders check an identification with Audubon guide Bob McCleary.*



*Lily has a great view of the Red-shouldered Hawk.*

*Photos by Kari Bauer*



## Under the Oaks Summer Nature Camps

Summer camps at Effie Yeaw Nature Center are always popular, and this summer has some great offerings. "Camp 5" for five-year-olds has been such a hit during winter and spring camps, that it will be held for a four-day "week" this year. From June 29 to July 2, 5 year-olds will have the chance to spend mornings learning about nature through art projects, games, music and hikes.

For Nature Detectives ages 6-8, one-week camps will include "Sun Seekers" (cold-blooded creatures who like the sun!), "Summer Scientists" (become a citizen scientist), and "Nature's Engineers" (study animals that build, and their structures). Also offered are "It's Elementary" (exploring the basic elements of earth, air, water and fire) and "Nature's Symphony" (make a different musical instrument each day from materials found in nature).

For older children (ages 8-11), Junior Rangers can find "The Natural Artist Inside You" (explore various art mediums while learning basic art techniques) or become "Sky Scouts" (learning about the stars, moon, and weather). The 2-week "Outdoor Adventures" camp is our most popular camp, with traditional outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing, crafts, a night hike and river rafting.

All camps are held from 9 to noon, Monday through Friday (except Camp 5, which is Monday through Thursday) during June and July. Some camps include an off-site field trip or an evening activity. For exact dates, more information, and to register, go to the EYNC website, [www.sacnaturecenter.net](http://www.sacnaturecenter.net); call (916) 489-4918; or stop by EYNC to pick up a brochure. Camps fill quickly, so sign up soon!

*From top: You can see so much more with a microscope. Young scientists look for insects to catch and release. An original lizard creation required special attention. MaeLynn examines pond life close up.*

*Photos by Kari Bauer.*

# ARNHA Called 'Savior,' Non-Profit of Year

by Peter J. Hayes

The Carmichael Chamber of Commerce honored the American River Natural History Association as its Non Profit of the Year, offering ARNHA President Liz Williamson the opportunity to recount the impressive growth of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center since it was on the brink of closure in 2010.

Liz and EYNC Executive Director Paul Tebbel were presented at the Chamber's March 27 Community Recognition Dinner by photojournalist and former chamber president Susan Maxwell Skinner, who told of ARNHA's "relentless fundraising and voluntarism constantly executed to aid the center and preserve."

"We recognize the Effie Yeaw Nature Center as one of Carmichael's most precious resources, and we name its savior, ARNHA, our non-profit of the year," she said.

Liz told how ARNHA was a support group for the county-run nature center for 29 years. Besides providing funding and volunteers for the nature center, ARNHA published more than 20 books about the natural and cultural history of region. With the budget crisis in 2010, ARNHA contracted with the county to take over funding and management of the nature center.

"Our fundraising goals nearly quadrupled overnight!" she said.

"But with the help of a very generous community, a talented staff, and a wonderful cadre of volunteers, who gave us their skills and expertise for 18,000 hours a year, we have flourished.

Last year, we presented 438 programs for school classes -- a number equal to what the Effie Yeaw Nature Center did under the county."

The ARNHA President told how EYNC has evolved from a small nature center in Ancil Hoffman Park. It is now a regional resource educating schoolchildren from Stockton to Grass Valley and from Placerville to Woodland.

"We provide free nature programs or guided hikes every weekend for families, vacation camps for children, and Natural History courses in the evenings for adults. The income we make from our programs has nearly doubled, and waiting lists develop for the more popular programs. Over 30,000 people a year visit our museum and lobby to see our native animals and educational exhibits – not to mention the thousands of residents of Carmichael who come to our preserve, including many who walk our safe and beautiful nature trails nearly every day."

The continuing part of the "ARNHA – Effie Yeaw Story" is the future, Liz said.

"The Board envisions an upgrade to the inside of the nature center and the expansion of our programs to other parts of the American River Parkway and the greater Sacramento region," she said.

"Together, ARNHA and Effie Yeaw can become the largest provider of nature education in Sacramento."



*ARNHA President Liz Williamson and Effie Yeaw Executive Director Paul Tebbel join Susan Maxwell Skinner to receive the award as Carmichael Non-profit of the Year. Carmichael's Honorary Mayor, (right) is Virginia Stone. The Chamber donated \$1,350 from the event's profits to the Nature Center. (Photo by Betty Cooper)*

## Truly Heroic Acts'

Photojournalist and former Carmichael Chamber of Commerce president Susan Maxwell Skinner was about to invite American River Natural History Association President Liz Williamson and Effie Yeaw Nature Center Executive Director Paul Tebbel on stage as ARNHA was honored as the chamber's Non Profit of the Year.

"Some of Effie Yeaw's conservation efforts were truly heroic," Susan told the Chamber's March 27 Community Recognition Dinner assemblage.

"One winter morning (2012 Holiday Sale), I watched Effie Yeaw's executive director Paul Tebbel and one of his staff (Naturalist Shawna Protze) -- acting as volunteers to save a Great Horned Owl that had snared itself in driving range netting at Ancil Hoffman Park golf course. The two rescuers climbed ladders in a howling gale and managed to save the exhausted raptor. After a week of rehabilitation, we all rejoiced to see this magnificent bird released into the dusk."

Susan said she paraphrased John Muir in saying, "when you tug out the tiniest piece of nature, you will find it attached to the rest of the world. And the wonderful non-profits ARNHA and Effie Yeaw work to keep us connected and committed to keeping what remains of our natural world intact."

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- Catherine Wilson  
in memory of Alan Anderson
- Nancy Crawford Wise
- Marion Woods
- Kenneth Zacher



# New Members January- March 2015

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- Gail Basile
- Laurel Beach
- Tania Beaudet
- Henry Bedard-Hearn
- David Bernardis
- Diane Biro
- Randy Bonnell
- Mirela Bote
- Paige Brokaw
- Jennifer & Nick Burr
- Barbara Camacho-Turner
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- Teresa Lyday-Selby
- Michael Mayda
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- Jennifer Mijares
- Kelly Miller
- Debra Moore
- Tauheedah Muhammad
- Mary Myers
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- Michelle Norris
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- Kim Villafuerte
- Lynell Walker
- Shirley Warnken
- Teresa Wells
- Tracy Wetzel
- Heather White
- Lee Wilson
- Dawn & Tyson Wright
- Eileen Yamada & Stan Warwarick
- Marcus Yee

*Welcome!*

## Ask a Naturalist

**Q:** "Can you please help this injured animal that I found in my yard?"

**A:** Effie Yeaw Nature Center Naturalist Brena Seck: When I see a worried person walking up the path with a carefully held box, I, with a heavy heart, often guess what's inside. Just like you, I and the rest of the staff and volunteers at EYNC want to see these animals get a second chance at life. This means they need to be taken to a wildlife rehabilitation facility. Injured animals need treatment from a veterinarian or licensed rehabilitator. EYNC does not have either, and EYNC is not a licensed wildlife rehabilitation facility. Thus, we cannot take in any animals.

Effie Yeaw Nature Center does have permanently injured animals in our visitor center or showcased during our educational programs. These animals have already been evaluated by a veterinarian, who determined all of them to be non-releasable. In order to keep these animals in captivity, we have acquired the necessary state and federal permits to provide a sanctuary for these animals.

When you assist an injured animal, remember these steps:

- Do not assist it unless you can safely do so; your safety comes first. Injured animals are unpredictable and may defend themselves by biting, scratching, etc.
- Keep the animal in a secure, air-permeable, dark container with a lid, or in kennel.
- Don't feed the animal or give it fluids.
- Stay quiet around the animal, and avoid opening the container to look at it.
- Call WILDLIFE CARE ASSOCIATION (916) 965-9453, and help transport the animal to WILDLIFE CARE at 5211 Patrol Road, inside McClellan Park.
- If you find a baby bird that has fallen from its nest and it is not injured, you can help it by placing it back in its nest, if it is safe for you to do so. Birds do not have a strong sense of smell, and the parents will not abandon the baby due to your touching it. If the nest is unreachable, keep pets away and leave the baby bird alone – the parents will come down and care for it. If the parents do not return to it, proceed as if it is an injured animal. ■

# PIPEVINE BUTTERFLIES

by Bill Dillinger

Where are those big black caterpillars with the orange spots once so abundant in the nature area and on the parkway you had to play hopscotch to avoid stepping on them?

And where are the Pipevine Swallowtail butterflies, wings shading from black to iridescent blue, that the caterpillars turn into?

The caterpillars and their chrysalises rely on a foul-tasting toxin they absorb from the California Pipevine plant to discourage most predators. But it doesn't protect them from things like the drought, aerial spraying for mosquitos, or a tiny wasp laying eggs in them. Maybe even from wild turkeys.

Pipevine Swallowtail butterflies of several subspecies are found over most of the United States, Mexico, and Central America.

Ours is known as the California Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly (*Battus philenor hirsuta*) -- so named because it's a bit hairier than the others. It's also not quite as large. The caterpillars start life in a small cluster of rust-colored eggs on a California Pipevine plant -- so called for its flowers, which are curved like the meerschaum pipes once commonly smoked in the Netherlands.

As soon as the larvae hatch, they start eating the plant and grow rapidly, accumulating the toxin as pasta-eaters do garlic.

Greg Kareofelas, a butterfly trip leader from Davis, tells of seeing a Western Scrub Jay seize a Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillar and then drop it after one bite.

The caterpillars usually don't hurt the plant, though a lot of them can leave a plant pretty ragged. The caterpillars soon reach full growth (a couple of inches) and start looking for an inconspicuous place to pupate, or form into a chrysalis, the intermediate stage on the way to becoming a butterfly. The chrysalis is camouflaged brown or light green and oddly shaped - the better to blend in with its host. It may be attached to a number of plants, but seldom to the caterpillar's original host. In the nature

area, according to ARNHA docent Walter Dong, the caterpillars seem to prefer settling fairly high in trees -- something that may have evolved in response to once common floods.

In a few weeks, when a complete change has been made inside the chrysalises, the creature emerges as a butterfly and flies off to feed on -- and pollinate -- a variety of flowering plants. And to find a mate, so the cycle can begin all over again. There can be three such cycles every year, according to Kareofelas.

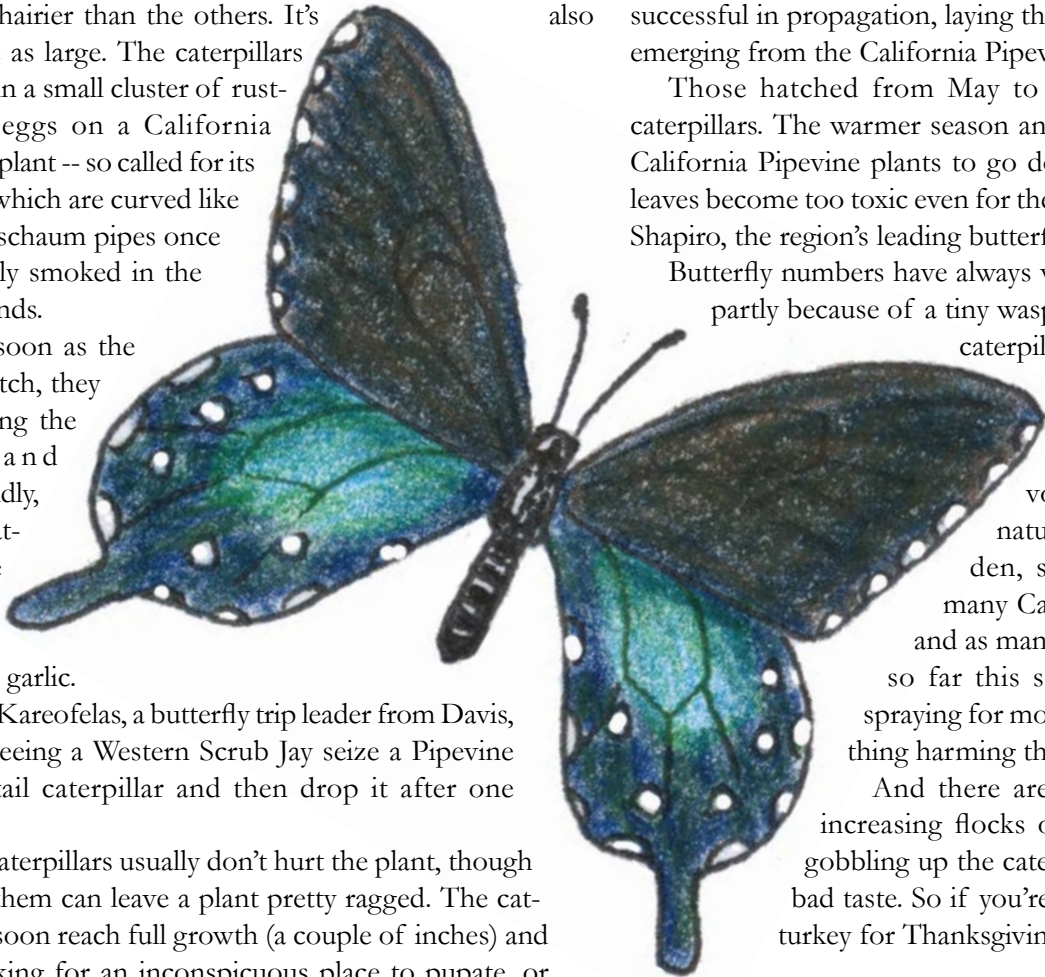
At Effie Yeaw and on the Parkway, however, it's butterflies emerging around March from chrysalises weathering the winter and even the past summer that have been most successful in propagation, laying their eggs on young leaves emerging from the California Pipevines.

Those hatched from May to October produce few caterpillars. The warmer season and lack of rain cause the California Pipevine plants to go dormant, and the mature leaves become too toxic even for the caterpillars says Dr. Art Shapiro, the region's leading butterfly expert.

Butterfly numbers have always varied from year to year, partly because of a tiny wasp that lays its eggs in the caterpillars and chrysalises in a boom and bust relationship.

Sigurd Trevino, a volunteer who tends the nature center's butterfly garden, says she hasn't seen as many California Pipevine plants, and as many butterflies of any kind so far this season. She fears aerial spraying for mosquitoes may be another thing harming the delicate butterflies.

And there are even reports that the increasing flocks of wild turkeys may be gobbling up the caterpillars, oblivious to the bad taste. So if you're thinking of poaching a turkey for Thanksgiving ...



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

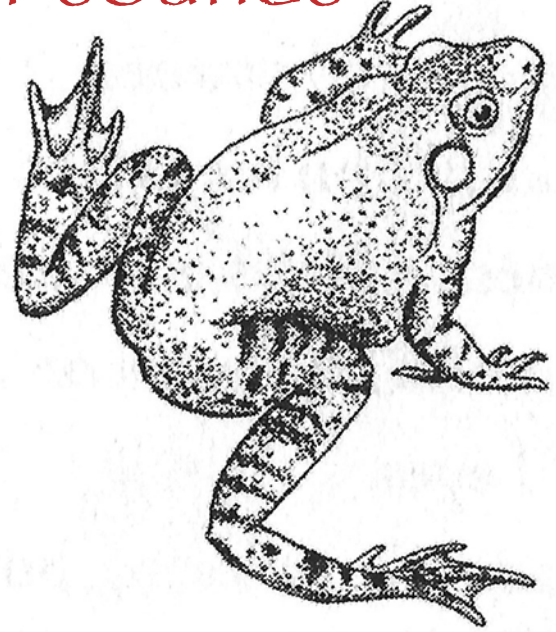
**Purchase Your Tickets Now  
for Taste of Carmichael  
Friday, May 15**

Presented by the Carmichael Kiwanis, the Taste of Carmichael showcases the best of what Carmichael has to offer.

From 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the La Sierra Community Center, you'll enjoy samples from our area's best restaurants, bakeries, and markets; wines from local valley and foothill vintners; and live music. The event also includes raffles and a silent auction. This annual fundraiser benefits programs in Carmichael for youth.

Tickets are \$40 per person and may be purchased at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center using cash or check. 100% of the purchase price of tickets purchased at the Nature Center go to the Nature Center. ■

# Summer sounds



Early morning brings a different dimension to the river greenbelt that winds through the valley's urban center. The sounds of summer are heard, and they're not just the distant rumble of automobiles crossing a bridge.

From the high grass around a pond comes the musical buzz of an insect, stopping abruptly, then starting again. Is it the male cicada sending a love song to the female of the species? He's too well hidden for anyone to see.

But there's no mistaking the hoarse call of the bullfrog. It's the largest frog on the continent and its booming voice also is the prelude to breeding, an event from which can be expected production of 10,000 to 20,000 eggs this summer.

Not all the sources of sounds are hidden. From the foliage of a blue elderberry comes the slurred series of *chinks* that has been compared to the sound of a clock being wound up. It takes a few minutes to find the origin of the salutation, but suddenly a bird appears on an exposed branch and it requires no sign around its neck to know it is the spotted towhee.

He's dressed like he's on his way to the Mardi Gras, with black head and neck, rufous or reddish-brown vest, white breast and rows of white spots on a black back and wings. Plus bright red eyes.

The female has similar coloring, but is dusky brown in the areas where the male is black. Slightly smaller than a robin, the handsome towhees are usually found on the ground scratching for insects or seeds. They do this by kicking backward, sometimes with both feet at the same time in a sort of tricky two-step that rustles the leaves and adds yet another sound to the streamside greenery on a summer morning.

*From An American River Journal, published by The American River Natural History Association (ARNHA.) It features drawings by ARNHA co-founder Jo Glasson Smith and essays by retired newspaper editor Peter J. Hayes, an 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. ■*

## Raptor Rapture

Effie Yeaw's raptors on keychains!

- Red-tailed Hawk: *Tanner*
- Red-shouldered Hawk: *Skye*
- Kestrel: *Rocky*
- Great Horned Owl: *Echo*
- Northern Saw-whet Owl: *Sophia*

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## ARNHA Calendar of Events

### • Taste of Carmichael

Friday, May 15, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm,  
La Sierra Community Center  
5325 Engle Road, Carmichael (story page 11)

### • 31st Annual Nature Bowl Regional Finals

Saturday, May 16, 9 am to 4 pm,  
3rd-6th grade student teams  
California State University, Sacramento

### • Art Where the Wild Things Are Awards Reception

Saturday, May 16, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm,  
Sacramento Fine Arts Center  
5330 B Gibbons Drive, Carmichael

### • Art Where Wild Things Are Art Gala

Saturday, May 30, 5 pm to 8 pm  
Effie Yeaw Nature Center (story page 1)

### • Summer Nature Camps

Monday, June 15, through Friday, July 31  
Effie Yeaw Nature Center (story page 6)

**See [SacNatureCenter.net](http://SacNatureCenter.net) for more  
event information.**

## Spring Clean Up along the American River Parkway

Over sixty dedicated volunteers turned out to pick up litter along the American River at Ancil Hoffman Park during the Spring River Clean Up on April 11. The event, sponsored by the American River Parkway Foundation, encourages volunteers to gather trash and cigarette butts to reduce pollution in the river and protect wildlife. Families and organized groups such as Girl Scouts, middle school students, Gap Inc., and a team from Starbucks collected liquor bottles and cans, sunglasses, shoes, and a deflated raft. Volunteer Breanna Rodgers summed up her participation, “We just enjoy giving back to the environment!” The next opportunity to participate in the Great American River Clean Up is Saturday, September 19, 2015.



*Volunteers from the Starbucks Community Services group pick up litter during April's Spring Cleanup. This is the fifth year the group has participated in the cleanup.*



*Students from Rolling Hills Middle School in El Dorado Hills toss their bags of trash onto a pile of litter collected by volunteers during April's Spring Clean Up.*