



Climate Change and the Parkway

by Michael Plotkin

We are a stubbornly suspicious people. There appears to be no critical mass of fact or evidence capable of swaying our collective dissent, especially when what we want to avoid accepting conflicts with our politics, ideology, or self esteem. This peculiar feature of our national ethos reaches an astounding crescendo when the topic turns to climate science. As a college professor, I routinely encounter vehement denials among my students (and a few wayward colleagues), the substance of which, if the heated rhetoric is allowed to dissipate, amounts to a heroic commitment to intuition over evidence, divisive blogs over peer reviewed research. I am often dismissed as a Cassandra, and I have grown keenly aware of how fraught this topic remains. It is distressing to entertain the notion that our breathtaking progress toward a better quality of life could unintentionally precipitate a global ecological crisis.

So, with sincere deference for the prickly nature of the request, I ask you, lover of the American River Parkway, to consider global climate change. Of all the threats facing the Parkway, few are more dire or immediate. Yet, as you read this, acceptance of the reality of climate change is steadily receding among the American public, due to an abundance of misinformation and concerted attacks on the validity of the science. In spite of the opinion of many of the general public, few scientists remain unconvinced and, contrary to public perception, over 100 years of accumulated evidence strongly supports four interlocking claims:

1. Our planet is currently experiencing a significant warming trend, along with changes in the distribution and abundance of such climate features as rainfall and ice;
2. The primary cause of climate change is currently hu-

man activities; (certainly, climates have changed over millions of years without influence from humans, but current change cannot be explained by these natural drivers; in any case, hothouse climates, even if induced by nature, would not be compatible with civilization.)

3. Carbon dioxide is the primary regulator of climate, and carbon dioxide levels are steadily rising due to human activities;

4. Global warming, if it continues on its current trajectory, may have devastating impacts on species, ecosystems, societies, countries, the state of California, the Central Valley, and the American River Parkway.

see *Climate*, page 3

Carol Doersch's Bountiful Gift

One of the late Carol Doersch's many contributions to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center was her persuasive fundraising abilities. Not only did she prompt many dollars to flow into support for the nature center, but they usually came with no stipulation as to how they would be spent.

And so, true to form, Carol donated a breathtaking \$100,000 to the Nature Center – with no strings attached, American River Natural History Association and EYNC officials learned this fall. Carol's daughter Ann and son Todd said they knew their mother didn't want ARNHA's hands tied. It is the largest gift that the 31-year-old ARNHA has ever received.

ARNHA President Diana Parker hailed the gift, declaring in a statement, "In July of 2010, in response to the County's fiscal constraints, ARNHA assumed financial and operational responsibility for the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Without ARNHA, the EYNC would have been shuttered. Each year ARNHA, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is tasked with raising \$400,000 annually in grants, sponsorships, and donations to continue to provide classroom, family, and adult nature programs. Carol's

see *Doersch*, page 10

Roberta Wilner Donates Inspiring 9,000 Hours (story page 4)



Lorquin's Admiral

President's Message

Reasons To Be Thankful

Dear ARNHA Members and Friends,

As I sit putting pen to paper (or more accurately, keyboard to computer screen) and marvel at the way the autumn sunlight casts its shadows in the Parkway so differently from the other seasons, the crunch of acorns under my feet as I walk the trails at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center (EYNC), the expressions on the faces of children and adults as they touch a snake or see the majesty of the great horned owl Echo for the first time, the scurrying of squirrels and the *tap tap tap* of woodpeckers preoccupied with gathering and stashing away acorns for winter sustenance, I can't help but reflect on our good fortune.

As ARNHA is well into its third year of fiscal and operational responsibility for the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, we have many reasons to give thanks.

■ Our small and dedicated staff at the EYNC continues to connect people of all ages with nature through old and new programs alike. I hope your daughters and sons, nieces and nephews, grandchildren, and children of friends and co-workers have been among the many schoolchildren participating in the nature classes or fun days at the EYNC this year. If I haven't seen you at one of our weekend programs recently, I hope you'll find time to visit during the winter months. Bring family and friends!

■ Our many docents and other volunteers continue to give generously their time and expertise to ensure that the EYNC programs and facilities and ARNHA publications and events can be enjoyed throughout the year.

■ Our members, sponsors, and donors continue to value the contribution that ARNHA provides to the community through the EYNC, special programs and events, and publications that educate about and provide a firsthand experience with nature to residents of all ages throughout the Sacramento region; that introduce young students to the application of science and mathematics through the study of the natural world; and that provide the tools for continued stewardship of the American River Parkway. Without YOUR GENEROSITY the doors to the EYNC wouldn't be open, and the nature programs unique to the EYNC wouldn't be offered.

As we strive to raise \$400,000 annually through grants, sponsorships, and donations, your continued support is much appreciated. It allows us to provide:

- weekend nature programs and special events at little or no cost to school-children and adults,
- scholarships to classes that would not otherwise be able to visit the EYNC, and
- care to the animals at the EYNC that enhance the visitor experience and nature education.

When you receive our annual appeal, I hope you will give generously.

Warmest regards,

Diana

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Climate, continued from page one

Recent research from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory documents that temperatures in California have risen well over two degrees Fahrenheit since 1915. This degree and trajectory of change cannot be explained by natural climate variability. Central Valley native species, ecosystems, and human residents, unlike those of the coasts and mountains, are likely to respond poorly to climate change. A study from The Pacific Institute finds that extreme heat, flooding, poor air quality, and reduced snow pack in the mountains are likely to conspire to create a significantly degraded environment in the Central Valley.

Alarming, changes in our biological communities are already apparent. Art Shapiro, a lepidopterist at the University of California, Davis, has monitored several study sites in the Central Valley for over 30 years. This unusual long-term study has provided a rich source of data. Shapiro's data reveal that the first spring flight of at least 23 species of butterflies has progressively shifted to earlier dates. Other life history changes have also become apparent.

Even modest global warming will adversely affect the Parkway. Steelhead populations in the American River, for example, are already stressed in August and September. Changes in precipitation and warming water could exacerbate the situation. A "least warming"

projection for the Central Valley results in a loss of the October-November spawning period for winter-run Chinook salmon.

Urbanization, agricultural conversion, and other changes in land use patterns strongly impact Central Valley ecosystems as well. But climate change combines, perhaps synergistically, with these other pressures, and refugia like the American River Parkway become all the more critical. This is especially so because the Parkway provides not only a refuge, but a corridor to other remaining less disturbed areas.

Few scientists hold the romantic notion that ecosystems and landscapes should remain the same. Nothing, as Heraclitus wryly noted, is constant but change. As climate changes and we lose some species, other species, better adapted to the current conditions will take their place. Shapiro, for example, has documented butterflies from the deserts making recent appearances in our area.

The danger of global climate change for the Parkway, however, is that change will occur too rapidly for species to adapt. Ecosystems may be drastically altered, and a new dynamic balance will undoubtedly form. Still an impoverished landscape may reign on the human scale, essentially forever.

When I am accused of playing the role of Cassandra, I accept the label without hesitation. My commitment to

science is greater than my discomfort with touchy subjects and conflict. And, I point out to the doubters that while Cassandra may have been tiresomely cheerless, we tend to forget: she was also right.

Michael Plotkin of Davis is Chair and Associate Professor in the Department of Life Sciences, Mt. San Jacinto College, San Jacinto, CA. He is a frequent contributor to The Acorn. ■

**Diana Parker Elected
ARNHA President**

Diana Parker, First Vice President, was elected President of ARNHA, succeeding David Wade, at the annual meeting of ARNHA on September 12. Officers were elected to one-year terms, and six Board members to two-year terms. Seven other Board members had been elected to two-year terms in 2011.

President Diana Parker
1st Vice President Liz Williamson
2nd Vice President Peggy Kennedy
3rd Vice President Lisa Burke
4th Vice President Bud Banker
Secretary Claudia Hulbe
Treasurer Don Mongeau

2012-2014 Board members

Marsha Bedwell
Lisa Burke
Hunter Merritt
Don Mongeau
Diana Parker
Larry Washington

Current Board Members

Elected to two-year terms in 2011

Bud Banker
Noah Baygell
Claudia Hulbe
Peggy Kennedy
Linda Thomas
David Wade
Liz Williamson



Chinook salmon in the American River. Can they survive in our ecosystem if continued warming is in our future?

Roberta Wilner Paces Volunteers

When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion.
--Ethiopian proverb

Effie Yeaw Nature Center Executive Director Paul Tebbel put it unequivocally in his State of the Nature Center Fall 2012 report: "Our volunteer program continues to grow and is the support structure that keeps the Nature Center open."

In the past fiscal year, more than 230 volunteers led tours, cared for resident hawks, owls, snakes, and other critters, tackled maintenance, installed a new exhibit, helped with nature camps, worked on ARNHA publications, etc. ad infinitum. Volunteers Coordinator Jamie Washington said total volunteer hours topped 15,250 and represented \$368,745 worth of time and service, according to one authority.

In her annual report, Jamie singled out 17 volunteers with well over 1,000 hours of service. It was no surprise that longtime ARNHA Board stalwart Lee Wilner was among them. But what was an eye-opener was the fact that Lee's wife, Roberta, was leading the pack with over 9,000 hours.

Roberta began volunteering at EYNC in 1999 and held down the key ARNHA position of Treasurer for five years. But she is perhaps best known as the cheerful public face to Nature Center visitors in her role as Receptionist in the lobby Discovery Shop with its sale gifts and nearby live animals.

Ask Roberta how she got started in her fruitful volunteerism career, and she replies succinctly:

"ARNHA needed a Treasurer, and I had bookkeeping experience from my job at Wonder Bread where I worked for 40 years, so I decided to fill the position," she said. "I really like nature and animals and want to see them survive. I enjoy explaining to visitors the different animals that are presented in the Nature Center."

Roberta and Lee are "on the same page" when it comes to protecting wildlife. Asked what motivated his volunteer-

ism, Lee said: "I want to teach the current generation how to appreciate and take care of the animals, the earth, the environment because my generation 'mucked up' the whole thing. My concern is to teach respect for our fragile planet."

Other volunteers who have recorded more than 1,000 hours are Paula Baldi, Marjorie Denhart, Walter Dong, Karen Eggen, Peter Hayes, Jack Hiehle, Elaine Hujambojoie, Peggy Kennedy, Erin Landry, Nancy Oprsal, Diane Ramsey, Greg Voelm, and Liz Williamson. This year, two other longtime volunteers in this category continued to serve until close to their passing: Carol Doersch and Georgia Jones.

At the August 8 Summertime Volunteers Appreciation Party, Jamie paid tribute to the following volunteers who earned "Benchmark" recognition:

- 1,000+ hours: Diana Parker.
- 500+ hours: Linda Hoganson, Jackie Delu, Hollyn Johnson, David Wade.
- 250+ hours: Marilyn Escobar, Cathy George, Ethan Glass, Gregg Hutchison, Beverly Lewis, David Peterson, Brandi Ross.
- 160+ hours: Susan Bristow, Sue Davis, Rachel Freund, Bruce Kennedy, Connie Wade.
- 100+ hours: Bud Banker, Ashton Canepari, Katy Crosby, Steve Flannery, Jenna Grossman, Jolynn Jarrett, Julie Serences. ■



Roberta Wilner, Ace volunteer.
Photo by Betty Cooper.

Raley's Scrip Program

Make these important changes to help ARNHA when you do your holiday shopping!

Raley's has combined the "Quality of Life" scrip fundraising program with their new "Something Extra" Rewards program. Now it is even easier to combine rewards for yourself AND raise money for ARNHA and the Nature Center by simply shopping at Raley's, BelAir or Food Source. *There is no charge to you for participating in this program.* Here's what you need to do:

- Create an account by signing up for "Something Extra" @ any store or raley.com
- Log on to your account and click "Manage your Account," then "Extra Credit," then "Your Organizations." The customer service person at the store can help you with this if you sign up at the store.
- When you choose an organization to receive "Extra Credit," the store donates a portion of their profits to the organization. We hope you select 100% **American River Natural History Association**, but you will have the option to divide your earnings among several local organizations.
- When you shop, simply enter your account number (most people use their telephone number) and automatically earn money for ARNHA and rewards for yourself. Easiest fundraising you will find!
- As a member of "Something Extra," you will receive weekly offers and earn quarterly rewards vouchers from Raley's/BelAir.

If you have questions about how to participate in this program, please call Betty Cooper at 489-4918. ■



Praise for Volunteers

EYNC Volunteers Coordinator Jamie Washington expressed appreciation at the ARNHA annual meeting to the more than 230 volunteers who contributed 15,250 hours of service, with a calculated value of over \$350,000, in 2011-12

She offered special thanks to the following:

- Linda Thomas for producing and filming a video for and about the Nature Center;

- Linda Hoganson for working on special events and the Reception Desk and helping Treasurer Don Mongeau;

- Gregg Hutchinson for working on special events, exhibits, and maintenance;

- Molly Keller for hand-coloring 300 illustrations for a new edition of the *Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region*;

- Erin Landry for leadership in animal care, and

- Liz Williamson for her activity in Reception, animal care, webmaster for ARNHA and EYNC websites, special events, and the ARNHA Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Liz responded that none of this would be possible without the EYNC staff and a good volunteers coordinator to work with.

Jamie also thanked Liz Williamson, Betsy Weiland, Linda Thomas, and Norene DeBruycker for arranging the buffet of delicious refreshments enjoyed by everyone prior to the meeting.

(For more volunteers news, see "Roberta Wilner Paces Volunteers," page 4) ■



Western Redbud, a shrub that grows to 18 feet, is sometimes called **The Judas Tree**

Enhanced Lighting For EYNC Parking Lot

ARNHA has won a \$30,000 grant from SMUD to replace three light poles, add two more, and install vastly improved lights in the Effie Yeaw Nature Center parking lot.

"Each LED (light emitting diodes) light has a sensor that causes a light to brighten only when people are present," said ARNHA past president David Wade, who worked with SMUD on planning the project. "As a result lighting will be 10 times brighter."

The project is scheduled to be completed by December 10.

"The sophisticated lighting will serve as an R & D energy-saving experiment for SMUD, which will monitor it for two years," David said.

Law enforcement officials welcome the dimmable new lighting because it alerts officers when they see a normally darkened area become illuminated by the presence of possible lawbreakers. ■

American Heritage Girls stand behind bags of garbage they helped collect during the Great American River Clean Up. Photo by Sue Davis



Great American River Clean Up (GARCU)

On Saturday, September 15, over 100 volunteers of all ages gathered at Ancil Hoffman Park to clean up the American River Parkway. This was one of 20 sites along the parkway where volunteers worked for three hours. Site captain Sue Davis said that over 350 pounds of trash including three rafts and 40 pounds of discarded lumber was collected at this site.

Stacy Springer, coordinator of the event, said that over 2,000 volunteers collected trash along the fifty mile stretch of Parkway targeted for the clean-up. Greenwaste, the company handling the recyclables and the trash, estimated that a total of 15,000 pounds of trash was removed from the Parkway. As six-year-old Tyler was leaving, he asked if he could come back next Saturday. To Tyler and all other volunteers --- please return for the spring and fall 2013 clean-ups so that we can continue to keep our American Parkway the jewel that it is. ■

Cutting Cattails Down to Size

By Peter Hayes

With their unique flowering spike and blade-like leaves up to 10 feet tall, cattails are an important resident of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Preserve's Nature Study Pond. They filter runoff into the pond and provide many species of wildlife with habitat for nesting, food, den material, and as cover for an escape from predators.

These wetland plants also can grow and spread vigorously, so much so that before last August 24 they were so thick they almost completely blocked the view into the pond, which covers a third of an acre at the south end of the Preserve. Indeed, it was almost impossible to spot one of the handsome Wood Ducks that lives there.

But on August 24, a hardy band of 15 volunteers, rallied by Preserve Management Committee Chair Connie Wade and EYNC Volunteers Coordinator Jamie Washington, descended on the pond with cutting and bundling tools to mount an offensive on the invasive cattails.

"Our plan is to thin the cattails, not to remove all of them," Connie said. "The plan is to leave approximately half of the existing cattails, so as to provide views

ARNHA Board Member Linda Thomas and friends hard at work in "Operation Cattails" at EYNC Nature Study Pond. Photo by Kari Bauer



into the pond, while leaving habitat for animals, including nesting sites for songbirds, ducks, and other small animals."

Some of the volunteers stood in the water, cutting the cattails below the surface, while others bundled them up and dragged them to spread-out tarpaulins. When the tarps were full, four to six people would carry them to the Nature Center's little electric truck, which then transported them to an Ancil Hoffman Park disposal site. "Operation Cattail" was hard work for the volunteers. But ARNHA Board member Linda Thomas, for one, was unfazed about standing in the water and lugging bundles of cattails ashore.

"I rather enjoyed it," she said. "I liked the earthy smell there, and it was fun playing in the mud and having a chance to get dirty!"

It was the first of several planned thinning work days before winter. In the meantime, visitors were enjoying a greatly improved view of duckweed-filled open space on the pond, a channel up to 30 feet wide. ARNHA Associate Board member Molly Keller reported that while on a birding walk 10 days later, her group saw a Wood Duck paddling across the pond and about two dozen tiny Bushtits fluttering about and lining up on a cattail that had fallen over. ■

Too Much Duckweed

EYNC Executive Director Paul Tebbel reports:

"Every summer the nature study pond in the Preserve becomes clogged with duckweed, a pea soup-colored native wetland plant. Although it partially dies back in the winter, controlling the density of the duckweed in the fall is thought to impact the health of the pond positively and the variety of species seen. In September, a small crew of volunteers and two staff members fashioned a special skimmer, somewhat like a super-wide snow shovel, and used a raft loaned to us by the American River Rafting Company to push the weed to

shore where it could be scooped up and removed from the pond.

"The result was almost two cubic yards of duckweed removed from the pond, even through the remaining duckweed quickly closed back over the open water. We will monitor the pond over the winter to see how well our efforts helped keep the duckweed in check. This is a good example of the careful monitoring and research by ARNHA volunteers now underway on the preserve." ■

Preserve Committee Seeks Experts

The ARNHA Preserve Management Committee (PMC) is hoping to fill current vacancies for subject-area experts. These experts will help the PMC fulfill its primary mission: To provide guidance and a work force for good stewardship of the 77+ acre Preserve area. Good stewardship of the Preserve includes restoration, management, maintenance, and educational opportunities.

The PMC is preparing a Management Action Plan, in collaboration with the Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks and EYNC Staff, to maintain the quality of the area for nature study, informal walking, and restoration of the native plant and wildlife habitat. Preserve management efforts will also diminish fuel buildup that contributes to possible fire danger.

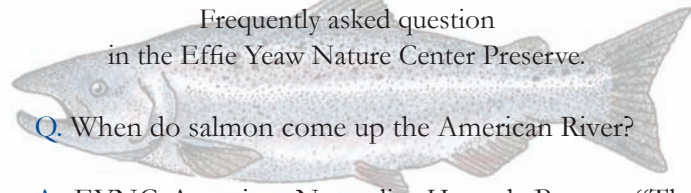
Current vacancies include:

- Biologist
- Wetlands Specialist (Ponds/ Creeks/ Riverine)
- Soil Scientist
- Fire Scientist
- Local K-12 Educator (Current or Recent California Credentials)

To volunteer or for questions, please contact:
Connie Wade, PMC Chair, at
cwade@wadeassociates.com ■

Ask a Naturalist . . .

Frequently asked question
in the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Preserve.



Q. When do salmon come up the American River?

A. EYNC Associate Naturalist Hannah Barnes: “The Chinook salmon (commonly known as king salmon) generally come up the American River between October through December to spawn. The salmon swim upstream from the Pacific Ocean to return to the area where they were born. They actually use their sense of smell to find their way. Some salmon come back from as far as 2,000 miles away after up to seven years in the open ocean. The stretch of river that borders the Effie Yeaw Nature Center is a great place to look for salmon, as well as the Nimbus Fish Hatchery in Gold River.” ■

EYNC Fall & Winter Camps

By Margaret Leavitt

Winter is a great time to investigate animal life at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. EYNC naturalists have planned a variety of programs for children and their families during upcoming fall and winter vacations. The Under the Oaks Fall Program takes place Thanksgiving week and features camps from 9 a. m. to noon for children ages 5 to 12. “Salmon Stream,” on Monday, November 19, includes crafts and a hike to the American River to discover salmon and their habitat. November 20 is “Turkey Tuesday”: learn about the turkeys that live in the preserve through turkey trivia, crafts, and a turkey hike! On Wednesday, the family program -- for children ages 5 and up, accompanied by an adult -- is a chance to discover the lives of the Maidu people who lived in the area and collected acorns from oaks in the preserve. You can find a brochure with more details and registration information at www.sacnaturecenter.net or at the Center.

Return to Effie Yeaw over winter break for more naturalist-led camps and family programs. Through camp classes on December 27 and 28, and January 2 and 3, campers can learn about owls and other birds, take a compass hike, and discover how to read the tracks of animals that live in the preserve. Family programs on December 26 and January 4 get families back to nature after the rush of the holidays. The brochure for winter programs will be available at the end of October; check online or at the Center.

Margaret Leavitt is a docent-in-training and volunteer receptionist at EYNC. ■



The **Sacramento Sucker** is our only native sucker and can reach two feet in length

Jo's and Carol's 'Congenial Collaboration'

By Peter Hayes

If ever there were two ARNHA board members entitled to be known as a “Dynamic Duo,” it was Carol Doersch and Jo Glasson Smith. Co-founders of ARNHA, they worked hand-in-glove in support of ARNHA and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Carol died last July 18, Jo on December 29, 2008. The Carol Doersch Courtyard and the Jo Glasson Smith Room in the Assembly Building are side-by-side memorials to the two devoted friends and their achievements.

Many ARNHA veterans remember the Doersch-Smith teamwork, including ARNHA Associate Board Member Bill Dillinger. “They invited me to a fancy restaurant, plied me with a bit of wine, and persuaded me to ‘edit’ the History of the Lower American River, he recalled good-naturedly. ‘Manuscript and pictures are at the Sacramento County History Archives. Just need to put it together in book format. No big deal.’ “

But as Bill recalls, all that material was a hodge-podge of chapters written by various people, requiring major rewrites, and a pile of photos, some of which were identified, others not.

“I put in six months working on it, but we did get it printed,” Bill added, conceding with admiration that Carol’s and Jo’s persuasive abilities led to an ARNHA publication that has sold well over the years. (A subsequent edition now in print is titled “The Lower American River: Prehistory to Parkway.”)

Another member of the “Carol and Jo Fan Club” is ARNHA Vice President Bud Banker. He says that when he was ARNHA President in 1993-94 he was working fulltime and his time for ARNHA was limited. “However, at the meetings I had Jo Smith sitting on my left and Carol Doersch on my right. Any credit I received for ARNHA that year really belonged to them.”

Finally, Jo’s husband George offered a special view of Jo’s and Carol’s “congenial collaboration,” to use a favorite phrase of Carol’s. He was unable to attend the ARNHA annual meeting September 12, and I was pleased to be able to report what George said in the course of expressing his regrets over Carol’s passing. “Well,” he said, “Jo and Carol are together again.” ■

Parkway Census Set for December 1

The 28th annual Wildlife Count of the American River Parkway is scheduled for Saturday, December 1. Originally organized as a fund-raising Bird-a-thon in 1985 by Jack Hiehle, the event became a Wildlife Count in 1993.

Now, each year, skilled wildlife observers survey the Parkway for bird and some mammal species present. Those interested in participating in this year’s Count can email their name, email address and phone number to Count Coordinator, Lea Landry at LLandry46@earthlink.net or phone her at 916-638-1141. Unless you have a specific area of the Parkway you’re interested in, your name will be provided to the Team Leaders who need more participants on their teams. The Count starts about 7 a.m., finishing by 3 p.m. Different leaders have different start times and specific meeting places. ■

A 'Good, Solid Start' for ARNHA

"The staff is indebted to David and the ARNHA Board for an incredible year of hard work. The key to success was the strength of the members." – EYNC Executive Director Paul Tebbel

It was a gigantic leap of faith when ARNHA committed to become the sole operator of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center two years ago, President David Wade reminded those present at the nonprofit organization's annual meeting September 12.

"From a longstanding support group that provided funding for special programs at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, ARNHA suddenly became an employer responsible for a substantial facility and complex programs," he said. ARNHA is now responsible for a half million dollar-a-year operation.

Cautioning that as with any major change, ARNHA is learning as it goes and the need to sustain funding will always be present, David said "it has been a good, solid start in the transition from the County-supported to a volunteer-supported program."

David, who following an election turned over the presidency to 1st Vice President Diana Parker, recited a litany of accomplishments in 2011-2012 as ARNHA pursued a mission of "Bringing People to Nature . . . and Nature to People":

- A reinvigorated increase in programs for school children, such as Maidu Field Days and naturalist-led hikes in the Preserve.

- Establishment of NatureFest, a bonanza of wild animals and more that drew 1,300 people in 2011; a Summer Concert series and an Evening Lecture series in a drive to attract more visitors -- and potential ARNHA members -- to the Nature Center.

- Reaching out to other nonprofits like Save the American River Association and the American River Parkway Foundation to expand awareness of environmental education throughout the region. Similar efforts are being

made to collaborate with other community groups.

- Joining a county and American River Parkway Foundation effort to refurbish information kiosks on the Parkway and planning for renewed participation in Nature Bowl, an environmental competition for teams of school children.

- The ARNHA Publications and Media Committee continue providing "outstanding publications," including the quarterly *Acorn* newsletter and the release of a 4th edition of *Biking and Hiking on the American River Parkway*.

- The scope and content of ARNHA and EYNC web pages have been expanded in efforts to reach out to the entire community.

- Three new committees were established: A Preserve Management Committee, which has been working with the County to inventory the 77-acre nature area; a Community Outreach Committee to participate in special events to remind the community about EYNC; and a Fund Development and Membership Committee, to improve the sustainability of the funds and grow the membership.

- Structural advances included continuing to conduct a highly professional budgeting process, creating an employee handbook, offering health care benefits to the Nature Center staff, and developing written goals for ARNHA and EYNC.

David said that, thanks to a grant from SMUD, there will be new dimmable LED lighting in the EYNC parking lot in December.

He said a plan was under consideration to establish a native plant preserve and nursery with the California Native Plant Society

David said President-elect Diana

Parker has an ambitious agenda, which included asking for more participation from ARNHA members and Associate Board members. She would seek to reinvigorate environmental education and other programs, work to bring people to EYNC, and aid development of the docent program.

The President recognized the contributions of Vice President and Membership Chair Lee Wilner, who retired from the ARNHA Board after nearly 6,000 hours of service. And David asked for a moment of reflection on the passing of ARNHA co-founder Carol Doersch and Webmaster Georgia Jones. "The great contributions of these women helped so much to create the ARNHA organization we have today," he said.

Another speaker was EYNC Executive Director Paul Tebbel, who said, "The staff is indebted to David and the ARNHA Board for an incredible year of hard work. The key to success was the strength of the members." He noted that school programs were up 40 percent from last year and that 40-60 families with young children were coming to EYNC for weekend activities.

Referring to the late Carol Doersch, who played a crucial role in the successful transition of the Nature Center from County control to ARNHA operation in 2010, he said, "Carol was an extraordinary lady, who is greatly missed."

ARNHA Vice President Peggy Kennedy presented David with a plaque in appreciation for his leadership and guidance as ARNHA President for the past year, 2011-12. ■



Donations July - September 2012

Many thanks to these July –
September donors

- Gary Agid
- Joann Anglin
- AT&T Employee Giving Campaign
- Matthew & Patricia Baskin
- Elizabeth Bower
- Derick & Lynette Brannan
- Joane & Brian Cahill
- California Native Plant Society, Sacramento Valley Chapter
- Carmichael Water District
- Pamela Chambers
- The Chambers Family in honor of Ann & Carol Doersch
- Illa Collin
- Community Health Charities
- Betty Cooper
- Carol Davydova
- Susan Davis
- Walter Dong
- Nathan Fairman
- Marilee & Steve Flannery
- Millie Finch, Trends & Treats
- Judith & Steve Harrison
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Footers on selected pages are excerpted from the NEW Edition of *Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region*.

Be sure to look for a notice when the new, full color edition is available for purchase.

Doersch, continued from page one

generous gift affords the American River Natural History Association with the opportunity to use the dollars to leverage grants and other private and foundation donations to continue and to enhance the nature programs offered to both children and adults at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.”

Carol, who died last July 18, accumulated nearly 10,000 hours of volunteer service on behalf of the two organizations as an ARNHA co-founder. Among other things, she helped write and edit several ARNHA nature publications, raised money for the replica Maidu Indian village, and helped launch the annual “Painting Where the Wild Things Are” art auction and Gala in 2010.

She was a past president of ARNHA and twice named Parks Volunteer of the Year by the County Board of Supervisors.

But it was in 2010 that she played her most significant role, that of helping spearhead the campaign to win the financially struggling Board of Supervisors’ approval for ARNHA to take over and run the Nature Center. The Carol Doersch Courtyard between the two Nature Center buildings honors her achievements. ■

Carol Doersch, Benefactor



Fundraising Challenges Up

ARNHA’s 2011-2012 year marked an ongoing period of rebuilding Nature Center programs and services after taking over the operation from the County in mid-2010. Operating expenses increased by 47 percent over the previous year. While significant revenue progress was made in membership, events, and programs, fundraising challenges increased, according to a report on finances released at the September 12 annual meeting.

Additional expenses included providing health insurance for qualified employees, increasing the hours for some positions, and purchasing a used vehicle for use by staff and volunteers.

Based on preliminary numbers for the second year of operations, ARNHA brought in core operating revenues of \$437,000. Core operating expenditures were \$482,000 for a net operating loss of \$45,000.

“ARNHA remains in the black over our two years of operating the Nature

Center, but in 2013 we will need to bring our revenues and expenses in line,” the report added.

Major Donors Hailed

Members, grantors, and donors were saluted for their generosity on behalf of ARNHA and the Nature Center. Since the County no longer funds the Nature Center, they are more important than ever. Special thanks to major donors:

- David and Maxine Clark
- Chevron Corporation
- Ted and Melza Barr
- County of Sacramento, Environmental Management Div.
- Fish and Game Propagation Fund
- Fred and Betsy Weiland
- County of Sacramento, Stormwater Quality Division
- Ralph and Janice Livingstone
- The Raley’s Foundation
- REI
- Teichert Foundation
- Western Health Advantage ■

EYNC Stars in Video

A new video about the Effie Yeaw Nature Center is now available for viewing on the Nature Center’s website (www.sacnaturecenter.net/). “EFFIE YEAW: Parkway Treasure” is a nine-minute program about the history, mission, and programs of the Nature Center produced by volunteer ARNHA Board member Linda Thomas. She spent four months capturing sights and sounds of the Preserve, interviewing Preserve visitors, and highlighting programs of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

“My goal was to produce a video that informs people about the purpose of the Nature Center and inspires them to explore, volunteer, or contribute to it,” Linda said. “The Preserve is so rich in visual diversity that it was very exciting to shoot there early in the morning when the wildlife was active. And everyone I interviewed was wonderfully enthu-

siastic about their experiences there, especially the children.”

Linda, who has a background as a teacher and as a videographer for the State of California, used a prosumer camera and edited the program on iMovie. She said, “Making this video was a way to share some of the beauty that I’ve seen at the Preserve. It was a joy to do this project.”

EYNC Executive Director Paul Tebbel said, “Linda has filmed, edited and produced a wonderful short video on the Nature Center. It is well worth watching by anyone interested in the education programs and other services available at Effie Yeaw Nature Center.” Music for the video is by two-time Grammy Award Native American flutist Mary Youngblood who generously donated the rights to use two of her songs in the program. ■

Raptors Draw Nature Fest Crowds

By Margaret Leavitt and Peter Hayes

Where could you shake a rattlesnake rattle, check out a bat up close, grind your own abalone jewelry, and have a Harris's Hawk skim over your head? At Nature Fest, of course! The more than 1,000 people who attended the Effie Yeaw Nature Center's Second Annual Nature Fest, held under the oaks at EYNC on October 7, had the chance to do all that and much more.

A beautiful autumn day brought out visitors of all ages to learn about the natural world through displays and presentations by two dozen local nature organizations, including Sacramento Audubon, California Watchable Wildlife, the Mira Loma High School Arcade Creek Project, and Save the Frogs!, as well as exhibits, craft activities, and guided nature walks by our own EYNC naturalists.

The raptor display was very popular, featuring up-close views of hawks, falcons, and owls large and small. Visitors had the chance to talk directly with the handlers of these magnificent birds, including Andy McBride of the California Foundation for Birds of Prey in Roseville, who was displaying his Golden Eagle.

Mariposa, a Harris's Hawk owned by Kate Marden of West Coast Falconry, was the star of the raptor flight show, a new event at Nature Fest this year. Taking off from her perch on Kate's wrist, Mariposa flew low across the audience

to the gloved wrist of EYNC Lead Naturalist, Shawna Protze, barely skimming over heads and eliciting oohs and squeals from the crowd.

Susan Birusingh of Sacramento and her children Kumari, 7, and Truman, 4, were among those who enjoyed the raptor flight show along with the nearby Golden Eagle and Birds of Prey show. "We Love the nature center, and take every opportunity to see the beautiful birds, like Echo, the Great Horned Owl," Susan said.

"The Bat Lady," Corky Quirk, from NorCal Bats, was also a popular presenter, displaying several of her bats while answering questions and dispelling myths about the flying mammals.

Werner Deboe, of Sacramento, called "Nature Fest" an excellent program, with a great opportunity to see the birds." And his son, Tait, 7, "was looking forward to seeing the rattlesnakes."

EYNC launched Nature Fest last year as a way to raise education and awareness of EYNC and other nature-related organizations in the area. The EYNC staff and over 60 dedicated volunteers worked hard to ensure the event's success.

Attendees were an important part of the success of Nature Fest as well. According to Jim Crossthwaite, EYNC Development Associate and coordinator of the event, exhibitors from other organizations were impressed with the level of interest and knowledge of Nature Fest attendees, making Nature Fest a worthwhile venue for their outreach efforts.

A newly-instituted \$3 admission fee for adults did not seem to deter attendance. Children 12 and under were admitted for free. Proceeds from Nature Fest fund EYNC education programs.

Our thanks to Nature Fest sponsors:

Fred and Betsy Weiland in
loving memory of Carol Doersch
Sacramento Water Forum
Inside Publications
American Chemistry Council
Carmichael Water District
Sacramento Chapter of the
Audubon Society
Carmichael Rotary
American River Raft Rental
SMUD
Sacramento Valley Chapter of
the California Native Plant Society
Susan Maxwell Skimmer



Nature Fest visitors Ben Hansen, 9, and Sebastian Factor, 9, admire Skye, EYNC's resident Red-shouldered Hawk, displayed by ARNHA 1st Vice President Liz Williamson. Photo by Kari Bauer.



ARNHA Calendar of Events

- **Fall Nature Camps**
November 19, 20, and 21, 9 am to noon
Effie Yeaw Nature Center (see story page 7)
- **Holiday Sale at Discovery Shop**
Saturday, December 1, 9 am to 4 pm
Effie Yeaw Nature Center (see ad below)
- **Winter Camps**
Dec 26, 27, & 28 and Jan 2, 3, & 4 from 9 am to noon
Effie Yeaw Nature Center (see story page 7)
- **Birds of Winter in Sacramento**
Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm and Saturday Field Trips
January 24 to March 30, 2013
Effie Yeaw Nature Center (see www.arnha.org for details)
- **Bird and Breakfast**
Saturday, March 23, and Sunday, March 24, 2013, 8 am to 10:30 am
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
- **Painting Where the Wild Things Are**
Saturday, June 8, 2013, 4 pm to 7:30 pm
Effie Yeaw Nature Center

New Members April-September 2012

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Robert Ahders | • Robert Lipman |
| • Allen L. Bender | • Patricia McVicar |
| • Dan Biedler | • Jacqueline Mercado |
| • Amy Burns | • Hunter Merritt |
| • Armand & Janet Burruell | • David P. Mitchell |
| • Pammy Chambers | • D. Keith & Elizabeth Pawlowich |
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| • Dal J. Darracq | • Suzanne & Harold Ray |
| • Elizabeth Disbrow | • Laura & Jason Rizzi |
| • Shardoo Doongursee | • Mary Ann Robinson |
| • David Dozier | • Gina Roisin |
| • Dawn Epps | • Daniel Ropp |
| • Jessica O. Eselius | • John Ruden |
| • Steve & Carol Evans | • Marilyn H. Self |
| • Jim Forshey | • Bernardita Sepulveda |
| • Tana Leigh Gabriel | • Daphne Stammer |
| • Jill Gerbec | • Rebecca Stone |
| • Sarah Gray | • David Tamayo |
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| • Paul Kelly, Jr., M.D. | • Charlie Waitley |
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ANNUAL HOLIDAY **SALE**

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Saturday, December 1, 2012
9:00 - 5:00

**at the
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
489-4918**

20% discount in the Discovery Shop
10% discount from vendors
for ARNHA members

