

Number 177 www.arnha.org Fall 2016

Amazing King Salmon

by Dick Laursen

Come fall, the loud and joyful sounds of summer swimmers and rafters fade from the American River. The young of nesting birds have fledged and are feeding themselves. The summer birds have departed for their winter homes, and the autumn bird migration is almost complete. The winter residents are starting to arrive.

Sometime in late December through February, if you are quietly walking along the Parkway, you may hear splashing sounds and think a diehard swimmer is thrashing around in the river. A closer look, however, reveals the sound is not being made by a human but by several large fish chasing one another around in water so shallow their backs are sometimes exposed out of the water. As you watch, one of the fish seems to lie on its side on the bottom and wriggle its tail furiously. What you are observing is salmon spawning and fulfilling their cycle of life.

Every fall, a run of approximately 25 to 30 thousand King Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) come into the American River to spawn.

Spawning takes place when the female finds a suitable spot, usually at the head of a riffle or other fast moving section of water. She starts by lying on her side with her tail flat on the gravel bottom and vigorously wiggling her tail. As the tail sweeps upward off the bottom, it sucks gravel up with it and that gravel drifts downstream with the current leaving a depression where she dug with her tail. She continues this digging until a depression of five to eight inches or more has been made. She then drops her body into the hole and the male who has been fighting off other males joins her. Together, they deposit eggs and milt (sperm) into the hole.

The slight current in the hole mixes the eggs and milt and achieves fertilization as the eggs settle to the bottom.

The female then goes just upstream and starts digging a second hole. The gravel from this new hole drifts down with the current and covers the eggs in the first hole. The male never helps with the digging, as his function is to ward off competing males, making sure the dominant or fittest male provides the genes for the future generation. After see Salmon, page 3

Annual Meeting to Celebrate EYNC Founding

ARNHA members will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in 1976 at the annual meeting on Wednesday, September 14, at 6 p.m. at the Nature Center.

Please join friends who enjoy the Nature Center and believe in its mission of bringing people to nature and nature to people. Gather to celebrate the Nature Center's 40 years of educating the community about nature, hear details on this year's activities, say thank you to our volunteers, and vote for next year's officers.

Light refreshments will be served, the new Nisenan Maidu Exhibit in the Nature Center Museum will be open for viewing, and short guided nature walks to the River will be offered at 5 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

More details of the schedule and business items and the nominations for the Board are posted on ARNHA's website at www.arnha.org/annualmeeting2016.html.

Effie Yeaw
40th Anniversary
Nature Center
2016

"Bringing people to nature and nature to people."

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The Acom 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.

President's Message

Dear ARNHA Members:

Mark your calendars to come to the Nature Center on Wednesday, September 14, at 6 p.m. and help ARNHA celebrate the 40th anniversary of the 1976 founding of the Nature Center. This annual meeting will feature the following:

- a celebration of the Nature Center's 40 years educating the community,
- reports on this year's activities,
- a chance to say thank you to our volunteers, and
- a short business meeting,
- light refreshments.

Look for a postcard in the mail with details of the schedule, business items, and nominations for next year's Board.

During my now almost two years as President of ARNHA, I am constantly reminded of the debt we owe to our founders, Effie Yeaw and others. As I see the children at our summer camp programs, enquiring and engaged, learning about birds, bugs, geology, art in nature, wilderness skills, and more, I am proud of the way we have continued the founders' mission.

ARNHA and the Nature Center are a powerful force to educate the community about the natural history of our region. We would not have that strength without an amazing coalition of people who are committed to the mission: the many supporters in the community who donate their resources to make sure the work gets done; the Nature Center staff, distinguished by their skills and enthusiasm for the task; and the wonderful volunteers, without whom we would not grow and flourish.

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Liz Williamson





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

New Docent Training Planned for Effie Year Nature Center

If you like being in and learning about nature and enjoy teaching children, you would love being a volunteer docent at Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

Docents help with school groups mostly in morning classes in topics that range from bugs to birds to rocks to water quality to biodiversity to Maidu culture to local history, among others. Classes include nature walks, hands-on science activities, and visits with our resident animals. The training will begin this fall.

Volunteers must be willing to commit to at least one full school year, leading tours 2 to 4 times a month. Contact Jamie, our Volunteer Coordinator, for more information at jamiew@SacNatureCenter.net ■

Photo by Susan Skinner

Salmon, from page 1

spawning in the second hole, the female swims upstream a little farther and digs a third hole, and its gravel covers up the eggs in the second one. After spawning has been completed in the third nest, she will dig a partial fourth hole, providing gravel to cover eggs in the third hole. The combination of these holes or nests is called a redd and is the result of one spawning salmon.

By the time spawning is finished, both salmon have festering sores, are tired, weak, and worn out from the struggle; and their life cycle has been completed. The female may hang around the site for a few days before drifting off with the current, dying in a deep hole or stranded on a gravel bar or in brush along the river. The male may try to compete with other males in spawning with another female, but he is weak from all the strenuous activity in warding off competing males during his first spawning, and he will probably not be very successful a second time. He too, will soon drift off and die.

Even in death, the two salmon assist in producing healthy offspring. Their carcasses are rich in nutrients, and as they



Both female and male salmon are worn out from the spawning struggle.

decompose, food is furnished directly to the hatchlings or to microscopic life that the newly hatched salmon will eat while they are very small fish.

The fertilized eggs stay in the submerged gravel from 45 to 55 days, during which time they are at the mercy of the river. High water could cover the eggs with gravel to a depth that would suffocate the hatchlings or they would be unable to dig up to the surface after hatching. It could also wash the redd away with the loss of all the eggs. Another danger is river flood waters carrying a heavy load of silt from upstream logging, farming, road building, or other disruption of soil in its watershed. This silt could cover the redd, cutting off the flow of oxygenated water through the gravel and suffocating the eggs.

After the eggs hatch, the hatchlings, less than an inch long,

struggle their way to the surface of the gravel. Once there, they must also find microscopic size food for themselves and at the same time they must hide from lurking predators such as bigger fish, snakes, frogs, and birds.

King Salmon normally stay in fresh water for about 70 to 100 days. They slowly drift downstream and may stay for 10 to 30 days in the river's estuary before slipping into the Pacific Ocean. At this time, they are about four to six inches long. Once in the ocean, they swim north along the coast and out into the open seas where they live for the next three years. Here, they face more predators, ocean fish and pelagic mammals like seals, otters, and whales.

During these three years in the ocean, the salmon become predators in their own right and gorge themselves on various shrimp and small ocean fish. They now weigh 10 to 20 pounds or more and are 25 to 35 inches long.

About the end of the third year at sea, the eggs in their bellies start to mature, and the urge to spawn causes them to begin the long swim of hundreds to more than a thousand miles back to their natal streams. Although some salmon do

> stray to other rivers, the majority find the stream where they were spawned.

> American River salmon have few obstacles in coming through San Francisco Bay, up the Sacramento River, into the American River and on up to the spawning area. Other salmon spawning rivers are not so gentle. Many of these rivers and streams are swift and rocky with many obstacles like cataracts and small falls to negotiate, boulders and logs to squeeze by, and shallow water to swim through. In bear country, salmon have these big predators to elude.

By the time the salmon reach their spawning areas, their fins and bodies have many bruises and cuts. These

wounds will start festering, weakening the salmon, and sometimes causing death before they have a chance to spawn. To offset this constant carnage in the salmon life cycle, salmon lay 2,500 to 4,000 eggs with the expectation of only two or three returning to spawn and perpetuate the species.

To see salmon spawning in the American River is an exciting event. To realize the distances they have traveled, the chances of having been a meal for some predator, and the struggles to arrive on the spawning grounds to complete their life cycle, is simply amazing.

Dick Laursen, former California Fish and Wildlife and California Parks and Recreation employee, member of the North Coast Coastal Commission, and private businessman, is a member of the ARNHA Board and an avid birder with a life list of 3,089 species.

Teen volunteers enrich EYNC



Keegan Ball, EYNC teenage volunteer, enjoys working with the kids in Nature Camps; here we see him in the Maidu Village.



Ethan Hall's favorite animal is the Western Toad. Ethan is a teenage animal care volunteer at EYNC.



Nicole Bilaver, EYNC teenage animal care volunteer, admires the California Newt.

Art Gala - Another Success

On Saturday, May 21, 2016, ARN-HA and the Sacramento Fine Arts Center hosted the 6th annual Spring Gala and Art Auction, **Art Where Wild Things Are**. While typically held at Effie Yeaw Nature Center, this event was moved this year because of stormy

weather; and artists, philanthropists, nature-lovers, and community leaders gathered at La Sierra Community Center to raise money for the Nature Center. The event Emcee was FOX 40's Bethany Crouch, Honorary Gala Chairs were Russell Solomon and Estelle Saltzman, and the art show was judged by David Sobon, Jon Stevenson, and Shelly Willis.

Guests enjoyed a lovely dinner prepared by Jackson Catering, a selection of premium wines and beer, and live acoustic guitar music. A bigscreen slideshow displayed beautiful scenic photos of the Nature Center and preserve, photos taken by staff and volunteers. The exciting live auction was the highlight of the evening thanks to the energy of auctioneer David Sobon.

Over 400 people attended the event,

and 67 art pieces were sold in plein air, silent, and live auctions. In addition, over \$29,000 was raised for the Urban Nature Program, which brings at-risk school children to the Nature Center for educational programs.

Among the special guests were

Supervisor Susan Peters, Assemblyman Ken Cooley and Congressman Ami Bera.

The muchneeded rain came and went that evening, and as guests made their way outside, twilight fell upon smiling faces and lingering conversations. We are delighted that the Gala continues to be a highly successful event and our most important fundraiser of the vear. And now we know that even rain cannot compete with the showers of support from our loyal friends and community members.

Thank You Gala and Art Auction Sponsors

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Nisenan Maidu on **Display at EYNC**

by Betty Cooper

The flowing of the seasons, the heartbeat of the land these formed the rhythms of the culture of the Nisenan Maidu who lived along the Lower American River for hundreds of years before contact with European explorers and settlers.

The early traditions of these people and how their spirit and wisdom live on through their descendents, the Maidu people of today, are newly on display at the exhibit hall at Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

In addition to learning about the Nisenan Maidu, visitors have the opportunity to crack and grind some acorns the ancient way and learn some fun facts through the "Nuts About Acorns" interactive displays.

Those who try out the clapper stick can find their own rhythms. They can try to transfer rocks from the "fire" to the basket using long sticks or see how many pounds they can carry in a burden basket strapped around their foreheads!

They can see how the Maidu used plants like those still growing in the Nature Area and sit in the hy (pronounced "who"), a shelter made of tule.

This Encore Presentation of the Early Peoples Exhibit opens September 1 and will be on display at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center during normal business hours, Tuesdays through Sundays, 9 a.m. -- 5 p.m. The exhibit will be open late on Wednesday, September 14, until about 8:30 p.m. before and after ARNHA's Annual Meeting.

Betty Cooper is the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Development Director, Media Relations. The exhibit was produced by the EYNC staff with assistance from local Native American people and includes materials from the California State Indian Museum.



Gifts of the River depicts traditional village life along the river before white settlements.

New Members April-June 2016

- Nissa Anderson-Lyman
- Marisa Atha
- Cindy Atlia
- Lacy Bauer
- Timmera Benavente
- The Blazina Family
- Laurie Bolland
- Deborg Brummett
- Milena Calvo
- Tiffany Camacho
- Jim Carretta
- Teresa Carroll
- Ariel Carroll
- Clifton Castleberry
- Anita Chabria
- Reg Chamberlain
- Jane S. Clayson
- Sheree Cole
- Lvnn Cox
- Sue Darst
- Jackie DeWeese
- Barbara DeWein
- Robyn Doss
- Nathan Evenson
- Joseph Fabel
- Madeira Family
- Ruth Fedrau
- Eileen Ferber
- Steven Fisher
- Xiwei Fu
- Maria Gamet
- Raphael Ganon
- Jaime Ganson & Ray Hartley
- Barney Gerber & Kathy Mayer
- Diane Harrison
- Michele Hebert
- Samantha Hendon
- Emily & Henry Hernandez
- Manuel Ibarra
- Sarah Inman
- Marc & Karen Irish
- Moria Jackson
- Diane Jodar
- Christine Jordan
- Mary Lou Kiley
- **Shelley Krouse**
- Dianne Kurtz

- Maya Madsen
- Cindy McLouahlin
- Kathleen McMillan
- Kylinn Merriman
- Carmen Micsa
- David P.L. Mitchell
- Ben Molin
- Carl Moon
- Tom Mosher
- Shauna Mulvihill
- Nancy Nash
- Jennifer Neves
- Kenneth New
- Cristobal Ona
- Kvle Paoli
- James Parlee
- Jacquelynn Ramos
- Pat Rattan
- Kristen Pleau Riddell
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- Whitney Jensen Rodrigues
- Christine Root
- Amy Salvatori
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- Teresa Zepeda
- Megan Zeydel
- Susan Zhao
- Marina Lopez-Ortiz

Ancil Hoffman County Park



Our Ancil Hoffman County Park is the pearl of the American River Parkway.

- This colorful new map of the park, to be posted at the trailhead beside the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, shows how the park is designed to accommodate diverse recreational pursuits.
- Large golden areas on the map depict multi-use grassy fields for picnicking, dog exercising, kite-flying, and pickup sports.
- The Ancil Hoffman Golf Course, one of America's top 75 courses and open to the public year-round, is shown as a large green expanse. It is reserved for golfers, without pets (coyotes and Canada geese excepted).
- Our Effie Yeaw Nature Center and Nature Preserve are across the car and bike lane from the golf course. Here you'll encounter wild animals and birds in a protected oak woodland.
- Dogs, horses, and bikes are not allowed in the Nature Preserve or along the adjacent American River shoreline and cobble beach.
- The park is ringed by a perimeter trail for hikers, dog-walkers, and equestrians. Save this map for reference, and pick up a free trail map of the Nature Preserve inside the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

Volunteer Recognition, August 12

ARNHA honored Nature Center volunteers at the annual Summertime Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Friday, August 12. Volunteers enjoyed a variety of sandwiches, salads, and homemade desserts while visiting with each other and Nature Center staff. Halfway through, ARNHA President Liz Williamson, ARNHA and EYNC Executive Director Paul Tebbel, and Volunteer Coordinator Jamie Washington each thanked the volunteers, explaining the many ways that the volunteers' efforts keep the Effie Yeaw Nature Center going and growing stronger every year.

Volunteers who had reached certain benchmarks of service hours were specifically honored for their volunteer hours. Of special note are the three volunteers, Gail Philippart, Kelly Cohen, and Kari Bauer, who each attained the 1,000 hour bench mark, joining 26 other active volunteers who have also surpassed the 1,000 hour mark, many with well over 3,000 hours!

Over 1,000 hours--and still Volunteering

Name
Susie Abbott
James Basham
Noah Baygell
Jackie DeLu
Walter Dong
Marilyn Escobar
Pete Hayes
Elaine Hujambojoie
Claudia Hulbe
Gregg Hutchison
Joey Johnson
Molly Keller
Peggy Kennedy
Jennifer Kerr
Suzanne Krale
Beverly Lewis
Don Mongeau
Nancy Oprsal
Diane Ramsey
Margaret Rogers
Bill Spaller
Linda Thomas
Larry Washington
Betsy Weiland

Nancy Westlund

Liz Williamson

Main Task

Docent Receptionist ARNHA Board member Docent/Board Member Docent Receptionist Board Member/Writer Clerical/Receptionist Board Member/Mailing Maintenance Fund Raising/Board Member Artist/Book Sales/Board Board Member/Publications Docent Receptionist Receptionist Board Member Docent Receptionist Docent/Fund Raising Board Member Docent/Special Events Board Member Special Events Receptionist

Just Reached 1,000 hours

Name	Main Task
Kari Bauer	Receptionist/Photographer
Kelly Cohen	Docent
Gail Philippart	Docent

Volunteered over 500 hours

Lestelle Nichols	Docent
Dorothy Wagner	Reception/Animal Care

Volunteered over 250 hours

Krystin Dozier	Receptionist/Docent
Denise Garland	Receptionist/Special Events
Ethan Hall	Animal Care
George Wagner	Animal Care

Volunteered over 160 hours

Jean Burke	Receptionist
Celia Karim	Nature Camp Assistant
Donna D'Amico	Trail Walker
Jay Kumar	Animal Care/Nature Camps

Volunteered over 100 hours

Keegan Ball	Nature Camps
Abi Bristow	Nature Camps
Ross Harper	Animal Care
Alexandra Magda	Nature Camps
Max McGregor	Animal Care
Kimberly Rider	Receptionist/Special Events
Felice Risling	Habitat Restoration

Festivities were wrapped up with the drawing of "door prizes" for some of the lucky volunteers.

According to the Independent Sector (www.independent-sector.org/volunteer_time), volunteer time in California, as of 2015, is valued at \$27.59/hour. At this rate, our volunteers supported the EYNC this last fiscal year, from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, for 16,474 hours, valued at over \$450,000—almost half a million dollars!

Board Member/Animal Care

Saturday September 17th Set for Parkway Clean-up

by Melissa Shumate

We are indeed fortunate to have 26 miles of River Parkway in our own backyards.

Unfortunately, not everyone sees the Parkway as a gem to be protected and respected by keeping it clean and pristine. We missed our April Clean-up because the river was flowing so high and fast. Now, it's time to tackle the task.

One day in the cooler July weather, I went down to Mile 16 South and pulled 10 bags of trash from the river in three trips. Bottles and cans, shoes and sandals, kids' water toys and balls, Styrofoam containers and fast food wrappers were hauled away. Can you imagine what can be accomplished if more of us participate?

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 17, at 9 a.m. to help out. The sponsor of this event, the American River Parkway Foundation, will provide snacks, water, and trash bags. Please wear closed-toe shoes, hat, and sunscreen. We will be welcoming you at the Ancil Hoffman picnic area. There are other locations, so please call the American River Parkway Foundation at (916) 486-2773 find out the closest start-up spot for your locations. The Foundation can also answer any questions about the clean-up event.

Melissa Shumate is Steward of Mile 16 South of the American River, Member of ARNHA, and Chair of ARNHA's Participation in the American River Parkway Clean-up.

NatureFest set for October 9, 10am to 3pm

NatureFest is the Effie Yeaw Nature Center's largest annual community event, held each October on the Nature Center's grounds. This family-friendly event includes live animal shows, hands-on activities, demonstrations, guided hikes and educational exhibits. The event draws nature enthusiasts, families, Scouting groups, and other youth organizations.

A favorite event headliner is Wild Things, with its array of local and exotic creatures. Other past presenters and exhibitors have included California

Raptor Center; Sacramento Splash; NorCal Bats; California Native Plant Society; California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife; Sac-Sierra Trout Unlimited; Mountain Lion Foundation; ReCreate; Sacramento Audubon Society, and many more!

This year, back by popular demand, is the logo contest. Youngsters will compete in a design contest to create the 2017 **NatureFest** event logo! More details about the event and the logo contest will be available soon at www. SacNatureCenter.net.

Flashy acrobats

The following is an excerpt from "An American River Journal," published by ARNHA. It features illustrations by the late Jo Glasson Smith, ARNHA co-founder, and nature essays by Peter J. Hayes, retired newspaper editor and ARNHA associate board member. It is available for \$9.75 at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center's Discovery Shop, ARNHA.org, and selected stores.

Where there are fish, there are usually insects. And where there are insects, you're likely to find swifts. That's why you can usually find White-throated Swifts playing tag over the Nimbus Fish Hatchery these days.

You may not see them at first. Then suddenly they come into view, small, swallow-like black birds with white throats and rumps, twisting and darting, scything the air with long, slender wings.

Like their close relatives the hummingbirds, the swifts are endowed with tremendous energy, enough to keep them aloft most of the day. In fact, they're in the air so much of the time that their bills and feet have atrophied to the point they're practically useless.

Somebody said swifts fly with their mouths wide open, but who's to know? We do know they must have remarkable eyesight to be able to draw a bead on a tiny insect on the wing.

With their white-on-black color pattern, these tireless acrobats offer a twinkling effect as they swoop and glide over the fish hatchery. During spring and summer, there are only about a dozen swifts there, nesting inside the hollow sections of the nearby Hazel Avenue bridge. But migrants from the north have joined the local colony, and now 50 or so White-throated Swifts are on dawn-to-dusk patrol against the insect hordes over the American River.

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- Virginia Kaser
- Jeff Kemp
- Jack & Mary Kennedy

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- Paul McClure
- Christina McCready

- Anne McDonald
- Charles & Susan McIntire
- John & Patricia McIntosh
- Wendy McLeod
- Sylvia Mehlhaff
- Linda Melching
- Linda Melchina
- Lori & Hunter Merritt
- Joyce Mihanovich
- Jon Miles
- Marsha Bedwell & Lawrence Miles
- Jason Miller
- Lori Miyasato
- Donald & Karen Mongeau
- **Brett & Denise Moore**
- John K Moore
- Kori Moore
- Patrick Moore
- Jan & Gaylord Moulds
- Louise Mueller
- **Smokey Murphy**
- **Polly Murphy Jones**
- Judy Murray
- Frank Neumann & **Anna Kate Bright**
- Paula Newcomb
- **Craig Newton**
- Joanna Nishimura in Honor of Ellen Nishimura
- Katherine Nishimura in honor of Ellen Nishimura
- Susan Nishio
- **Robert Norris**
- Rebecca Norris
- Nancy Oprsal
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- Karin Owens
- James & Teresa Pappas in Memory of Tom Loewen, M.D.
- Dean Park
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- Holly Patrocchi
- Dee & John Peacock
- Michael & Jill Pease
- **Tracey Peterson**
- **Dennis & Gail Philippart**
- **Wendy Phoenix**
- Lynn Pinkerton
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- Shirley Poirier
- George & Maro Poulos

- Judy Press
- Robin Primavera
- Werner & Sabina Raab
- Noreen R Rademacher
- Mandi Raley-Garcia
- Raley's Family of Stores
- Diane Ramsey
- Chris Reeg
- Ruth Rezos
- Mirta Rhoads
- Karin Richardson
- Kim Rider
- Susan Russell
- Meredith & Patrick Ryan
- Kathleen Sabatini
- Sacramento Area Creeks Council
- Sacramento Regional **Community Foundation**
- Estelle Saltzman
- Thomas Sapunor
- Monica Sauer
- Save Mart Supermarket
- Lynn Schweissinger
- Daniel Schweissinger
- Anna Schweissinger
- Anita Scuri
- John & Julia Serences
- Lanna Seuret
- June Shawhan
- Benjamin Sher
- Sherry Sherry
- Illa Skidmore
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- Frank & Joan Slachman Anne L. Smith
- Cindy Smith
 - in Memory of Jo & George Smith
- Edward Smith
- Robert Smith
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- David Sobon
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- Marc Stormont
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- Cheryl Sutherland
- Hervey Sweetwood
- Jacqueline Taber
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- **Kevin Tanner**
- Paul Tebbel
- Jaclyn Teofilo
- Linda Thomas in Honor of Peter Hayes
- Thunderbolts
- **Denise Timmons**
- John Toney
- **Christopher & Nancy Tooker**
- Anne Trost
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- Elizabeth Valdovinos
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- Patrick Wagner
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- Cheryl & Thomas Ward
- Larry & Jamie Washington
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- Cathy Weitzner
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- Wild Birds & Garden
- Liz Williamson Donald & Joyce Wilson
- Kathryn Winegarner
- Lucinda Woodward
- Zarah Wyly Harold & Suzanne Yackey in Memory of Zilpha
- David Zuckerman in Memory of Barbar **Leonard Nichols**

& Jack Hiehle

Thank you!



Conservation Corps Fight Yellow Star Thistle

The Effic Yeaw Nature Center has enlisted the help of the young people who are members of the Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps (SRCC) to get rid of 15 acres

of unfriendly Yellow Star Thistle next to the River View Trail of the Nature Area.

Yellow Star Thistle is an invasive, thorny annual that ARNHA and EYNC Executive Director Paul Tebbel says "can take over an area and make it impenetrable for deer and other wildlife unless controlled."

Conservation Corps workers also will be retained to get rid of dead trees and other vegetation in a "fire fuel reduction" program at the base of the bluff next to the nature center. The program will continue through December 31,

2016, and possibly a bit beyond.

In an exchange agreement, EYNC will provide Conservation Corps members with a mini-naturalists program.

The non-profit SRCC, started by the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, is Sacramento's largest education and workforce training program for young adults aged 18-25. ■



Volunteers Deja Lee (top left) and Desmond Williams attack the Yellow Star Thistle.



River otter from a kayak, Carmichael, American River Parkway, CA

Single Shot, f/4; ISO 2000; 300mm

See more of nature photographer, James Scott's work at mosaicofplace.com

Email us one or more of your favorite photos of our American River environs for consideration in this section at:

Americanriverphotos@gmail.com

Q. Is that snake poisonous?

A. EYNC Animal Care Supervisor JoLynn Jarrett: "That is a frequent question I hear in the lobby of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. The answer is: 'no.'

"When I say 'no,' many people look at me like I am crazy. I smile and explain to them that most snakes are not poisonous, but some are in fact venomous."

"Well, what is the difference between poison and venom?"

"I'm glad you asked!

"Poison is something that you ingest by mouth or by breathing in a bad substance. Venom is something that is injected into you by a bite or sting.

"The best way to remember this is, If you bite it and you get sick, it's poison; if it bites you and you get sick, it's venom.

"So, the next time you see a rattlesnake and you ask, 'Is it poisonous or venomous?' the answer is venomous!" Please send your questions about nature along the Lower American River to ARNHA@arnha.org, with the subject header "ask a naturalist." An EYNC naturalist will give you an answer in a future "Ask a Naturalist" column.

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

ARNHA Calendar of Events



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ARNHA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, September 14, 6:00 p.m. to dusk Effie Yeaw Nature Center (see story page 1)

Great American River Clean Up

Saturday, September 17, 9 am to noon Ancil Hoffman Park (see story on page)

. Beginning Birding with Rich Howard

Mondays, Sept. 19 & 26, Oct. 3 & 10 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Saturdays, Oct. 1 & 15, from 8 to 11 a.m. Effie Yeaw Nature Center

• Estate Planning Seminar

Wednesday, September 28, 6:30 to 8:00 pm Effie Yeaw Nature Center Snacks and beverages will be served

NatureFest

Sunday, Oct. 9, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Effie Yeaw Nature Center (see story page)

See SacNatureCenter.net for more information.

ESTATE PLANNING INVITATION

Members and guests are cordially invited to a complimentary Estate Planning Seminar. Topics Include:

- Introduction to Estate Planning
- Do I need a Will? Is Joint Tenancy a Good Alternative?
- Planning for Disability and Incapacity
- Probate What is it, and How Can It Be Avoided?
- Living Trusts and Inheritance Planning for Heirs
- Estate Tax Planning: The \$5,430,000 Exemption
- Tax-Free Strategies for Sales of Appreciated Assets

Speaker: Emily A. Foehr is an Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law Attorney. She is a Shareholder at Drobny Law Offices, Inc.

Wednesday, September 28, 2016 • 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Snacks and beverages will be served
2850 San Lorenzo Way • Carmichael, CA 95608

The Estate Planning Seminar is sponsored by American River Natural History Association, which supports the Center through endowment, memorial and special project fundraising. Space is limited. Please call (916) 489-4918 to reserve a space.

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AT THE EFFIE YEAW NATURE CENTER TUES-SUN, 9-5 489-4918