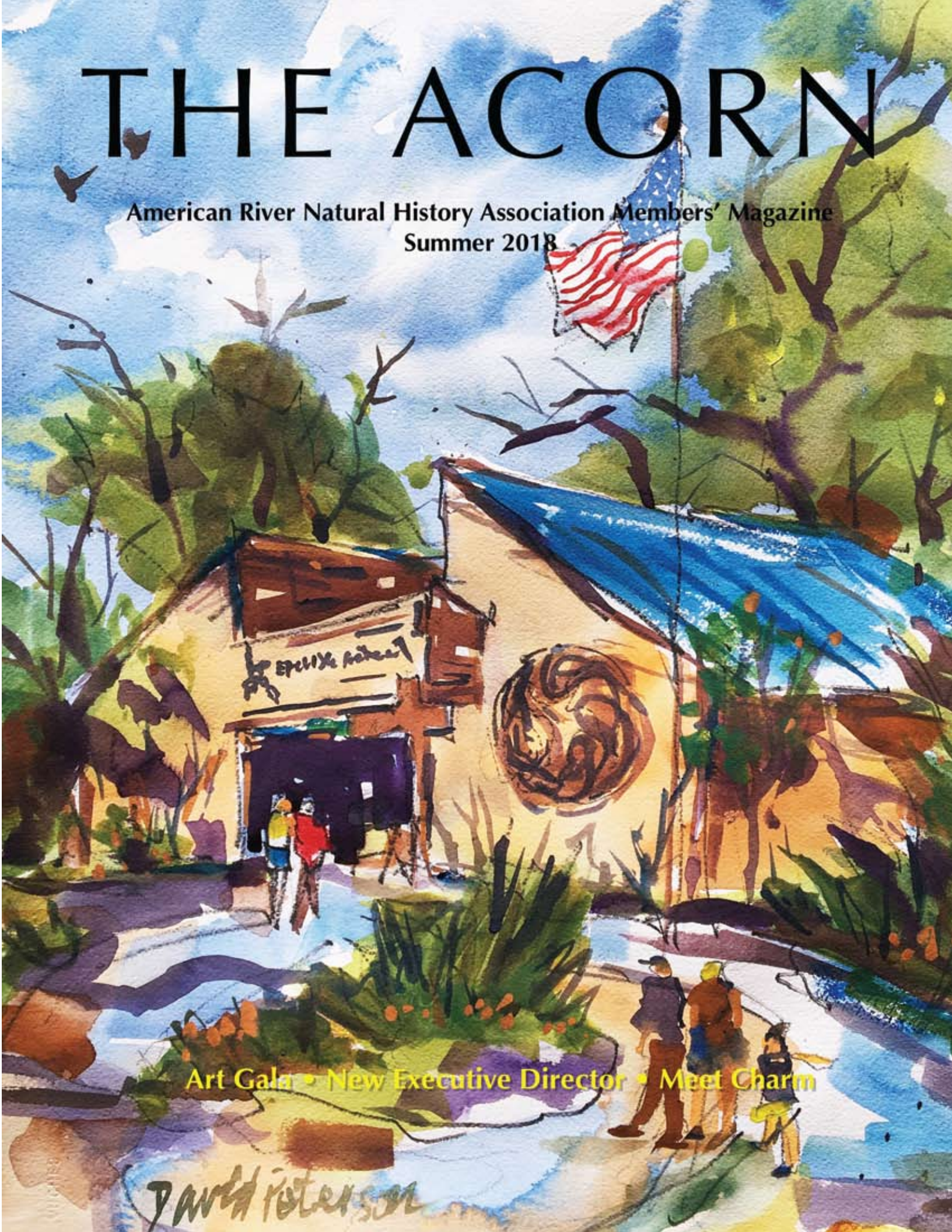


# THE ACORN

American River Natural History Association Members' Magazine  
Summer 2018



Art Gala • New Executive Director • Meet Charm

David Peterson

# from the president

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

Summer! What a beautiful time here at the Nature Center. The residents of the Nature Study Area are busy raising their families. Be watchful out there. There are many young animals learning their way, along with some rattlesnakes and ticks. It gets a little toasty, so don't forget your water. Speaking of water, if our Spring Appeal is as successful as we hope, we will be installing a new water bottle-filling station in place of the old water fountain. This will be such a great addition and in line with our mission of environmental stewardship.

There is so much happening at Effie Yeaw. Our new Executive Director, Torey Byington, has already learned so much and brought so much to the Nature Center. New additions to our animal ambassadors are the Swainson's Hawk, Orion, and our Anna's Hummingbird, Charm. The Facilities Improvement Committee is busy working with County Planning and our architects. More news on this work in the coming months. And, kudos to ARNHA's Media/Publications Committee for the huge success of 150 Frequently Seen Birds of California's Great Valley. This book has gone viral, as they say. If you don't have your copy yet, don't hesitate. This is a true gem.

Great things are coming. Art Where Wild Things Are, our art gala, is on June 9. Don't miss out on this wonderful evening! Right after that, Summer camps will be starting. This is a great opportunity for young people to connect with nature. The naturalists and docents provide such an amazing experience. Do you know a child who would benefit from time in nature?

When you are wandering the trails of the Nature Study Area and visiting our animal ambassadors and meeting out new residents, please remember that without your support, none of this would be available. Consider upgrading your membership to a higher level, or, better yet, make your membership a recurring monthly gift. It makes giving so easy. Once it is set up, you can forget about it. For more information on this, visit the Donate page on our website, [sacnaturecenter.net](http://sacnaturecenter.net).

Ever since I was a school kid, summer has been a time to reconnect with nature, going to scout camp and family camping and growing things in the backyard. Now, summer brings food from the garden, bike rides on the bike trail and walks in the Nature Study Area. Make this summer a time of connecting with nature for all that it offers.



Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you.

-- Frank Lloyd Wright



Photo by Kari Bauer

# From Replica Maidu Village to Art Gala

by Peggy Kraus Kennedy

Transformation—that’s what the Sacramento Fine Art Center and the American River Natural History Association promise at this year’s art gala: Art Where Wild Things Are.

On Saturday, June 9, at 5 p.m., the Maidu village at Effie Yeaw Nature Center will become an elegant banquet hall decorated with nature’s own bounty: Valley and Interior Live Oaks, Western Sycamore, Oregon Ash, Coyote Brush, Western Redbud, Toyon, Deergrass, Buck Brush, Showy and Narrow-leaved Milkweed, Bush Lupine, Common Yarrow, Bush and Purple Penstemon, California Mugwort, and other native plants. Wild Turkeys may strut in the meadow and later fly up into the trees to perch for the night. Wild deer with young may explore the soft crepuscular light of the gloaming. Nuttall’s Woodpeckers, Acorn Woodpeckers, Tree Swallows, House Wrens, Bewick’s Wrens, Black Phoebes, and Spotted Towhees may sing their evening farewell.

Human music is also part of the transformation. Nicholas Washington will take us to Argentina with a demonstration of Tango dancing. Sean O’Connor will further transform the evening with his iconic mix of classical and fingerstyle guitar music.

Most transformative of all are art works from local and nationally- and internationally-recognized artists. About sixty works, winners of the juried Art Where Wild Things Are art show from the Sacramento Fine Arts Center, will be displayed throughout the Maidu village. Boyd Gavin and Marcy Friedman are the judges of this year’s show.

Each artist has found a corner of nature and transformed

it through color, texture, form, juxtaposition, and an individual artistic vocabulary, to create realistic or impressionistic expressions, each of which creates a unique art work.

Pat Mahony, for example, emphasizes color, saturated tones, and a brevity of brush strokes to create drama. Her work hovers between abstraction and representation. She says, “My landscapes are a compilation of visual and emotional memories of the vistas I have seen. I do not so much paint the image in question, but rather render its essence on the canvas as if it were a feeling or recollection that has

been developed through multiple exposures and observations. The results are more of what I imagine and feel as opposed to what I might actually see.

“I have long been interested in the transitional characteristics of illumination and am always looking for the contrasts of light, shadow, and color. Then, I add the additional challenge of trying to capture movement. Nature is never really still,

whether it be moving water, wind in leaves, or shadows changing in the sunlight on still objects.

“My ultimate goal is to create a lush, abstracted view of the landscape that creates a perfect balance of light and dark.”

Boyd Gavin, on the other hand, paints in a very straightforward manner, using loose brushstrokes and bright colors to paint small, easily recognizable objects. He says, “I am drawn to the quirky shorthand style of artists like Fairfield Porter or David Park, artists which seem to invest even the

*continued next page*



*Transformation of EYNC’s Maidu Village at a recent Gala.*

*Photo by Linda Thomas*

Cover by David Peterson; Watercolor. David is an award-winning Sacramento artist who has shown his art throughout Northern California and beyond. He is on the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Fine Arts Center, where he serves as Event Coordinator. David has been a long-time friend of ARNHA and EYNC and has been instrumental in making the Gala a continuing success. Of EYNC, David says, “The nature preserve has special meaning for me. I have painted it often, actually hundreds of times. I don’t need a photo. I can paint scenes in my studio from memory, with little help from my sketchbooks, of which I have a huge collection.” David can be reached through his website at [www.aquarellist.com](http://www.aquarellist.com).

*continued from previous page*

homeliest of subjects with an offhand grandeur.”

Molly Keller finds a thrill in seeing something singular in nature – a bird’s nose-dive, an American Coot’s comedy, a Black-tailed Hare’s leap – and for some, the best way to communicate that thrill is with painting. She says that each of her nature paintings tells a story.

David Peterson likes to paint from life using his unique style developed with influences like John Marin, Henry Fukuhara, Chiaro Obata, Woody Hansel and others. He says, “I don’t copy. I paint creative interpretations. I paint things I connect with, a person, a place, a scene. I do not get my camera out and take a bunch of pictures. If I see something, feel something, meet someone, travel to a place, I draw, sketch, walk around, learn about it or them. If I am in a special place, like for instance the Nature Center, and have time, I’ll set up my easel and paint from life.

“I walk around and sketch the place, the scene I want to paint to become familiar with it. Then, I break down the design into basic shapes, values, and colors in that order. My personality comes out in the work, the emotion, the feeling. I can’t get that from a camera. One sketch means more than one hundred photos.

“I hope that the emotional content comes through in the pictures I do.”

Eileen Javora, KCRA Meteorologist, will be the Emcee for the Gala evening. As the Gala evening progresses, all art work on display will be sold in silent auction, with the top seven works of the juried show and works donated by nationally-recognized artists sold through live auction.

Keith McLane, one of the country’s preeminent fundraising auctioneers and special appeal/fund-a-need experts and the founder of KLM Auctions, will handle the auction. Since 1995, he has specialized in organizing and conducting world-class charity and fundraising auctions.

A raffle will offer three different

. . . all art work on display will be sold in silent auction, with the top seven works of the juried show and works donated by nationally-recognized artists sold through live auction.



*Juried art in a variety of media on display at the 2015 Gala. Photo by Linda Thomas.*

vacation destinations, including one night at Nick’s Cove on Tomales Bay as prizes.

Pat Mahony, celebrated and award-winning local artist, and Randy Getz, Executive Vice President, CBRE and Crocker Art Museum Board Member are the Honorary Event Chairs.

Global Gourmet Catering will provide dinner. Beverages, music, and free valet parking will be provided.

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, a non-profit education and visitor center operated as a community service by ARNHA.

*Peggy Kennedy is a long-time supporter of ARNHA/EYNC. Currently, she is on the ARNHA Board and chairs the Media/Publications Committee. Being in nature helps her soul sing. ■*

**Greetings!**

**Familiar birds and plants rendered in transparent watercolor by local painter, Molly Keller**  
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**THE DISCOVERY SHOP**

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

# A New Feathery Friend

by Krystin Dozier

The most recent addition to the EYNC family is an Anna's Hummingbird. As has been done with our other new resident animals, friends of EYNC were invited to participate in a naming contest and selected "Charm" as the name for our newest animal ambassador. Funds raised from the over 1300 votes cast will be used to support the care and feeding of our newest friend.

Charm was found stunned after she flew into a neighborhood window. She was taken to our good friends at Wildlife Care Association for rescue and rehab. UC Davis had banded her in 2014, so we know she is at least 4 years old. Luckily, she had no broken bones, and can hover for short periods of time to reach her feeder. Apparently, she does have some brain damage and cannot sustain flight for more than about 10 feet before she starts to tire and circle in downward spirals to gently land on the ground. Now she spends her days drawing a lot of attention from admirers at our center.

On a recent day, while in her outside enclosure on the back porch, she drew the attention of a male hummingbird, who came courting. "Soon another female hummer came by and shooed him away," reports Naturalist and Animal Care Supervisor, Heather Gabel. Connecting with other hummers is enriching and pleasurable!

Stop by and meet Charm soon, or consider adopting this little jewel.

*Krystin Dozier is a volunteer at EYNC and a Certified California Naturalist. ■*



## *Flying Jewel*

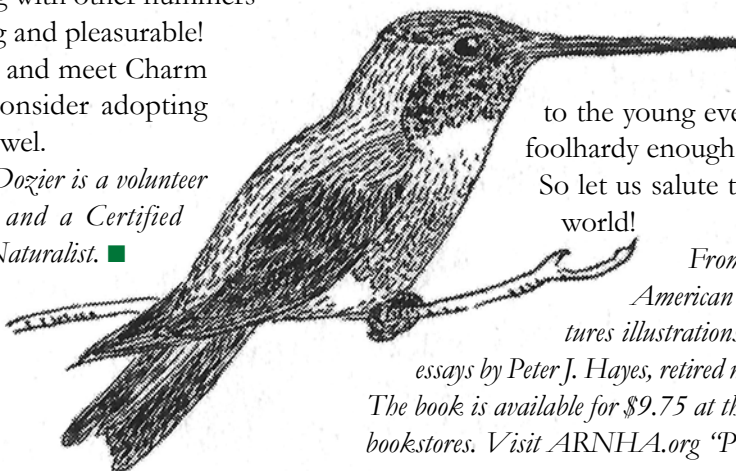
They say that a hummingbird has such tiny feet it's almost impossible for it to walk. But when one considers the flying prowess of this nectar-gathering bird, it doesn't really matter.

Migratory hummers from as far away as Central America are moving through the Sacramento area, on route to alpine nesting areas. They, and the year-round resident Anna's species, are putting on splendid shows at backyard birdfeeders, performing aerial acrobatics, flying straight up, even backwards, their wings beating at an incredible 50-70 times a second.

All that wing-beating burns up a lot of energy. If a normal 170-pound man used up as much energy as the tiny hummingbird, he would have to eat 285 pounds of hamburger in a single day.

The Anna's hummer, with its bright red iridescent throat patch and cap, is nesting in this area now, raising two offspring in tiny walnut-sized nests made of lichen and spider webs. A local resident with a nest in a tree outside the window of his apartment reports that the parent faithfully brings nectar to the young every 10 to 15 minutes, and "buzzes" away anyone foolhardy enough to approach the home.

So let us salute the needle-billed hummer – hot pilot of the bird world!



*From "An American River Journal," published by the American River Natural History Association (ARNHA). It features illustrations by ARNHA co-founder Jo Glasson Smith and nature essays by Peter J. Hayes, retired newspaper editor and ARNHA Associate Board member. The book is available for \$9.75 at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, ARNHA.org and selected bookstores. Visit ARNHA.org "Podcasts," to hear readings of the essays by the author.*



# Under the Oaks

by Pete the Parkway Coyote

Active in the Nature Study Preserve during summer are Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars. Dark-colored Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars can be seen feeding on California Pipevine and are often found crossing the trails. The presence of ticks and rattlesnakes are two reasons the Nature Center asks walkers to stay on the trails.



A new sign at the Preserve trailhead includes a lovely map of the area.



Photos by Kari Bauer

Due to stormy weather, the Used Nature Book Sale was held on the back porch where everyone stayed warm and dry while checking out the large collection of donated books. ARNHA earned several hundred dollars at this annual event.



ARNHA participated in several community events where volunteers set up a table to talk with the public about EYNC, sell ARNHA books, or share a live animal. Events included Duck Days, Creek Week, Darwin Day and Earth Day.

Young naturalists enjoyed the popular Spring Nature Camps, investigating spring plants, insects, and amphibians, experiencing nature hikes in gorgeous spring weather, and expressing their creativity through crafts.

Deer and Fawn Storytime for mini-naturalists, ages 3 and 4, will be held May 24. See <https://www.sacnaturecenter.net/events/storytime/> for more details.



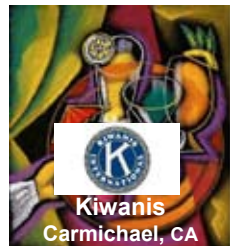
The UC California Naturalist Program is currently underway with full enrollment. The mission is "...to foster a diverse community of naturalists and promote stewardship of California's natural resources through education and service." Information about the program is available at <http://calnat.ucanr.edu>.

Summer Nature Camps are filling rapidly and have sessions for several age groups, ranging from 5 to 15. Information about all the camps is available on our website: <https://www.sacnaturecenter.net/education/nature-camps/summer/>.



You're invited to the  
**16th Annual  
'Taste' Event**

Live Music, Sample Wines, Beers, Food, Car Displays, Raffles, Silent Auction.



## Taste of Carmichael

Friday, May 18, 2018 - 5:30-8:30 pm

La Sierra Community Center located at 5325 Engle Road. Fundraising for Children, Schools, and Community Charities.

See prior year's [www.carmichaelkiwanis.org](http://www.carmichaelkiwanis.org) [facebook.com/carmichaelkiwanis](https://www.facebook.com/carmichaelkiwanis).

**\$45/person Event tickets:** Contact Linda Martin (916)531-3086 [martingnl@comcast.net](mailto:martingnl@comcast.net)

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I hope to see you at the Nature Center soon.

*Pete's curious nature, sharp eyes, and keen sense of smell make him a great ambassador for the American River Natural History Association.*



# Bird and Breakfast - Avians (and other animals) abound!

This year our Bird and Breakfast events were held on two Saturdays – March 17 and March 24. These much-anticipated events saw attendees, their Sacramento Audubon guides, ARNHA and Nature Center 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 cooperated, the hot breakfast was tasty, and many species of birds were spied. During the traditional event on March 17, attendees were treated to a rare sight: fledging hummingbirds! And at the family-friendly event on March 24, kids reported seeing coyotes chasing deer as well as sea lions in the river! (In addition to many glimpses of birds, we presume.)

The silent auction featured gift baskets, excursions and unique items, and one lucky man walked away with the raffle prizes – a spotting scope and tripod. Many thanks to event sponsor Out of This World Optics, which also donated the raffle prizes. And our sincere appreciation to the Sacramento Audubon, Carmichael Kiwanis and ARNHA/Nature Center volunteers, without whom this annual event would not happen. ■



**Thank you for your sponsorship of B&B!**



Photos by Kari Bauer





# Introducing Torey Byington

*By Torey Byington, Executive Director,  
American River Natural History Association  
& Effie Yeaw Nature Center*

*The new Executive Director of ARNHA and EYNC, **Torey Byington**, joined us in February. Some of you have had the chance to meet her already, but we asked her to tell us a little about herself and how she ended up at EYNC. When you see her around EYNC, introduce yourself and welcome her!*

Environmental and outdoor education is my passion. Although my career has taken some turns, it has always involved that devotion to taking the classroom outdoors. After earning an Environmental Studies degree from University of Michigan in 1998, I moved to Sacramento to work with Naturalists At Large, teaching outdoor education and recreation to students. I gained additional skills and experience when I held a collaborative position with the non-profit Yolo Basin Foundation and California Department of Fish and Game. And I deepened my understanding of the value of outdoor education for under-served communities as the Environmental Director for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

In the spring of 2008 I was hired as the Director at Ebersole Environmental Education & Conference Center, in Wayland, Michigan, which would become our home for the next decade. Running a residential environmental education campus was an enormous and challenging job, but I loved every minute of it. After 10 great years at Ebersole Center, my husband, Troy, and son, Cayden, wanted to make a change. In fact, it was really our son

who spurred the search for a new position in California. That is when the opportunity to join ARNHA and EYNC came along, and after an interview process that included meeting board members and staff, I decided it was the chance of a lifetime! And so I accepted the position of Executive Director of ARNHA and EYNC. In January 2018, my family, with our dog Schotzi and 2 cats, took the giant leap of faith, packing up our lives to head back to Sacramento.

We've been back in California for three months now and my family and I are just thrilled. Northern California is the perfect location for me to pursue my other interests which include hiking, backpacking, fishing, kayaking, riding dirt bikes, snowshoeing, snowboarding, watching our son skateboard and playing with our dog Schotzi.

The Nature Center staff and volunteers are incredible and have been so welcoming. This organization has a rich and enduring history that informs everything we do, as we continue to evolve as a resource for our community. The next 40 years will be just as bright for ARNHA and EYNC. I am excited to take on all of the joys, challenges, obstacles and triumphs that lie ahead as we take ARNHA and EYNC into the future. It is truly an honor and a privilege to be part of such a wonderful organization. ■



*Torey and EYNC's resident Swainson's Hawk, Orion.  
Photo by Kari Bauer.*



## *Photographer's Corner*

**Photographer: James Scott**

**A Black Phoebe, *Sayornis nigricans*, perches in front of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center! Photographer, James Scott at Instagram, @MosaicofPlace. Camera settings: 1/400sec, F5.6, at 400mm, iso 1000**

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- Suzy Parmeter
- Ana Peterson
- Placer Photos/Jim Thompson
- Ben Poh
- Beatriz Rambarran
- Timmy Quandt
- Charleen Milburn Ramey
- Bill & Claudia Reid
- Marcia R. Rogers
- Chris Ruprecht
- Stephani Santiago Avila-Gomez
- Cecelia Sayer
- Linda Schultz
- Karen Schwalm
- Jamieson Scott
- Sara Sealander
- Zac & Ada Sergio
- Sarah, Siu & Devan Shanmugam
- Peter & Irene Shevchenko
- Tom & Barbara Silver
- Ann Snow
- Jennifer Souza
- Jenny Steele
- Jessie Sterling
- Kat Stewart
- Christi Stone
- Kelly Stout
- Nathan Sutter
- Allison Suznovich
- Norma Tabatabai
- Jennifer Tait
- Catherine Tucker
- Stephanie Turner
- Robert & Marilyn Ulrich
- Alex Valdez
- Colleen & John Valentine
- Mirian Vargas
- Judy Vollmer
- Robert A. Wall
- Brittany Walton
- Aleida Watts
- Dustyne Weaver
- Kathy Webb
- Samantha Weinrich
- Valerie Whitworth & Michael Barbour
- Leslie Wilson
- Lacy Young



### Ask a Naturalist

**Q.** What are those small creatures swimming along the edge of the river?

**A.** Naturalist Melanie DuBoce replies: “Those small creatures might be aquatic invertebrates! Aquatic invertebrates are creatures without backbones that live in water, such as crustaceans, mollusks, and bugs. Some of my favorites are crawdads, water boatman, caddisfly larvae, and dragonfly nymphs! These water creatures have fascinating lives with amazing adaptations that help them survive. The caddisfly larva, for example, build protective body casings. They use their sticky silk-like spit to secure surrounding bits of sand and sticks to make a home that they drag around. Not only are invertebrates cool but many are sensitive to pollution so the species you find in a water source can tell you a lot about the quality of the water.

“Next time you’re at the river’s edge take a closer look! Pick up a submerged rock and look underneath - you might be surprised at how much life you find!” ■

American River Natural History Association  
P.O. Box 579  
Carmichael, CA 95609-0579



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## ARNHA Calendar of Events

### Big Day of Giving: Support ARNHA & EYNC

Thursday, May 3

[www.bigdayofgiving.org/effieyeaw](http://www.bigdayofgiving.org/effieyeaw)

### Taste of Carmichael

Friday, May 18, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

La Sierra Community Center  
5325 Engle Road, Carmichael

### Art Where Wild Things Are Exhibit

Tuesday, May 15 to Saturday, June 2

Sacramento Fine Arts Center  
5330-B Gibbons Dr., Carmichael  
[www.sacfinearts.org](http://www.sacfinearts.org)

### Deer and Fawn Storytime (ages 3 and 4)

Thursday, May 24, 10:30 am, at EYNC

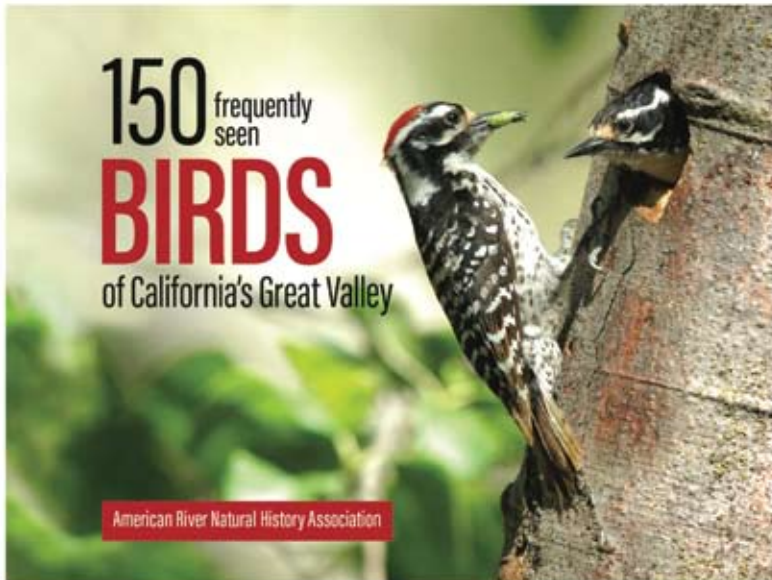
### Art Gala

Saturday, June 9, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., EYNC

Purchase Tickets in advance at [www.SacNatureCenter.net](http://www.SacNatureCenter.net)

### Summer Nature Camps

Weekly, June 18 to July 27, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, EYNC



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