



Artists' Mother's Day Bridge Repair Benefit

On Mother's Day, May 13th a group of artists in the 7 Hills Business district of Nevada City held an art show. This wasn't just any art show – this very dedicated group wanted to help repair the Covered Bridge with the proceeds of the art sale going to SYRPA. Katy Anderson owner of Nevada City Picture Framing and Margi Determan of Yuba River Wealth Management organized the event. Katy brought together about 15 artists and Margi persuaded about 20 businesses to donate art and gifts to a silent auction. Yuba River Wealth Management gave one dollar to the fund and stuck an "I helped repair" sticker on every person who walked through the door. Katy organized both the art sale and the silent auction. Paul Matson poured BYOB wine and nearly



all the artists were there. Bev Morgan and Glenn Fuller had a booth with brochures and information about the Bridge and Park.

The event was very successful! Nearly \$2,000 was raised for the Bridge. The Art community has been extremely supportive. If you happen to be in Katy's Frame, please pass on a "thank you" to Katy.
Glenn Fuller

Bridgeport News

South Yuba River State Park

South Yuba River Park Association

SYRPA Newsletter

July 2012

President's Message

Our bridge and barn Sesquicentennial event was a wonderful success, and I want to thank everyone who participated. The weather for the three days was perfect. Friday was focused on local schoolchildren. Approximately 300 came to the Park and were given detailed tours focused on the Park's history, nature, and recreational opportunities. It was the largest group of schoolchildren that I have ever seen at the Park at one time, but it was very well handled, and I know the children had a great time. They reciprocated with a beautiful serenade to our volunteers that was very much appreciated. On Saturday, we hosted individuals and dignitaries who have played a role in the history of the Park as well as those who played such an important part in our recent successful effort to keep the



Park open. Wine and hors d'oeuvres were served on the visitor center lawn, a gorgeous setting, and the birthday celebration with cake capped the event. Sunday was an expanded Spring Festival at which we enjoyed record crowds. Both Saturday and Sunday featured an historic pageant produced by Marion Jeffries titled "Voices from Bridgeport Past" starring Charles Atwood and Marion. These events required many hours of planning and execution, and I cannot hope to remember everyone that should be acknowledged, but I do want to recognize Don Denton and his Sesquicentennial Committee for the excellent job they did in planning the events, Diane Martin for her efforts with the school tours, the Committee and the Penn Valley Chamber of Commerce for the Saturday birthday celebration, and Janine Martin



for the Spring Festival planning and execution. Janine commented "A big thank-you goes to all who volunteered to support this special event. It certainly takes a village to make our Spring Festival happen. The day was bustling with wagon rides, local artists, music, great food, wildflower crafts, children's activities, wonderful raffle items, barn and gas station tours, information

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

booths, local blacksmith demonstrations, Visitor Center, two performances of the historic pageant and so much more." Special thanks go to Glenn Fuller for his publicity effort that so significantly helped our turnout for the weekend.

Rather than basking in our past success, however, it is time to look forward and to think about the direction our Association should take for the future benefit of the Park. One area is fuller involvement of our members in meeting our mission. That, of course, requires a strong and continuing membership base from which to draw. Therefore, I would like to ask all of our members to be alert for others who can contribute to our Association not only with membership dues but with expertise that meets our many needs. Please encourage them to join. Our Board is now exploring ways to use more modern methods of communication and social networking to publicize our fund-raising needs and help us better perform our work. We have therefore decided to establish an Information Technology Committee to take us into the 21st century. Any of you willing to participate, please contact Paul Keasberry. I know that many of you have had previous experience in the IT area and currently use social networks to communicate with family and friends. We can make good use of your expertise!

We have a number of ongoing projects including the remaining phases of the gas station restoration, repair of the bridge, direct support for the provision of interpretive materials for our volunteers, volunteer appreciation efforts and support for our Park aides. It is time for us to update our strategic plan and to brainstorm other efforts to enhance the value of our Park to the public. There should be no shortage of ideas among our members. Board member Dick Buckner is aggressively looking for ways to obtain grant money to assist us in those projects. If you are interested in serving on a committee to identify future projects, please contact any board member. With the reduction in Park staffing and State funding, our role as an association is even more vital, and your help as an Association Member is very much needed. See you in the Park!

Dave Anderson

Getting the Park Ready for Its Big Celebration

There was much planning for the Bridge and Barn's 150th Anniversary and it all started in mid December. There were meetings upon meetings but it all came down to the month of April for things to really happen. In mid April a big clean up was scheduled for the Park grounds and the Visitor's Center. But, as you'll remember, April is when we had our winter rains. Fortunately, we had Mother Nature's luck: April 18 was a perfect day for the clean up. Ladies and gentlemen took down pictures in the Visitor's Center, moved almost unmovable objects and cleaned behind them. Screens came down, windows became spotless, spiders had to find new homes, and literally the Visitor's Center was cleaned top to bottom! Also, April 18th was the clean-up day for the grounds. In addition to the docents who came to prune, weed, and trim low hanging branches, we had a dozen students from the Grass Valley Charter School help with work in the Native Plant Garden. They knew a wildflower from a weed and did not need constant supervision. Another big project completed in time for the three-day event was the rebuilding and painting of the fence around the Barn. New boards and posts were delivered which needed painting. Because of the unsettled weather, this became a two week project--just the painting. Installing the fencing is another long story. But come Friday, April 27th it all was done and the Park sparkled. A big **Thanks** goes to all who participated in the various projects--it was a celebration all can feel proud about. *Mickey Springer*





School Day



Saturday Registration



Art Sale



Kneebones in the Gas Station Store



Wildwood Quartet

Supervising Ranger Report — Don Schmidt

There are times when I wish my job was boring, and I had nothing to report. That is never the case nowadays. Here's hoping for a nice rainy day on July 4th...

I first want to give a huge "Thank You" to everyone who helped with the 150th Celebration and Spring Festival at the end of April. The events were wonderful, and could never have happened without the determination, guidance, and help from Park volunteers and SYRPA members alike. A lot of planning went into the events on all three days, and it showed, as everything came off like clockwork. The bridge and barn will never have a better birthday, and it will be tough to produce a better Spring Festival. Thank you to all who were there to support these events!



On May 13, we pulled the trigger on the paid parking plan. If you haven't been to Bridgeport in a while, you will find a number of changes – new fee collection stations in both parking lots, "no parking" signs along Pleasant Valley Road, an entrance station and a new dirt parking area on the north side. Volunteers and paid staff alike are collecting a daily parking fee of \$5 per vehicle, and multiple types of annual passes are for sale as well. So far, the reception has been positive, as most people understand that it's needed to keep the Park open. Thanks to park aides Angela and Debbie, rangers James and Marc, and the entire visitor center staff for helping to make this transition go smoothly.

As I write this, I have not heard the specifics on the 2012/2013 budget, and what it might mean for State Parks. We are assuming there will be further reductions, but we're unclear as to what they will look like. Staffing is a huge challenge for us right now, and it will continue to be for the intermediate future. Keep your fingers crossed for something positive!

Two last items of note: First, I have not yet heard whether we have been awarded the grant for the covered bridge repair, though I expect to hear any day. Also, Frank Halter, our maintenance worker at South Yuba River, will be retiring at the end of August to bigger things in Idaho. When you see him, please wish him well.

Enjoy your summer – hope to see you at the Park! *Don Schmidt*

Sesquicentennial Celebration – School “Daze” Friday, April 27

It was early on Friday morning, April 27th and the big day for sharing our beautiful park with the children of Nevada County had arrived! By 8:00 AM, I looked down the Virginia Turnpike and watched as Nolan Darnell, assisted by wagon masters Tom and Sid McBryde, was carefully unloading a team of Belgian Draft Horses and then hitching the horses up to an authentic freight wagon. Soon, the Team of horses, the wagon and their drivers, would ride down the Turnpike and circle the Barn while demonstrating the driving skills that were needed to pull supplies to the gold fields and beyond. It was a true historic “Teamster” Demonstration geared for our fascinated school children. Our Co-chairs Betty McCown and Patti Swindling had carefully planned for this special day with months of ideas and preparation. And then the big day arrived - a clear and sunny day! The tour stations and activities progressed as more than 300 children were introduced to the historic features as well as the natural plant and animal communities of our South Yuba River State Park.



The younger children spent the morning hearing talks about the construction of the Covered Bridge and learning of the importance of the Historic Barn that holds the carefully conserved wagons inside. Blacksmith docents worked outside of the Barn while they tended the hot fires needed to hammer out nails, horseshoes and all that was required in the early days of Bridgeport. This activity was quickly followed by a Gold Panning demonstration that included a wet “hands on” experience that the children really enjoyed. The groups moved on to another nearby tour stop, the newly restored 1927 Shell Gas Station. A costumed docent provided an explanation of the

history and importance of the Gas Station and how this “place along the South Yuba River” continued to be the fueling and supply stop before heading up to the mountains and beyond. The children then stepped down to the river’s edge and participated in a River Ecology demonstration. Before leaving, the children were able to view the Cliff Swallows that migrate here every year to build their nests and rear their young under the cement bridge over the South Yuba River. The story of the birds, the river and the insects told a vivid story of the natural interdependence of life here at Bridgeport.

In the afternoon, the older children were gathered, broken into groups and offered a similar sequence of activities. One additional activity was a Nevada County Search and Rescue Team demonstration that included what to do when you are “lost in the woods”. These older children also received a deeper and more detailed view of the other natural and plant communities that abound in our Park. At the end of both sessions, we all gathered in the parking lot for a surprise! At that point, the State Park Rangers, Team Leaders, Docents and Volunteers were serenaded by the children as they sang the “River Song” by the Banana Slug Band: *“Blurp ah pa-shoosh rumbly pound, A white rapid river makes a wonderful sound!”* What a glorious ending to a perfect day with the school children as we celebrated the 150th Birthday of Bridgeport’s Bridge and Barn.



Diane Marten

Children's Sesquicentennial Artwork Project — Friday, April 27

To honor the 150th birthday celebration of Bridgeport Bridge and Barn, the school children of Nevada County and especially the students of Pleasant Valley School District located very close to Bridgeport, created art projects that were exhibited at the celebration event April 27-29 this year. The first through sixth grade classes enthusiastically studied the history and the nature areas of Bridgeport, then each class designed and created a piece of art to represent the historic covered bridge and surrounding nature trails.



The Yuba River at Bridgeport
By Ms. Bell's 4th & 5th Grade Class
Pleasant Valley School

The works of art included a multicolored quilt of the Yuba River and surrounding wild flowers and trees, a

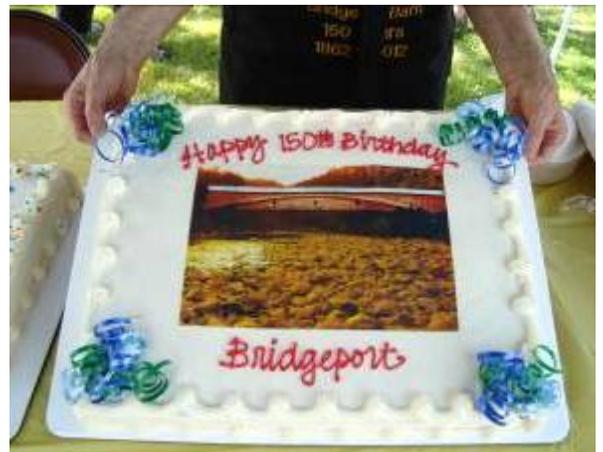
watercolor painting of the covered bridge, mosaic tiles and a multitude of watercolor paintings of the wildflowers found on the trails of Bridgeport. All were displayed during the three day celebration, and then auctioned to the community at an art festival the school district hosted in May. The Bridgeport celebration was not only an enriching educational experience for these students, but also a most memorable event that they will pass on from their generation to the next. We are most grateful to the docents and the South Yuba River State Park Staff for their generous time and work that they gave to the students of our community.

Patti Swindling



Sesquicentennial Celebration — Saturday Reception, April 28

SYRPA hosted a reception for public officials, descendants of Bridgeport property owners, Park staff, volunteers, and SYRPA members. The festivities began at the Barn with a performance of "Voices from Bridgeport Past" and continued on the Visitor Center lawn with a silent auction, beverages, hors d'oeuvres, conversation, and introduction of invited guests. Bridgeport owner descendants included Bonnie and Chris Nye (great-grandchildren of Urias Nye, operator of the 1849 ferry and trading post), Robert Fowler (great-great grandson of Bridge builder David Wood), Phyllis Kingford (daughter of Alfreda Kneebone), June Ferretti (granddaughter of Andrew Kneebone), and numerous family members. County Supervisor Terry Lamphier presented a commemorative plaque from the Board of Supervisors. The Wildwood Quartet serenaded the group and led the singing of "Happy Birthday Bridgeport."



South Yuba River Park Association—www.southyubariverstatepark.org

Newsletter Editors: Steve Pauly, Paul Keasberry, Ardie Obert

Photographs: Herb Lindberg, Marc Wetherbee, Dick Buckner, Mickey Springer, Steve Pauly

