



## What's New at the Park?

- The October Fall Festival was a big success. Pg. 4.
- A new storage shed was purchased by SYRPA and installed behind the Visitor Center. Pg. 5.
- A fundraiser will be held in June, 2013. Pg. 3.
- An annual Parking Pass for the park may save you and your friends a lot of money. Pg. 4.

## Park 12-Month Calendar

- June 7, 2013. Fundraiser
- Aug 21. Annual Member Picnic
- Sept. 12. Docent Appreciation Dinner
- Oct. 27. Fall Festival & Ghosts of Bridgeport
- Dec. 6. Holiday Potluck at the Lake Wildwood Community Center

# Bridgeport News

## South Yuba River State Park

### South Yuba River Park Association

SYRPA Newsletter

January 2013

## Supervising Ranger Report

Happy New Year, everyone! It seems as though the time goes by faster with each passing year, and 2012 was no exception. For the coming year, it seems appropriate to start off on the right foot with some resolutions and predictions that we can hopefully keep past February...

Easiest first: I resolve to have two new rangers start work at South Yuba River SP immediately after the New Year. We'll even call them Dan Youngren and Jim Collins! More on this resolution later...

Next, I resolve to do everything I can to shine some GOOD news upon our parks and department. Hopefully, the decision making process and our department culture will change for the better soon;

For the SYRPA board, I resolve to get to more board meetings in 2013. The last few months have been beyond weird, but there's a brighter light on the horizon, so I think I can keep this one;

To Ranger Marc, I resolve to help him get the Overlook Trail on track for construction in 2013. This will be a great addition to our trail system;

To Ranger James, my resolution is to get him a park aid(s) to help with fee collection again this summer. I also sub-resolve to keep the fee the same for 2013, so it's easier to count the money!

As for the Gas Station Committee, I resolve to keep the momentum up to get the interior finished off so we can open the building to the public;

Lastly, I resolve to get my "Ranger Report" done well before the newsletter deadline. This will be a tough one.

As I said above, we have two new rangers joining the South Yuba staff (finally!). Dan Youngren comes to us from Millerton Lake SRA, and will help the ranger staff as an Emergency Medical Responder instructor. Jim Collins, from Ocotillo Wells SVRA, is no stranger to the Sierra District parks. He will become the ranger's lead Firearms Instructor. Be sure to say hello and introduce yourself to them next time you're at Bridgeport. Because we are using federal grant money for the repair of the covered bridge, there will be a long process related to planning and permitting before construction can start..

On behalf of Marc, James, Ehren, Debbie, Angela, and Brodie, have a wonderful and prosperous New Year. See you in lucky 2013!

*Don Schmidt*



## President's Message

Happy New Year everyone! Looking back, 2012 was a roller coaster year for our Park. We started the year on the Park closure list. But thanks to a tremendous grass roots effort and with the support of SYRCL and many schoolchildren, over ten thousand signatures opposing the closure were obtained and presented to our state legislators and the Governor in Sacramento. That, combined with a decision by our County Board of Supervisors to restrict parking on Pleasant Valley Road going through the Park thus allowing for the collection of parking fees, resulted in an announcement in February that the Park would remain open. The next blow came as we found out that our bridge was becoming structurally unsound, and access to the bridge was halted. Estimates for repair were obtained (~\$750,000) and we were told that a Federal grant would be pursued and that 20% matching would be required. Since then, further structural weakness has been revealed and there is now a question as to whether a Federal grant would be pursued because of the bureaucratic requirements. Right now, there is a great uncertainty as to what will be done but we are told that the repair will probably not take place until 2014 at the earliest. Meanwhile, perhaps, some temporary efforts will take place to ensure that no further structural weakness occurs.



We celebrated the sesquicentennial of our Bridge and Barn in a highly successful three-day event at the end of April. On Friday we hosted schoolchildren with special tours; local dignitaries and descendants of early Bridgeport residents visited on Saturday, and then we topped off the weekend with our Spring Festival open to the public. In September we held our traditional volunteer appreciation dinner. That was followed in October by what I hope will be an annual event, a picnic and meeting of our Association Members. Marilyn Linkem, our District Supervisor, briefed the members on the state of the district and what was known on the plans for our Park. I briefed the members on what the Association had recently accomplished and what we were planning for the future. It was a very positive event and we received valuable suggestions for the future. We had our traditional Holiday pot luck dinner at Empire Mine in December. A final plus for the year was the preparation of a site for and the installation of our new storage shed. It will be a great relief to have a dedicated place to store our supplies, pop-ups, barbecues, etc.

This next year your Board will continue to focus on those things and events that will enhance the benefits and enjoyment that our Park provides to the public. We will continue to support special projects such as Phase II of the Shell gas station restoration and maintenance of Park facilities and structures. We are seeking grants that will provide support to our educational programs and will fund interpretive efforts. We will also work to expand our Association membership and to continue fundraising so we can provide interpretive and financial support to our Park.

For your future planning, get out your calendars and set aside the appropriate dates from the following planned schedule. On June 7 we are planning an event that none of you should miss. In lieu of our Spring Festival, it will be an evening with John Muir presented by National Park Ranger, Frank Helling, who will in character, walk you through John Muir's life and his role in creating the National Park Service. The event is a fundraiser that includes a sit down, catered dinner. See more in the article on this event in this newsletter. August 21 will be our second annual Association Member Picnic and a chance for you to interact with your Board members, hear what is happening behind the scenes and provide your inputs and ideas for the Park. September 12 will be the date for our traditional Docent Appreciation Dinner. The Fall Festival will be held on October 27 with all the activities and fun for the children. Finally, on December 6, our Holiday Pot Luck Dinner will be held in a new venue, the Lake Wildwood Community Center, to accommodate even more people with greater comfort.

I look forward to next year and expect it should be another exciting and successful year. See you at the Park!

*Dave Anderson*

## SYRPA Seeks New Members

Many of you reading this already belong to SYRPA—and we thank you very much for your support. Your dues are an important part of our annual income and therefore our support to the Park. It's a new year and the timing is right: the Prospective Volunteer Reception is next March, and we are beginning a drive to increase the SYRPA ranks.

Increased membership is espe-



cially important just now, as we are taking a larger role in the Park's finances. Additionally, new direct support to the Park will be rewarded with matching funds derived from the "extra" \$20 million recently discovered by State auditors.

Please seriously consider yourself, your friends, and your neighbors as new and continuing members of the Association. The new income will help us fund Park projects, develop trail guides, print wildflower, trees and shrub brochures, present the "Ghosts Return to Bridgeport" in the Fall, finish the restoration of the historic Shell gas station and preserve the historic wagons in the 1862 barn. Applications are at the Visitor Center and online at the Association website.

*Paul Keasberry*

## An Evening with John Muir - A Special Event!!

As a Special Event/Fundraiser, the South Yuba River Park Association will present an "Evening with John Muir" on Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. We invite you as members of SYRPA to step back in time to enjoy, learn and be a part of John Muir's life. The evening will start at 5:00 PM with a social hour meeting at the Empire Mine State Historic Park Club House for wine and other beverages. From 6-7:00 PM we will have a gourmet dinner catered by Chef Antonio Ayestaran.

The entertainment/educational part of the evening starts at 7 and will conclude at 8:15 PM. This interpretation of John Muir by National Park Service Ranger Frank Helling is terrific. Frank brings John Muir to us beginning with his early life in Wisconsin and continuing until being recognized as the Father of the National Park Service in the early 1900's.

Dinner includes a fruit platter, garden salad, chicken scaloppini, mesquite grilled tri tip, vegetable medley, rice pilaf, rolls and brownie a la mode. Beverages will be served during the social hour and dinner. The cost is \$75 per person. You may reserve a table for 6 to 8 of your special friends in advance. To reserve your tickets send a check to: South Yuba River Park Association, PO Box 1658, Penn Valley, CA 95946. For detailed information call: Glenn Fuller (432-4432), Dave Anderson (432-2359), or Paul Keasberry (432-1947).



*Glenn Fuller*

## Visitor Center News

We have had a good year at the Visitor Center at Bridgeport. The committee has added some new items and has been working on rearranging the sales area. We were able to move the large resort mural to the Gas Station where it is on display. The additional space makes our area more usable. We also added some new racks which display our merchandise much better. We continue to have aprons, bags, tea towels, new activity books, coloring books, earrings and, of course, all the regular merchandise such as T-shirts, caps, photos and post cards. Keep the Visitor Center in mind when you need a gift! We will be adding some new items in the Spring, so check in now and then to see what's new.

A big thank you is due our wonderful Visitor Center docents. They are always there and keep the place going. We could not do it without their dedication. Also, thanks are due Sharon Anderson and Daphne Townes who work very hard keeping the schedule filled. If you have suggestions for new merchandise, please let us know. We are always happy to get new ideas. Members of the VC committee are Sharon Anderson, Carol Berry, Bev Morgan, Ardie Obert, and Patricia Stein.

*Bev Morgan*

## Visitor Parking Fees

In order to keep this wonderful park open during these tight fiscal times, an agreement was worked out with Nevada County and California State Parks to start charging a modest parking fee of \$5.00 per vehicle. We think it is a small price to pay to keep our park open. However, if you use the park often, the parking fees can add up. One way to address this issue is through the purchase of an annual pass that fits your needs. Here are some options.

If you are 62 or older, you may be eligible for the Limited Use Golden Bear Pass, which costs \$20.00. The pass is good for unlimited parking for your vehicle at most California State Parks from the day after Labor Day until the Thursday before Memorial Day. The pass must be renewed each calendar year.

Golden Poppy Pass – \$125 per year – at \$5.00 per visit that equals 25 visits to the park. This pass can also be used at most Northern and Central California parks where parking fees are charged, including South Yuba River State Park, Auburn State Recreation Area, and Donner Memorial State Park.

Regular Annual State Park Pass – \$195/year, are accepted at most all State Parks.

Also look into the Disabled Discount Pass, Golden Bear Pass and the Distinguished Veteran Pass.

For more information and pass applications, visit [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov).

*Doug Moon*

## Fall Festival - 2012

Sunday, October 28 was the perfect day for a Fall Festival--especially at Bridgeport. The temperature was in the 70's, leaves were falling, children running around in their Halloween costumes, and everyone was out for a day of fun. Wagon rides were as popular as ever, pumpkin painters showed their artistic abilities, children's craft projects were evident everywhere. Audubon Society provided the tools to make bird feeding stations, people learned the benefits of worm composting, our yarn weavers were



turning raw wool into strands of yarn--there was something for everyone to enjoy. Penn Valley Chamber, June's Deli and Lazy Dog kept everyone energized with their great food. Music from Ragged But Right played all day, and the Visitor Center was bustling. There were two performances of *The Ghosts Return to Bridgeport* in the Barn. Scary moments were happening in there. And, to top it off, a magician was performing surreal acts. The finale of the day was a great raffle drawing with about twenty prizes including an 82-pound pumpkin.



Special thanks go to the clean-up crew; in about an hour's time it was hard to believe there had been hundreds of people here as there was no evidence of trash or set ups--just a few pumpkins with some bales of hay. In addition, a big thank you to all of the docents who worked the Festival.

*Janine Martin and Mickey Springer*

## New Storage Shed at Bridgeport

As we all know, adequate storage has been sorely needed at Bridgeport for some time. After many months of searching, measuring and discussing a solution to our storage needs, the Board decided to purchase an 8 x 16 ft. Tuff Shed. Once we had a decision, the shed was completed in record time. On Friday Dec. 14, ten hard working volunteers moved and spread 10 tons of road base and the next Thursday the shed was constructed by a Tuff Shed crew just hours before heavy rains fell. The shed colors very closely match the current color scheme of the visitor center and barn. The shed is located just behind the visitor center, and will be used to store items currently located in the visitor center and gas station. The shed is weather and rodent proof and will be a welcome addition to the Park's infrastructure.

Ron Ernst



## Grass Valley Charter School Film

A 15-minute film featuring students at Grass Valley Charter School will be shown at SYRCL's January Wild and Scenic Film Festival. The film, *How the Kids Saved the Parks*, was produced by SYRCL and explains the student's activism according to a December 27 article in *The Union*. Charter School teacher Merry Byles-Daly said "With just a couple of days' notice, over 40 students showed up, full of passionate enthusiasm for saving their park." Over 10,000 signatures were collected and presented to the Natural Resources Department in Sacramento.

South Yuba River Park Association—[www.southyubariverstatepark.org](http://www.southyubariverstatepark.org)

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