



# Bridgeport News

South Yuba River State Park and  
South Yuba River Park Association

## Upcoming Events and Activities

**Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday, March 14, 15, and 16: New Docent Training** from 10 AM. to 1 PM. These are the introductory sessions for our newly revised multi-park training approach.

**Saturday, March 17: Wildflower Hike**

**Sunday, March 18: Bird Walk** at 9:00 AM. See page 10 for details.

**Saturday, April 14: Docent Graduation**

**Saturday, April 21: Bird Walk** at 8:00 AM

**Sunday, April 29: Living History.** See page 7 for details.

**Sunday, May 6: Bird Walk** at 8:00 AM

## SYRPA Membership Renewals

by **Tuffy Haselhorst**, Membership

The following Friends of Bridgeport have renewed their membership in SYRPA for 2007:

**Jan & Barbara Collins, Bill Cortright,  
Richard & Joan Davis, Don & Linda Denton  
Ruth Fitzgerald, Freedman Family, Cheryl Madrid  
Barbara Rivenes, Chuck Scimeca**

New members: **Phyllis S. Wallace, Carole Schreier**

Any questions about membership call Tuffy 274-8007

## Communication Alert!

As most of you know, the Park Staff and Association communicates with each volunteer through the file cabinet. Every volunteer has a separate file folder with his/her name on it. Please check your file every time you are in the Visitor Center for messages. Also, if you do not have an up to date Volunteer Directory, let Becky know and she will gladly print one out for you and put it in your folder. Hint: the date that the directory was duplicated is printed on the lower left hand corner. Check it out.

An electronic version of the **Bridgeport News** is available. Send your name and e-mail address to [yubanews@yahoo.com](mailto:yubanews@yahoo.com) to get on the list.

2007 Issue 3  
March

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South Yuba River State Park  
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Penn Valley, CA 95946

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[www.ncgold.com/](http://www.ncgold.com/)

[Museums\\_Parks/syrp](http://Museums_Parks/syrp)

## Spring Bird Walks

by **Bill Cortright**, Docent

We will have three bird walks this spring: one in March, one in April, and one in May. My late January count of birds in our area looks quite promising. Though the South Yuba River is still low, the American Dipper is active at the bridge, joined by the Black Phoebe and Ruby Crowned Sparrows. There are many Spotted Towhees scratching in the leaves and underbrush and also California Towhees in the area.

I saw two nests of Phainopeplas at different elevations in the mistletoe growth of the oak trees. Flickers remain here as well as Acorn Woodpeckers, the Red breasted Sapsucker and Nuttall's Woodpecker! The most beautiful bird I saw was the Red Shouldered Hawk flying quite low and up close. The White Breasted Nuthatch and Oak Titmouse are singing and attacking the insects on the bark and leaves and branches of oak and pine trees. Hermit Thrushes and Wrentits make frequent calls but only the Thrush came out of hiding for me.

The Audubon Warbler is the first warbler to make an appearance though we can expect more species as spring progresses, including the Yellow Breasted Chat and the Orange Crowned Warbler. There will be three or more swallow species on and about the river soon. Our favorite bird, the Canyon Wren is expected as are the Rock Wren, House Wren and Bewich's Wren.

Here are the dates and times for the spring bird walks: Sunday, March 18th at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, April 21st at 8:00 a.m. and Sunday, May 6th at 8:00 a.m. We will meet at the main parking lot by the barn.

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## Oral History Report

By **Steve Pauly**, Docent

Representatives of SYRSP, the Penn Valley Chamber of Commerce and local access TV channel (Comcast Ch. 95) met recently to discuss the possible coordination of our oral history objectives. SYRSP and the Chamber each want to acquire full-length interviews from persons with information about the Park and about the Penn Valley area, respectively. The Ch. 95 TV Club offered to record full-length interviews for SYRSP and Chamber archives. Additionally, the Club wants to produce edited versions to show on local channels 95 (Penn Valley) and 11 (Grass Valley). We would have access to the edited versions for our own use in the community.

The attendees agreed that cooperation would benefit all three groups. A Memorandum of Understanding is being developed, and the groups will share ideas on interviewees. We hope to conduct an interview soon to test how our ideas work out in practice. SYRSP now solicits any and all interview ideas. Please contact Steve Pauly at 432-3677 or [spauly22@yahoo.com](mailto:spauly22@yahoo.com) with your information.

## Department of Parks and Recreation South Yuba River State Park

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping preserve the State's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting it's most valuable natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation.

### DPR / Sierra Gold Sector / SYRSP Staff

Ron Munson Superintendent

**Administration** (530) 273-3884

Sheri LaRue Office Assistant

Beth James Office Assistant

**Visitor Services** (530) 432-2546

Jeremy McReynolds Supervising Ranger

Mike Smittle Park Ranger

Jeremy Alling Park Ranger

Wayne Deese Park Ranger

Marc Wetherbee Park Ranger

Becky Quigley Park Aide

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## The South Yuba staff thanks you for all of your hard work!

Docent hours for the month of January 2007:

ACTIVITY	NO.OF VISITORS	NO. OF HOURS
Visitor Center	410	75
Interpretation/School Groups	140	126.5
Cultural Resource Management		5.5
Maintenance		4
Park Association Business		105
Totals	550	316

Independent Sector has announced that the value of volunteer time has reached **\$17.55** per hour (from The Catalyst Newsletter for Interpretation for California State Parks). For the month, that is a total value to the State of **\$2325**.

## Yuba Gold

by **Jennifer McCallen**, State Park Ranger Cadet (will be starting at South Yuba in June)

I am a native Californian and have lived here all my life. I grew up in Simi Valley in Ventura County with my mom and dad and 4 older siblings. As a kid I enjoyed gymnastics, the beach, and traveling all over the country with my family in a motorhome for summer vacations.

I left Simi in 1990 to attend the University of San Diego, where I majored in Biology. I was (and still am) most interested in the ecological and natural history aspects of biology. During college I worked at the campus bookstore, and summer jobs included being a Park Aid in Malibu (Sycamore Canyon and Leo Carillo). Immediately after graduation I spent a season conducting field research near Nome, Alaska. This was a significant event for me, as I learned how to coexist with 7 other people in a small dwelling, how to live in the wilderness while on site, how "real" field research is done, and how to handle unexpected problems. Over the course of the next year, I counted bird nests, worked in retail, and assisted in a veterinary office, until finding my first "career" position as an assistant product manager at a biotech company. This basically meant that I set up a microbiology lab and produced technical literature for salespeople. I stayed with that company for 6 years.

In 2001 my future husband and I moved to the Sacramento area and eventually bought a house and got married. We now live in Carmichael with a dog and 3 cats. For the past 5 years I worked at UC Davis veterinary school as a laboratory researcher on various veterinary and human oncology projects.

Outside of work I stay very busy with other interests and projects. I love all animals, and I volunteer with the Sacramento SPCA walking the dogs and taking them to mobile adoption events. I take my black lab Coral to visit a nursing home each month through one of the SPCA's programs. In San Diego I volunteered with an exotic animal sanctuary, which provided me rare and incredibly satisfying experiences working closely with big cats and wolves, some of whom had been rescued from bad situations.



Another favorite pastime is cooking, especially baking. Last year I took all the pastry classes in the culinary program at American River College. I absolutely loved it. I ended up taking a second job last year working at a wholesale bakery on Sundays.

My favorite activities include most every type of outdoor recreation, like camping, backpacking, hiking, skiing, kayaking, scuba, and triathlon. I also love to travel in the US and abroad, although most of our trips are shorter, like weekend camping, or visiting family in Southern California or Omaha. We spend time working on our "fixer-upper" house and gardening. I am enjoying life at the academy and feel amazingly lucky to be becoming a ranger and getting to go to South Yuba River for my first assignment!

## Volunteers at South Yuba River State Park

**Mission Statement:** The SYRSP volunteer program seeks to carry on the California State Parks mission by establishing the highest standards and developing the best quality volunteer program to enhance the visitors educational and interpretive experience. With the objective being to inspire the public to a better understanding of the natural and cultural history of the South Yuba River Canyon. Thereby, helping to preserve these features for present and future generations.

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Ranger Mike Smittle

### Assistant Volunteer Coordinators:

#### Interpretation

Auto Tours	Howard Voshell	432-1600
Bird Walks	Bill Cortright	273-3793
Field Trips	Becky Quigley	432-2546
Gold Panning	Doug Leach	432-9914
Group & School Tours	Becky Quigley	432-2546
Assistant	Betty McCown	432-4383
Historical Research	Dick Alexander	432-2765
History Stations	Don Denton	432-1888
Hwy 49 Crossing	Kitty Krogh	432-8815
Living History	Roberta Canier	320-4743
Oral History	Steve Pauly	432-3677
Pine Needle Baskets	Judy Nichols	274-3608
Wildflower Tours	Vicki MacDonald	272-3903

#### Administration

Librarian	Linda Post	272-5481
Membership	Tuffy Haselhorst	274-8007
Newsletter editor	Dennis Monax	272-2590
	yubanews@yahoo.com	
Publicity	Herb Lindberg	432-5096
Sales Counter	Pat Hall	432-9238
Assistant	Becky Quigley	432-2546
Visitor Center	Becky Quigley	432-2546
Assistant	Judy Nichols	274-3608

#### Grounds & Facilities

Facilities & Buildings	Bill Haselhorst	274-8007
Native Plant Landscaping	Nancy Chittenden	432-2694
Trail Monitor	Donna Brown	432-8717

## South Yuba River Park Association

Mission Statement: SYRPA is a non profit corporation founded to assist the California Department of Parks and Recreation in preserving, protecting, enhancing the South Yuba River State Park and all of its resources, man made and natural, and to promote the South Yuba River.

### Board of Directors

Diane Marten	President	432-5012
Steve Pauly	Vice President	432-3677
Pat Warner	Secretary	274-3775
George Tilley	Treasurer	432-5793
Carolyn Lashbrook	Asst. Treasurer	432-9526
Barbara Brueckner	Director	272-8956
J.P. Carius	Director	432-7661
Don Denton	Director	432-1888
Clint Gunderson	Director	432-5178
Pat Hall	Director	432-9238
Tuffy Haselhorst	Director	274-8007
Dennis Monax	Director	272-2590

South Yuba River Park Association  
17660 Pleasant Valley Road voice (530) 432-2546  
Penn Valley, CA 95946 fax (530) 432-4182

The Board of Directors meet at 9:00 AM on the second Thursday of each month in the Bridgeport Visitors Center. Observers are welcome.

## SYRPA President's Message

by **Diane Marten**, Docent

Here's What's Happening At The Bridge....

What a thrill! As I was walking to the Visitor's Center the other day, I looked up into the loft of The Barn and there it was!! - the Jackson Hay Fork and it was hanging in it's rightful place of honor! The Barn Committee had met and collectively scratched heads as we pondered how on earth we would ever get that big and awkward piece of equipment into its proper place of origin. Mysteriously, "Friends of the Barn" had entered The Barn and simply hoisted it into place. Now, just one more piece of our project has been completed. In the coming weeks we are looking forward to the "Haypress swivel" = turning that huge and formidable piece of fragile equipment 90 degrees so that it can rest securely in its permanent position inside of The Barn. As you can see, more progress has been made. (continued on pg 9)

## SYRPA Membership

by **Tuffy Haselhorst**, Membership

The SouthYuba River Park Association (SYRPA) is a non-profit organization assisting the California Department of Parks and Recreation in the operation of the South Yuba River State Park.

Your membership in SYRPA will:

- Help preserve, protect and enhance the man made and natural resources of the South Yuba River State Park.
- Support the interpretation of the river canyon's rich biological diversity, scenic geologic features and historic cultural resources.
- Provide you with a monthly newsletter and other notices of Park activities.
- Allow you to make 10% discount purchases at the Bridgeport Visitor Center.

## Membership Application Form

Please fill out and mail to the address below or bring to the Bridgeport Visitor Center with your tax deductible donation.

Annual individual membership: \$20.00  
Annual family membership: \$25.00  
Lifetime individual membership: \$150.00  
Lifetime family membership: \$200.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City / State / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in:  helping financially  
 becoming a trained docent  
 becoming a park volunteer

Make check payable to:  
SYRPA  
17660 Pleasant Valley Road  
Penn Valley, CA 95946  
Attn: Tuffy Haselhorst

## Ranger Report

by **Jeremy Alling**, State Park Ranger

A few weeks ago, some of the ranger staff got the opportunity to meet with our new ranger, Jennifer McCallen. As mentioned in the last newsletter, Jennifer is currently attending the six month ranger academy at the Mott Training Center in Pacific Grove. Jennifer reports that the training is going really well. In the weeks following our visit, she said that she and her classmates were scheduled to begin Defensive Tactics training and Firearms training. Jennifer said that she is excited to begin working here at the South Yuba River. Look for her biography in this month's Yuba Gold.

On February 21st and 22nd, ranger staff will be participating in a swift water rescue training course. The course will be led by Mike Stewart, an instructor with Highland Rescue and a Captain of Nevada County Consolidated Fire District. Ranger staff has been carrying rescue throw ropes for years, and has participated in numerous river rescues, however has never participated in a formal river rescue training course. The course will provide us with a better understanding of the dangers involved in river rescues and how to more safely manage a rescue.

On February 14th, sector ranger staff participated in an interpretation workshop at Empire Mine. Led by Supervising Ranger Jeremy McReynolds, staff reviewed many of the key points for effective interpretation. Following, we were treated to an outstanding tour of the mine yard, led by senior park aid, Glen Boire. If you have not been on Glen's tour, you are certainly missing out. The tour lasts about one hour and is full of interesting and fun information. Also discussed at the workshop were ideas for how to best interpret our barn and its contents. Several ideas were passed around and work will begin on compiling a program for docents and staff to use when the barn project is finally opened to the public.

(continued from page 2)

It is the Year of the Volunteer and we are off and running by highlighting a wonderful Friend of Bridgeport, Docent and extraordinary Volunteer, Dick Alexander. Please see the accompanying article. In addition, Ranger Mike Smittle, our Volunteer Coordinator, hosted his first of a series of early morning get togethers with "Breakfast with Mike". The informal setting of The Daybreak Cafe provided a great opportunity to discuss new ideas for making our beautiful Park more 'Visitor friendly' and our programs run more smoothly. Wildflower Walks and Bird Watching Tours will gear up this month and we are working together to make sure our trails and information pamphlets will be ready. In addition, we are planning an exciting field trip to The Railroad Museum and The Discovery Museum for all interested docents. All of these exciting and interesting activities will provide an opportunity for everyone to get together, have fun and share our special interest in Bridgeport with fellow volunteers by participating in one of our many activities.

From the "Saving the best news for last department" ~ we have a record number of interested and well qualified folks who have signed up for our new Docent (Cross) Training Program. It is especially heartening to know that the word is out - Bridgeport is the place to work, play and volunteer!

Come on down, check out the Hayfork hanging in The Barn loft and see how high the South Yuba River has risen from the recent rains - it is all wonderful and exciting!

See you at The Bridge.





## What Is A Bridgeport Docent?

Webster says it's an unpaid teacher or lecturer. Well...maybe, but that's only the tip of the iceberg. I'll tell you what being a docent is:

It's talking to the "old-timers" and their descendants to dig out those elusive historical gems that help to define the history of the area, enjoying their enthusiasm as they recall their youth, and the country, and the people around them.

It's burrowing through libraries and historical documents, uncovering forgotten or little-known facts (and fiction) that interest and sometimes amaze us.

It's learning the names of vines and flowers, and watching them work their way out of the ground in the Spring.

It's watching a golden eagle soar above the canyon or a bobcat running across a field or a California newt laying her eggs in the stream.

It's watching a butterfly draw nectar from a flower, determining its name, and finding out what its mission in life is.

It's finding an Indian grinding rock and learning about the tribes that inhabited the area and ground their acorns in the rock.

It's discovering a forgotten wagon road that the 49'ers used, tracing its length, and marking it on a map for others to see.

And when we see and learn of these things we can't wait to tell somebody and share this wealth, the richness of our history and what's waiting to be seen. . . The rewards are simple and complete - the pleasure we give to those who come to see our place and learn about it; or the joy on a school child's face at a speck of gold in his pan.

It's education, discovery, dissemination. It's JOY.

## Docent Program Updates

by **Mike Smittle**, State Park Ranger

The Hay Fork has been installed the loft area in the front of the barn. A friend of mine, **Dave Sauer**, helped install it a couple weeks ago. Dave was familiar with the pully system and after oiling the rusty release button he was able to roll it into place. Next time your at Bridgeport- take a look!

Breakfast with Ranger Mike at DayBreak Cafe went great. We had eight people show up. I think we would have had more if there had been more advance notice. I will set up the next one in April and will give plenty of advance notice.



The recruiting for the upcoming Docent Training class is going good. We have about 15 New Docents signed up for the class. The class starts March 14-16 at Empire Mine SHP. If you have any friends that might be interested please have them contact me.

We had our first Wildflower meeting at The Northridge Restaurant in Penn Valley. We had a great turnout (22 people) for the lunch and meeting. Many of the people who came are new Wildflower docents who are interested in getting involved in the program. **Vicki McDonald** is doing a great job organizing the upcoming Wildflower Season Tours. If you are interested in getting involved in the Wildflower Program give Vicki or myself a call.

Living History is coming up the last Sunday in April. (29th) If you are interested in participating or helping out contact **Roberta Canier** or myself.

Spring Bird walks are set up for March 18th 9am, April 21 8am and May 6, 8am with **Bill Cortright** at Bridgeport. If you are interested in Birds in the Bridgeport-come down and join in on Bill's hikes! He does a great job!

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## Help Wanted

by **Roberta Canier**, Docent

Living History Day is just around the corner. On April 29 we go back in time and live the past at the BRIDGE. This year we would like to encourage docents to dress in period costume to roam the grounds during the day. Also we need volunteers to man the parking lots, hand out programs and be available to answer questions from our visitors. Please contact Roberta Canier (at 530-320-4743) if you can be "one of persons from the past" ( costumed) or if you can help with programs, parking lots etc. We look forward to another special day at the BRIDGE!!!!