

RIVERWATCH

VOLUME 46, ISSUE 3

SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSOCIATION, INC.
ORGANIZED AND INCORPORATED MARCH, 1961

FALL / WINTER - 2007

SARA attains 501(c)(3) Status

by Warren Truitt, President

Exciting news! *SARA's* recent application to the IRS for tax status was successful. Federal law allows contributions to 501(c)(3) organizations to be tax-deductible. Therefore, *all membership contributions and gifts to SARA are now 100% tax-deductible.*

Some factors contributing to *SARA's* decision to seek 501(c)(3) tax status:

- *SARA has operated on a very small annual budget for many years. However, the major portion of contributions received goes to the operation and part-time staffing of the SARA home office.*
- The hundreds of thousands of new residents in the greater Sacramento area, beyond enjoying all that the American River and Parkway offers, are not generally aware of what it takes to protect and preserve this incredible community asset. As it has since 1961, when we mobilized the community and elected officials to create the Parkway, *SARA* realizes it is our responsibility to take the lead to educate the citizenry as to the values and funding needs of the Parkway.
- It is *SARA's* belief that one of the most important contributions we can make to the Parkway is to grow our membership – to enhance our voice to a level that cannot possibly be ignored by the elected stewards of the Parkway. Therefore, increased membership and the associated contributions to do additional outreach, is a must.
- Lastly, several *SARA* supporters have advised that their contributions to *SARA* would increase substantially should *SARA* become a 501(c)(3) organization. Their wish has now been granted.

To celebrate our tax-deductible status, all *new* contributions to *SARA* received after November 1, 2007, will be *matched 100%* by members of the *SARA* Advisory Council. This generous match program will run for a period no longer than 6 months and match up to \$50,000 in new contributions.

Save the American River Association, Inc. (SARA) takes pride in our historic role as the visionary organization that rallied the community and our elected officials to purchase, fund and manage what is now the premier outdoor resource of our community: The American River Parkway. Today, *SARA* continues to lead efforts to protect and preserve this unique, diverse and nationally recognized nature and recreation area – with a wild and scenic river running through it.

If you are a member and have already contributed to *SARA* in 2007, thank you. If you are not yet a member of *SARA*, your membership has lapsed, or you wish to trigger the match, please contribute to *SARA* during this special match opportunity period.

www.sarariverwatch.org

Editor's Comments

by Elke Guenter, Editor

Many of you are familiar with what has practically become a SARA tradition—our annual urgent pleas during County budget hearing time, to PLEASE contact the Board of Supervisors and, if possible, show up at the hearings, asking for sufficient funding for county parks, specifically for the American River Parkway.

This year was no exception. Two full-time park ranger positions were on the chopping block. But, thanks to the public's overwhelming response, those two positions were saved.

And here's a bit of enlightening news in that regard. Earlier this year, a County sponsored satisfaction survey, known as the Community Report Card, revealed that our park rangers garnered the highest percentage of satisfaction from Sacramento County residents—a resounding 90%! Kudos to every one of them!

Perhaps Dr. Seuss said it best when he wrote, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

SARA wishes to acknowledge and thank both Kevin Regan and Brian Regan for their expertise and extraordinary effort to make our application for 501 (c)(3) status seamless and successful. Kevin Regan is Vice-President of SARA.

Learn to see, and then you'll know that there is not end to the worlds of our vision.

Carlos Castaneda



TO CLAIM TAX DEDUCTIONS,
SARA's TAX EIN IS: #94-2987563

AWARD FOR PARKWAY PLAN UPDATE

by Elke Guenter

The American River Parkway Plan Update, completed last year, has been the recent recipient of the Outstanding Focused Issue Planning Award for 2007. This award is given annually by the California Chapter of the American Planning Association.

The Update process centered on the work of the 24-member appointed Update Citizens Advisory Committee, consisting of 10 members appointed by local governments and organization representatives from 4 environmental, along with 7 recreational and 3 community groups.

Under the outstanding leadership of Project Manager Sunny Williams, this very dedicated group of citizens from many diverse backgrounds gave 2.5 years to evening meetings, weekend workshops and many hours of reading and negotiation.

Frank Cirill served as SARA's representative Kevin Regan as alternate. In addition, SARA members Elmer Aldrich, Bill Griffith, Burt Hodges and Betsy Weiland attended most, if not all meetings as well.

Through the consensus-based decision making process, the Update Committee discussed, analyzed and debated the merits of proposed new uses and modifications to existing policies and all worked collaboratively to provide recommendations on over 200 policies in the Updated Plan.

As Sunny has stated so well, "the Parkway Plan Update is a superlative example of the accomplishments that working together can create."

RIVERWATCH - FALL / WINTER - 2007
VOLUME 46 - ISSUE 3
PUBLISHED 2 TO 4 TIMES YEARLY

SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSN., INC.
P.O. BOX 277638
SACRAMENTO, CA 95827-7638

CHINOOK SALMON FALL-RUN NUMBERS COULD BE DOWN

by Felix Smith

The rivers of the Sacramento Valley at this time of the year should be seeing evidence of adult Chinook salmon, the young of adults spawned 3 and 4 years ago.

Fish biologists in northern California are not seeing the numbers of adult fish returning to their natal streams as they have in recent years.

So far the runs appear to be three to four weeks later than in the past. However, there is little evidence that the Pacific Ocean feeding grounds are full of fish.

Experts say the run could be 20 to 25 percent of the past few years and a long way from the high years of 300,000 to 450,000 fish.

The California Department of Fish and Game has set a goal of 120,000 to 180,000 adult fish-spawning escapement for the Central Valley.

Some of the fish in the Upper Sacramento are large adults, most likely 4 year olds. However, the dominant year class in the Central Valley system, including the Lower American River is the 3-year old fish. Over the years hatchery production has remained about the same. Naturally produced out migrants have to pass through the maze of the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta and the effects of the State and Federal export pumps before reaching San Francisco Bay and then on to the Pacific Ocean feeding grounds.

The number of krill, an important food for fish and sea birds, was down in 2005 and 2006 from the high of 2001 and 2002.

This important food source or lack thereof could impact the survival of Chinook salmon and the numbers of adults returning to their natal rivers in the fall of 2007, the year class of the 2004 spawning escapement.

Membership Campaign off to a Great Start

Warren Truitt, SARA President

I am delighted to report that SARA's decision to seek 501(c)(3) non-profit status, providing a tax-deduction for our financial supporters, was an excellent one. Coupling a tax-deduction with the generous match offer made by some members of the SARA Advisory Council has already encouraged 100+ new members to join SARA just 3 weeks into our membership campaign.

Welcome and thank you new members. You should be proud that you have further enhanced SARA's respected voice with the addition of your own. Performing our role as *Guardians of the American River & Parkway since 1961* has always been a grassroots, community based effort.

Thank you also to our seasoned SARA members and a special acknowledgment to those who added to their annual membership amount to trigger the matching contribution. Your continued confidence in, and financial support of SARA, is extremely important and sincerely appreciated.

SARA's reputation for monitoring and effectively responding to the many and diverse threats to the American River & Parkway is well known – despite a consistently modest budget. Your added voices and contributions will strengthen SARA's ability to lead the fight to protect and preserve our community's #1 asset.

Increasing SARA's member base is a top priority – the more informed Parkway stakeholder voices, the better. Added financial contributions will enable SARA to do more outreach, such as tabling on the Parkway to educate users as to the values and needs of the Parkway. Threats to the Parkway include: insufficient funding for safety, maintenance and capital improvements; inappropriate development directly adjacent to the Parkway; and, the lack of a flow standard for the Lower American River.

Thank you, SARA members - both veteran and new, for your generous support!

www.sarariverwatch.org

The Need for the American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan

To fully understand the present need for an American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan, we must first examine the basis on which the Parkway was established. In the early 50's, following the war, the Lower American River was becoming overrun with uncontrolled human uses - some for outdoor recreation, some for extraction of resources. Land speculators, at a great rate, already were acquiring parcels at very cheap costs. If we had waited, it foreboded great difficulty to even think of forming logical boundaries for a Parkway.

The main growing public pressure to Save the American River emphasized, "protecting the great natural scenic green belt midst a growing metro area, not developing it for recreation! Proper planning and controls for human access will come later."

A small group, mainly from the Audubon Society, Sierra Club and State Park Staff formed the River Recreation and Parks Association to try to get some protection started. The organization negotiated with the City and County of Sacramento, and in 1951 presented a formal proposal to the City Council and Board of Supervisors to form a Parkway.

The proposal specifically recommended a special district patterned after the East Bay Regional Park District with a sound five cent tax base. The County agreed to "take it on," but rejected a special district. They referred the proposal to the Planning Department asking it to determine the feasibility of a Parkway.

The little Association for several years continued to exert pressure on the County and we were assured that progress was being made. Then soon came SARA, a badly needed force to "watch-dog" the protection of the Parkway. With Bill Pond as its first very able Director, the Parkway has continued to flourish, and has achieved National significance.

Since establishment of the Parkway, there has been a progressive emphasis on developing it, sometimes at the expense of its natural values.

There is a growing feeling, however, that after almost a half century, maybe it is time to take stock in how well we have achieved the proper balance between development and preservation of natural values.

It takes a Resource Plan to accomplish this. The urgency to do this grows exponentially as the burgeoning population impacts its borders.

It would be most interesting, but impossible to re-assemble the little dedicated Association of the 50's to ask them how well the Regional Parkway has avoided over-urbanization! Have we kept the original intent to place protection of natural values higher than human developments? After all, without these values, each permitted recreation activity would be sterile, indeed.

A spark of hope to accomplish the Plan emerged during SARA's annual retreat on April 28, 2007, called to explore SARA's priorities for the future. Leo Winternitz expressed concern and recommended that SARA propose to the County Parks Department that a Resource Management Plan be made. He indicated that probably some funds to do this are available from the Water Forum.

SARA President Warren Truitt appointed a committee of Leo, Felix Smith, Frank Cirill and Elmer Aldrich to take the proposal to the Parks Department. Several meetings were held with the Department and the Water Forum. The Department will assume this new planning function with some start-up funds from the Forum. SARA is committed to seek continued long term funding.

Trevor Burwell, as Resource Specialist for the Parks Department, made an excellent start on the Plan by devising an extensive list of sources of data to compose a baseline for examining changes in the Parkway. Unfortunately, Trevor left the Parks Department, but now, as a consultant, has been hired to get the Plan started.

by Elmer Aldrich

(The balance of this article will be continued on page 5)

AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN, from pg. 4

In its simplest form, the production of the Plan probably will include, but will not be limited to the following processes:

Goal

It is the goal of the Sacramento Department of Regional Parks to devise and regularly keep current the Natural Resources Management Plan for the American River Parkway. This shall be the major guide for action by the Department to provide long-range protection for the natural values of the Parkway.

Processes to Accomplish the Goal

Devise and carry out a schedule for surveying and evaluating the health of the natural values of the Parkway. This process shall include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Identify, classify and map the ecosystems that comprise the Parkway.
2. For each ecosystem, select key indicators of plants, animals and terrain to evaluate its quality and health.
3. For each ecosystem, determine the extent that human activities and facilities are damaging it.
4. At the completion of each survey (1,2,5 years?), issue a report that summarizes (with supporting details), whether the ecosystems are being enhanced or degraded, and to what extent.
5. Using the conclusions of number 4 above, make recommendations to improve the health of the Parkway's ecosystems, by placing in high priority, programs to remedy the deficiencies in protecting the Parkway's natural values.

You know, it seems to me that this whole effort is like us going for an annual physical. After 50 years, lets take the Parkway periodically to a scientific specialist, determine its health and apply the appropriate management medicine!

This article was written by *Elmer Aldrich* (November - 2007)

SARA Advises on Township 9 Project

by Elke Guenter, Editor

Upon the recommendation of the Sacramento City Council, the developers of the Township 9 Project met with SARA representatives throughout the spring and early summer to hammer out final plans for this first major redevelopment of the Richards Boulevard area. The 65-acre site is bordered on the north by the American River and Parkway.

Township 9 responded to virtually all of our concerns, thus assuring that Parkway values were respected and the Parkway Plan was not violated. Changes included:

Increased distance between the American River and Riverfront Drive, as well as a reduction in the elevation of Riverfront Drive—thus eliminating the ability to view vehicles from the river.

Removal of an originally planned river overlook/amphitheater/pavilion up against the levee—from the river.

A 150' monument will be relocated 450' south, away from the river and closer to Richards Boulevard.

Building setbacks from the river were also increased and the open space areas between Riverfront Drive and the levee will be landscaped with native plants.

The SARA Township 9 committee, chaired by Elmer Aldrich, and including Betsy Weiland, Kevin Regan, Frank Cirill and Jim Jones, did an outstanding job of negotiating a Parkway-sensitive project.

The Sacramento City Council did approve this project in late August.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOTICE!!

SAVE THE DATE!

**WILDFLOWER WEEKEND
APRIL 12 & 13, 2008**

**CHROMA GALLERY / SARA FUNDRAISER
ARTISTS RECEPTION ON MAY 10, 2008**



www.sarariverwatch.org

REGIONAL BOARD PUNTS ON FOLSOM SEWERS

by Alan D. Wade, SARA Board Member and Past President

News Item, Sacramento Bee, 1-27-00:

-----"FOLSOM SEWAGE SPILLS IN RIVER"-----
Outstripped by development, Folsom's sewage system was so inundated by last week's storm water that it spilled 700,000 gallons of untreated human waste into the American river—a main drinking water supply for the Sacramento area downstream.. ."

SARA representatives and friends appeared before the Regional Water Quality Control Board on August 2, 2007, to urge against the Board's plan to rescind the NPDES permit imposed on the city in 2002.

This federal permit is a detailed enforcement document aimed at securing compliance with the Clean Water Act (1972). Board action, vigorously opposed by SARA, placed the city under a new state general order aimed at compiling a data-base voluntarily reported by the dischargers.

The result of this action is that there will be no investigation or enforcement of state and federal clean water laws by the responsible state agency. Chronic understaffing may underlie the change in policy.

Citing recent past evidence of Folsom's under-built, outmoded, and over-burdened sewage conveyance system, we argued that the City has shown no proof that its system capacity has

increased to handle the stress of unabated growth and the effects of possible severe storm events. The Board rejected our arguments on a 4-1 vote.

Ironically, the action took place on the very day that the collapse of the bridge over the Mississippi in Minneapolis occupied the news—a dire warning that the nation's infra-structure has been neglected for too long. Sewers and water supplies are a critical part of that decaying infrastructure, although largely hidden from public view.

The warning was ignored by the Regional Board and its staff, those designated by law to protect the public water supply.

With the storm season upon us, citizen efforts to monitor sewage and storm water overflows in Folsom need to be increased. If you see evidence of spills—on the streets near manhole covers or into your homes and neighborhoods, immediately inform the state Office of Emergency Services at 1-800-852-7550.

Calling the City of Folsom is the second step to take. Then, let SARA know of your action by e-mail or phone.

*Guardians of the American River
and Parkway since 1961*



GIVE GREEN, GO GREEN!

Give the Gift of Green this Holiday Season

Have a Jogger, Cyclist or Fishing Enthusiast on Your List ?

Purchase an Annual Pass to Sacramento County Regional Parks – the PASSPORT – between Nov. 19 and Dec. 19 and be automatically entered into a drawing for a gift basket valued at more than \$300. The gift will include gift certificates and a limited edition poster of the American River Parkway from famed local artist Gregory Kondos. For as little as \$50, Passport holders receive unlimited parking/day-use of all county park facilities twelve months from the date of purchase. Perfect for the jogger, bicyclist, fishing enthusiast or nature-lover on your list!

The drawing will be held December 21. For more information, contact Ranger Dispatch at 875-6672.

Regional Parks Passports are sold at:

REI stores in Sacramento area Patriot Bicycles in Fair Oaks Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael

Regional Parks Offices in Sacramento American River Parkway Foundation office in Carmichael

Purchase on-line at : www.sacparks.net or www.arpf.org

MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

SARA has, for the past ten years, enjoyed the generous support of Print Tech and Jet Express Mail for the printing and mailing of our newsletter, **Riverwatch**. This support has enabled us to reach out and stay in contact with our members and other supporters. Some of our supporters include: many loyal members and the following organizations: American Fly Fishing Co., Fly Fishing Specialties of Sacramento, Granite Bay Flycasters, CFFU

California Fly Fishers Unlimited, the River City Paddlers, Chroma Gallery, American River Raft Rentals, the American River Parkway Foundation, the American River Parkway Trail Patrol, the Sacramento Bike Hikers, and others who prefer to remain anonymous. These supporters and our many members are vital to SARA's achieving our mission of enhancing and protecting the American River and its Parkway. **We thank you very much for your support!**

SARA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Warren Truitt.....President
Kevin Regan.....Vice President
Elke Guenter.....Secretary
Jack Sohl.....Treasury
Alan Wade.....Immediate Past President
Frank Cirill.....President Emeritus
Jim Jones.....Past President

Deborah Baron.....Wayne Chubb
Bill Griffith.....Burt Hodges
Mary Beth Metcalf.....Jim Morgan
Ken Press.....Felix Smith

Betsy Weiland...Volunteer/ARNHA Liaison
Chelsea McDaniel.....Student Intern
Wanda Denson.....Exec. Assistant

SARA MEETINGS AND LOCATION

SARA's Board Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held in the Conference Room in the County Parks & Recreation Department at 3711 Branch Center Road. (From Bradshaw Road turn right onto Ecology Lane - turn right again into the first parking lot. Please call ahead of time for possible changes in meeting schedule or location. For information, please call Wanda at (916) 383-1298. If you get a recording, please leave your name, phone number and a message. Calls will be answered as soon as possible.

SARA PHONE & FAX: (916) 387-1763
SARA E-MAIL: riverwatch@comcast.net
SARA WEBSITE: www.sarariverwatch.org

**SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSOCIATION, INC.
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL & APPLICATION FORM**

FALL / WINTER - 2007

NAME: _____

NEW MEMBER? () RENEWAL? ()

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: () _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

WORK PHONE: () _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

WANT TO VOLUNTEER? _____

- [] \$ 10.00 FULL TIME STUDENT [] \$25.00 REGULAR [] \$50.00 SUPPORTING [] \$100.00 FAMILY
- [] \$ 100.00 SUSTAINING [] \$250.00 CORPORATION/BUSINESS [] \$1,000.00+ LIFETIME/PATRON
- [] \$ _____ LEGAL FUNDS (PDF) [] \$ _____ PARKWAY [] \$ _____ DONATION [] \$ _____ OTHER

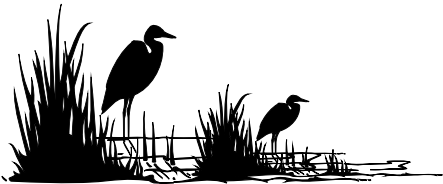
**NOTE: SARA NOW HAS 501 (c)(3) STATUS, ALLOWING DUES AND DONATIONS ETC. TO BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.
SARA'S EIN IS: #94-2987563 - CONFIRMATION NOTICES WILL BE SENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSOCIATION, INC. (or SARA)**
MAIL TO: **SARA - P.O. BOX 277638 - SACRAMENTO, CA 95827-7638**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR DUE DATE, PLEASE CALL WANDA AT 383-1298.
(Renewals or new member applications made after December 10, 2007 will be reflected with the next issue of Riverwatch.)

SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER
ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 277638
SACRAMENTO, CA 95827-7638

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 0922
SACRAMENTO, CA
95827



Chroma Gallery Press Release – December -2007

Contact: Marilyn Rose, Chroma Gallery, Marketing
(916) 409-0397

What to give to the person who has everything? Chroma Gallery has a unique solution to the problem: fine art! One-of-a-kind original paintings, photography, sculpture, wearable art and ornaments are available in all sizes and price ranges during December at Chroma in the Village of Old Fair Oaks. Giclee prints and note cards are available as well, to meet your gift-giving needs. Drop by the gallery during the Second Saturday reception on December 8th, from 5 PM to 9 PM, see the exhibit of miniatures titled “Small Enough for Santa’s Sack,” and join the artists for some holiday cheer and refreshments, or visit during business hours to see the show that runs from ***December 6, 2007, through January 6, 2008.***

Now in the ninth year, Chroma Gallery - Northern California’s premier plein-air gallery features the works of 20 local artists. Committed to capturing radiant light and color in their artistry, their emphasis is on the Northern California landscape. Besides landscape paintings, visitors will also find vibrant still life paintings, photography, collage and sometimes the avant-garde in the bold display of color at Chroma.

Chroma Gallery is located at 10030 Fair Oaks Blvd., just off Sunrise Blvd., in the Village of Fair Oaks.
Open Thursday - Sunday from noon until 5 PM, Second Saturday until 9 PM or by appointment.
Phone (916) 966-6020 for more information visit the website at: ***www.thechromagallery.com***

SARA honors Parkway Leaders at Annual Meeting

by Warren Truitt, SARA President

On a beautiful and crisp first day of December, SARA's role as *Guardians of the American River and Parkway since 1961* was celebrated and reviewed at our Annual Meeting.

Held once again at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, SARA's annual event coincides with the Nature Center's Annual Sale as well as the Annual Parkway Wildlife Count – all wonderfully fused together in one location appropriately named after one of SARA's original seven founding members: Effie Yeaw.

SARA President, Warren Truitt, recapped SARA's activities during 2007 as well as goals for 2008. The high point of the day was the presentation of SARA awards to well-deserving Parkway leaders: County Parks Director, Gary Kukkola and Deputy Director, Dave Lydick.

One of the most significant happenings for SARA in 2007 was our successful application for 501(c)(3) tax status, enabling SARA members and donors to receive a tax-deduction for our contributions.

In celebration of this new status, a few members of SARA's Advisory Council established a generous 100% donation match for all new membership contributions received after November 1, 2007.

The offer will run to April 30, 2008 and/or match up to a total of \$50,000 – whichever comes first. SARA was presented with a first match check of \$12,128.50 at our Annual Meeting. Thank you to all of SARA's supporters as well as our wonderful match sponsors.

SARA highlights from 2007

- The Advisory Council is now 18 strong.
- 2007 Board & Advisory Council Retreat was held in April, 2006.
- Agreement was reached to house SARA Archives in the Sac State Special Collections Library.

- Rallied for, and testified on behalf of, a Parkway Summer Holiday Alcohol Ban – a bill sponsored by Assemblymember Dave Jones. SARA had the pleasure of thanking Assemblymember Jones in person at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, Dec. 1, 2007.
- SARA Township 9 Committee met eight times with the developer of this project -- to be built between Richards Blvd and the American River – resulting in a project significantly more sensitive to the values and needs of the Parkway.
- To the delight of SARA, and especially Advisory Council member, and long-time advocate, Elmer Aldrich, seed money for a Parkway Natural Resource Management Plan has been found and a contract signed to begin the project.
- SARA continues to: battle inappropriate development adjacent to the Parkway; demand adequate funding for the Parkway; monitor upstream sewage discharges, and fight for adequate flow guarantees to support fish & wildlife.
- SARA also attended and/or supported the following events: Earth Day, American River Watershed Conference, River Rally, and the Salmon Festival. In addition, Board members regularly attend meetings of the Water Forum, Lower American River Task Force, California State Water Quality Control Board, ARNHA, ECOS, Habitat 2020, Parkway Coalition and the American River Parkway JPA Steering Committee.

In 2008, SARA intends to enhance our level of connection, communication and education of Parkway users and stakeholders. One desired outcome is to morph a majority of users into caring stakeholders, who better understand, embrace and are willing to speak up to protect and preserve our *most precious natural asset..... the American River and Parkway.*

New contributions to SARA will be matched 100%.

Gary Kukkola and Dave Lydick are Honored

by Warren Truitt, SARA President

SARA is pleased to have honored Gary Kukkola and Dave Lydick with SARA Awards for their combined 61 years of service and leadership provided to County Parks and the American River Parkway.

Gary, a native of Chico, has a degree in Biological Sciences from Sac State and began his service with Sacramento County in 1974, rising from a Park Ranger Assistant to his current position as Director. Dave born in Los Angeles, was awarded a Recreation Administration degree, with an emphasis in Natural Resources, from Chico State and was hired by Sacramento County as a Ranger 1 in 1979. Dave currently serves as Deputy Director of County Parks.

Both Parkway leaders are well-known and respected by Parkway users and stakeholder organizations. Their availability, "good ears" support and advice has been most welcome.

Gary and Dave are the very first recipients of a "SARA," or "a fish name SARA," if you like. Each "SARA" is a unique and colorful artistic design of a salmon, crafted by local artist Stephanie Taylor, and are mounted on a beautiful curving walnut base, created by Dr. Fred Weiland.

As with these initial awards, future "SARA's" will be awarded only to individuals or organizations who have made an exemplary and significant contribution of time, treasure or talent to the benefit of the American River and/or Parkway, and therefore may not be awarded annually.

Gary and Dave, both of whom are retiring at the end of the year, were extremely pleased with their "SARA's" and thanked SARA for honoring them. Replacing these gentlemen will be most difficult.

SARA has asked to participate in the final interview process to select the new Director. SARA leaders have participated in this selection process from the beginning when William "Bill" Pond was hired as the first County Parks Director.

SARA is looking forward to the challenges of 2008.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

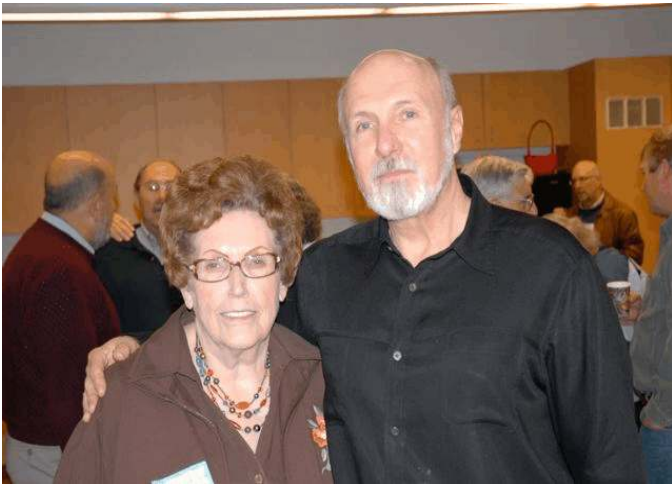


Warren Truitt, SARA President - Dave Lydick, Deputy Director
Gary Kukkola, County Parks Director - Stephanie Taylor, Artist



Dave Lydick, Deputy Director - Warren Truitt, SARA President
Gary Kukkola, County Parks Director

ADDITIONAL PICTURES FROM SARA'S ANNUAL MEETING ON DECEMBER 1, 2007



Wanda Denson, Exec. Assistant & Warren Truitt, President



Frank Cirill, President Emeritus
Betsy Weiland, Volunteer Coordinator
Alan Wade, Immediate Past President



Dave Lydick and Gary Kukkola
Cutting their cakes!



Elke Guenter, Editor & Kevin Regan, Vice President



Warren Truitt, President & Howard Leach, Pioneer



Betsy Weiland, Deborah Baron, Alan D. Wade

VARIOUS PICTURES TAKEN IN NOVEMBER, AND DURING THE DECEMBER 1, 2007 ANNUAL MEETING



Marilee Flannery- ARNHA, Alan Wade, and Doran Smout



Deborah Baron with Mr. and Mrs. William B. Pond



Jo Smith, Pioneer - ARNHA Volunteer for many years



Recent photo of Mr. and Mrs. William B. Pond, Pioneers

