

# RIVERWATCH

## SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOLUME 43, ISSUE 1

ORGANIZED AND INCORPORATED MARCH, 1961

SPRING - 2005

### AMERICAN RIVER WATERSHED CONFERENCE CSUS, SACRAMENTO

Elke Guenter, Editor

The American River Watershed Conference will be held at the CSUS campus on April 21-23, 2005 in the University Union Building. The goals of this conference are to review existing studies on the American River Watershed, facilitate the exchange of information between groups and agencies and foster coordination of future projects.

Although all three days provide a wealth of information on the many complex issues and all sessions are open to the public, the Saturday morning session, 8:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon, has been specifically planned for the general public. Entitled: **Sacramento, a River Runs Through It**, admission is free and includes such topics as: public trust issues and water quality issues on the Lower American River, Lower American River habitat and recreational issues, the operation of Folsom Reservoir and several topics in the Upper River as well.

There is a \$30.00 registration fee for each of the two technological sessions on April 21 and 22 which can be paid on-site the day of the conference. All students with valid I.D. are free. Among the many topics presented throughout the two days, a **special** event has been scheduled for Friday, April 22. The 2005 California Extreme Precipitation Symposium opens with the theme:

#### **Precipitation and Flood Forecasting in the American River Basin.**

(Continued on page 2)

### LONG TERM PARKWAY FUNDING ARE WE GETTING ANY CLOSER?

Gary Keill

Effort led by the Regional Parkway Funding Group to develop a solution to the long-term funding needs of the American River Parkway, and other regional parks and parkways have stalled. The holdup is a lack of an easy consensus and bickering among local elected officials that the need for a solution is urgent, what form the solution should take, and who should control decisions on how funding is used. It also appears that some jurisdictions bordering the Parkway sees efforts to seek their support for new funding as an opportunity to advance their own agendas for changes to the Parkway Plan which would allow more intrusive and incompatible development.

SARA will continue to pursue long-term funding efforts within the Regional Parkway Funding Group, but has begun to explore with American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) and the American River Parkway Foundation (ARPF) what actions we might take to advance funding for the American River Parkway as a separate effort if the countywide effort fails. The **American River Parkway Coalition**, (SARA / ARNHA / ARPF) has begun a round of meetings with local elected officials to express our concern about threats to the Parkway and seek support to make long-term funding a priority.

The lack of courage and foresight to support the funding effort among our elected leadership is deeply troubling.

(Continued on page 2)

**WATERSHED CONFERENCE**, from page 1

Other sessions include such wide-ranging topics as: Climate Warming and California's Water Future, the State's Vision for Environment and Resources, the Future of Water Supply and Flood Control in Dynamic Landscapes, Effects of Climate Change in the Sierra Nevada, Forest Ecology and Natural Fire Regimes, Upstream Reservoirs, the Public Trust Doctrine and Its Effect on Water Resources, Impacts of Land Use on Watershed Management, Groundwater and Surface Water supply and Planning, Restoration Effectiveness, Invasive and Managed Species and three separate fish sessions.

Campus parking is by permit only. Daily parking permits are available for \$2.75 at the Kiosks located in the parking areas. For more information, please contact the Conference Hotline (800) 858-7743 or (916) 278-4433 or visit: [www.ccd.csus/conference](http://www.ccd.csus/conference).

A copy of the entire program may also be obtained by sending an e-mail request to: [w.denson@comcast.net](mailto:w.denson@comcast.net) or by calling the SARA office at: (916) 387-1763.

**LONG TERM PARKWAY FUNDING** from page 1

We encourage everyone to contact all elected officials, including representatives from the cities of Sacramento, Rancho Cordova, Folsom, Citrus Heights and Elk Grove, as well as the County Board of Supervisors. Please let them know how important the Parkway is to all of us and express your concerns about protecting and preserving it for us and future generations.

DON'T BLOW IT,  
GOOD PLANETS  
ARE HARD TO FIND.

*Quoted in Time Magazine*

**IN MEMORIAM TO JEFF ARTHUR**

SARA wishes to express our most sincere thanks to the friends and family of Jeff Arthur for their substantial contribution in his name to our mission. Jeff Arthur, a well-known conservationist and lobbyist for environmental causes, was a regular user of the American River Parkway and was deeply committed to its preservation. Their generous contributions, including some from as far away as Florida, Washington, D.C., and Germany, represented a real boost to our budget and our morale as we enter a new year of activity.

**Markis-Lien Lawsuit Status Report**

Frank Cirill, President Emeritus

Included in the Fall-Winter issue of the Riverwatch was a detailed report regarding the proceedings and final 3-2 voted by the Board of Supervisors granting a Conditional Use Permit to build either two or three residences on the Markis-Lien Property in the Riverwood Community in the American River Parkway Combining Zone.

The County Planning Staff had recommended a 50 feet setback from the bluff edge. A 35 feet setback from the bluff was a compromise proposal by Supervisor Roger Dickinson. It was approved by three of the five members of the Board. SARA, after a review by its volunteer legal advisers and on the advice of its attorney, initiated a lawsuit based on its belief that the County should have required an Environmental Impact Report for the proposed project.

Since initiating the lawsuit, SARA has made one other attempt to reach a settlement with the Markis-Lien Group. Our attempt was not successful.

Our attorney is presently completing the administrative record for his use in the lawsuit. The first court hearing has been scheduled for June 2005. We will continue to provide periodic updates in the upcoming issues of the Riverwatch. SARA welcomes all donations to legal costs.



## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

For the first time in its over 30-year history, this international gathering will be held in the United States.

San Francisco will host a five-day World Environment Day Conference June 1-5, 2005. It is centered around the theme GREEN CITIES. This is timely because the 21st century marks the first time in human history that the majority of the world's population will live in urban areas. Today, cities consume 75% of the planet's resources. As urban populations grow, it is increasingly important to balance the needs of the environment, the economy, and social equity if we are going to achieve a way of living that can support our planet and our people into future generations.

Each day of this 5-day event will focus on a specific theme: Pure Elements (food, water and air), Urban Power (energy, renewables and energy conservation), Redesigning the Metropolis (green building, recycling and smart growth), Cities on the Move (transportation), and Flower Power (open space, biodiversity and greening the urban environment).

An array of activities during these five days will include symposia and seminars, an environmental film festival, arts programming, educational activities, ecotours, concerts --- to name just a few. One hundred mayors from the one hundred largest and most environmentally innovative cities around the globe have been invited to attend to work together in solving and implementing common-sense solutions to common problems.

The United Nations has designated 2005 as the International Year of Sport and Physical Education. Hence, one important component of these festivities will be to highlight environmental awareness through sport. Among the sporting events being planned are a Green Golf Tournament and a Walk/Run for the Earth.

World Environment Day was established by the UN General Assembly in 1972. It is hosted by a different city every year and is commemorated with an international exposition through the week of June 5<sup>th</sup>. The UN uses this annual event to stimulate awareness of the environment and enhance political and public action.

Please visit [www.wed2005.org](http://www.wed2005.org) for more details and updates.



## RIVER CITY RUN - CELEBRATE THE EARTH

In honor and celebration of World Environment Day, the Sacramento Area Earth Day Network is sponsoring a River City Run on **Sunday, June 5, 2005**. This 5k and 10k fun run/walk begins and ends in Old Sacramento from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will connect the heart of the city with the confluence of the two major rivers.

This new family event will bring together community organizations, government agencies and businesses who share a common commitment in working towards a sustainable society. All proceeds support year-round sustainable living and environmental education activities for our community.

The River City Run adds to Sacramento's national reputation as one of the best running cities in the country. Runners World, Top Cities for Running in the U.S., January 2001, vol 36, issue 1, pg. 52.)

This event is in lieu of the annual Earth Day celebration at CSUS. Changes in the University's insurance requirement for community events resulted in the Earth Day celebrations needing a new location.

Last year over 175 exhibitors interacted with about 10,000 event attendees. There's no need to wear your running shoes to participate in this year's celebration; however, why not tread as lightly on the earth as possible by riding your bike, walking, car pooling, using public transit or whatever other means you might envision.

The Earth Day Network is a project of the Sierra Club Sacramento Group. For the latest updates, please visit [www.earthdaysac.org](http://www.earthdaysac.org).

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Human consciousness arose but a minute before midnight on the geological clock. Yet we mayflies try to bend an ancient world to our purposes, ignorant perhaps of the messages buried in its long history. Let us hope that we are still in the early morning of our April day.

Stephen Jay Gould "Our Allotted Lifetimes"  
The Panda's Thumb, 1980



## **AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY SAFETY COALITION UPDATE**

by Bob Hanna

## **WHO'S WATCHING THE RIVER?**

Jack Sohl and Felix Smith

The Parkway Safety Coalition is taking steps to expedite the offer of rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons responsible for crimes committed in the Parkway. County Park Ranger Steve Flannery and Coalition coordinator Bob Hanna pledged unobstructed communication by either e-mail or telephone for quick dissemination of information helpful for Coalition members to consider in voting concerning reward offers. The Coalition by-laws are being amended to shorten from two weeks to three days the time to vote for proposed reward offers. It is likely that in the future rewards will be offered for car burglaries where there appears to be a pattern of multiple such crimes by the same individual(s). Amounts of rewards, though flexible, generally will be \$1,000 for crimes against the person, and \$250 for property crimes such as car burglaries or thefts of bicycles or kayaks. Currently there is over \$3,500 available for reward offers, and there is no outstanding reward offer. The area subject to reward offers extends from Discovery Park to Beal's Point.

To clarify the emergency telephone numbers for State Parks (which extends East of Hazel Avenue to Beal's Point) **(916) 358-1300** is the only number you need to reach a State Park Ranger. This is a valid number whether you need a State Park Ranger immediately, or want to report a crime that happened yesterday. To contact a County Park Ranger for the area between Discovery Park and Hazel Avenue, the telephone number is still:

**(916) 875-6672.**

The number for the Sacramento Sheriff's Dept. is: **(916) 874-5115, or for emergencies 911.**

The Bureau of Reclamation's recently completed Central Valley Project Operations Criteria and Plan (OCAP) Process appears designed to meet a Bush Administration mandate delivered in July 2004, whereby the ecological needs of the Lower American River's (LAR) public trust resources and beneficial uses are consistently placed at a lower priority than water demands of contractors south of the Delta, (read big Ag, Westlands, etc). While Reclamation incorporated the dry year inflows from the upper American River watershed purveyors in the OCAP, and into the operation of the Folsom/Nimbus Project, they did not incorporate the Water Forum's Lower American River Flow Management Standard of 800 to 2250 cubic feet per second into that same OCAP.

Members of the Sacramento Water Forum (WF), and staff, have regularly consulted with Reclamation and the Fish and Wildlife Service in the development of its proposed flow standard. In January 2004 a draft flow standard was made available for public review. Reclamation joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Sacramento Water Forum, in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with specific milestones which would lead to an agreed-upon LAR Flow Standard in September, 2005.

It becomes apparent that the first milestone, scheduled for March, will not be met—despite repeated meetings, modeling and negotiations. It goes without saying that the administration must feel that it is more important to renew the corporate ag interests/contracts for water (significantly more than previous years) than to meet its obligations to the public trust and LAR fisheries health—and to meet its obligations stipulated in the MOU.

Implementation of the WF-developed flow standard has been a top priority element of the WF Agreement and is especially important to SARA and other members of the Environmental Caucus of the WF. SARA has been involved in this endeavor for nearly eight years and our patience has about expired. We are contemplating stronger actions to get the Government to fulfill their public trust responsibilities.

(The foregoing excerpts were taken from a letter sent to the Bureau of Reclamation, our Congressional Representatives, and other governmental agencies).



## ILLA COLLIN DAY - DEC. 4, 2004



Frank Cirill, Annemarie Vincent, Alan Wade, Illa Collin, Noah Baygell

### A DAY FOR ILLA

As reported in the Winter issue of the Riverwatch by SARA Vice President Warren Truitt, we were joint by our sister organizations (ARHNA and ARPF) in honoring County Supervisor Illa Collin for her leadership over the past two decades in the ongoing struggle to save the Parkway.

The event, held at the new Effie Yeaw conference room, was attended by more than 100 invited guests on December 4, and immediately followed SARA's annual membership meeting. Ms Collin was accompanied by friends, family, and staff. Thanks to Ted Robinson, a County Parks Commissioner, who served as MC, and special thanks to Wanda Denson, SARA Administrative Assistant, who organized this most successful event.

(Photo: Courtesy of Susan Skinner)

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## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ESTABLISHES NEW COMMUNITY COUNCILS

by Frank Cirill, President Emeritus

Recently the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors announced plans to establish Community Councils in some districts of the county. Three of these districts, Fair Oaks, Carmichael and Arden-Arcade, often have issues which relate to the American River Parkway. Because of this, persons living in those districts may wish to become a member of a Community Council.

Council members will receive \$70.00 per meeting, the same stipend paid to members of the County's two planning commissions. Community Council members will be given a crash course in environmental law, planning law, and California's open meeting laws and the County's procedures.

Candidates should contact their supervisors as early as possible and present signatures from twenty-five of their supporters. More information can be obtained by phoning your Supervisor or Clerk of the Board at (916) 874-5451.

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### VOLUNTEER ON THE PARKWAY

#### 2005 RIVER CLEAN UP DATES

#### SATURDAYS

Spring: April 23, 2005 - Summer: June 4, 2005

Fall: September 17, 2005

#### Special Projects Volunteer Days: Restoration, Maintenance & Trail Work

May 21, 2005

July 23, 2005

August 20, 2005

#### Sacramento Weed Warriors:

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of Every Month

Contact the ARPF to volunteer:

phone: (916) 456-7423

e-mail: [infor@arpf.org](mailto:infor@arpf.org)

Sign Up Online at: [www.arpf.org](http://www.arpf.org)



## **An Idea - A Lower American River Salmon / Native Fishes Sanctuary**

by Felix Smith

The Lower American River (LAR) waits being designated as the Nation's first Federal / State sponsored Salmon / Native Fishes Sanctuary / Refuge. The area between the American River levees and other high ground comprise the American River Parkway. This area is the jewel of the Greater Sacramento Region. The lowermost 23 miles of the American River is classes as a "Recreational River" under the National wild and Scenic Rivers Act, just as it falls under the State's Wild & Scenic Rivers System.

Water is the environment in which fish and other aquatic life must carry on all their life processes. Therefore, healthy and diverse aquatic populations are usually indicative of good instream conditions (water quality, temperature, oxygen and chemical parameters). Good water quality allows for near optimum use of water, as habitat for fish and other aquatic life and is also critical to a potable water supply for the greater Sacramento Region.

Under the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, National Wildlife Refuges and State Wildlife Areas has a qualitatively dedicated water supply, assured for the protection and management of migratory birds that migrate to or reside in California's Central Valley portion of the Pacific Flyway. The Lower American River ecosystem—consisting of its waters, bed, shore lands, vegetation and its myriad native inhabitants—should be accorded the same level of managerial and resource protection for Chinook salmon, steelhead and other native fishes as are lands and waters incorporated into the National Wildlife Refuge System and State Wildlife Management Areas.

A name like the Robert T. Matsui - Anadromous and Native Fishes Sanctuary / Refuge has a nice ring to it and would be a fitting remembrance to Robert "Bob" Matsui.

**Please know that current fishing rules and regulations on the lower American River will remain totally unchanged should this idea come to fruition.**

## **AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY PLAN UPDATE**

by Frank Cirill, President Emeritus

The existing 1985 American River Parkway Plan is in the process of being updated. It has been determined that the existing plan is a good plan, but because of various new conditions which have occurred in the Parkway over the past 30 years - revisions are needed.

To accomplish this task, an Update Citizens Advisory Committee was formed. The Committee includes:

- \* Twelve members from the general public representing groups involved in the Parkway.
- \* Five appointees of the Board of Supervisors.
- \* Four City of Sacramento appointees
- \* One City of Rancho Cordova appointee.
- \* One member of the Sacramento County Parks Commission.

Since the spring of 2004 the Committee has been meeting monthly to provide its input. Members of the public has also been invited to these meetings to provide their comments. Several field trips have taken place involving consultants, city and county staff, committee members and the public.

The recommendations of the Committee are expected to be completed by the end of 2005.

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### **LOCAL ARTIST HAS PAINTINGS ON DISPLAY**

**Beautiful Bluff-Scapes** by award-winning local artist **Dalia VisGirda** are available for purchase at two locations in Fair Oaks Village — at the **Village Café and Grill** at 10131 Fair Oaks Blvd., and at the **Downtown Village Coffee House and Deli** at 10223 Fair Oaks Blvd.

**All proceeds from these sales benefit the Fair Oaks Bluffs.**

## AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY COALITION 2005 STAKEHOLDER SUMMIT

Warren Truitt, Vice President

The American River Parkway Coalition held their first ever gathering of American River Parkway user and support organization leadership on Saturday, February 26, 2005. The event was held in the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors Chambers from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Over 150 stakeholder organization leaders attended, representing the whole spectrum of users / supporters, including runners, bikers, hikers, paddlers, birders, invasive plant removers, fishing community, equestrians, safety, open space preservation and protection, neighborhood and CPAC organizations. In addition, several elected and appointed officials from Sacramento County and the City of Sacramento, and many Parkway Founding Fathers attended.

### HISTORY OF THE COALITION

The American River Parkway Coalition (ARPC) is comprised of the three original and historic Parkway protection and preservation organizations: **Save the American River Association** (SARA) – Parkway founders and advocates; **American River Natural History Association** (ARNHA) – environmental educators and primary supporters of the **Effie Yeaw Nature Center**, and; **American River Parkway Foundation (ARPF)** - who develop Parkway funds and manage volunteer programs.

Warren Truitt of SARA served as the Summit moderator, providing a brief history of the ARPC, the purpose and goals of the Summit, and introduced the nice presenters, plus Parkway Ranger Bill Wetzel, who was instrumental in the capture of a murder suspect in the process of fleeing. The intent of the Summit was to **Educate, Empower and Network**.

The first presenter was **Jim Jones**, past president and current Board member of SARA, Jim addressed the history of the Parkway, stating the Sacramento County Parks Department was formed in 1959 and **Bill Pond** was the first director.

Jim acknowledge Bill in the audience and said, "If anyone could be called the Father of the Parkway, it is **Bill Pond**."

The threat of a subdivision being built within 125 feet of the river in 1961 set off alarm bells and SARA was formed in response. Jim reviewed the grassroots effort and bond issues—to purchase the land and remove the sewage plants—that ultimately led to the creation of the Parkway, Jim also covered the on-going efforts to maintain a viable flow standard and to keep surrounding homes from infringing on Parkway boundaries and marring its visual beauty.

Warning of the continuing population explosion and the resultant pressure on the River and Parkway, Jim asked the audience to remember their intrinsic value and worth. He added, "A higher power has placed them there and made us stewards for this wonderful place."

**Dave Lydick**, Chief Ranger for County Parks covered the current situation, security and public safety. Dave pointed out that the Parkway is generally a safe place to go and recreate—much safer than walking through some neighborhoods and mall parking lots. He further added that budget cuts have caused Parkway law enforcement to be cut to 58% of 1979 staffing. The #1 crime on the Parkway is auto burglaries.

**Gary Kukkola**, Deputy Directory of County Parks, covered past and current funding. The Parkway budget has been on a decline in recent years and a major outcome of this is a reduction of staff. The preliminary projection for the 2005-2006 budget is currently estimated to be the same as allocated for the 2004-2005 budget. Editor's note: This would be about 2/3 of the \$6,000,000 which studies have shown is required to adequately maintain and operate the Parkway.

(Continued on page 8)

**AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY COALITION STAKEHOLDER SUMMIT**, continued from page 7

**Sunny Williams**, a County Planner and Project Manager of the American River Parkway Plan Update process, provided the audience with information of the Plan update. The process has been in progress for the last 1 ½ years and is being assisted with the involvement of a 24-member Update Citizens Advisory committee, working with 20 agencies and the public. The goal at this time is to have a draft of the updated plan by the end of 2005.

**Jane Hagedorn**, CEO of the American Lung Association of Sacramento Emigrant Trails, addressed the issue of long term funding, a personal priority of hers since the 1990's. Recent polls show that 67% of those polled would support a measure for dedicated funding with 28% against and 5% undecided. Jane urged the Coalition to lobby the cities and ask that portions of city parks taxes be allocated to the Parkway.

**Felix Smith**, long-time SARA Board member and retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist with 48 years experience working in water resources development and related impacts, made the presentation on water challenges and opportunities. Felix pointed out that the Lower American River is an outstanding recreational and scenic river and many agencies are involved in the day-to-day management. Felix added, "The river is everybody's river and the river and parkway have significantly enhanced surrounding property values. No one would want to live next to a dry gulch, in which case property values would plummet."

**Frank Cirill**, President Emeritus and 38-year Board member of SARA presented the land challenges and issues. Frank spoke about issues affecting infringements to the Parkway Corridor Combining Zone, which regulates the private property and unincorporated portion of the County along the Parkway. Frank also reviewed two new proposed recreational uses presently prohibited: (1) Off-leash dogs and (2) mountain biking off the

paved bike trail. He emphasized that the Parkway cannot possibly be everything to everybody but pointed out that both groups are participating in the Parkway Plan Update process. In closing, Frank stated: "It is time for all of us to realize that overuse diminishes quality. We have a responsibility to future generations that they will have the same use we presently enjoy. We have to give them the same recreational possibilities."

The second half of the Summit consisted of a stakeholder discussion and feedback. Comments and questions were posed to the panel consisting of all the presenters as well as Alan Wade, SARA President, **Annemarie Vincent**, Executive Director of ARPF and **Pam Maybury**, representing ARNHA. Warren Truitt reminded the attendees that protecting and preserving the Parkway would require their time, treasure and talent. At the conclusion of the discussion and feedback, Annemarie Vincent presented the Parks Passport program, an annual 3-month promotion encouraging the community to buy an annual parks pass. Those having a pass will receive discounts on merchandise and services from participating recreation-related businesses and, of course, free parking. Annemarie stated, "The Parkway is not defined by its problems but by each of us in our private way. It is up to us to protect and preserve this legacy." She wrapped her portion of the program by listing the many Parkway Volunteer Opportunities in which everyone can participate.

**Alan Wade**, in his closing remarks, spoke about community advocacy and outreach. He stated, "The Parkway is more than a bike trail and is nothing without the river. The Parkway provides an important economic engine to the community. Please let the County Board of Supervisors know that you want the Parkway fully funded."

Please check [www.arpf.org](http://www.arpf.org) for greater details of this historic summit when they become available.

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**PRESIDENT’S CORNER**

Alan Wade, President

How many use the Parkway? Popular wisdom is that the figure is at least 5 million per year. Since our answers to this perennial question are usually dependent on anecdotes, here is another one: On a recent March weekday afternoon, I took a leisurely bike ride from Sunrise”downstream” to Goethe Park. From 3:30 to 4:00 p.m., I counted 87 bicyclists and 21 walker/jogger/runners. Just another anecdote, sure. But we are now working with social scientists at Sacramento State to obtain more sophisticated and “objective” results. More later as this study progresses.

SARA board members Jack Sohl, Felix Smith and your president all wrote letters to the Bureau of Reclamation urging the incorporation of an acceptable flow standard for the river into the Bureau’s operations. I sent my letter (shorter and certainly less accurate than their longer and more informative letters, to Lucia Wade, our ever-watchful and strict web manager. She sent a terse e-mail telling me, in short, to “dumb it down.”

So here is a summarized version, not for the dumb, but for the harassed-for-time: The federal government doesn’t really want to transform our river into a series of vernal pools, although that is what could be the effect of current bureau of Reclamation policies. Give our limited dry-year supplies to south state Big Agriculture first, and give the fish and all others who care about a river with water in it whatever is left.

Read the article by Jack and Felix on page 4, and, if you are a scholar and don’t want to settle for short “read-bites,” we’ll send you copies of all the letters! Then you will know everything you need to know! Except **how to get the attention** of the White House gang.

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Parkway PDA Day  
(Public Display of Affection)**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Parkway (Public Display of Affection) Day is scheduled for Sunday, May 1, with tables planned for Guy West Bridge, William Pond, Sunrise and Nimbus Hatchery. Due to a concert scheduled for the Discovery Park area, a table in that area is uncertain as this point. This was a very popular event last year, so please put it on your calendar.



**EDITOR’S CORNER**

Elke Guenter, Editor

As is obvious from this current issue SARA has, as usual, many irons in the fire. Looking back over the past 13 years that I’ve been associated with the Board, more and more of those “irons” keep showing up!!

**Educate/Empower/Network-** three very powerful words! They were the cornerstones of the first ever American River Parkway Stakeholder Summit. Among the more than 150 attendees of this very successful and enlightening event were three member of the County Board of Supervisors, Mayor Heather Fargo, a City Council Member, three Sacramento County Parks Commissioners and several Parkway Founding Fathers.

I’m also very pleased to share with you SARA’s role in the organizing and planning of this year’s American River Watershed Conference at CSUS. Both Alan Wade and Felix Smith participated in the process. In addition, on Friday morning, (April 22) Felix will present his paper entitled: “Management of the American River Watershed and Funding a Part of that Management.”

The poem “Wild Mercy,” written by Terry Tempest Williams in support of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge bears repeating at this dismal point in our Nation’s history as anything and everything even remotely connected with the health and indeed survival of this fragile, finite planet continues in relentless and precipitous decline!!

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**WILD MERCY**

The eyes of the future are looking back at us and they are praying for us to see beyond our own time. They are kneeling with clasped hands that we might act with restraint, leaving room for the life that is destined to come.

To protect what is wild is to protect what is gentle. Perhaps the wilderness we fear is the pause within our own heartbeats, the silent space that says we live only by grace. Wildness lives by this same grace.

We have it within our power to create merciful acts.

Terry Tempest Williams



## RALLY AT THE STATE CAPITOL

by Alan Wade, President



Volunteer Coordinator Betsy Weiland with two princesses

In an effort to help Conan the Barbarian (Governor Schwarzenegger) morph into "Conan the Riparian," hundreds of members of the Yurok, Hoopa, Valley, Karuk and Klamath tribes rallied at the State Capitol on the sunny afternoon of Monday, March 14, in support of removal of dams on the Klamath. We at SARA back them in their struggle, since their salmon and the Lower American River salmon live or die depending on the policies of the Bureau of Reclamation. In the photo above, **Betsy Weiland** (replete with salmon hat), SARA's Volunteer Coordinator, shows her support with two princesses in native costume. Betsy would have posed with "Conan," had he made an appearance.

### WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS!

SARA is pleased to announce that our membership rolls have been increased by about 70 new members during the past year, and we can thank Wayne Chubb, our newest director and liaison between SARA and CFFU, who recruited at least 27 of these new members during a special recruitment promotion he initiated at CFFU from California Fly Fishers Unlimited. Interested in joining SARA? Call 383-1298 for an application form, or you can download a form from our web site:

[www.sarariverwatch.org](http://www.sarariverwatch.org)

## THANK YOU CHROMA GALLERY!

Elke Guenter

A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone at the Chroma Gallery for last year's 3-week show entitled: **American River Scenes.**

A Second Saturday reception at the gallery was co-hosted by SARA and our entire membership had been notified of this event. We also wish to thank everyone who made purchases during this 3-week period.

The Chroma Gallery is Northern California's foremost plein-air gallery and features more than 20 locally, regionally and nationally acclaimed impressionist artists. It is located at 10030 Fair Oaks Blvd., in Fair Oaks and is open Wednesday through Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. or by appointment. For information, please call 966-6020.

### WILDFLOWER WEEKEND, APRIL 16 & 17, 2005

**ADMISSION IS FREE!**

**The entire 2-day event will be held at:**

**CRAWFORD'S BARN, 2715 TIBER DRIVE**

Cross street: **Linda Rio Drive.** It is within walking distance of the Tiber Light Rail Station. This event is presented by the Sacramento Valley Chapter of The California Native Plant Society.

Over 100 California Wildflowers will visit Sacramento direct from their Wild Gardens **this weekend only!**

**\*\*\*SATURDAY ONLY\*\*\***

NATIVE PLANT SALE: 10:00 - 3:00

**PUPPET SHOW - 11:00**

This puppet show features talk show goose (!) **Icky Lake** as she talks with plant celebrities.

**Saturday and Sunday:**

Books galore - Bluebird Houses - CNPS Tee Shirts  
Wildflower Seeds - **SNACK BAR**

**Questions?** Chris - 812-2876  
Mary - 961-4057



THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!!

SARA wants to give special thanks to Print Tech for the reliable, prompt and valuable service that they provide to us in furnishing our printing needs, especially our Riverwatch newsletter, and to Jet Express Mail for mailing the newsletter to our members. American Fly Fishing Co., and Granite Bay Flycasters teamed up to sponsor the Annual Shad Tournament last year and donated the proceeds to SARA. This year's Tournament: May 15 to June 30. Call 483-1222 or 800-410-1222 for more information.

Other organizations who regularly donate to SARA include the River City Paddlers, American River Raft Rentals and California Fly Fishers Unlimited (CFFU). Last, but certainly not least, we give our continued thanks to each and every member of SARA. Without your continued support, it would be very difficult to continue with our many activities in protecting the American River and the Parkway. For your calendar: PDA DAY: SUNDAY, MAY 1. Check our website for more details - www.sarariverwatch.org

SARA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Alan Wade.....President
Warren Truitt.....Vice President
Elke Guenter.....Secretary
Jack Sohl..... Treasurer
Frank Cirill.....President Emeritus
Jim Jones.....Past President

Wayne Chubb.....Bob Hanna
Burt Hodges.....Gary Keill
Harold Kerster..... Jim Morgan
Kevin Regan..... .Felix Smith
Bud Getty/Pam Maybury.....ARNHA Liaison
Betsy Weiland..... Volunteer Coordinator
Bob Burrows.....Advisor
Howard Ross.....Advisor

LOCATION FOR SARA BOARD MEETINGS

SARA's Board meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are currently being held in the Conference Room in the County Parks and Recreation Dept., located at 3711 Branch Center Road. From Bradshaw Road turn right onto Ecology Lane - Turn right again into the first parking lot. Call ahead of time for possible changes to date or location.

For Information: Call Wanda Denson at (916) 383-1298

The SARA phone & fax line is: (916) 387-1763
SARA E-mail: riverwatch@comcast.net
SARA Web site: www.sarariverwatch.org

Word Processing & Layout by Wanda Denson

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

SPRING - 2005 ISSUE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_
CITY \_\_\_\_\_
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_
E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBER? [ ]
RENEWAL? [ ]
HOME PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_
WORK PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_
FAX: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES - YEARLY

WANT TO VOLUNTEER? \_\_\_\_\_

- [ ] \$ 10.00 FULL TIME STUDENT [ ] \$ 25.00 REGULAR [ ] \$50.00 SUPPORTING
[ ] \$ 100.00 SUSTAINING [ ] \$100.00 FAMILY [ ] \$250.00 CORPORATE/BUSINESS
[ ] \$ 1000.00 OR MORE - LIFETIME / PATRONS [ ] \$ \_\_\_\_\_ LEGAL FUNDS [ ] \$ \_\_\_\_\_ PARKWAY

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

NOTE: BECAUSE SARA IS THE PRIMARY ADVOCATE APPEARING BEFORE GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY AGENCIES ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN RIVER & PARKWAY, YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES AND / OR SPECIAL DONATIONS ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

