

RIVERWATCH

SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOLUME 2 - ISSUE 3

ORGANIZED AND INCORPORATED MARCH, 1961

SUMMER - 2004

PARKWAY 'SAVED' ONCE AGAIN – THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED

Alan D. Wade, President

According to the sages, ***"It ain't over until its over."*** SARA, true to our name, has for the past six months led an intensive campaign to "save" the Lower American River Parkway from the county budget axe. Since the lead article in the Spring 2004 Riverwatch ("Massive Show of Support for American River Parkway at Supervisor's Meeting'), SARA and its sister organizations of the Parkway Coalition worked together to get large numbers of supporters out to two subsequent County Board of Supervisors hearings. The BOS got the message, and agreed on cuts in the Parkway budget of \$640,000 instead of the \$4million originally proposed.

What we are left with is a Parkway budget that will entail significant but not crippling reductions in ranger services, as well as maintenance. Some calls for help on the Parkway will result in delays, dispatcher response will be less efficient, and trash clean-up will be impaired. Still, the results are far better than expected in January, when actual "closing" of the Parkway was a distinct possibility. One might say that the Parkway glass is three quarters full, instead of running on empty.



Thanks are due to all who helped with the significant outpouring of support for the Parkway and for County Parks. There are so many of you that we could not begin to name you individually—more than 300 turned out at the March 9

hearing on "Quality of Life" programs, and many others at two subsequent hearings.

We, and the Board of Supervisors, learned that hundreds are willing to invest time and energy in working to save the "crown jewel of Sacramento." Now comes the difficult part. It is clear that new methods to secure stable funding of maintenance and operation of the Sacramento county regional parks system must be sought, and soon. (See Gary Keill's article in the Spring Riverwatch).

Leaders have as much as admitted that the county is not up to the task. Even the current budget is not a sure thing, given the uncertainty about the state's budget process—a complete reallocation of county funds might have to occur as late as September for the current fiscal year. And next year shows up as a complete void on the budget radar screen.

There is hope from another direction. Under Jane Hagedorn's leadership, the American River Funding Working Group is moving forward, and is now the **Regional Parks Exploratory Committee**. The Parkway Coalition is a member of the group, which intends to build on the momentum generated by the Parkway supporters to determine whether the political timing is ripe to move ahead with a Sacramento County regional parks and open space concept. The committee is currently seeking a polling consultant to help determine the shape and substance of a ballot measure.

We have no choice but to move ahead, if we are to face the challenge of a million new residents in the next 25 years with nothing more than hopes and dreams for adequate parks and open space.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

In reviewing all the material for this newsletter, I think we can easily call this issue "The '**Good News**' News!"

First and foremost, the **Parkway remains open** - - thanks to the support of many and the relentless efforts of the **Parkway Coalition**, which is made up of the three sister organizations, SARA, ARNHA, and ARPF. (Save the American River Association, American River Natural History Association, and the American River Parkway Foundation.) Perhaps even more significant is the renewed and now more urgent effort to seek permanent funding. (page 1)

After a more than five-year effort, the ribbon cutting ceremony for the **Fair Oaks Bluff** took place in early June – another priceless gem saved! (page 4)

A little more than a week later, a ten-year effort by members of the American River Parkway Foundation, culminated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the **Volunteer Center**. (page 4)

And, the **Cassano Residence**, a very contentious issue for several years, has been sold to an individual who plans to keep the current structure. (page 3)

Several other projects certainly belong in the "good news category" although they are still "works in progress" - one is the **River Discovery Trail** at Nimbus (page 7) and the other involves the **American River Trail** out of Coloma, (page 3). Both deserve and need our support!!

At the risk of overusing this well-known quote by Margaret Mead, it bears repeating ---- "**Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed citizens to change the world, it is indeed the only thing that ever has.**"

BRIEF ITEMS OF NOTE

The Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency and County Parks have invited SARA to participate in preliminary discussions regarding the creation of a California Indian Heritage Museum. We are asked to offer initial input should the site along the Parkway be chosen. Selection of the Parkway site (near Northgate) would have several advantages, including a long-envisioned funding source to purchase substantial privately owned land. We have no formal position on the matter until plans are presented. Further review would be required regarding the environmental and recreational impact of such a facility, as well as how it meshes with the new Parkway Plan as the latter unfolds.

Other plans for construction along the Parkway involve the anticipated renewal of the California State University, Sacramento campus. Ambitious plans under the leadership of the new president, Alexander Gonzalez, could include new dormitories overlooking the river, as well as a public-access restaurant that would maximize enjoyment and observance of the river. The campus is largely exempt from Parkway construction rules, as CSUS is a state agency. Flood control concerns of course are paramount. In addition, Matt Altier, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management, seeks community input and asserts campus interest in being a good neighbor. As plans materialize, we will keep you informed.

Mark your calendars! The American River Watershed Conference is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, **April 22 and 23, 2005**, on the CSUS campus. The conference, open to the public, has grown from the initial American River Science Conference, held on campus in June, 2003. The conference is broadened in scope and designed to appeal to all those who use and love the river and the parkway. SARA's Felix Smith and Alan Wade have been active participants in the planning process, which is under the leadership of Professor Tim Horner of the CSUS Department of Geology.

The American River Trail -- An Undiscovered Gem in the Sierra Foothills

Fifteen years ago, the American River Conservancy started out with a lofty goal - to keep the canyon along the south fork American River wild and intact so that the water it helped to supply to over 22 million Californians would be of the highest quality possible. So, a small group of concerned citizens started forming partnerships with agencies like the Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Fish & Game and U.S. Fish & Wildlife to buy the lands along this beautiful corridor from willing sellers at a fair market price and managing those lands for the public to use.

Here in the Sierra Nevada foothills, the rural landscape supports one of the most diverse plant & animal communities found in California, with over 700 plant species, 115 bird species and wildlife that include bald eagle, osprey, black bear, deer, bobcat, river otter and ringtail cat.

Imagine a beautiful river canyon with rolling oak and pine woodlands, fields of wildflowers, birds and wildlife - a place you and your family can hike, picnic, birdwatch, ride horses, fish and explore - a place where scenic vistas stretch for miles and instill a sense of freedom and peace.

Today, the Conservancy and its partners have achieved 95% of that goal. Over 2,000 acres are now public lands, with just 440 acres to go. Those 440

acres are what are commonly known as the "Cronin Ranch" in Pilot Hill. The current owners, the Bacchi family, would like to see the ranch stay undeveloped and is working with the Conservancy to purchase it by June 30, 2004. Plans are already underway to begin building the trail once the purchase is complete.

The Conservancy is working with agency partners, foundations and local businesses to raise the money, but needs the financial support of the general public to help raise the \$2.75 million it needs to complete the campaign.

Once complete, the eight-mile trail will run from Highway 49 near historic Coloma to Salmon Falls, just above the Folsom State Recreation Area. Plans are also underway to use the 12 miles of roads already running through the Cronin Ranch as a regional trail system, bringing the total trail length to 20 miles.

Hikes, bikes, equestrians, bird watchers and more will be able to enjoy this stunning river canyon where, in the past, only those actually recreating on the river have gone before.

To help the American River Conservancy complete the American River Trail Campaign, visit www.arconservancy.org or call (530) 621-1224 or send donations directly to: PO Box 562, Coloma, CA 95613.

Update: Cassano Property Residence Lawsuit

Frank F. Cirill, President Emeritus

In several of the previous Riverwatch newsletters we reported that the Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS) and the Save the American River Association (SARA) are participating in a lawsuit to stop construction of the 11,000 square foot Cyndee Cassano residence facing the American River and adjoining the Fair Oaks Bluff.

We have recently been informed that the Cassano property has been placed on the market for 1.5 million dollars. We have also

received information that the prospective buyer intends to remodel the existing 3,700 sq. ft. residence in lieu of building a large structure similar to the Cassano residence.

If this occurs, and if the new owner provides an appropriate legal settlement acceptable to the ECOS-SARA attorney, then we will no longer have a reason to oppose the new owner's project for remodeling the existing structure. We will inform SARA members of the lawsuit developments in the next issue of Riverwatch.

SARA MEMBERS: SEE SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP NOTICE ON PAGE 6 AND CHECK YOUR LABEL.

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Under the spreading canopy of a large Valley Oak tree, a group of about 100 Bluff supporters gathered on Bridge Street on June 6, 2004, to celebrate the Ribbon Cutting for the Fair Oaks Bluff. Speakers included Roger Niello and Muriel Johnson, Sacramento County Supervisors; Ron Suter, Director of Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks, Recreation and Open Space; Frank Cirill, President Emeritus of Save the American River Association; Tracy Martin Shearer, Founder and Coordinator of Citizens to Save the Bluffs; and Marty Maskall, Co-Coordinator of Citizens to Save the Bluffs.

The **Donor Recognition Plaza** concept, designed by artist and landscape architect Hugh Gorman, was unveiled. Citizens to Save the Bluffs hopes to have the Plaza (estimated cost \$30,000) built by June, 2005.

Frank Cirill shared these thoughts: *"The best legacy that a person, organization or community can leave to posterity is public parkland and what we have accomplished at the Fair Oaks Bluff is a very good example of this effort."* Marty Maskall had this to say: *"We still need to raise more money, but it is important to look at what we have accomplished. With the help of hundreds of volunteers and nearly 1400 families and businesses from 25 communities, we have raised more than a million dollars, \$1,124,000., to be exact."*

Citizens to Save the Bluffs, with the help of the Sacramento Valley Conservancy, has purchased half of the land outright and turned it over to Sacramento County for inclusion in the American River Parkway. The Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District has signed for a loan on the remaining half, and the community is continuing to work toward paying off the \$130,000 loan balance.

Tracy Martin Shearer added, *"Thanks to the help of the community and the Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District, the threat of the land being developed has finally been lifted. I have learned firsthand that you can make a difference if you try."*

Anyone wishing to make a donation should visit www.savethebluffs.org or call Shearer at: (916) 961-1729 or Maskall at (916) 967-2472.



VOLUNTEER CENTER TO OPEN EARLY IN 2005

A groundbreaking ceremony for the American River Parkway Volunteer Center took place on *June 16, 2004.*

Scores of Sacramento area residents volunteer thousands of hours every year to enhance and preserve the Parkway. Now, these volunteers and the executive staff of the American River Parkway Foundation, which oversees these stewardship operations, will have an official home in the Parkway.

The one-story 1800 square foot building, which will be located at the entrance to the William Pond Recreation Area, is scheduled for completion in February 2005.

The budget for this project is \$313,000.00 of which 70% has already been raised, strictly through donations from the general public and parkway users. For more information about the Foundation or this particular project, please contact Annemarie Vincent, executive director, at **456-7423**, or avincent@arpf.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 21, 2004** Markis/Lein Hearing before County Board of Supervisors
- July 24, 2004** Eppie's Great Race
- August 7, 2004** Down River Day (ARPF) (American River Parkway Foundation)
- September 18, 2004** Great American River Clean-up (ARPF)
- October 9 /10** Salmon Festival at Nimbus Fish Hatchery.
- December 4, 2004** SARA Annual Meeting

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

Helen Keller

AEROJET-CONTAMINATED UNDERGROUND WATER PLUME REACHES CARMICHAEL : RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Our thanks to Steve Nugent, Mgr. of Carmichael Water District, and the Sacramento Business Journal for information used in this article.

As reported in the Sacramento Bee last April, one of two Aerojet monitoring wells in Carmichael showed the carcinogen NDMA had polluted the groundwater 400 feet below the surface. It has been known for some time that the contaminated underground plume had crossed under the American river and was progressing northwestward. Water from the contaminated well had a NDMA level of 93 parts/trillion (2 parts per trillion are allowed).

Based on this information, the State Regional Water Quality Board ordered Aerojet to drill 2 additional test wells. Tests from these wells did not detect any NDMA. However, the original well that showed contaminated water (6000-ft from the nearest drinking-water well) continues to produce increasing levels of NDMA; 130 parts/trillion were found in a recent test.

This development got, as one would expect, everyone's attention, particularly Aerojets,' which will drill more test wells and prepare a remediation plan by October. This plan will most likely include extraction wells and NDMA treatment equipment to be in place by next summer.

The plume's progression, estimated at about 500 ft/yr., and the increasing level of contamination, has forced the Carmichael Water District to plan ahead for the possible closure of one or more of its wells.

The district completed its new water treatment plant in 2001, but it will most likely have to be expanded to increase its capacity to treat an additional 2000 acre-feet (af) of water from the American River.

While 2000 af is still within Carmichael Water District's allocated annual diversion from the river of 12,000 af, there would be less water in the river for health of the fishery and for recreational needs.

The Water Forum Agreement contains provisions for reducing American River diversions in dry years with an accompanying increase of ground water use. This conjunctive use objective may be severely compromised by the shut down of wells.

The uncertainty of the magnitude of the contamination and the speed of the plume lead to a situation which may become very serious—for Carmichael water users as well as for the fish.

SARA will keep abreast of further developments and will keep you informed of new developments in future issues of Riverwatch.

Jack Sohl, V. President

SARA wants to commend **Print Tech** for its continued support to SARA by providing our printing needs and printing our Riverwatch newsletter. The Print Tech crew has been very responsive to our printing needs and give excellent service. We hope SARA members will visit Print Tech for their printing needs. We also thank **Jet Express Mail**, who mail the Riverwatch.

Thank you very much!

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SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSN., INC.
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RECLAMATION SHOULD INCORPORATE THE LOWER AMERICAN RIVER FLOW STANDARD INTO FOLSOM PROJECT OPERATIONS

Felix Smith

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) operates Folsom Dam and Reservoir for multiple purposes including water for irrigation, municipal and industrial uses, hydroelectric power, recreation, water quality, and flood control and fish protection.

The Folsom project is operated under a State Water Resources Control Board permit issued in 1958. The State Board's action is called Decision 893. Public awareness, biological knowledge, legal decision and institutional conditions have changed substantially since 1958.

Today it is recognized by SARA, the State Board, the Water Forum, and State and Federal fish resources agencies that the conditions specified in D-893 are not protective of the fishery resources within the American river.

SARA's perception is that the ecological needs of the American River resources are consistently placed at a lower priority than the needs of the Bureau's contractors south of the Delta. One only has to review the water flow and operational change records for the evidence. The CVPIA has helped change this but it is still going on.

When equal priority for export water supply butts against the ecological needs of the American River ecosystem, the export supply usually wins. SARA understands that to meet an Administration mandate, Reclamation was to complete its OCAP (Operations Criteria and Plan) process by June 30, 2004.

Under the Water Forum Agreement, during some below normal to dry years, Water Forum purveyors are to cut back on their water diversions from the American River to leave more water in the River to help salmon and steelhead and other fishes.

SARA understands that the Reclamation has included the Water Forum's dry year inflows to Folsom Reservoir in the OCAP. However the Water Forum's Lower American River flow standard / regimen was not included in the OCAP. Reclamation's rationale for this action is very unclear.

SARA does not believe that Reclamation can cherry pick the fruits of the Water Forum purveyor's efforts to divert less water in an effort to help improve ecological conditions for the salmon and steelhead, while discarding the long sought after flow regimen / standard that fully protects the Chinook salmon and steelhead resources of the Lower American River.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO SARA MEMBERS:

In the Winter issue of Riverwatch, mention was made of a new membership policy. Due to a very heavy workload on many issues, particularly the budget issue for the Parkway, there has not been time to implement this new procedure.

For the present, we will have to rely on current procedures. If you will take a moment **now** to look at the mailing label on this issue, you will see a date above your name and address. This represents **one full year** since you either joined or renewed. The date line looks like this: **06/30/04**. If the date on your label is **prior** to July 20, 2004, your membership has expired, and its time to renew.

It would be very helpful to SARA if you would take this opportunity to renew after reading this notice. We will be sending renewal notices soon to all those who remain past due.

All memberships last for one full year. If you pay earlier than the date on the label indicates, you will still get a full year, since we merely extend the date to the next year. We will be sending renewal notices as soon as we can get the necessary time.

We truly appreciate your continued support which enables us to continue with our work.

RIVER DISCOVERY TRAIL: BRINGING PEOPLE TO NATURE

An exciting new development is in the making; the River Discovery Trail along the American River in Rancho Cordova. The trail starts at Nimbus Fish Hatchery and continues a quarter mile down-river on top of the bluff. This trail provides greater access for residents and tourists to enjoy a wild, scenic section of the river. Wayside panels will interpret the rich and diverse natural history of the river and adjacent Parkway. Messages will promote greater public awareness of the importance of the river system and conservation actions needed to maintain protection of the river and its inhabitants.

This trail project is a growing partnership of 15 agencies, organizations and businesses, all with a commitment to better protect this valuable resource. Over 710,000 people visit the hatchery each year, and the California Department of Fish and Game thought it important to expand visitors' experience by having a direct connection with the beautiful, natural stretch of river and parkway it manages that lies immediately downstream. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which owns the property concurred, and the idea was launched with a fund-raising plan in 2001.

From the turkeys and hawks that grace the grassland bluffs to the deer, raccoon, egrets, kingfishers, beaver, and songbirds that dwell in the riparian corridor along the river to the salmon, steelhead, shad, mergansers, otter and turtles that dwell in the river; the river system offers visitors a rich experience. The new trail will serve anglers, wildlife viewers, photographers, artists, children on nature study tours as well as families looking for an easy, high quality outdoor excursion.

Native plant landscaping plans have already been developed, and irrigation work and plantings are expected to be completed by the end of the year. Work on a series of clustered interpretive panels has begun, and is expected to be completed in 2004. The signs will be illustrated by local artist Mike Maydak who has illustrated many children's books including Salmon Stream.

A spur trail down to the river and another to the County parking lot on Nimbus Road are being investigated for hopeful extensions of the main trail which was constructed in 2001.

The DFG plans to develop free loan kits for school and other youth groups to check out for exploring an adjacent pond as well as the river and adjoining lands. A covered learning station (possibly stylized as a beaver lodge) will facilitate year round investigations as well as provide organized groups and casual visitors opportunities to enjoy presentations by DFG as well as environmental organizations in the region, or simply sit and enjoy the river view.

The trail provides an outstanding view of Sailor Bar County Park and a riffle in the river. The trail is wheelchair accessible, and parking and admission to the hatchery are free. As the American River Bike and Pedestrian Trail crosses by the hatchery on its way up to Lake Natoma and Folsom, the new trail provides a great break from cycling or jogging. New bike racks, courtesy of a Clean Air Partnership and a donation of the California Wildlife Foundation are located at two sites at the hatchery. RT buses are expected to serve the hatchery in 2005 when light rail service is extended to Hazel Avenue, allowing easy access to the trail. To date, there are 15 project partners on board, with several City of Rancho Cordova funding proposals pending. This diverse and generous support will allow significant numbers of people to better access, appreciate and understand the river and parkway including many who might not otherwise experience the river or nature.

Civic groups are encouraged to get involved with this project. Volunteers are needed for the landscape plantings this fall. People can also make a tax-deductible financial contribution to this project, payable to the California Wildlife Foundation. If you wish to make a donation to this project, please send it to:

Stephen Dunn, California Wildlife Foundation - 1212 Broadway, Suite 840 - Oakland, CA 94612.

MEASURE "A"

Sacramento County voters in November will be asked to make a decision to renew the half-cent sales tax for comprehensive transportation measures beginning in 2009, and extending for thirty years the current device for funding local transportation projects. SARA has thus far not taken a position on the Measure.

Our mission is to advocate for the Lower American River and its Parkway. While we are concerned as citizens with transportation and other matters affecting our quality of life, they are not central to our mission. We are a member of ECOS, which opposes the measure in its current form on the grounds that it may encourage urban sprawl.

The measure would include \$1 million per year to fund the bike trail portion of the Parkway. This would amount to perhaps 15% of needed Parkway funding in a given year. That is significant, but not sufficient to convince SARA that we should take a "support" position. We need to await further changes in the wording of the measure insofar as urban services boundaries are concerned. If the provisions affecting growth are "weasel-worded", i.e. not iron-clad in their intent, we may have to oppose the measure.

A SARA board member puts it this way: "Measure A is nothing more than a sprawl-inducing vehicle to break wide open the urban services line on which the Water Forum Agreement is based." Others disagree. When there is more certainty on the long-term impact of the measure on water supply, SARA may announce its position. The importance of this measure to our future commands its careful scrutiny by all county taxpayers.

Vision is not seeing things as they are,
but as they will be.

Author unknown

MARKIS/LIEN PROJECT IN RIVERWOOD

By the time this summer issue is in the hands of our readers, the currently scheduled Board of Supervisors hearing for this project will have either just occurred or it will have been postponed again to yet a later date. The hearing is **currently** scheduled for **July 21** in the Board of Supervisors Chambers.

At this time, the Environmental Department has reopened investigation of the project and the cliff – called a "third party peer review." It is hoped that this review will shed new light on the fragility of the bluff and will address the inappropriateness of building within 20 feet of an eroding cliff, from the point of view of stability and safety and with consideration to aesthetic requirements documented in the Parkway Plan.

As many of you already know, the Markis/Lien Project involves three large houses proposed for the American River Parkway Combining Zone. This project, which seeks a 20-foot setback along the river bluff where a 70-foot setback is required by zoning, has already been rejected by four different entities.

Approval of this project will amount to de facto rezoning of the Parkway. No other developer in the Parkway Corridor Combining Zone will expect to adhere to the zoning codes.

Letters to the supervisors opposing this proposed project and a large attendance at the next hearing of the Board are vitally necessary to defeat this precedent-setting decision.

Please check www.mcmansions.org for the latest information.

***Whatever you do may seem
insignificant
but it is most important that you do it.***

Gandhi

Why the Parkway is Important !

Our family of four arrived in Fair Oaks in 1981, courtesy of a corporate transfer. We discovered the American River Parkway almost immediately. We were hooked -- as we could run, hike, kayak and cycle on 5,000 beautiful acres just down the hill. The American River Bike Trail became a magnet for me and I now cycle 6,000+ miles a year on the Parkway bike trail. My wife, Mary, a Personal Trainer, taught Walk/Jog classes on the bike trail for years.

In 1987, when the aftermath of a hostile takeover forced a job change, we resolved this was **not** going to include a move. Losing access to this jewel of a Parkway was not an option, and heavily influenced our decision to stay.

Not long after securing a new position, I became a SARA member, i.e. sent membership dues in annually, received and read *Riverwatch*. and admired the excellent Parkway protection work done by battle hardened SARA veterans. I eventually attended an annual meeting or two. In late 2003, when the first news about possible "closure" of the Parkway was beginning to circulate, it hit me that I needed to become directly involved in the effort to prevent this from happening.

I attended the 2003 SARA Annual Meeting last December, met Alan Wade and other long time SARA members. I expressed my desire to work to preserve the Parkway. Wow, SARA took me seriously and I am now a SARA Board Member. Stealthy, that Alan.

I am honored to now be working with other volunteers dedicated to preserving the Parkway – for all of us.

Why is the Parkway important?

The American River Parkway is:

1. Our outdoor health club, stress reliever and soul soother.
2. Nationally and internationally recognized, and envied, as one of the top urban U.S. recreation sites. Folks regularly come from hundreds of miles around to experience our Parkway, especially from the Bay Area, Los Angeles, Nevada and Oregon.
3. Rated one of the Top Ten Hiking & Biking Trails by *trails.com* and consistently included in *Bicycling Magazine's* best bike trails in the U.S.
4. Not a frill, but "*an economic engine that generates an estimated \$259,034,030 in annual economic activity in the local economy.*" *
5. The value of your property, and our community, could diminish if the Parkway is "closed" and/or becomes unsafe.
6. A primary reason, if not **the** primary reason, we continue to live in this rapidly growing region. Most major cities do not have such an incredible asset – right in the neighborhood.
7. The place where you are most likely to go with family and friends, to view nature at its best, and experience happier and friendlier people.

Protect your Parkway. Become involved: We cannot take it for granted the Parkway will somehow survive. Go to www.sarariverwatch.org for Parkway updates; send e-mails to riverwatch@comcast.net, and/or; call SARA at (916) 387-1763 to find out how you can participate in the solution.

Warren Truitt

ARNHA announces an new publication

The American River Natural History Association recently announced that an expanded and revised edition of the **Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region** will become available in late summer or

early fall. This comprehensive field guide of our area has been an excellent resource and will be available at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center as well as at selected bookstores in the area.

Excerpt from Peter Hayes Book

Elke Guenter, Editor

The American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) has published a number of books over the years; a recent one is entitled: **The American River Almanac** - Reflections on nature throughout the year. The text is by Peter J. Hayes and includes stunning photographs by Tom Myers, George Turner and Jack Wilburn.

Quoting from the preface of this beautiful book – “It is in celebration of the American River and the plant, animal and human life it fosters that this book is offered.



An American River Almanac was created from time-stained newspaper clippings that Peter Hayes saved from his days at The Sacramento Union newspaper. As an editor in the 1970's and 1980's, Pete would pen reflections on local flora and fauna to break up the editorial page's daily diet of opinion.

A few years ago, Pete handed over his stacks of yellowed essays to ARNHA for republishing, perhaps in an illustrated book, with proceeds to be dedicated to ARNHA's mission to promote interpretive education in the American River Parkway.”

The following essay (**River's Edge**) has been reprinted here with permission by the author, Peter Hayes. The book is available at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center as well as selected bookstores in the area.

River's Edge

Peter Hayes

The river slides quietly through the suburbs, a slender shadow of its usual self. But there's enough sun-splashed water to float a rubber raft full of happy teenagers, and plant and animal life crowd the shore, providing business-as-usual in the natural world of the riparian woodland.

A host of dragonflies, their legs arranged to form a handy basket, pluck insects from the air. Spiny yellow star thistles are everywhere, seemingly with few redeeming features until it's noted that they are visited by nectar-seeking bees. The blue flowers of a member of the mint family play a similar role for an orange-and-black painted lady butterfly.

A placid pool comes alive as egg-sized tadpoles are disturbed and thrash their way into deeper water. Nearby are peers that have developed the long hind legs, along with a fully formed, bulging-eyed bullfrog.



A husky brown flicker lands in a blue elderberry shrub, performing gymnastics on a slender branch as it picks off clusters of blue-black berries. Burbling finches likewise enjoy the shrub's berry smorgasbord

Wildflowers thrive under the benign influence of moist soil and the July sun. Here are snapdragon-like yellow monkey flowers, tiny but fragrant sweet clover, and the remarkable evening primrose, with 6-foot or higher stems with bright yellow blooms that open at dusk but shrivel under the next day's sun.

There's no slowing the pulsing cycle of life at home on the floodplain.

SARA BENEFITS FROM SHAD TOURNAMENT

As we go to press, the 8th Annual Catch and Release Shad Tournament is drawing to a close. American Fly Fishing Co., located on Fair Oaks Blvd., in Sacramento, as always is the sponsor of this event. This year, Granite Bay Flycasters was also on board as a co-sponsor.

SARA is the recipient of the proceeds for which we are extremely grateful. Thanks to all involved.

Proud Supporter of

Save the American River Association

AMERICAN FLY FISHING CO.

**3523 Fair Oaks Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95864**

(916) 483-1222 or (800) 410-1222

www.americanfly.org

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- Betsy Weiland.....Volunteer Coordinator
- Bob Burrows.....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
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SARA Web site: www.sarariverwatch.org

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SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSOCIATION, INC.

SUMMER - 2004 ISSUE

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL & APPLICATION FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

ARE YOU A NEW MEMBER? _____

IS THIS A RENEWAL? _____

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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- SUPPORTING..... \$ 50.00 YEARLY
- CORPORATE, BUSINESS, ASSOCIATION\$ 250.00 YEARLY MINIMUM
- LIFETIME / PATRONS\$ 1,000.00 / \$ 1,000. OR MORE YEARLY

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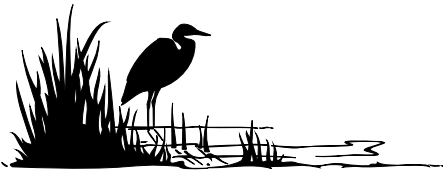
PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSOCIATION, INC. (OR: SARA)

MAIL TO: P.O. BOX 277638 - SACRAMENTO, CA 95827-7638

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

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Kevin Regan joins SARA Board

Kevin Regan recently became the newest member on the SARA Board of Directors. He's been a resident of Sacramento since the age of 3 and is a graduate of the University of the Pacific as well as the University of California Hastings College of Law. For the past 21 years, he has been a senior Writ Attorney, Third District Court of Appeals in Sacramento and went into semi-retirement last October.

As avid cyclist, he is currently vice -president of the Sacramento Bike Hikers and chairperson for the 2005 Party Pardee Metric Century. He also volunteers on a weekly basis at the Loaves and Fishes Homeless Shelter, Capitol Public Radio and is involved with Eppie's Great Race as well.

Kevin states, "I have used the Parkway almost daily for the last 25 years as a cyclist, runner, walker and occasional canoe and kayak paddler. I have always appreciated the role SARA played in creating and protecting the Sacramento area's most important resource."

Now that I no longer need to work full time as an attorney, I would like to play a more active role in those efforts. I believe that my connections with the Sacramento cycling community and legal background may be of benefit to SARA."

Welcome aboard, Kevin!