



New Parks Director Knows the Territory

Sacramento County's new parks director comes from the city of Sacramento parks department, but she grew up riding her bike to the Lower American River near the William B. Pond Recreation Area and lives near the parkway in Carmichael.

After a nationwide search, the Board of Supervisors approved Janet Baker's appointment, effective Aug. 11, succeeding Gary Kukkola, who had retired. The former Sacramento City Parks Operations Manager now oversees a department responsible for 18 county parks, The American River Parkway, four golf courses and the nationally recognized Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

In her more than 20 years with City Parks, Baker rose through the ranks to become involved in such major projects as acquisition and planning for numerous neighborhood, community and regional parks—including Natomas Regional Park, Shasta Community Park, and Granite Regional Park.

"I began my career in Parks and Recreation because it seemed like the perfect fit for my passion with quality of life issues in our community," she told *The Acorn*. "I truly believe that parks and open space define our community, pro-

Janet Baker



vide environments for people to learn, explore and escape from the stresses of daily life."

Focusing on her new job, Baker said, "The challenges of the park system include securing the most comprehensive funding sources we can — for acquisition, operations and maintenance as well as for rehabilitation and expansion of trails and recreational facilities." Her job with the city was overseeing a \$45 million budget. The county parks budget is \$30.7 million.

She added that she believes marketing the "vision" of County open space and trails to the broader community is "extremely important to gain support for successful funding strategies as well as to work cooperatively with the development community to maximize open space, trails and connectivity."

Asked about the status of the 23-mile-long American River Parkway, she said, "It is truly the jewel of our region and keeping the parkway safe, clean and well-used is extremely important. Living near the parkway, I am impressed with the work I see of volunteers, weed warriors, tree plantings and rest room renovations that have been accomplished over the past few years."

Baker holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Hawaii and a Master of Business Administration from California State University, Sacramento.

On a personal level, she said, "I like to think of myself as a youthful 58. I'm married to a wonderful guy (engineer) and I have four fabulous stepdaughters, one remarkable daughter, one little dog, two cats and two birds to round out the family!" ■

Why Our Salmon Are in Trouble

by Ed Littrell

This fall, salmon will be in the news. Sport fishing for salmon is now mostly closed in the Central Valley. The ocean fishery is closed. There's not enough 60-degree water in Folsom Lake to spawn and raise salmon in the Nimbus Fish Hatchery. And there are no adult salmon to spawn, anyway. At least that's the outlook as this article is written at the beginning of the summer. I hope I'm wrong.

I'm not aware of any previous fishing closures, either sport or commercial. But salmon have had their ups and

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President's Message

Everyone thinks of changing the world but no one thinks of changing himself.

—Leo Tolstoy

When I was in high school, my friends and I would wait with great anticipation for the new automobile models to roll out in September. The automobile was king and the gas was plentiful. The more powerful the engine, the more impressed we were with the car. Now the tables have turned and we view the automobile for its gas efficiency first and beauty and power second.

I know I am preaching to the choir, but we need to remind ourselves that in our society we often fall victim to ideas and systems that are destructive to us and the planet. Gasoline consumption is one of them and, let's face it, so is consumption in general, energy and materials of all kinds. We all need to go "green" and set goals to conserve our natural resources. And we all need to believe that we can make a difference. It has been said that a belief is not just an idea you possess, it is an idea that possesses you; and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center is a great place to rejuvenate our beliefs so that we can work in harmony with nature and save our planet.

This is the time of year for our annual meeting so I would like to share with you the Strategic Plan for ARNHA that was put together in 2002 (thanks to Lee Wilner for prompting the board to revisit the Strategic Plan.) In summary it states that the goals of ARNHA are: (listed in order of priority)

1. Support and strengthen the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.
2. Focus on public education, interpretation and enjoyment of nature by enhancing our publications.
3. Strengthen membership services and recruitment.
4. Advocate for the expansion of educational and interpretive opportunities along the entire American River Parkway.
5. Support and strengthen special events such as the Salmon Festival and Nature Bowl.

This list is as relevant today as it was in 2002. Keeping in mind that setting goals is important, we should never satisfy ourselves with goal-setting; we need to satisfy ourselves with goal-attaining, and we can do that through your support of ARNHA and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center!

Sincerely,

Larry Washington, President, ARNHA ■



Annual Meeting Set for September 10

The American River Natural History Association's 27th annual meeting will be held Wednesday, September 10, beginning at 6 p.m., at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Ancil Hoffman County Park. The program will include distribution of the annual report, adoption of next year's budget, recognition of volunteers, light refreshments, and live music. Following the meeting, members and guests have an opportunity to take a ranger-led night prowling. Watch for the post card with more information about special guests. ■

Salmon, from page 1

downs, over the years. Some runs are gone and probably will never return. So, is it worse or better nowadays? It's probably worse, but until this year the fish were holding their own after the big dam construction period of the mid-1900's.

Problems with California's salmon runs are not new, and have been written about and discussed for over a hundred years. Old editions of *California Fish and Game*, the predecessor of the current Department of Fish and Game (DFG) publication, discussed a variety of topics that still apply today. Reports of the Fish and Game Commission and its predecessors also presented information and debate on many topics such as deer, game birds, and fish propagation. A relevant topic to this paper was the building of salmon hatcheries to augment or sustain the runs as presented in the Fish and Game Commission Biennial Report 1920-1922, (www.nrm.dfg.ca.gov/documents). This report also suggested that the construction of a dam on the lower Klamath River threatened the extermination of the Klamath run. This dam was never built. It also discussed the blockage of the McCloud River run of fish, now known as the winter-run, by an irrigation dam in Redding. It took an injunction to get a fishway constructed so the fish could continue up the river. Of course, now, years later, the descendants of that run are blocked by Shasta Dam.

As far back as 1872, California salmon were being trapped and spawned in hatcheries. The first salmon hatchery in California was established by the federal government on the McCloud River in Shasta County above Redding. It was called the Baird Hatchery, named after Professor Spencer F. Baird, the first United States Commissioner of Fisheries.

Here on the American, the Nimbus Fish Hatchery fish ladder was opened on October 5, 1955. Fish moved up the ladder within 34 minutes. The

hatchery was built by the United States Bureau of Reclamation, to offset the loss of salmon spawning areas flooded and blocked by Folsom dam. The DFG is paid to operate it. Previously, salmon had about 160 miles of the American River tributaries in which to spawn and grow up. Now there are only about 23 miles, downstream from the Nimbus Dam at Hazel Avenue. Around 26,000 salmon were in the river each year from 1944 to 1952. Now, around 10,000 salmon enter the hatchery. About the same number of fish spawn in the river. The hatchery's goal is to take about eight million fall-run salmon eggs, and release from these, four million salmon smolts (young salmon, 60 of which would weigh a pound). These fish are about three to five inches long.

We have solid data on salmon runs in the American since 1944. The lowest estimated return was about 7,000 salmon in 1956. This was immediately after Folsom Dam was completed and probably represents the adverse effects of dam construction. However, the highest recorded run was very recently, in 2001, when an estimated 190,000 salmon were in the river. So, hatchery operations have usually resulted in a large number of returning adults, last year being the exception. We've completely lost the spring-run of salmon in the San Joaquin River system due to agriculture taking essentially all the spring water out of the river and the tributaries being blocked by dams. We lost the ancestors of the winter-run which over-summered in the McCloud River. The McCloud is one of the headwaters of the Sacramento. This area has been cut off by Shasta Dam.

Salmon have a lot of dangers to go through in our rivers to get to the ocean to grow up. Between the hatchery and the ocean there are predatory fish which will eat them, plus seals, sea lions, egrets, herons, terns and gulls. There are diversions of water from the river: Diversions small and very big. So the DFG

gives the small fish raised in hatcheries a truck ride to the San Francisco Bay. This spring, for instance, about 20,200,000 young salmon from several state hatcheries, including the Nimbus Salmon Hatchery on the American River (4.9 million from Nimbus), the Mokelumne River Hatchery, and the Feather River Hatchery were released into the San Pablo Bay portion of the San Francisco Bay. These small salmon would usually and naturally move out in the spring, when snowmelt sends floods down to the sea.

Some researchers think that either changed wind patterns, ocean currents, ocean temperatures, or some combination have altered the food chain off California upon which fish and birds depend. The nesting birds on the Farallon Islands, just 30 miles off San Francisco Bay, have recently had bad nesting years. They essentially are in the same food web that the salmon depend upon. Both birds and fish depend upon krill, a small animal which looks like a shrimp. A change in krill abundance can cause changes throughout ocean animal populations. This is one possible cause among many (including water diversions and pollution) for a widespread eastern Pacific Ocean decline in salmon numbers.

Our salmon are called Chinook, after the name of the Native Americans of the Columbia River between Oregon and Washington who depended upon them for food. The fish's former name was "King Salmon." California's inland (river) sport-caught record fish weighed 88 pounds.

There is some question these days as to the genetic lineage, or past history, of the runs of salmon in the Central Valley. Salmon in the Central Valley historically have moved up the river systems in the winter, spring and fall. Winter-run Chinook moved up the Sacramento to the cold, glacier-fed pools on the McCloud River on the slopes of Mt. Shasta. Construction of the Shasta

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Needed: Docents for Gibson Ranch Living History School Fieldtrip Program.

The Effie Yeaw Nature Center offers a Living History fieldtrip for children in 3rd through 5th grades at Gibson Ranch by the old Bunk House. We need docents who are “in character” of 1897 to supervise children doing the chores of the day. These chores may include baking biscuits, washing clothes by hand, dipping candles, gardening and more.

If docents have a particular skill from this time period, we will try to incorporate that, but their *primary focus* will be supervising the kids, assisting the staff with this structured program, and teaching the children about this period of American history.

These programs take place Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 to 3:00 (or shorter), during the school year. Individual docents may volunteer from 2 times a week to 2 times a month, depending on when the fieldtrips are scheduled. Training days are offered on certain Saturdays to teach docents, teachers, and classroom parents about the crafts and schedule for the fieldtrips.

If you are interested, please call Jamie, the volunteer coordinator, at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center at 916-489-4918, x224 for details and information on how to sign-up!

Easy Giving:

Donate to ARNHA every time you search the Internet or shop online

Use GoodSearch.com—a search engine that will make a donation to ARNHA each time you search the Internet. It’s powered by Yahoo!, so you get great search results.

Use GoodShop.com—a new online marketplace that will donate a percentage of your purchase to ARNHA. You can choose from hundreds of popular merchants. The experience of shopping through GoodShop is exactly the same as going directly to retailers’ websites.

Learn how to use GoodSearch and GoodShop for ARNHA at www.arnha.org. Choose the **Easy Giving** menu button for details.



Docents needed!

Effie Yeaw Nature Center docents assist staff Naturalists and lead tours of up to 20 children through the museum and nature preserve. Our training takes approximately 8 weeks and is comprised of observation, study, and seminars. If you love nature, enjoy children, and would like to learn more about the animals, plants, and cultural history of our region, call Jamie at 489-4918, x224, to find out more about being a Docent here at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

Call Now to Volunteer at Maidu Indian Day!

Our celebration of the Maidu Indian Culture on October 4th requires many volunteers to help set-up, work the crafts stations, and help with clean-up! If you would like to join us and have fun being a part of this cultural event, call Jamie at 489-4918 by Tuesday, Sept. 30th.

Maidu Indian Day ...a celebration of Native American life for all ages

Care to try some Manzanita cider and acorn mush? Now is your chance at MAIDU INDIAN DAY. It takes place Saturday, October 4, 2008 in the replica Nisenan Maidu Village at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center inside Ancil Hoffman Park in Carmichael from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Activities include Maidu music and dancers, native food tasting, basketry and flintknapping demonstrations, storytelling, hand games and native plant use walks. Participants have the opportunity to play Maidu games and make their own toys, crafts and pendants. Craft making is free with paid admission. Food and drinks are also available to purchase. The event is a fundraiser for the Maidu Cultural Heritage Program, now in its 20th year, providing educational programs of local Native American life to 3,000 school children each year. Numerous local businesses, California Native American tribal organizations and the American River Natural History Association help support the event. Park entrance fee: \$5/car or free to ARNHA members. Event admission: \$3/person. For more information call (916) 489-4918, (916) 489-2918/711 TDD/TTY.

Shake, Rattle & Roll – Rattlers Profiled at Forum

Over the years, biologist Gary B. Hanson, Ph.D., has had an abiding interest in rattlesnakes. Indeed, he can tell you about the night he slept with 500 rattlers in the course of his relationship with this often misunderstood member of the animal kingdom.

Hanson, who is an Effie Yeaw Nature Center docent, will tell that story and more on Thursday, September 18, at 7 p.m. at the EYNC Assembly Building in another of ARNHA's free public forums.

His anecdote-filled Powerpoint presentation will include a discussion of rattlesnake anatomy, diet, and its important role in the ecosystem. "I'll also talk about how to keep from being bitten by a rattlesnake and what to do if you are," says Hanson, who notes that he's never been bitten by a rattler. .

Hanson received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater; his Master's from Walla Walla College (WA), and Doctorate from Loma Linda University (CA). He has taught such subjects as general biology, anatomy and physiology and herpetology at six U.S. colleges and universities for 40 years.

Light refreshments will be served at the forum.

New for Critter Lovers: The Reptile Club

Do you have a special fascination with things that slither? Looking for a way to share your love of nature with family or friends? Join the Reptile Club at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center! Your membership contributes to the "board and room" costs of the all the animals on exhibit at the Center, including food, vitamins, medicine, and veterinary visits.

As a Reptile Club member, you'll receive the following:

- Your picture taken with the EYNC reptile of your choice
- A personalized Membership Badge
- Two bookmarks with reptile photos
- Nature Center Snake Books with pieces of real shed snake skin
- Invitation to a Behind-the-Scenes visit on Feeding Day
- Invitation to member's-only Reptile Programs (six per year)

Club memberships make an excellent gift. Come by the Nature Center and pick up a membership form, or call 916, 489-4918 to have one mailed.

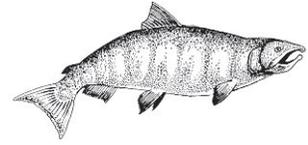
Saturn Puts on a Show

Although haze from the northern California fires obscured Mars, viewers who attended ARNHA's June 27 public forum enjoyed good looks at another solar system planet, Saturn.

The white planet and its distinctive rings were observed by some 15 people using a telescope provided by a member of the Sacramento Valley Astronomical Society outside the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. They also saw Arcturus, a "rogue star" from another galaxy passing through.

The star show also featured a talk by Professor Liam McDaid, astronomy coordinator at Sacramento City College, who discussed our own special planet, the sun, and its role in climate change. Some scientists claim a cause-and-effect relationship between sun spots, which cause varying degrees of brightness of the sun, and global warming. But McDaid said we "can't blame it (global warming) all on the sun."

He noted that the polar ice has been melting at the same time emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from fossil fuels such as coal and oil have been increasing steadily. He said real solutions to climate change will come through increased use of renewable energy such as wind power and nuclear power and even ore from asteroids or power stations on the moon.

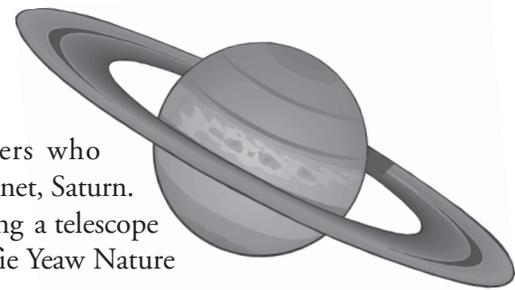
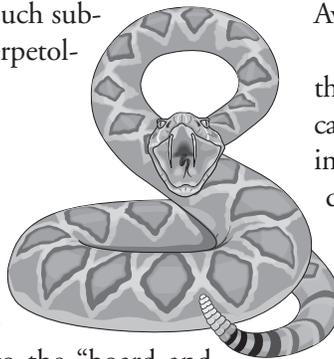


Salmon Festival Promises Fun and Education

All hail the regal Chinook Salmon, celebrated again this year on October 11 and 12 at the 12th annual Salmon Festival at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery and Lake Natoma State Park at U.S. 50 and Hazel Avenue.

ARNHA helps sponsor the annual event that features more than fifty activities well-calculated to appeal to young and old. They include "hook 'em and cook 'em" culinary demonstrations, fishing tip clinics, salmon fun run and walk, salmon barbecue, fly-tying and casting demonstrations, a giant aquarium, and boat and raft trips. Children's activities include puppetry and costumes, salmon croquet and other games, and pond quest.

The festival, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., is free, but expect to pay \$8 to park if you bring your car. There will be free shuttles from the parking lots, and festival-goers who arrive by bike get free valet parking. For more information go to www.salmonfestival.net



Salmon, from page 3

and Keswick Dams near Redding cut this run off from its historic spawning and rearing riffles and pools. Spring run salmon used to run up the San Joaquin River and tributaries. These runs are gone due to the capture of spring run-off behind dams. There is a desire to restore these runs. Fall run fish still do go up the Merced and other San Joaquin tributaries. Spring-run salmon still go upstream in Butte, Big Chico, Deer and Mill creeks, and the Feather and Yuba Rivers. The Feather River hatchery, funded by the State Department of Water Resources and operated by the DFG, “mitigates” or replaces the lost fall and spring-run fish of the Feather above Oroville dam.

The author has seen spring-run salmon in Deer Creek, east of Chico, in the fall, after they have spent the summer in Deer Creek’s cool pools. These were up at about 5,000 feet, in the general area of Deer Creek falls. It’s quite a sight to see these large salmon in what looks like a trout creek at a relatively high altitude. But that is how it used to be in many places before all the recent changes we’ve made.

There have been many transfers of eggs and small fish over the years. Gold mining over a hundred years ago badly affected salmon by running mud and rocks down to the salmon’s breeding and migration areas. It’s thought that these runs could have actually killed off the salmon in some rivers for a period of time. Small dam construction over the last 150 years also blocked salmon runs.

This fall it will be interesting to follow the salmon run. Will there be any cool water to attract whatever adult salmon there are? Will they appear for the “Salmon Festival” at the Nimbus Hatchery? In any event, there are a couple of websites that will provide you more information on salmon, generally, and on the “Salmon Festival” in particular: www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Hatcheries/Nimbus/Nimbus_VisitorCenter.asp,

and www.salmonfestival.net/.

Even now, a visit to the visitor center and raceway ponds at Nimbus Hatchery is worthwhile. There will be young steelhead trout at the Nimbus Hatchery and “catchable” sized trout at the adjacent American River Hatchery to look at and feed.

Let’s hope that the recent decline in salmon numbers is temporary, and these majestic fish will again return in numbers to our local rivers.

Ed Littrell is a retired California Department of Fish and Game wildlife biologist and ARNHA Associate Board Member. ■

Fresh Food Stand Opens on Parkway

Soil Born’s American River Ranch Urban Garden opened its farm stand to the public May 31. Located on the American River Parkway in Rancho Cordova, this urban garden is the newest Soil Born Urban Agriculture and Education project in the Sacramento region.

Soil Born Farms’ mission is to create an urban agriculture and education project that empowers youth and adults to discover and participate in a local food system that encourages healthy living, nurtures the environment and grows a sustainable community. The mission is achieved by focusing on four main goals: local organic food production and distribution, community education, food access for all, and reconnecting with the land.

Co-founders Shawn Harrison and Marco Franciosa started their Soil Born farm on Hurley Way in 2000 to tap into the growing public concern about the environment, obesity, fuel costs and food prices and the surging movement to find healthy, affordable, food close by. In 2003 it became a non-profit project, and now they assist other individual farmers and groups in setting up farm stands. In 2008 they were able to begin farming in the Parkway location in Rancho Cordova.

Soil Born is currently farming 5 of their 25 leased acres on historically farmed land at the American River Ranch. The food is distributed to community members, local restaurants and farm stands around the Sacramento area.

The farm stand at the American River Ranch is open Saturdays between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. to sell delicious farm-fresh produce. We encourage you to bike or walk to the ranch and to bring your own shopping bag. The ranch is located at 2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

Not only does the farm offer affordable quality organic produce, the organization operates youth programs at the site for students between the ages of 13 to 18 who get hands-on experience working alongside the farm staff. They plant and harvest food, then learn about healthy eating and cooking by preparing meals with the food they grow. In addition, youth are trained to set up and run the farm stand and learn valuable life-skills in the process. They also participate in restoration and stewardship projects like oak tree planting and clean-up projects along the American River.

Both the American River Ranch and Soil Born’s other smaller farm site at 3000 Hurley Way in Sacramento offer volunteer opportunities for people of all ages. They also host seasonal events, workshops, and meetings and conferences. We encourage you to participate in farm-hosted events to enjoy life in the country without leaving the city!

To learn more about the farm, markets, volunteer opportunities, and the youth education projects, visit www.soilborn.org. ■

*Article by Guy Galante,
Soil Born Education Director*

Mike Weber Championed Outdoor Education

J.M. (Mike) Weber, a driving force behind a host of local science education and conservation issues that helped him win a national “teacher of the year” award, died June 12 at the age of 94.

As science consultant for the Sacramento County Office of Education for 30 years, he teamed with Effie Yeaw on publication in 1963 of her local natural history guide, forerunner of ARNHA’s popular “Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region.” The legendary Carmichael kindergarten teacher’s field guide was published by the County Office of Education.

Jo Smith, an ARNHA founder and friend of Weber’s, recalled that in the 1960s he led an informal group of teachers, PTA leaders, and community volunteers to promote outdoor education. The group included “Effie’s Gang,” those who helped with her walks in Deterding Woods, now part of the Effie Yeaw Nature Area. This group, eventually labeled The Committee of Concern, spawned many outdoor education programs including creation of nature areas on school grounds.

In addition, Mike led the way to county acquisition of Sly Park as a week-long nature camp for elementary students.

How did he accomplish so much? He had a special ability to get people working and involved. Mike and Effie together were an irresistible force. When the Nature Center faced closure, Mike was involved with every step to keep the building and programs functioning. When ARNHA incorporated in 1981, he joined as the first Life Member.

Weber and Effie Yeaw also shared a deep concern over the loss of California’s oak trees to development and agriculture. “Mike would keep acorns in his pocket and hand them out to people he met, saying, ‘Here, go plant an oak tree,’” Smith said. In 1975, he found the money to publish the book, *Native Oaks: Our Valley Heritage*. He authored or co-authored many publications, including *The Heart of California: Sacramento Then and Now*, a supplemental text for 3rd and 4th graders. He was a member of the original planning committee for creation of the American River Parkway.

“His biggest claim to fame,” said Rachel Curran, one of his three daughters, was a newsletter he started for Sacramento County science teachers, describing where to go on field trips, where to get materials, etc.” The newsletter evolved into a statewide publication, earning him Teacher of the Year honors from the National Science Teachers Association in 1983.

Born in El Centro, CA, Weber was a graduate of Oregon State University and worked as a school teacher and principal before moving to Sacramento in 1949. When he retired in 1979, he received plaques of appreciation from twenty organizations, including the state Senate and Assembly, city of Sacramento, and Sacramento Audubon Society.

Preceded in death by his wife, Ferris Jane in 2005, Weber is survived by daughters Rachel Anne Curran, Catherine Ferris Castanis, and Martha Jane Drummond, six grandchildren and four great grandchildren

The family suggests that memorial gifts may be sent to UUSS Endowment Fund, Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento, 2425 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento 95825, or the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, P.O. Box 579, Carmichael, CA 95609-9579. Over \$1,000 has been donated to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. ■

Vince LaPena Leaves the Nature Center

- He worked 20 years for the Center
- He was our Maidu culture presenter
- He’s known as LaPena
- He made us laugh like hyenas
- We’ll miss our friend and native mentor.

Effie Yeaw Nature Center staffer Vince LaPena was on the receiving end of numerous good wishes at his recent retirement party, including this lively limerick by EYNC Director Marilee Flannery.

Anyone who has ever attended a Maidu Indian Day event or helped on Weeding Wednesdays or spent much time at all around the nature center has probably spoken with Vince, whose association with EYNC started when he was 17 years old, building the first tule houses in the replica village of the Maidu Cultural Education Program. His first experience as an employee came in 1989-90 when he worked on crafts and led groups through the Bountiful Harvest exhibit. After a serving as a docent, Vince was hired as a Park Ranger Assistant in 1994 and became a fulltime Interpretive Specialist in 2001.

A specialist indeed, Vince has been performing with the Maidu Dancers and Traditionalists for 18 years. His knowledge of local Native American Culture has been extremely valuable to the Nature Center’s cultural education programs. His love of working outdoors has created huge improvements in native plant restoration around the Center.

His many fond memories include seeing huge herds of deer, surviving close calls with rattlesnakes, and having the rare elderberry longhorn beetle land on his sleeve.

Vince is leaving the Nature Center to assist with his wife’s busy law practice and to assume most of the responsibility for their family’s needs, since she must travel a great deal. He will continue helping the Nature Center occasionally as a cultural consultant and for special events like Maidu Indian Day. ■

American River Natural History Association

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ARNHA Calendar of Events

- **Shake, Rattle & Roll - Rattlers Profiled at Forum**
Thursday, Sept. 18, 7 pm
Effie Yeaw Nature Center (story page 5)
- **ARNHA Annual Meeting**
Wednesday, September 10, 6:00 pm
Effie Yeaw Nature Center (story page 2)
- **Parkway Fall Cleanup**
Saturday, Sept. 20, 9 am-12 noon
Ancil Hoffman County Park (story, Page 8)
- **Maidu Indian Day**
Saturday, Oct. 4, 10 am-4 pm
Effie Yeaw Nature Center (story page 4)
- **Salmon Festival**
October 11-12, 10 am to 4 pm
Nimbus Fish Hatchery (See story, page 5)

Life Jackets for EYNC

It was a bit of a shock to Marilee Flannery, Effie Yeaw Nature Center Director, when she suddenly realized the full implication of Sacramento County's new life vest ordinance. "We needed to purchase life jackets in order to comply with the new County policy before the regular school year begins in fall, 2008. I'm very glad we have the new life jacket law for children under 13," Director Flannery conveyed to County officials. "We are very happy to comply with this new law that we know will save lives."

During the regular school year, the Center offers aquatic field studies for 3rd through 6th grades and it's not unusual to have as many as 80 students studying aquatic ecosystems while wading knee-deep in American River ponds and in very shallow river areas where the current is slow. Although the students are supervised at all times and never al-

lowed to venture into water deeper than their knees, this new ordinance adds an extra level of security that EYNC staff are thankful to have.

Getting the life vests turned out to be easier than first anticipated. The Big 5 Sporting Goods Store at Manzanita Avenue and Winding Way was contacted and within a day the store's manager, Mike Ventimiglia, called with great news. The Big 5 Sporting Goods Corporate Headquarters would be able to provide U.S. Coast Guard approved/Type III Personnel Flotation Devices by June 30, and also offer the Center a 35 percent discount on the total purchase resulting in a substantial savings.

"Our only concern now is where to store the life vests. But we'll manage. We always do," said the Center's Director. "The important thing is to keep the kids safe." ■

Think Green at September 20 Clean Up

The **Great American River Clean Up** is scheduled for Saturday, September 20, providing a great opportunity to "think green" by collecting the trash and recyclables that deface our beautiful parkway.

ARNHA members are urged to participate, from 9 a.m. to noon, by joining the team focusing on Ancil Hoffman County Park, home of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Signs will direct volunteers to the starting point where clean up directions and trash bags will be provided. Bring gloves and sunscreen, and wear sturdy shoes.

Ancil Hoffman is one of 21 sites on the 23-mile-long parkway targeted for the post-Labor Day Clean Up. Lana Sumati of the sponsoring American River Parkway Foundation said last year's effort rid the parkway of 17,000 pounds of trash and 3,000 pounds of recyclables, along with bicycles, scooters, umbrellas and a washing machine. ■

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