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acres
protected
Since 1989**

THE CURRENT

Informational Newsletter for Summer 2024 (June-August)

American River Conservancy



Continuing the Conservation Legacy

By Marshall Gorham

Anniversaries and other momentous occasions make us feel reflective. To celebrate ARC's 35th anniversary, our last issue of *The Current* reconnected with and reflected on our past. Over \$100 million raised to permanently protect 30,140 acres in the upper American and upper Cosumnes River watersheds is no small feat. Yet the need to protect our wide-open spaces is more important than ever. While the challenges we face are the same (i.e. development pressure, habitat degradation, and climate change), each environmental "loss" seems to hurt more and more as the natural landscapes we love, live in, and recreate on look less and less like they once did. While it can be easy to become discouraged, it's critical to know that the successes of ARC have laid the foundation for future wins in protecting more land, restoring more habitat, and connecting more people to this landscape that is so easy to fall in love with.

At the end of 2023, we completed the El Dorado Ranch Phase 4 (1,032 acres) acquisition, bringing the total number of protected acres up to 4,189. As we pursue the final Phase 5 purchase (2,997 acres), we are excited to already be halfway there, having secured funds through the Wildlife Conservation Board and the CA Natural Resources Agency. We are also excited to be negotiating a 2,260-acre conservation easement and land donation that runs contiguous with El Dorado Ranch. This will provide additional protection to El Dorado County's single largest area of protected oak woodland and secure critical access for the future "Cosumnes River Trail."

As we turn our eyes to the American River watershed, we continue to make progress on purchasing Bear

Creek Ranch, a 442-acre working forest that hosts the largest population of red-legged frogs in the Sierra Nevada. We're also working to purchase a 1,000-acre conservation easement adjacent to Cronan Ranch Regional Park, which will protect the viewshed and provide a critical habitat buffer along one of ARC's legacy achievements. Lastly, we will be accepting a 483-acre land donation along the Middle Fork that will play a role in consolidating management and protection of remnant checkerboard lands that characterize much of the northern Sierra Nevada.

Over the last year, ARC has increased its capacity and energy to pursue and develop more land conservation projects. We've used our mapping and GIS skills, consolidated state and local vegetation, habitat, and conservation priority datasets, and determined that there easily remains 100,000 acres of land within our two watersheds that need to be preserved. To date, we've engaged with 16 local landowners on over 12,000 acres who want to ensure their lands are permanently protected.

This tells us two things: We have a lot of work left to do, and our community still wants to help us get it done. The cumulative impact of ARC's body of work over the last 35 years cannot be understated. The success of our organization and staff in getting the work done isn't possible without the willing landowners who work with us – and you, our supporters. We thank you for being a part of ARC's past and future success!



El Dorado Ranch supporter hike participants 4/24 —Photo by Marshall Gorham

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"When we love the earth, we are able to love ourselves more fully.

I believe this. The ancestors taught me it was so."

-bell hooks, Touching the Earth

American River Conservancy

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I started racing BMX Sidehacks in 1978 and I still race. I have numerous Regional, National championships and a World title I've won while riding with my brother Chuck and son Ryan. This is also a space where people learn to pay attention and for me to be a mentor. I think I am on a mission to help create and protect spaces where people can grow and connect.



MEET THE STAFF

Kelly Croffoot – Chili Bar Manager

I started working at the Conservancy April 2015, 9 years ago and hope to be here another 9! I wear many hats – Chili Bar Park manager, on the ground manager at Wakamatsu Farm, and various other projects within ARC. We are a small team here and everyone who works here is super busy with multiple tasks. Most of what I do is location and resource management, which really means fixing things, noticing when things need attention, and figuring out the best way to preserve things using resources we have. This ranges from fixing the lawnmower – a really important piece of equipment here – to taking the time to talk to visitors at Chili Bar.



I grew up being outdoors, first in Southern California around La Habra Heights and Brea. These places were nearly rural and similar in some ways to the area around here. Then we moved north to a little town near Vancouver, Washington, and there everything was slower and I noticed that people took time to relate to each other. We moved back to California and I graduated from Ponderosa High in 1980. During these years, my family went camping and fishing a lot, piling into the station wagon and driving cross country. A backpack and a tent is about the best you can get for me. The simplicity and being one with the outdoors is something that comes from these experiences.

I didn't study natural resources in college. I took some geology courses, but it was working commercial construction and technology for many years that honed my skills, the technical as well as the skill of paying attention. When you are managing big projects you learn to notice. I think of it as situational awareness, which is what I do here. Noticing what needs to be done and paying attention is important – you know, it's necessary. I'm involved in a music program for kids where we make space for them to learn to create, develop discipline, and to acquire important life skills.

We've seen a lot of building and population growth here. When I first came up here we didn't have anything like Walmart, Home Depot or that kind of stuff, so I'm just really aware of what we can lose. The Wakamatsu Farm is a fantastic example of a space that serves our community-where they can congregate at events, take a tour or a class, learn about history and the natural world. When I recall standing on the bank of Rush Creek fishing as a kid and noticing I'm the only one out here, I realize that once something like this is gone it's gone. That is why I am part of this group. It is important and I might not be able to change the world for myself so much, but I certainly will always try to for my grandkids and their kids. I think that's what it takes right now and ARC makes that effort today.

—Special thanks to JoAnn McAllister for her support in writing this article

LAND CONSERVATION UPDATE

For 35 years, ARC has worked with private landowners, public agencies and funding partners to preserve native habitat, agricultural lands, recreational access and riparian corridors. As the human population grows, conservation of large open spaces is critical to allow systems to adapt and maintain resiliency in the face of changing ecological processes produced by climate change. We are currently working towards the completion of several exciting conservation projects in the Upper American River and Upper Cosumnes River watersheds, including the following:



El Dorado Ranch Over the last 11 years, ARC has protected 4,182 acres of El Dorado Ranch in 4 different phases. We are now working with the andowner to purchase and permanently protect the remaining 3,000 acres of this beautiful oak woodland landscape along the Cosumnes River in El Dorado County. Once the site of a planned residential development, El Dorado Ranch will become a unit in El Dorado County's first Wildlife Area – a special designation by California Department of Fish and Wildlife that allows for non-motorized wildlife-related recreation. This ambitious final phase of the acquisition will require strong support from our community – we hope you'll join us in making this project happen! Learn more about the project and see it for yourself with upcoming tours this spring.

Bear Creek Ranch ARC first became familiar with this property in 2011, when it was discovered that it supported a robust population of federally threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) (CRLF). We are thrilled to announce that we are one step closer to protecting this 442-acre working forest and threatened species habitat in El Dorado County. Our staff is working with the willing landowner and many diverse partners to advance this critical conservation project to protect one of only seven known populations of CRLF in the Sierra. We are actively fundraising to acquire this property and have already secured \$1.5 million from CAL FIRE's Forest Legacy Program towards that end.

Joo Forest Property In 2023 ARC was contacted by the owners of land along the Middle Fork American River who were interested in donating their 483-acre forested landholdings to a conservation non-profit. The property is surrounded by existing public land (Eldorado National Forest) and supports mixed conifer forest and riparian habitats. Our conservation staff is working on due diligence to facilitate this donation of land and we hope to complete this project by the end of 2024.

Steely Ridge Conservation Easement American River Conservancy has been working with the Frost-Hurzel family for nearly 2 decades to facilitate the permanent protection of the Steely Ridge-North Fork Cosumnes River confluence area in Somerset. After donating the 150-acre Wells Preserve property in 2021, this conservation-minded family is now ready to place a conservation easement on their adjacent 158-acre property. Bordered by the Wells Preserve and BLM land, this conservation opportunity will ensure the permanent protection of North Fork Cosumnes River riparian habitat, mixed conifer forest, pond habitat (we've observed many native pond turtles here!), and several beautiful heritage black oak trees. This spring The Latrobe Fund awarded ARC a \$25,000 grant to facilitate this conservation transaction. ARC is actively seeking an additional \$25,000 to match their generous contribution. Please contact Elena (elena@arconservancy.org) if you are interested in contributing to this project!

ARC Welcomes New Board Member, Julie Marston

Julie joined ARC in 2023 and is currently Board Treasurer. Moving to Lotus in 1979, she was raised on the river and spent many hours horseback riding along its oak studded banks. She is dedicated to supporting ARC's preservation of the rivers and land she enjoyed throughout her childhood. She has been a Registered Nurse for 25 years, with ten years executive level experience ranging from nursing director of a large, multi-department service line at a rural non-profit hospital, leader of a population health management program at an academic health system, to her current role as co-founder and CEO of Marston Yoder Healthcare Consulting. She and her husband Scott live in El Dorado Hills and share a love of outdoor play that includes training their two dogs, backpacking, fly fishing, hiking local trails, and traveling to our national parks.



SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



In early 2023, Walt Young was searching Northern California for a non-profit organization that would benefit from the skill and knowledge built over a long career engaged with land management issues. Lucky for us, Walt found the American River Conservancy and decided to volunteer to assist stewardship staff with land management issues related to stewardship and conservation.

With twenty years as a volunteer for Sheriff's Search & Rescue, over thirty years combined with the National Park Service and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority as a paramedic/firefighter, Law Enforcement park ranger and criminal investigator, and eighteen years of disaster medical management experience with US Health & Human Services, deploying from St. Thomas to Siapan, he has been around!

Walt Young's technical skill is a great match for the land monitoring needs of American River Conservancy. In addition to the standard mix of trash and graffiti removal, his family run business (Wildlands Technical Solutions LLC) provides specialized services to ARC at our El Dorado Ranch "River Sliver" and other properties for just \$1 a year for activities requiring licenses and insurance. WTS provides park agencies and land managers with actionable intelligence regarding the threat of human-caused wildland fires using their proprietary risk analysis and investigations. This service is a good fit for the issues (dumping, trespass, fire risk, etc.) ARC encounters on properties with unmanaged public access. Walt's unique set of services (drone/UAV, camera systems, investigations) and operational experiences, through WTS, have supported ARC stewardship staff in monitoring land and protecting our community.

We are thrilled to have the support of volunteer partners such as Walt Young and his company, Wildland Technical Solutions, LLC.

June 2— RIPE AREA Festival

ARC's collaboration with Myrtle Tree Arts called RIPE AREA will come into full fruition during our free, family-friendly Festival on June 2 at Wakamat-su Farm. As a play on the word "riparian," RIPE AREA has been a series of 18 public and private workshops during March, April, and May. Our three months of community activities and artworks will come together and culminate in the one-day festival on June 2. On this special Sunday, all the RIPE AREA artists, speakers, and other participants will offer artistic and scientific inspirations to encourage community activism for watershed health. The event promises hands-on art, sound, music, story, poetry, visual expressions, and free tasting of culinary art made with native plants! Register for the RIPE AREA Festival at bit.ly/RIPEAREA.

To volunteer for this special event, please contact melissa@ARConservancy.org.



WE'VE GOT A NEW LOOK!

For over three decades, ARC has had the same logo and color scheme. In honor of our 35th anniversary, we will begin a public image refresh starting with ARC's NEW LOGO! We are filled with gratitude for our new partners at CaliAlta and Ticklish Robot, who led us through the logo and branding design process with an enthusiastic commitment to ARC's unique mission and needs. Thanks to their stellar service, ARC now has a growing multi-colored toolbox to rebrand our image for a bold new future of preserving rivers and land for life!



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

STEWADING CONSERVED LANDS

As we contemplate the future of land conservation in the American and Cosumnes River watersheds, a crucial question emerges: how are the protected lands, under the ownership of the American River Conservancy (ARC) maintained over time? ARC currently owns and manages over 14,000 acres of land. This land is cared for by ARC staff, volunteers and various partners in land management including grazing lessees, farmers, trail building partners, sometimes with the support of other agencies and organizations. To understand land stewardship, let's delve into the ongoing stewardship activities at the 972-acre Lewis Ranch preserve. The South Fork American River (SOFAR) Restoration Project, a large-scale forest thinning project funded by Cal Fire and implemented by ARC staff, is focused on thinning approximately 1,030 acres of dense forest on four ARC properties. This project will thin over 600 acres on Lewis ranch. This project aims to mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfires in our community while enhancing the resilience of the habitat on the property. Stay tuned for project updates regarding the SOFAR project. Additionally, an annual grazing lease utilizes cattle to reduce grassy vegetation, thus lowering the fire hazard on the ranch. Volunteer Land Stewards diligently monitor the property, undertaking various stewardship and land management duties, and subsequently report their observations to ARC staff for further action. ARC staff conduct regular visits to the property, where they prioritize land management endeavors, lead stewardship workdays, oversee thinning and road repair contracts, coordinate and conduct prescribed fire activities, manage grazing and hunting leases, and coordinate volunteer activities. Lastly, we rely on the support of our donors, who contribute to ARC's Resilience Reserve, assisting in covering the expenses associated with land management. This spring, we are delighted to host two Open Preserve Days on ARC-owned land, inviting both our existing and new supporters to enjoy the conserved landscapes diligently stewarded by ARC.



Save the Dates:

- Lewis Ranch: May 11, 2024, from 10 am to 2 pm
- Elliot Pond: June 8, 2024, from 9 am to 1 pm

Sign up at ARConservancy.org/events/

Stewardship Programs connect volunteers with opportunities to care for the land, hike, collect scientific data and keep our waterways clean. Please learn more through the links below, or visit the stewardship page on our website ARConservancy.org

River Clean-ups <https://app.donorview.com/Ky1eA>

Water Quality Monitoring <https://app.donorview.com/KNDyl>

Land Steward <https://app.donorview.com/v6x39>

Western Bluebird Monitoring <https://app.donorview.com/GZvyP>

Phenology Program <https://app.donorview.com/Z6ZQj>

Ready to
volunteer?



Meet Sabrina Clark

Sabrina began working for ARC in February of 2024, as the **Forest Health Technician**. In this role she will be working closely with our Forest Restoration Manager, Autumn Gronborg, to implement ecological forestry management on ARC land to promote healthier forested ecosystems and watersheds. Sabrina has a bachelors degree in Environmental Management and Protection from California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo, where she explored a wide breadth of environmental disciplines and discovered a passion for hands-on land management.

After college, Sabrina moved to Coloma to become a raft guide and fell in love with the local landscape and its beauty. She has lived in the area ever since and is dedicated to helping preserve this natural beauty for others to enjoy as well. Most recently, Sabrina worked in a Tribal government's Natural Resource Department, where she was able to help with land stewardship and restoration projects on the reservation. Sabrina is very excited to be working with ARC and enjoys spending time outside doing fieldwork and getting to know ARC's projects and lands. In her free time, Sabrina enjoys exploring her natural surroundings through rafting, hiking, biking, and skiing.

PROGRAMS PLUS

See our website calendar for updates, full descriptions, and registration links.

ARConservancy.org/events

No dogs allowed unless otherwise stated



NATURE WALKS



Granite Chief / Picayune Valley Backpack Trip Saturday, June 22nd –23rd

ARC volunteer Tom Dodson will lead this exploration of the Granite Chief Wilderness Area Picayune Valley starting at Talbot Creek. We will hike up along the middle fork of the American River

passing through an old growth forest. After crossing the headwaters of the middle fork, we will emerge into the Picayune Valley. In the valley, we will explore waterfalls and pass through several alpine meadows with wildflowers in bloom. Ages 12+ with backpacking experience welcome. No Dogs due to fawning season. Meeting location Foresthill area. **FREE.**

Cosumnes Headwater Meadow walk Tuesday, July 9th 9am-3pm

Meander through a beautiful meadow of the Middle Fork Cosumnes River, with lunch adjacent to a waterfall. Enjoy a brief discussion of meadow restoration project with naturalist volunteers from the Cosumnes Coalition. This is an intermediate, high-elevation, 2-mile hike with some steep areas and slippery/rocky terrain on an undefined trail. Well-behaved dogs on-leash OK. Meeting location Pollock Pines area. **FREE.**

Granite Chief Backpacking Trip Friday, July 19th 8am – Sunday, July 21st

Join ARC board member Scott Vail for this 25-mile hike from Headwaters Camp counterclockwise through the major trails of the Granite Chief Wilderness. The Wilderness is sparsely traveled, has great views, and seldom-seen areas. On Sunday we will do minor brushing on the last 2-3 miles of the trail back to the Camp in recognition of the 35th Anniversary of the ARC. This is an advanced hike due to downed trees and the need to hike at least 8 miles a day. There are numerous climbs, one of about 1000 feet over 1.5 miles. The elevation is between 6000 and 8000 feet. Rain or shine. Experienced hikers ages 16+ welcome. Well-behaved dog on-leash OK. Meeting location TBD. **FREE.**

Carson Pass Hike Sunday, August 4th 8am-4pm

Scott Vail, long-time ARC volunteer & board member, will lead this hike of about 9 miles on the ridge route northwest of Carson Pass to Little Round Top and then to Showers Lake. We will have outstanding views of the Carson Pass Area including: Caples Creek, Meiss Meadows, Lake Tahoe and the Winnemucca Lakes area. This is an advanced hike due to the elevation (8000-8600 feet) and some off-trail hiking. Rain or shine. Experienced hikers ages 14+ welcome. Well-behaved dog on-leash OK. Meeting location Placerville area. **FREE.**

Mud Lake Hike Saturday, August 24th, 9am-3pm

ARC board member Scott Vail will lead this intermediate hike near Mud Lake, west of Silver Lake. The hike is approximately 8 miles round trip. 7500-8000 Ft. elevation with gradual climbs. The hike is partially on dirt roads, the Emigrant Trail and other forest trails in the Bear River drainage. There are 2 crossings of the Bear River which should be shallow. Wildflowers should be abundant. Well-behaved dog on-leash OK. Fit children ages 14+ welcome. Meeting location Placerville area. **FREE.**

Granite Chief Picayune Valley Overnight Backpack Trip Saturday, August 31st 8am-Sunday, September 1st 5pm

ARC volunteer Tom Dodson will lead this exploration of the Granite Chief Wilderness Area Picayune Valley starting at Talbot Creek. We will hike up along the middle fork of the American River passing through an old growth forest. After crossing the headwaters of the middle fork, we will emerge into the Picayune Valley. In the valley we will explore waterfalls and pass through several alpine meadows. We will camp at the upper end of the valley. After setting up camp we will hike up to the saddle and have views of the Granite Chief wilderness. Well-behaved dog-on-leash OK. This is an overnight trip, so bring your own backpack with supplies and food. Hike difficulty, moderate with no steep elevation gains. Elevation is 6,300 ft., a total of 16 miles round trip. Age minimum: 12 years-old with backpacking experience. Meeting location Foresthill area. **FREE.**

RIPE AREA Festival—June 2nd

ARC's collaboration with Myrtle Tree Arts called RIPE AREA will come into full fruition during our free, family-friendly Festival at Wakamatsu Farm. Register for the RIPE AREA Festival at bit.ly/RIPEAREA.

ARC's Concerts for a Cause

June 22nd, July 20th, August 17th, September 7th

Gates Open 5:30pm – Showtimes from 6:30pm to 9:30pm

Join American River Conservancy this summer for another exciting concert series supporting [ARC's Resilience Reserve](https://ARConservancy.org/reserve). Enjoy live music, tasty food, and beverages at landmark Wakamatsu Farm. All tickets are \$25 per adult. Kids 12 and under are free. Details at bit.ly/ARCC4c2024.

LECTURES, WORKSHOPS, & MISCELLANY

Fundamentals of Sogetsu Ikebana—Classes in Classic Japanese Flower Arranging

Sundays, June 9th, July 14th, August 18th, 10am-1pm

Instructor Yasmin Spiegel, Flower Name: "Ki - Do" - "Her own Special Way", is a "Sensei" (teacher) in the Sogetsu School of Japanese flower arranging, called "Ikebana". Ikebana as a tradition is more than 600 years old. Since 2003, Yasmin has been a student of Kika Shibata Sensei, who is a second generation Master of Sogetsu Ikebana. Ages 8+w/adult supervision. Meeting location Gold Hill/Placerville area. **Cost: Individual classes \$35/members, \$45/non-members.**

Fishing on the Farm

Thursdays, June 13 & 27, July 11 & 25, August 8 & 22, 5:30-dark

ARC is excited to announce the return of fishing at historic Wakamatsu Farm. Join volunteer and fishing enthusiast Fred Campbell-Craven. Try your hand at casting techniques, catch a few bass, and enjoy the serenity of the 8-acre lake. All ages welcome. Minors must be supervised by an adult. Steady Meeting location Gold Hill/Placerville area. **Suggested donation per car: \$10/members, \$15/non-members.**

North County Cemetery Crawl Redux

Saturday, June 15th, 9:30-1:30pm

Your host Mike Roberts will lead the caravan from Greenwood to the little-known Spanish Dry Diggins Cemetery. Historic Greenwood Cemetery is the next stop. From there we'll stop in old downtown Greenwood and discuss the town's namesake, John Greenwood and his illustrious father, mountain man Caleb Greenwood. This tour is a joint effort by ARC and Save the Graves. All ages welcome. **Suggested donation: \$10/members, \$15/non-members.**



Botanical Illustration Classes on Native Plants

June 20th 11am-2pm & July 6th 2-4:30pm

Our instructor, Vanda Lavar, has a master's degree in art. Her works are widely collected and found internationally. She owns and directs, "Academy Art of the West." This is a watercolor class focusing on botanical illustration of the native flora and fauna. You will need to bring a #0 and #3 watercolor brush and

simple ceramic or porcelain white plate. All levels. Children ages 12+ (w/adult) welcome. Meeting location Placerville/Gold Hill area. **Cost: \$75/members, \$80/non-members.**

Tai Chi-Qigong

Saturday, June 22nd, 10:00-11:15am

Learn selected Tai Chi-Qigong movements that celebrate the flexibility, strength, and upright spirit of the dragon. East Asians wish each other to have the "dragon-

horse spirit" especially during the year of the dragon. Movements and poses will also pay tribute to the stability and dynamism of the horse as we renew our qi for the new year. Ages 8+ welcome. Meeting location Placerville/Gold Hill area. **Suggested Donation: \$5/members, \$10/non-members.**

Plein Air Workshops

June 30th (Gold Hill), July 28th & August 10th (Coloma)

This class will focus on botanical illustration of the native flora and fauna. Vanda Lavar has a master's degree in art and is an artist and educator. Our instructor, Vanda Lavar, has a master's degree in art. Her works are widely collected, and grace products found multi-nationally. She teaches the following media: watercolor, oil painting, acrylic painting, drawing, pastel, and gouache. Vanda will be teaching brush strokes, color theory, composition, and perspective. **Cost: \$45/members, \$50/non-members.**

Summer in the Home Orchard: Pruning, Thinning & Pest Management-w/Foothill Orchard Care

Saturday, July 13th 10am-1pm

Join us for the second in our four-part Home Orchard Workshop Series at the Wakamatsu orchard. We will cover the basics of summer fruit tree pruning, the benefits of thinning for quality fruit, pest identification, and organic management options. Discussion will be followed by hands-on tutorial. Class taught by Ryan Bell of Foothill Orchard Care. Meeting location Gold Hill/Placerville area. Rain or shine. **Cost: \$40/members, \$45/non-members.**

Learn how to play the Native American Flute

Sunday, July 21st, 10-11am

The Native American flute is considered an important instrument in many Native American cultures. It is often seen as a spiritual instrument that has the power to connect people with the natural world and the spirits. For many tribes, the flute is considered a symbol of peace and harmony. The instrument is often used in ceremonial and healing rituals, and its soothing and meditative sounds are believed to have the power to calm the mind and bring about a sense of tranquility and inner peace. Age minimum: 10+. Meeting location Gold Hill/Placerville area. **Suggested Donation: \$5/members, \$10/non-members.**

Capturing Wakamatsu: A Poetry Walk/Workshop

Sunday, July 28th 10am-12pm

Taylor Graham, El Dorado County's first Poet Laureate, and award-winning Sacramento-area poet Katy Brown will lead an exploration of farmhouse, barn, and surroundings, then ask participants to write a poem inspired by what they've experienced. Anyone who wishes to may share their poems with the group and ARC. Children 8+ welcome with adult supervision. Meeting location Gold Hill/Placerville area. **Suggested Donation: \$5/members, \$10/non-members.** A detailed email will be sent once you register online.

Many thanks

to the program leaders who taught a workshop, led a hike, or gave a presentation this winter

Want to volunteer? Have an idea for a program?

Contact julie@ARConservancy.org

EDUCATION UPDATE

It was a busy spring for the environmental education programs at American River Conservancy, and we are looking forward to an epic summer with bigger and better nature camps than ever before! Our K-12 field trip program welcomed over 1,100 students to Wakamatsu farm to engage in hands-on learning, land stewardship, nature journaling, and participatory science. We even hosted a group of middle schoolers at the Weiner Property near Salmon Falls Ranch where they removed invasive Scotch broom from a half-mile stretch of trail near the river. In March, 100 students from Shingle Springs California Montessori Project came out to Wakamatsu to help remove blackberry and other weeds, plant elderberries, explore the macroinvertebrates that live in the lake, and practice nature journaling. ARC's education program was also excited to partner with Jackson Elementary in El Dorado Hills to pilot a series of in-class lessons that culminated in a field trip to Wakamatsu to explore the native garden. It's these connections with schools and teachers that will help us expand our offerings and reach more future land stewards who will carry on the ethic of responsible land management and love of nature.

Summer Nature Camp is going "Down By The Banks" to teach kids in grades K-8th about all the wonderful life that depends on healthy river and riparian ecosystems. Most of the camps sold out within a few weeks of opening up! We have expanded our River Rangers camp for middle schoolers to a full week, including ropes courses, team building and self reliance exercises, camping, and rafting on the South Fork of the American River.

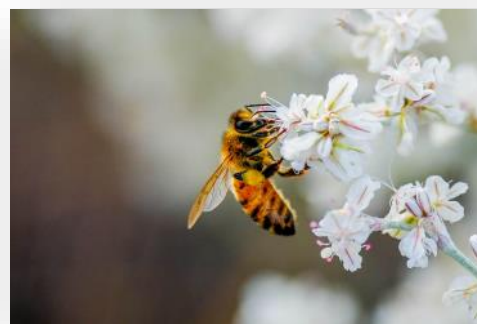
We hope your kiddos are going to be joining us at the river this summer!



Bee is for B.O. Tracking Olfactory Footprints By David Lukas

If you think it's easy to smell someone's body odor, imagine what it's like for insects. Insects don't have noses, yet their sense of smell is so highly refined they can smell a single molecule of odor. Now imagine that you're a bee flying around collecting nectar. Visiting hundreds of flowers every day is exhausting, and every flower visit is a critical choice. Flowers all vary in how much nectar they hold and how quickly their nectar reservoirs refill after being emptied by earlier visitors. Then, on top of that, a bee must evaluate whether to invest energy into landing on, finding its way into, and probing a given flower in search of nectar.

To read full article visit lukasguides.com/bee-is-for-b-o/



David's virtual classes through ARC have gained popularity. Watch for his upcoming programs again next winter.

THE AMERICAN RIVER CONSERVANCY OFFICES ARE LOCATED IN THE
MARSHALL GOLD DISCOVERY STATE HISTORIC PARK
AT 348 HWY 49, COLOMA, CA

OUR OFFICES ARE OPEN TO VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS MONDAY—FRIDAY 8AM-4PM
WE CAN BE REACHED AT (530) 621-1224, ARC@ARCONSERVANCY.ORG
OR VISIT ARCONSERVANCY.ORG.



ARC's 2024 Concerts For A Cause Jun 22, Jul 20, Aug 17 & Sep 7

Join ARC, Marco's, and Wani's Tacos this summer at Wakamatsu Farm for great food, drinks, and music by popular local headliners, including **Island of Black and White**, **Little Hurricane**, **Red Dirt Ruckus**, and **Still Rock'n & Friends**. All tickets are \$25 per adult, and kids are FREE. You can support ARC's [Resilience Reserve](#) by purchasing your show tickets at bit.ly/ARCC4c2024. We also need helping hands for our concert series, and our volunteers join these great concerts FREE!



To volunteer for any ARC special events, please contact melissa@ARCconservancy.org.

Liquidation Sale

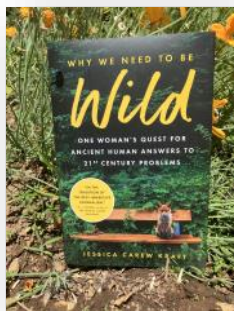
Most ARC merchandise and books **30% off**

Visit our online store at ARCconservancy.org/Merchandise

Why We Need To Be Wild

One Woman's Quest for Ancient Human Answers to 21st Century Problems

By Jessica Carew Kraft—Book review by Julie Allen



This book captivated me from the moment she shoveled her first roadkill into the back of her minivan. Jessica went back to her primal origins, her religious and cultural roots, and learned a lot about herself along the way. "I would need to seek my own answers about the moral questions that vexed rewilding, as everyone must do, absent of an intact culture rooted in the earth." On her rewilding journey she met many interesting people, took wilderness survival courses, and spent weekends learning skills like tracking, curing hides, making shoes, and spending time alone in the wild.

As a mother of three myself, I couldn't help but chuckle when I read about her share time experience with a small group of women who admitted that they had enrolled in the survival course "because we wanted to prove to ourselves that we could survive in the wild. Yet we all agreed that nothing we had yet experienced during the survival week challenged us as much as caring for our own kids."

In the final paragraphs, I appreciated her humble advice; Pursue good relationships. Eat wild food. Make your kids play outside. And try to master a few skills of our ancestors.

I would recommend this book to anyone interested in exploring their wild side. jessicacarewkraft.com/book

As a conservation organization based in California's upper American River and upper Cosumnes River watersheds, we acknowledge that we work within the land and waters that make up the ancestral homelands of the Miwok, Nisenan, and Washoe people. We pledge to honor, learn from, and actively engage local tribes in our work.

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- ◇ *From the Ponderosa H.S. Class of 1970 "Thank you for all that you do!"*
- ◇ *Happy Birthday - Howard Levenson*
- ◇ *Thank you for everything you provide.*

If you feel your name is missing from the last quarter (donations or volunteer hours), please contact julie@ARConservancy.org



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 Find out more at ARConservancy.org/wakamatsu-events
 Or email: wakamatsu@ARConservancy.org



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For full list visit <https://bit.ly/3eT0VN4>

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- Walkie talkies (long range)
- Riding Lawn Mower
- Small, reliable TRUCK
- Large water jugs
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- Fishing basket
- Small camp stove and lightweight cooking gear
- Canvas folding wagon
- Cellular game camera
- Canoe paddles
- life jackets

...And much more

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