



AMERICAN RIVER
CONSERVANCY

Celebrating 35 Years 30,000 Acres

Stewardship • Education • Conservation



Keyaki garden with the historic Japanese elm tree



Set-up for one of many farm rentals



Perfect for catch and release fishing on the farm events

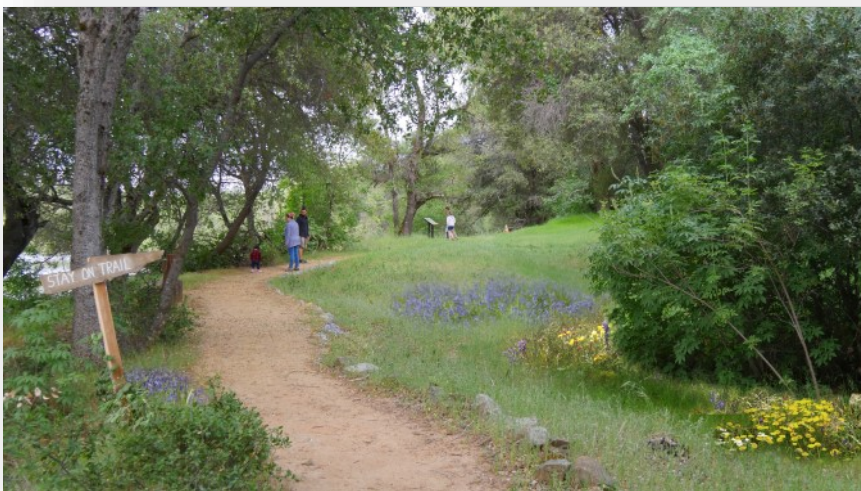
Greetings from Wakamatsu Farm – September 2024

At the confluence of American River Conservancy’s (ARC) mission, Wakamatsu Farm has attracted many thousands of visitors from around the world since the Conservancy purchased the property in 2010. As a community connector, the Farm creates and fosters a **deep sense of place and belonging** for people of all ages. In fact, visiting Wakamatsu Farm is how many people first discover ARC and contribute to its mission.

Often drawn to its unique historical significance as the first Japanese Colony site in North America, visitors enjoy Wakamatsu Farm for a wide variety of public and private events and programs, educational and recreational experiences, and rewarding volunteer opportunities. This landmark property intertwines history, culture, education, agriculture, art, science, and nature in one all-encompassing location.

As the community benefits of Wakamatsu Farm increase, so does ARC’s need for community support.

You can help today!



Visitors enjoying the lake loop trail



Donor wall of honor for \$1,000+ supporters

Stewardship



Volunteers at work



Nichi Bei Pilgrimage 2023



Tea house at dusk

Property stewardship is the most demanding aspect of managing a 272-acre working farm that also hosts events and programs.

Wakamatsu Farm is one of four ARC properties that will benefit from forest health work as part of the South Fork American River Forest Restoration (SOFAR) project. Funded by CAL FIRE, this project will enhance and improve the densely forested oak woodlands at the Farm, making them more resilient and resistant to catastrophic wildfire.

Other new projects like the monarch butterfly waystation, native plant restoration, and plans for an intertribal tending and gathering garden spark new community connections, interest, and stewardship needs. Existing features, like the native plant demonstration garden and the Lake Loop Trail are much-loved assets that require substantial maintenance.

Hosted at the Farm, the last two seasons of ARC's *Concerts for a Cause* has raised funds for ARC's [Resilience Reserve](#). ARC is grateful for so many dedicated ARC supporters, and all who are weekly Farm volunteers. ARC welcomes new volunteers interested in helping with the rewarding work of farm stewardship.



Visitors enjoying the "big burly blue" oak tree



Ripe Area Art + Nature Festival

FARM STEWARDSHIP NEEDS:

Gardening, mowing, trail maintenance, trail and aggregate materials, building materials, equipment, supplies, vehicles and repairs, farming equipment, also volunteers and staffing funds for stewardship needs.

Contact us to RENT the Farm to make
your own history at a landmark property!
wakamatsu@ARConservancy.org

Education

Most environmental education classes, field trips, and events happen at Wakamatsu Farm or focus on local resources also found on the property.

In 2023 alone, ARC's environmental education programming reached over 2,100 learners of all ages, including students from 13 new and 21 returning schools. The *Ripe Area Art + Nature Festival* brought over 850 visitors to the farm to experience environmental education concepts inspiring community activism in support of local conservation.

ARC completed Phase 1 of the new **Bob Massad Education Center** at the Farm in 2023. A new "donor tree" displays the names of \$5,000+ donors to Wakamatsu Farm since 2018.



New donor tree on the Education Center

FARM ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEEDS:

Education Center phase 2 construction (solar, water, restrooms), education scholarships, staffing, and volunteers for education programs.



Kids engaged in experiential place-based learning

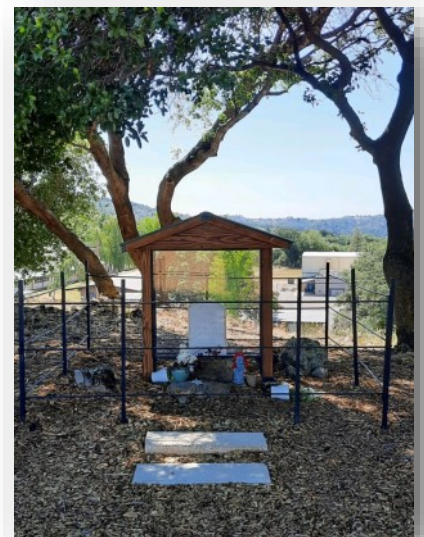
Conservation

ARC's commitment to conserving the unique and diverse resources at Wakamatsu Farm is evident in the ongoing investment of time, funds, and resources at the site.

In addition to so many other community benefits, Wakamatsu Farm contains a diverse mix of Sierra foothills ecosystems, including oak woodlands, seasonal wetlands, and riparian habitats. Shingle Creek and Granite Creek flow through the Farm and fill two ponds before their confluence with the South Fork American River. The largest pond is surrounded by an approximately 1.5-mile Lake Loop Trail that invites people of all abilities to appreciate the rich diversity of flora and fauna found on the Farm.

When ARC acquired the property, a \$1.2 million loan was needed to bridge the gap between secured funding and the purchase price. ARC is still paying down the remaining \$470,000 required to purchase the property back in 2010, which secured it from further subdivision and development.

Your grassroots support for ARC helps ensure that Wakamatsu Farm will continue providing community benefits for generations to come.



Okei-san's grave now with historic marker

FARM CONSERVATION NEEDS:

Mortgage, utilities, insurance, fees, interpreters/docents, and *Wakamatsu Farm Legacy Fund* one time or recurring donors.



Phase 1 of ARC's new Education Center - now complete!

Wakamatsu Farm is a special place where ARC's three pillars of stewardship, education, and conservation are alive for the benefit of communities near and far. As a cultural heritage site, it is a place of pilgrimage that represents the beginnings of Japanese American immigration. No other place on Earth makes memories like Wakamatsu Farm. You can be part of the Wakamatsu Farm experience today by joining ARC with your support.

Please help by donating, volunteering, and sharing the Wakamatsu Farm story.

Donate today online at bit.ly/give2wakamatsufarm. Sign up to volunteer today at bit.ly/volunteer4ARC.



**AMERICAN RIVER
CONSERVANCY**

PO Box 562
Coloma, CA 95613

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OUR MISSION

American River Conservancy serves our communities by ensuring healthy ecosystems within the Upper American and Upper Cosumnes River watersheds through land conservation, stewardship and education.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.