

THE CURRENT

Informational Newsletter for Spring 2025 (March-May.) American River Conservancy



Communities Connected to Place: Reflections on **Conservation, Public Land and Recreation** By Elena DeLacy

I have noticed that my level of contentedness with life is directly correlated with my connectedness to people in my life - family, friends, colleagues, and others in my community. Similarly, when I spend more

time indoors (and behind a screen), I tend to lose sight of the things that truly matter. Living connected to place provides an antidote to alienation in divisive times by increasing and deepening our daily interaction with each other, our communities, and nature. We know how to connect to the places where we live - it's deep in our DNA. It's only recently that we've begun to ignore (at our own peril) how we depend on and are part of nature. One of the ways in which we connect with place is through recreation and time spent outdoors on public land or land made accessible to the public through the efforts of land trusts like American River Conservancy (ARC).

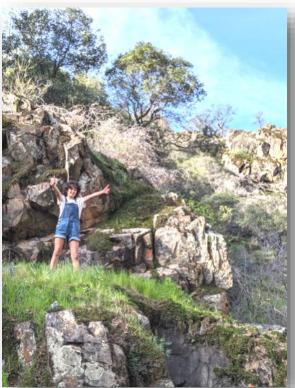
The origins of public land in the United States date back to the 19th century when the federal government began acquiring vast amounts of land through treaties, purchases, and, in many cases, forced removals of Indigenous peoples. The Homestead Act of 1862, and the establishment of Yellowstone National Park in

1872-the world's first national park-were key milestones in the development of public lands. The creation of the U.S. Forest Service in 1905 and the National Park Service in 1916 further formalized the management of public lands for recreation, conservation, and resource use.

The formation of these parks and protected areas often came at the expense of native American tribes. Lands that had been stewarded by Indigenous peoples for generations were seized and repurposed, displacing communities and severing them from their cultural and spiritual ties to the land. Yosemite, Glacier, and Great Smoky Mountains National Parks, among others, were originally inhabited by Indigenous groups who were forcibly removed to make way for tourism and conservation. In recent years, efforts have been made to acknowledge this history and integrate Indigenous

voices into land management decisions, including initiatives to return lands to tribal stewardship or allow co-management. American River Conservancy is committed to continuing our partnerships with local tribes to advance land back and tribal co-management projects.

There's no doubt that recreational lands like Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park or Salmon Falls Ranch (both are ARC land conservation projects)



A happy community member connects to place at Mt. Murphy and Dutch Creek falls, a past ARC conservation project that provides public access for hiking, now managed by the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park

I invite you to contemplate the ways in which you do or could connect to place in your life. What challenges do you see in shifting our society to enable living connected to place? How can ARC help overcome those challenges on a local level? Your comments are

Feature Article

welcome. A great way to help shape how ARC supports community connections to land is to participate in our Sup porter Survey - vis bit.ly/

ARCsurvev2025 or use QR code.



p- sit	Meet the Staff	2
	Conservation Update & Survey	3
	2025 Special Events	4
	Stewardship & Supporter Spotligh	t 4-5
	Programs, Hikes & Workshops	6-7
	Education Update	8
Ĺ	Angling Article & PARC Flyer	9
2	Thank You Supporters!	10-11
8 -	Become A Financial Supporter!	12

IN THIS ISSUE

1

2

provide immense benefits to communities. They offer opportunities such as biking, hiking, fishing, and horse riding, which improve physical and mental well-being. Protected lands are part of vital ecosystems that help combat climate change, preserve biodiversity, and maintain clean air and water. Additionally, outdoor recreation contributes significantly to local economies, supporting jobs and tourism.

To ensure that everyone has access to these benefits, it is important that we prioritize the protection of lands for recreation, agriculture, and wildlife habitat while addressing historical injustices. As an ARC supporter, you can get involved in these efforts by engaging in our stewardship and education programs and supporting projects like El Dorado Ranch that include partnerships with local Indigenous groups to honor their historical connections to the land. Connect with your natural surroundings and neighbors (both human and non-human) by visiting your local park or green space.

American River Conservancy

PO Box 562 348 Hwy 49 Coloma, CA 95613 (530) 621-1224 Email: **arc@ARConservancy.org** Website: **ARConservancy.org**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kyle Pogue — President Scott Vail — Vice President Howard Levenson — Secretary Julie Marston — Treasurer Christina Salomon Steve Clark Cathy Ciofalo Lee Van Pelt Marcus Christian Rachel Lum Rusty Mills Randy Barrow

STAFF

Elena DeLacy, Executive Director Cathy Mueller, Stewardship Manager Melissa Lobach, Development Director Autumn Gronborg, Forest Restoration Project Manager Marshall Gorham, Land Protection Specialist Nic Russo, Education Programs Manager Kelly Croffoot, Chili Bar Manager Julie Allen, Outreach & Office Manager Megan Matthews, Education Coordinator Spencer Cortright, Stewardship Coordinator Sabrina Clark, Forest Health Technician Ryan Hoyt, Farm Stewardship Assistant earned a bachelor's degree in evolution and ecology.

In the early years of my career, I focused on wildlife and botanical surveys, biological monitoring, and small-scale organic farming. Later, as my three boys navigated their elementary school years, I decided to return to school myself, earning a K-6 teaching credential. This path eventually led me to ARC, where I began as Education Manager in early 2021 before transitioning to Stewardship Manager in fall 2022. This role has brought together all the diverse threads of my career in a deeply fulfilling way.

As an educator, I've always believed in creating hands-on learning experiences to help students engage directly with nature. I found unexpected joy in developing educational programs for adults, including my time as an instructor for the California Naturalist and Climate Stewards programs. In my current role, I apply the same philosophy to stewardship by fostering connections to the land through volunteer programs like the Land Stewards Program and projects such as the Leek Springs Meadow Restoration Project.

Through these experiences, I've come to understand that people are drawn to ARC for a variety of reasons—whether it's a love of nature, a sense of community, or a

passion for outdoor recreation. I adore all the volunteers who give their time, energy and expertise to steward protected land. I especially adore my husband Brad with whom weekend bumble bee surveys have become an irresistible recreational activity, and my amazing sons, Alex, Owen and Walden, who enjoy the beauty of protected land and tease their parents for their nerdy focus on fuzzy bees.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to expand opportunities for people to connect with the land, grow our community, and inspire even more people to support our mission. We couldn't do this work without our volunteers, and I'm proud to be part of a community so dedicated to protecting the land.

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

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, <u>ARC@ARConservancy.org</u> or visit <u>ARConservancy.org.</u>

MEET THE STAFF







Cathy Mueller Stewardship Manager

My heart has been connected to ARC since 1994, when I became a river guide on the South Fork American River. ARC's mission resonated with my values of protecting wild lands for the benefit of plants, animals, and people. These values were shaped by my nature-based childhood in the Sierra Nevada Foothills and further nurtured through my studies at UC Davis, where I

LAND CONSERVATION UPDATE

For 36 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 advancement 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 landowner 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! Visit www.arconservancy.org/eldoradoranch to learn more and donate to this exciting project. Please join us for spring hikes at El Dorado Ranch to get a sneak peek of the Phase 5 acquisition (See page 6 for more information).

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. The Latrobe Fund awarded ARC with 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!



Lotus View Ranch Conservation Easement – Over the past year or so, ARC staff have been working with the owner of this 1,000-acre ranch to craft a conservation easement document that protects the biodiversity and agricultural resources of the property. Located adjacent to Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park, Lotus View Ranch is an important keystone for habitat connectivity in the South Fork American River canyon. We are pursuing multiple funding sources that will allow us to purchase this conservation easement and protect this land in perpetuity.

2024 Board Election Results

The following members were voted in for the 2025-2026 term.

Cathy Ciofalo Christina Salomon Scott Vail Howard Levenson Julie Marston Randy Barrow

Thank you for your votes!

2025 Supporter Survey Help Shape ARC's Future!

You're a vital part of ARC's story. Your support and involvement make it possible to preserve special places where people and nature thrive. We need **your feedback via our survey** to help us improve. It

should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete. Your responses are confidential and will remain anonymous unless you request our follow-up. General results will be shared with our community by April 2025. Please complete **one survey per supporter** by **March 10**, **2025**. Find the survey at <u>bit.ly/ARCsurvey2025</u>.



Thank you in advance for helping us grow together!

ARC SPECIAL EVENTS 2025 SAVE THE DATES!

Viva ARC! - A Premium Event Hosted by The Villa Agave in Placerville Sunday, **April 13** from 3:00 to 5:00 with overnight options

Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" Presented by Folsom Lake College at Wakamatsu Farm May 8 to 11 – Four evening performances

Concerts for a Cause

- Featuring Wani's Tacos at Wakamatsu Farm
- June 21 Island of Black and White
- July 26 Achilles Wheel
- August 16 Red Dirt Ruckus

RIPE AREA: Art of Native Plants Festival **September 21** – All day

Find ticketing and information on ARC's event page at <u>ARConservancy.org/events</u>.

Tequila and Tastings for River Lovers





Viva ARC! – A Premium Event

On Sunday, April 13, indulge in late afternoon luxury during an exclusive tequila and small bite pairings at The Villa Agave in Placerville. Savor rare, artisanal tequilas perfectly paired with gourmet bites in an elegant and intimate setting with fellow conservationists. The tasting experience for only 30 special guests features aficionado remarks during three small bite courses topped with a fine chocolate finish. This unforgettable occasion blends sophistication with purpose, all supporting ARC's mission to protect local natural and cultural treasures. Book soon while you still can select an overnight B&B room at <u>bit.ly/VivaARC</u>.

We always need **event volunteers**! To help and join FREE, please contact <u>melissa@ARConservancy.org</u>.

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



It is our extreme pleasure to have the support of local rafting company, OARS West, Inc. For almost a decade, OARS has generously given annually to ARC in an effort to support local conservation efforts for public lands and waters in California.

OARS was founded in 1969 by river pioneer George Wendt. His sons Tyler

& Clavey Wendt now carry on his legacy of river conservation and stewardship based on the inspiring idea that spreading the love of wild

rivers is the surest path to their protection, now and for the enjoyment of future generations.

"We are grateful for all that the American River Conservancy does for our community and we are proud to support their work through voluntary \$1/person/day donations from our guests. Thank you for everything you do to make the central Sierra a better place to live, work and play!"

Steve Markle, Vice President, Sales & Marketing OARS.com



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Stewarding Conserved Lands



Wakamatsu garden volunteers

Opportunities to Recreate through Stewardship Programs

Recreation takes many forms, and the ARC Stewardship Programs are dedicated to supporting a wide variety of recreational activities in the American and Cosumnes River watersheds. The Cosumnes River Water Quality Monitoring program brings together like-minded individuals in beautiful, serene river settings, where participants contribute to monthly scientific water quality measurements. Our volunteer Land Steward program offers opportunities for those with a sense of adventure to explore land usually disturbed only by the sounds of rustling leaves and wild creatures. For many, purpose and relaxation are found through scientific pursuits on ARC land, such as bluebird monitoring, phenology, bumble bee surveys, cone surveys, moth surveys, botanical surveys...the list goes on. Sometimes, recreation involves working together to make a positive impact, like at our volunteer-led river clean-up events, where we provide all the necessary supplies to turn trash removal into a rewarding and enjoyable activity. Finally, our trail workdays host volunteers who come together to build and maintain trails, creating spaces for the entire community to enjoy. By fostering connections to land that is protected for the benefit of plants, animals, and people, we help ensure these areas thrive both now and in the future. Join us!

Learn more through the links below, or visit the stewardship page on our website page at ARConservancy.org/stewardship

Wakamatsu Farm Workdays: <u>https://app.dvforms.net/api/dv/z9vww3</u> Trail Workdays: <u>https://app.dvforms.net/api/dv/j19vy7</u> Water Quality Monitoring: <u>https://app.donorview.com/KNDyl</u> River Clean-ups: <u>https://app.dvforms.net/api/dv/w4z68q</u> Land Stewards: <u>https://app.donorview.com/v6x39</u> Leek Springs: <u>Volunteer Sign Up Here</u>. Learn more about this project<u>Here</u>. Bluebird Monitoring: <u>https://app.donorview.com/GZvyP</u> Phenology: <u>https://app.donorview.com/Z6ZQj</u>



American River Headwaters Project Update

Let's celebrate a decade of ecological restoration at the American River Headwaters (ARH)! In addition to enhancing forest health and reducing fire risk, we have completed a comprehensive restoration of the source hydrology in the headwaters of the Middle and North Forks of the American River.



Thinned 1,972 acres of dense forest.
Removed 136 culverts and restored associated stream crossings.

•Restored 84 stream crossings.

•Restored and reconnected 173 acres of mountain meadow and alder with source hydrology.

•Decommissioned, recontoured, and managed 68 miles of road to decrease sedimentation from failures and landslides.

•Built 6.8 miles of new trail.

•Restored and donated 3,347 acres to the Granite Chief Wilderness!



ARC Staff at the ARH project

Stay tuned for a more detailed ARH/SOFAR (SOuthForkAmericanRiver) update in the next edition of The CURRENT.

PROGRAMS PLUS

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

ARConservancy.org/events

No dogs allowed unless otherwise stated



NATURE WALKS

EL DORADO RANCH HIKE - Explore the history and plants of El Dorado Ranch

Date TBD, 10am-4pm - road conditions/weather dependent

The tour and short walks will be led by local historian Dee Owens and botanist Annie Walker. We will drive to Fanny Creek, an area of early Gold Rush activity and mercury mining as well as the scant remains of Cinnabar City, a small town during the 1870s. We will end the day at the Miller Ranch, an example of later 19th Century cattle and Angora goat ranching. Responsible children 12+ welcome. Meeting location El Dorado area. Suggested Donation: \$10/members, \$15/non-members.

GOLD RUSH TREES WALK Saturday, March 15th 9am-12pm

John Kipping will lead this historical walk through the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park. He will share his knowledge of the numerous native tree species, which helped to sustain untold generations of Nisenan peoples. Since the 1840's immigrants from the old world planted many favored trees as well, which have thrived in the Mediterranean climate. John is a certified arborist who operated a local tree service for 30 years. This will be an easy hike of 2-3 miles over moderate terrain. Rain cancels. Meeting location Coloma area. FREE.

GRATITUDE HIKE Saturday, April 5th 9:30am-12:30pm Join Robin Matthews, Gratefulness Gathering Host, Women's Wine Hiking Society Ambassador, and Life Coach, on a serene 3-4-mile hike through the Olmstead Loop in Cool. This easy, mindful journey blends nature's beauty with gratitude practices, fostering deep connection to both the environment and fellow hikers. Reconnect, reflect, and embrace gratitude along the trail! Age 12+ welcome. Meeting location Cool area. FREE.

POPPY WALK – Weather and bloom dependent Sunday, April 6th 1-5pm

Robin Center, longtime ARC supporter and Coloma river-front property owner (along with neighbors Barbara & David Thomas, Dennis Eagan, Andie Thrams, and Jim Klotz) will lead this one-of-a-kind Poppy Walk. With glowing orange fields overlooking the crystal water of the South Fork of the American River, the stunning contrasts and vibrant colors are a sight few have the good fortune to witness. The river trail also has views of some of the earliest land that ARC protected around Triple Threat Rapid. Meet-ing location Coloma/Lotus area. Cost: \$35 per person. Donations aid the Bill Center Memorial Fund supporting river frontage and trails.

FROM ASHES TO GROWTH - Exploring Forest Recovery Saturday, April 12th 10-12:30pm

Take a hike through a forest impacted by the Mosquito fire in Sept 2022. Led by a registered professional forester, we will learn

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

about post-fire forest ecology, wildfire resilience, and the ongoing efforts to restore this land. Along the way, we will engage in nature journaling, observing, and recording evidence of the forest's hi story and regrowth. Meeting location is 8 miles east of Georgetown. Suggested donation: \$5/members, \$10/ non-members.

FOREST BATHING WALK AT

WAKAMATSU FARM Saturday, April 12th 10am-12pm Forest Bathing is an immersive experience in nature, a simple, guided walk designed to support health and wellness. On this 1 mile walk around the lake you will



have an opportunity to slow down, quiet your mind, and experience the natural surroundings through your senses and take in the infinite wonders of nature. Susan Reed is a certified Nature and Forest Therapy Guide with the Association for Nature and Forest Therapy (ANFT). Adults only. Meeting location in Placerville/Gold Hill area. Suggested Donation: \$10/members, \$15/non-members.

EL DORADO RANCH SUPPORTER HIKES April 18, April 26 & May 17 10am-2pm

Join ARC staff on one of these exclusive hikes to the future site of El Dorado County's first Wildlife Area. All hikes are a moderate level at 4 miles for 4 hours on uneven terrain with an elevation changes of approximately 700 feet. Meeting location El Dorado area.



PLEIN AIR PAINT-OUT AT WAKAMATSU FARM Saturdays, March 1st, April 5th, May 3rd 8:30am-12pm Join artist David Yapp for a time of plein air painting at

Wakamatsu Farm. Bring your own paints and equipment for a time of self-guided painting. You supply all your own materials and equipment (easel, canvas, oils, acrylics, watercolors, etc.), choose your subject, and enjoy the camaraderie of painting outdoors with other artists. Instruction not provided. All painting levels welcome. Meeting location Gold Hill/Placerville area. Cost: \$15/members, \$20/non-members.

WILD MOVEMENT AND YOGA

Sundays, March 2 & 23, April 6 & 27, May 4 & 25, 10-11am

In wild yoga, we practice poses that reverse the habitual movement patterns of slouching, slumping, and staring resulting from our current dependence on chairs, screen tech, and cars. Combining vinyasa flow, functional strength, and mobility training, this beginner-level class with advanced options will leave you feeling energized, re-aligned, and centered in nature. Jessica Carew Kraft is a naturalist and author of Why We Need to Be Wild. All levels welcome. Meeting location Gold Hill/Placerville area. Cost: \$10/ members, \$15/non-members.

CAPTURING WAKAMATSU: A poetry walk/workshop Sunday, March 9th 12-2pm

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. Children 8+ welcome with adult supervision. Meeting location Gold Hill/Placerville area. Suggested Donation: \$5/members, \$10/nonmembers.

WAKAMATSU OPEN FARM DAY Saturdays, March 15th & May 17th 10am-2pm

Site of the first Japanese colony in America, your self-quided walking tour of Wakamatsu Farm may include a stroll to Okei-san's 1871 gravesite and Charles Graner's original 1850's farmhouse. Take a trip around the lake on the 1.5-mile trail. Bring a picnic and chair to sit and relax. On-site interpreters can share information and answer questions about Wakamatsu Farm's human and natural history. For private tours, please call 530-621-1224. Find out more at: ARConservancy.org/Wakamatsu. Cost: \$10 per vehicle.

FUNDAMENTALS OF SOGETSU IKEBANA-Classes in classic flower arranging

Sundays March 16th, April 13th, & May 18th, 10am-1pm Instructor Yasmin Spiegel is a "Sensei" (teacher) in the Sogetsu School of Ikebana: Japanese flower arranging. She is at home with both traditional Sogetsu forms and more modern sculptural arrangements. Yasmin has provided demonstrations and taught classes in Sogetsu at Wakamatsu Farms, the Sacramento Home and Garden Show, Davis Flower Arrangers, the Sacramento Floral Arrangers Guild, and Ikebana International. Ages 8+w/adult supervision. Meeting location Gold Hill/Placerville area. Cost: Individual classes \$35/members, \$45/non-members.



HERBARIUM 2-DAY WORKSHOP - Illustration in watercolor

March 21 & 22 - 2-days, 2pm-5pm

Professor Vanda Lavar presents this two-day lesson in Botanical Illustration taught classically, with a herbarium page to accompany the watercolor illustration. Students will begin their understudies in graphite (pencil) on watercolor

paper which later they can incorporate into their Herbarium Journal. All supplies are included. Ages 15+ welcome. Meeting location Coloma. Cost: \$175/members, \$185/non-members.

BEGINNING BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION - with watercolor and pen March 23rd, April 26th & May 31st 1-3pm This class will include a short hike where students I

ightly draw their specimens in pencil. This drawing will then become the framework for both pen and ink strokes with watercolor. Your instructor, Professor Vanda Lavar, holds a master's degree in art. She regularly teaches classes in botanical illustration and her works are widely collected in both the USA and Europe. Ages 12+ welcome. Meeting location Gold Hill/Placerville. Cost: \$45/ members, \$60/non-members.

SOURDOUGH — Starting, Maintaining, & Baking! Sunday, March 30th 2-5pm

Come join us as we venture into the world of baking with Sourdough and learn to harness its gut-healthy benefits at home! Getting started with sourdough can be overwhelming. Join us as homestead farmer & owner of Anvil Acre Farm, Anne Morton, answers all your questions and more. Class will include tastings and handouts for each student with the recipes and information covered in the class. Ages 15+ welcome. Meeting location Gold Hill/Placerville. Cost: \$60/members, \$70/non-members.

FISHING ON THE FARM

Thursdays, April 3rd & 17th, May 1st, 15th & 29th, and June 12th & 26th, 5pm-sunset

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 and skill levels welcome, especially kids, families with young children, and first-timers. Basic instruction, equipment, and assistance available for kids and first-timers. Meeting location Gold Hill/Placerville area.



Cost per car: \$10/members, \$15/nonmembers.

rhythm, signaling and for imitating the calls of

M5) visible and several double stars. Constellations will be pointed out and mythologies explained. Wine can be purchased by glass or bottle. Ages 21+ only. Unclear skies cancels. Meeting location Gold Hill/Placerville area. **Cost: \$10**

CHEESEMAKING – Mozzarella & Ricotta Sunday, May 25th 2-4:30pm When it comes to cheese, it's hard to think of two cheeses

more tempting than Mozzarella and Ricotta. And did you know they're made using almost exactly the same ingredients? Join homestead farmer Anne Morton as she explains the tools, equipment, and ingredients needed to make them from start to finish. Includes sampling both cheeses and a handout of the information and recipes covered in class. Ages 15+ welcome. Meeting location Gold Hill/Placerville. Cost: \$60/members, \$70/non-members.

bly Jupiter setting. There should be globular clusters (M13, M3,

Page 7 The Current—Spring 2025 (March-May)

animals for millennia. In this class, participants, using only stone and bone tools, will learn to make a cane double whistle using a local reed and gray pine pitch. Depending on weather, participants will also have the opportunity to help create a friction fire that our group will use to make our pine pitch. Your instructor is Charles Kritzon is a Certified Interpretive Guide through the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). Ages 8+ welcome w/adult supervision. Meeting location Gold Hill/Placerville area. Cost: \$30/person or \$100/family (4 max).

TAI CHI-QIGONG & YEAR OF THE SNAKE Saturday, April 26th, 10:00-11:15am

Learn an iconic Taichi movement that celebrates the flexibility and strength of the snake. It will be taught in a short sequence of movements and poses to achieve stability and dynamism and celebrate the new spring season. Dr. Tze-yue Gigi Hu is a semi-retired Asian Studies educator and author. Ages 8+ welcome. Meeting location Placerville/Gold Hill area. Suggested Donation: \$5/members, \$10/non-members.



SOAPMAKING - Goat Milk Soap & Olive Oil Soap

Sunday, April 27th 2-5pm

These days many of us have become fed up with the chemicals present in our environment, our household products, and even in our food. Chemical soaps may smell temptingly fresh, but the potency of these soaps comes at a cost. Join Anne Morton founder, owner, and teacher at Anvil

Acre Farm - as she demonstrates how to make two kinds of chemical-free and highly effective soaps from scratch: goat milk soap, and olive oil soap. Class includes 2 bars of soap and handouts with the information and recipes covered in the class. Ages 15+ welcome. Meeting location Gold Hill/Placerville. Cost: \$60/members, \$70/non-members.

PASTIMES OF ANCESTRAL PEOPLES

- Toys and games from the trees Saturday, May 3rd 1-3pm Followed by Q&A

Make a ring and pin game using acorn caps, and acorn spinning tops. After learning the fundamentals of making and using stone and bone tools, you will grind and drill acorn caps on sandstone and use your new deer bone borer to help make a hole in the center. Your instructor Charles Kritzon (creator of willowdeer.com) strives to highlight our human connection to the past and our natural world. Ages 8+ welcome w/adult supervision. Meeting location Gold Hill/Placerville area. Cost: \$30/person or \$100/family (4 max).

WINE AND STARRY NIGHT Friday, May 23rd 8:30-11:30pm

The spring sky will glow above Wakamatsu Farm as we explore the celestial wonders offered. David Girard Vineyards is partnering with ARC for this unique stargazing event. While enjoying delicious wine, the night sky will offer us a view of glittering Mars and possi-



CULTURAL SOUNDS OF THE PAST - Make a decorated cane double-whistle Saturday, April 12th 1-3pm Followed by Q&A Whistles have been made and used for keeping

EDUCATION UPDATE

Recreation on natural lands takes many forms. Some people like to zoom around on a mountain bike, some folks prefer the view from a kayak, and others prefer the challenge of climbing a sheer rock face. I find my happy place by slowing my pace and taking in the details all around me. I recall sitting near a crest of the Sierra Buttes for 45 minutes, just watching the symbiotic dance of ants harvesting the sweet "nectar" excreted by aphids on the leaves of a mule's ear plant. Observation and wonder are just another way of recreating in this awe inspiring wonderland we call California.

If you want to dive deeper into the details of California's habitats and wildlife, please consider joining us for our next California Naturalist course which begins on March 19th. We will be learning from amazing experts, visiting some beautiful areas around El Dorado county and engaging in community building through volunteerism and dialogue. Register now to become part of an amazing community of naturalists. If you're already certified and want to help spread the love for California's wonderful biodiversity, consider making a donation to our scholarship fund to help someone from the community take the course this year.





Homeschool Fridays are also in bloom this spring. Oak woodland hikes, nature journaling, and fishing at Wakamatsu are just a few of the recreational activities happening on select Fridays this spring.

It's back and better than ever - **Nature Camp 2025**: **Survivor Edition!** This year's Nature Campers will experience the natural world around them while also learning basic outdoor skills like shelter building, plant identification, and navigation so that they can recreate safely. Your child will make new friends, hike, swim, and play in multiple locations around the Coloma-Lotus valley while building confidence in the outdoors. We are also look-

ing for students entering 10th grade and up to be camp counselors this summer. It's a great way to gain experience for the workforce and college while also getting to play outdoors with like minded folks. See newsletter insert for details.

We love our Education volunteers and want to spread that love by inviting anyone who might be interested in joining our team to our monthly Community of Practice meetings. These events are open to anyone and everyone - whether you have teaching experience or not. Our Community of Practice is a space for people to share ideas, practice the curriculum, learn from each other and be a part of moving environmental education in a positive direction.

For more details and registration please visit <u>ARConservancy.org/education</u>, or email <u>education@ARConservancy.org</u> for more information.

Please Share Your ARC Adventures!

We love seeing how you connect with scenic landscapes and eco-inspired events through American River Conservancy. Please help us share how you enjoy recreation with ARC via these methods:

•Exploring ARC-protected lands: Show us your favorite trails, views, and outdoor activities on any ARC-protected properties at <u>bit.ly/</u><u>ARCimageshare</u>

•Enjoying our events: Share your photo memories from ARC events that you have attended bit.ly/ARCimageshare



Both links lead you to a photo permission form. The follow-up email will point you to the right place to post each type of photo. Your stories inspire us and help others discover new ways to enjoy our natural treasures. Thank you for sharing and being part of our community!



2025

TELTAMERICAN RIVER CA

PREVER WILD AND S

"ANGLING" FOR A SPOT TO PLAY AND FISH?

By Kelly Croffoot

Chili Bar River Park, provided by the American River Conservancy (ARC), is a stunning oasis just 2.4 miles north of Placerville, off State Hwy 193 at the South Fork of the American River. This park sets the stage for your next adventure or outing, inviting whitewater enthusiasts to experience 21 miles of exhilarating Class 3/4

rapids surrounded by a wildflower-covered canyon and breathtaking Sierra Foothill scenery. It stands out as one of the top five river runs in the western United States.

For anglers, the river canyon offers exceptional fishing experiences that can lead to personal best catches. The South Fork is home to Rainbow and Brown trout, as well as landlocked Kokanee and Chinook Salmon, allowing fishing enthusiasts to enjoy year-round pursuits under special California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regulations. Through a strong partnership with CDFW, ARC is committed to preserving the vitality of this fishery.

On warm summer days, the refreshing cold water invites you to swim, soak up the sun, or unwind in the shade of a tree on the picnic island. Artists find inspiration here, crafting masterpieces, while photographers capture the beauty of fleeting moments.

Chili Bar River Park also offers opportunities to create lasting memories by reserving spaces for events such as weddings, memorials, birthdays, or other group gatherings.

To discover more about the park, including fees,

hours of operation, stream-side fishing tips and techniques, event reservations, or volunteer and employment opportunities, call the Chili Bar River Park ranger station at 530-642-1667 or email us at <u>chilibarpark@gmail.com</u> or <u>kelly@ARConservancy.org</u>. Embrace the adventure with day use and annual park passes available for purchase at the park,

at <u>https://app.donorview.com/QO9K</u>, or scan this QR code.



PARC Scholarship Essay Contest

UP TO \$3000 IN TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

ENTRY DEADLINE IS MARCH 15, 2025

ESSAY TOPIC:

Why do you care about the American River and its canyons, and what should be done to help protect them for the future? Please describe any activities you have participated in related to the river or canyons.

SPONSORED BY PROTECT AMERICAN RIVER CANYONS

Protect American River Canyons (PARC) protects and enhances the natural, recreational and cultural resources of the North and Middle Forks of the American River through leadership and collaboration. PARC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

WWW.PARC-AUBURN.ORG

THANK YOU, AMERICAN RIVER CONSERVANCY SUPPORTERS! OCT.-DEC. 2024

Our Generous Supporters

ARC is sincerely grateful for the dedication of our volunteers, donors, and partners who commit their time, talents, and resources in benefit of local watersheds. Please join us in appreciation of countless individuals and organizations through the decades who have helped us preserve rivers and land for life. May this list serve as public acknowledgement of our supporters from last quarter.

Abbott, Trish Aghazarian, Nick Aguilar, Karin & Jack Ahlf, Laurie Ahola, Kelly Akers, Aiko Almeida, Charles Alvares, Marila Amen. Shoshanna Ames, Marta Anonymous Arthur, John Ash, Kathleen Ashe, Marian Atkinson, Richard A-Total Fire Protection Atwater, Keith & Vrecheck, Jean Barley, Nina Barrow, Karen & Randy Baumgartner, Leslie Beauchamp, David & Betty Ann Belby, Brendan Bemis, Sharla Bennett, William & Santos-Coy, Henrietta Bertram, Susan Reiko Blossom, Joanne Bly, Gretchen & Wright, John Boersig, Michael Bradshaw, Betsy & Robert Bramlett, Kathrvn Branscomb, Ted Brewer, Linda Brooke, Brad Brooks, Barry Brown, Katy Brubaker, Sherie

Shop online now for new ARC logo apparel

ARConservancy.org/ Merchandise



Burnett, Miles Bush. Diane Bush, Leslie Buss, Margaret Butler, Alice Byrne-Mulliken, Taira Call, Gregory Callaway, Danny & Marilyn Campbell, Karla Campbell, Kirk Carew-Kraft, Jessica Carrasco-Minton, Julie Carter, Sharon Cates, Mark Cates, Steven Ceniceros, Bruce Christian, Marcus Christensen, Cinda Ciofalo, Catherine Cioni, Wendy Clark, Robin & Dan Clark, Steven & Lora Beth Clemens, Ted Coate, Jim & Swift, Pat **College Futures Foundation** Collins, Clint Collins, William J. Connors, Andrew Cooney, Teri Cornell, Karen Costello, Tim Coverdell, Mary Ann Covington, Woody & Susan Crawford, Berry Crowder, Robert Cutter. Dee Cutter, Jennifer Damer, Michael Daniels, Joanne Daugherty, Barbara & Mark Davenport, Bob & Peggy Davis, Judith Davis, Karla DeRiemer, Mary & Phil (DeRiemer Adventure Kayaking) DiVittorio. Melissa Dodson, Dora Domitrovich, Deborah Dougherty, Beth Drewek, Nancy Dunk, Nancy Dunn, Kenneth Egerton, Robert & Angela Eichhorn, Nancy

El Dorado Community Acupuncture El Dorado Community Foundation Ellis, Jason EN2 Resources Estes, Gary Evans, Stephen & Carol Farrington, Patti Feder, David & Luttrell, Liz Finley, Gavin Finley, Scott & Barbara Flaherty, Michael Fong, Mabel Fordyce, Lauren Foster, Dorothy Foster, Rebecca Frankel, Laurie Franks, Lvnn Freese, Mahnaz Frevert, Gert Frevert-Levenson, Kathy Fox, Nettie Fujitsubo, Laura G.D. Lipp & Assoc. Gates. Melissa Gaus, Ruth Gearlds, Tracey Geary, Michael & Victoria Gepilano, Lope Ghilotti. Sue Gianini, Al & Michelle Giles, Mary Lou & John Gorin, Doris Graham, Taylor Gravbill. Patricia Green, Sandra Hadley, Tyson & Helen Haggblade, Steven Hanebutt, Marcia Hanser, Stephanie Hanson, Victor Harper, Barbara Harris, Andrew Harris, Robert Hartley, Rick Hayes, Heidi Hayes, Janet Hayes, Kathryn Heath, Chuck Heatlie, Martin Hebenstreit, James & Domna Hechtman, Barton Hewitt, Tracie

Hill. Barbara Hirsh, Jennifer Hodgson, Michael & Iknoian, Therese Hodnett, Joan & Randy Hoel, Sam Hogan, Emily Holmes, Richard Honda, Diane Honeycutt, Patricia Horenstein, Julie Houghton, Barbara Hughes, David Hultquist, Larry & Jeana Husari, Susan & Lewis, Liz Husted, Kelly Imgrund, Gerda & David Inviting Light Photography Jackson, Mauvareen Jackson, Tim & Angela Jamrowski, Tom Jensen, Debra Johansing, Thomas Johnson, Kathleen Jollv, Jackie Joseph & Margrit Petrofsky Joye, James and Nancy Kara, Thomas Karr, Zachary Keebler, Audrey Keegan, Thomas Keesee, Michael Keller, Jeanne Kenyon, Charity & Eaton. Mike Kiehne, Kris & Cumpston, Tom King, Dawn Kinsch, Kevin Kirsh, Stuart Knox, Stephen Knudson, Sara Koorn, Dirk & Jeanne Krovoza, Joseph Lai, Theodore Lambert, Richard Lawrence, Jeff Lee Foundation Lee, Barbara & Jeff Lee, Melinda Lem. David Lenoil, Robert Leong, Yuko Levenson, Howard

Hida, Sue

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.

Levinson Family Linhardt, Daniel Lipshin, Irene LoBue, Jim & Linda London, Valerie Lopez-Read, Margie Lubanes, Alan & Barbara Lum, Rachel Lux, Brian & Celia Lyman, Elaine Macdonald, Kari Madrona Vineyards Maher, Dolores Maineri, Janet Malone, Laura Mantegani, Mark Mao, Shujon Margaret A. Lindberg Foundation Inc. Maricich, Ann Marquez, Sharon Marston, Julie Martelli, Linda Martin, Beverly Martin, Michele & Roberts, Mike Martin, Rich Mason, Virginia Massey, Alexander & Cheng, Helen Mattos, Kirsten McAllister, JoAnn McBride, Cliff & Glenda McCasland, Curt & Fatima McClain, Linda McConachie, Bob McCrory, Linda McCrory, Rhiver McCrory, Ryan McCrory, Zia McDonald, Gary & Minerva McKain, Samantha McNair, Delores Mengelkoch, Joan Mertz, Karl Mesa, David Meyer, Virginia Mills, Rusty Mizuhara-Smith, Teresa Mohr, Margaret Monestier, Judy Montez, Russell Moore, Larry Morgan, Jackie & Lawrence Morrison, Dolores Nagahisa, Alison Nager, Alan Neal, Melissa Nehl, Michael Nelson, Elaine Newton, Jason Nishinaka, Julie Nolan. Erich Novak, Mark

Nyman, Carol Ober, Frank O'Farrell, Susan Oki, Samuel Okumura, Janiss & Stan Olmstead, Sue Olson, Douglas Osborn, Kay & Monte Osborn, Ronald Ott, Zachary Pace, Stephen & Ruder, Joseph Paige, Karen Parker, Lucinda & Steve Patrinellis, Cindy Pecota, Renee Pender, Sarah Perez, Pat Petersen, Tom & Donna Phillips, Karen Pierroz, Bert Piper Medical-Inventech Pogue, Joyce & Gary Pogue, Kyle Powell, Jeanette Prager, Kenneth Proft, Joanne Publicover, David & Ketelle, Liz Purgett, Cheryl Quinsland, Mark & Sharon Rake, Don Raley, Michele Ramirez, Teresa Ramsay Kaminsky, Kelly Ramstrom, Carl Raquel, Nathan Rauh, Colene Ray, Linda Reed, Susan Renaissance Charitable Foundation, Inc. Rivas, Pierre River Collective Co. Roberts, Pamela Robertson, Aaron Rodgers, Tracy Rodolico, Anthony Rosa, Vicki Ruiz, Andrew Russ, Jim Ruud, Chris & Charlotte Sage Kite, Michelle & Bubba Salomon, Christina Sanda-Jones, Michele & Jones, Andy Saw, Mimi Schardt, Lynn Schifferle, Patty & Gillion, Bob Schmidt, Jennifer Schmitz, Laura Schwartz Kendall Sara & Camuti. Tim Scott, Chuck

Sebright, Lisa Sederquist, Betty Seidler, Charles Sellers, Stephen Shakal, Diane & Anthony Shannon, BJ Sheehan, Francis Sher, Benjamin Shoemake, Linda Sierra Rizing Bakery Smallwood, Amara Smith. Charlotte Smith, Chris & Julia Smith, Elizabeth & Felix Solomon, Cheryl Soracco, Carla Spellman, Stephen Spiegel, Yasmin Spot-On Signs Stadler, Heike Stephens, Charles & Kathy Stricker, Deborah & Robert Stusiak, John Suave, Julie Sundquist, Midori Swain, Matt Taguma, Kenji Takeuchi, Jason Tanimoto, Herb Tharratt, Tina Thrams, Andrea & Eagan, Dennis Torres, Pamela & David Tov. Thomas Traxler, Cynthia Tudor Elliott, Jessica Turoff, Carla & Martin, Jim **Tustin Family** Ungari, Bruce & Kathy

Vail, Scott & Vicky Van Dam, Claire Van Pelt, Lee Veerkamp, Kit Vernor, Bill Vomund, Robert & Susan Wagner family Walker, Annie Walker, Chris Walker, Lyndel Walrond, Cece & Howdy Waters, Renee Weber, Lisa Webster, Teresa Weddle, Nancy Wickum, Stephanie Wilda, Matthew Willard, Charlie Williams, Grayson & Nicole Williams, Sandra Wilmot, Robert Winkelblack, Louise Woodall, Drew & Monica Woodring, Iva Lu Woodward, Patricia

Woolley, Sharon Wright, Alfred & Janette Yoshimura, Phil & Iva Young, Bin Zahedi, Nancy Zanardi, Kristine Zelle, Thea Ziony, Dan

Dedications

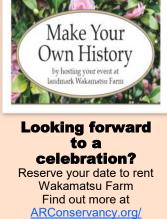
In memory of...

- ♦ Barbara Boucke
- ♦ David A. London MD
- ♦ Floyd Takeuchi
- ♦ Jim Woodring
- ♦ Marie Joyce McDonald Byrne
- ♦ Rich Kientz
- ♦ Tyson Hadley
- ♦ Jennifer Lyn McDowell, with love from Dave, Pam, Brenda & Matt
- ◆ Ralph and Darlene Jones
- ♦ Richie Kientz
- Mr. James Steven Robertson, avid outdoor enthusiast and an amazing person who has a heart of gold. He frequently spent time on the American River kayaking and biking. His loving spirit will live on forever.
- ♦ My father, James Robertson

In honor of...

- Briegan Aguilar and her dedicated service to ARC & the community.
- ♦ Glenn & Maxine Fleming
- Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony
- Karen and Randy Barrow

If you supported ARC in the last quarter and your name is missing, please contact julie@ARConservancy.org



wakamatsu @ARConservancy.org

wakamatsu-events

Or email:



use account #499 to donate your WOW points to ARC

ARC Wish List

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

- Side by side UTV
- Walkie talkies (long range)
- Riding Lawn Mower
- Small, reliable TRUCK
- Field microscopes
- Small camp stove and lightweight cooking gear
- Canvas folding wagon
- Cellular game camera
- Canoe paddles
- Life jackets
- Mason jars
- Thermal laminator machine

OUR MISSION

The 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.

PRESERVING RIVERS AND LAND FOR LIFE

WITH MY DONATION, I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE THE AMERICAN RIVER CONSERVANCY'S VISION OF TOMORROW.

NOURISH THE LEGACY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE GIVING

VISIT **ARCONSERVANCY.ORG** TO MAKE A SECURE ONLINE DONATION.

Name	D.O.B.	٥	Recurring Gift: \$/Month	New Supporter Renewing Supporter	
Address		-23	OR		
CITY, STATE, ZIP			ANNUAL SUPPORT:	IN REMEMBRANCE/HONOR OF	
OITT, STATE, ZIP		Ø	\$ OTHER		
PHONE #	CELL PHONE #	Ø	\$ 1000		
		a	\$ 500		
Email Address		Ø	\$ 250		
CREDIT CARD#		A	\$ 100	PLEASE CONTACT ME ABOUT PLANNED GIVING/LEGACY CIRCLE	
		í	\$ 75		
Signature		đ	\$ 45	MAKE MY GIFT ANONYMOUS	

Donations of \$45 or more will receive a 1-year membership. Your gifts to ARC are tax deductible.

Please fill out this form and include with your payment. Make your check payable to the AMERICAN RIVER CONSERVANCY: 348 Highway 49 • PO Box 562 • Coloma, CA 95613 • (530) 621-1224 • ARConservancy.org

American River Conservancy P.O. Box 562 Coloma, CA 95613

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. Postage **PAID** Permit No. 7 Coloma, CA 95613

Want to receive this Want to receive unisally newsletter electronically Let us know at ney.org

THE CURRENT IS printed on recycled paper

This institution is an equal opportunity provider