

Tanner Learns New Tricks

This past summer, Tanner, the Red-Tailed Hawk that lives at EYNC, is the subject of new research in behavior modification.

Tanner frequently exhibits behavior known to handlers as baiting; this means that he flaps his wings and tries to fly off or jump from a handler's hand while he is jessed. As long as he continues this behavior, he cannot be used for educational presentations and therefore cannot live at the Nature Center. If this behavior is not changed, he will have to be put down.

Tanner has lived for approximately seven years at EYNC ever since an injury left him permanently unable to maintain sustained flight and survive in the wild. The behavior modification program includes the introduction of novel stimuli, edible reinforcers and a hood, which is known by falconers to correct this sort of behavior. Results of the behavior modification program should be known by early fall.

This is the first time that EYNC has been the site of scientific research, so ARNHA is more pleased than ever to help support the Center. ■

– Kristen Spencer

Kristen Spencer is a graduate student studying psychology at CSUS. She says she is particularly happy to be working with Tanner because she has a lifelong love of animals.

Supporting the Parkway

Supporting the American River Parkway requires outside the box thinking and help from many sources like the American River Natural History Association that provides generous funding and dedicated volunteers. This year's budget is expected to maintain the status quo, but the Board of Supervisors in the next several years will be facing tougher budgetary challenges, according to revenue projections.

I am pursuing the creation of a joint powers authority with the cities that border the parkway but do not share in its administration and upkeep. Reaction thus far has been positive among the community leaders I have talked to.

Alternative funding sources also are being pursued. The "Parks Passport" program being marketed with the help of REI Inc. and other businesses will generate additional revenue. It gives you unlimited day-use of all park facilities. For the first time, you can purchase the passports online at www.sacparks.net. You also can buy them at the REI stores or the Effie Yeaw Nature Center with proceeds going directly toward our regional parks, including the parkway.

Using grants from Propositions 12 and 40 passed by the voters is another revenue source. And when the opportunity exists, I support tapping other monies that become available. Recently I was successful in convincing my fellow board members to designate \$345,000 from a future sale of excess property held by the County elsewhere that can be applied toward acquiring an undeveloped parcel of land behind the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in order to preserve the natural environment around the site. Please share your thoughts with me via susanpeters@saccounty.net. ■

– Supervisor Susan Peters

Susan Peters represents the Third District on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. She also serves on the board of the Sacramento Valley Conservancy and as board chair of the Leland Stanford Mansion Foundation, which restored the former governor's historic home.



Forum Will Feature the Campaign to Save Swainson's Hawk

The campaign to save the threatened Swainson's Hawk from extinction in California will be described by wildlife biologist Mike Bradbury at an ARNHA free public forum at 7 p.m. Tuesday Dec. 6 at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Assembly Building. The hawks, noted for their aerodynamic skill and long-distance flying, have suffered a 90 percent decline in the state since 1900, with less than 1,000 breeding pairs remaining in the Sacramento Valley.

Bradbury is a member of the Sacramento-based Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee, which, with other groups, has successfully challenged governmental land use plans that would have led to development that removed nesting trees for the hawk. He is employed by the state Department of Water Resources and has studied migratory patterns of the hawks, which fly as far south as Argentina. ■

– Pete Hayes

Wild About Wetlands Exhibit Ready for Display

The new interactive exhibit prepared by the staff of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center was completed in late August and presented to the underwriters in a private reception on in August. This exhibit defines wild wetlands, explains their importance in the ecosystem, and uses the American River Parkway to tell the story of riparian (riverside) forests and other wetlands.

It features a close-up look at the elusive California Tiger Salamander, explains the damage non-native plants and animals inflict on native flora and fauna, and provides viewers with a chance to look through a microscope at wetland plants and animals so small they are seldom seen or noticed by the casual observer. The exhibit is on view, now, at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Later it will travel the state. The staff of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center has a long history of producing award-winning interactive exhibits, that travel to other museums in the state and even throughout other states, depending on the suitability of the subject to the ecosystem of the host museum.

Admission is free. The Effie Yeaw Nature Center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through October 30 and from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. from November 1 through February 28. It is closed only on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. ■

Nimbus Hatchery and Lake Natoma Prepare for Ninth Annual American River Salmon Festival on October 8 and 9 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Every year as fall approaches, the Chinook, or King, Salmon start their journey from the Pacific Ocean to the headwaters of the rivers and streams in which they were spawned. Here in Sacramento we celebrate this fall migration with a giant two-day Salmon Festival at the Nimbus Hatchery at Lake Natoma. Admission to the Salmon Festival is free, parking costs \$7.00 per vehicle, and the shuttle from car parking to the festival is free. Bike parking is free. The Festival features children's activities, education, recreation, art, entertainment, and food. The trail with interpretive signs and the visitor center with the Super Salmon, an interactive play venue for youngsters, will be open.



This year the much-anticipated salmon barbecue will feature wild salmon. The State Department of Parks will have an additional larger boat available for excursions on Lake Natoma, and the River Otter will make a return appearance as well. Entertainment is provided at both the Hatchery and Lake Natoma over both days.

Over the past nine years, ARNHA has partnered with the State of California Department of Fish and Game and other businesses and government agencies to present this fun-filled weekend. ARNHA members provide fiscal coordination for the event. In addition, many ARNHA members volunteer numerous hours to set up and operate the event's retail store. For more information and a map, log onto www.salmonfestival.net.

If you are interested in volunteering at the ARNHA retail store, please call Greg Voelm at 944-4218. If you would like to provide other volunteer services to the festival, call Shirley Merrick at 967-2168. ■

– Shirley Merrick

Maidu Indian Day in Early October

Fall is almost here, and that means it's time to get ready for Maidu Indian Day at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. As a fundraising event, Maidu Indian Day provides very important financial support for the Maidu Cultural Heritage Program and will help the staff at the Nature Center to continue educating thousands of school children every year.

At this event, people of all ages enjoy learning about the culture and skills of the Nisenan Maidu through many hands-on activities, such as tule rope construction, making walnut dice, and creating a necklace with pine nut beads and abalone shell. Visitors see demonstrations of traditional food preparation, basket weaving and dancing and learn other traditional games like hoop and lance and hand game.

The Effie Yeaw Nature Center has been hosting Maidu Indian Day for over 15 years, and we always look forward to a day filled with fun for the whole family. This year Maidu Indian Day will take place from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday, the 1st of October. It will be held at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, which is located in Ancil Hoffman Park, Carmichael. Admission to the event is \$3.00 per person. Parking costs \$4.00. ■

–Vince LaPena