

EYNC Naturalist Contributes to New Book

Vince La Pina, naturalist at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, has contributed an article titled "Effie Yeaw Nature Center: The Nisenan Maidu Lived Here" in a new book called *American Indian Places*.

Vince says, "The article is very brief and gives some general information regarding the lifestyle of the Nisenan Maidu of this area. It does not get into great detail, but there is information about settlement patterns, governance, ceremony and contemporary activities. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company and edited by Frances H. Kennedy, the book is soon to be sold in our area. *The Acorn* will let you know the details.



AAA Battery Roundup

From April 11 to 21, AAA will conduct its annual Battery Roundup. You can drop off any car battery for recycling at more than 100 designated sites in Northern California, Nevada and Utah. To find a battery drop-off, visit www.batteryroundup.com or call (800) 903-AAA7, or pick up a flier at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Two dollars per battery will be donated to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center based on the total number of batteries collected throughout the region, so you do not have to mention the Nature Center when you donate your battery.

Sacramento Audubon Society & Eagle Optics Gift

Thanks to a gift of 32 new 8x25 Audubon Vector Binoculars from the Sacramento Audubon Society and Eagle Optics, children attending the recent Winter Fun Days class *Wild About Birds* were treated to an enhanced view of birds and other wildlife at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Dan Tankersley, the Sacramento Audubon Society Education Committee Chair, noted, "Providing binoculars to EYNC for use in their nature programs ensures many more children will have the opportunity to view flora and fauna as they never have before. It is the belief of the Sacramento Audubon Society that the excitement the children experience will assist in leading to a life-long appreciation and respect of nature."

EYNC staff rangers, P.J. Gordon and Brian Gilmore, show beginning birders how to use binoculars recently donated by Sacramento Audobon.



Contribution Honors Memory of Shirley Merrick

The Effie Yeaw Nature Center will benefit from an \$1,800 contribution from the family of Shirley Merrick, longtime member of the ARNHA Board of Directors who died last May 27.

"This donation is in memory of my wonderful mom," Lynn Merrick, Shirley's daughter, wrote. "The Nature Center, Salmon Festival and all of you had a very special place in her heart." She asked that the funds go to the EYNC scholarship fund or other Nature Center projects.

A resident of Carmichael for 47 years, Shirley, 74, loved golf, tennis, nature and was an accomplished pianist. She worked for a number of years with Bruce Forman of the California Department of Fish & Game on the administration of Salmon Festival finances. She is survived by daughters Lynn Merrick and Denise Meyers, son Jeff Merrick, and grandchildren Heather Meyers and Logan Meyers.

Bird and Breakfast Set for March 17

If you like to be out of doors in the Parkway in the spring in the morning, Bird and Breakfast may be just what you're looking for. You tour some of the 77 acres of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center with expert birders to see what birds are courting, nesting, and otherwise present at the Center in spring.

This year's Bird and Breakfast is planned for Saturday, March 17. Participants will meet at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center at 7 a.m. and bird for two or so hours, reconvene in the Center's Assembly Building, and eat a hearty home-cooked breakfast. The fundraiser, sponsored by the American River Natural History Association, costs \$30 per person. Children under 12 are discouraged from attending. To make reservations telephone the Effie Yeaw Nature Center at 489-4918.



Vernal Pools Program Set for March 22

Carol Witham, a leading authority on California's vernal pools, will present a slide program on the fast-diminishing, unique wildflower habitat at a free ARNHA public forum at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 22 at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Assembly Building in Ancil Hoffman Park.

Vernal pools are rain-filled depressions in the ground that yield to a rainbow of color from circles of goldfields, violet-blue downingias, meadowfoam and other blossoms as the pools dry. Naturalist John Muir said in 1869 that "sauntering in any direction (on Central Valley plains), my feet would press about a hundred flowers with every step." An estimated 75 to 90 percent of valley vernal pools are now gone.

Carol Witham lives in Sacramento, is a botanical and biological consultant and past president of the California Native Plant Society. She is the author of "Field Guide to the Vernal Pools of Mather Field," and ARNHA will have signed copies available for purchase for \$10 at the meeting. Light refreshments will be served.

"Save the Pollinators," Says Speaker

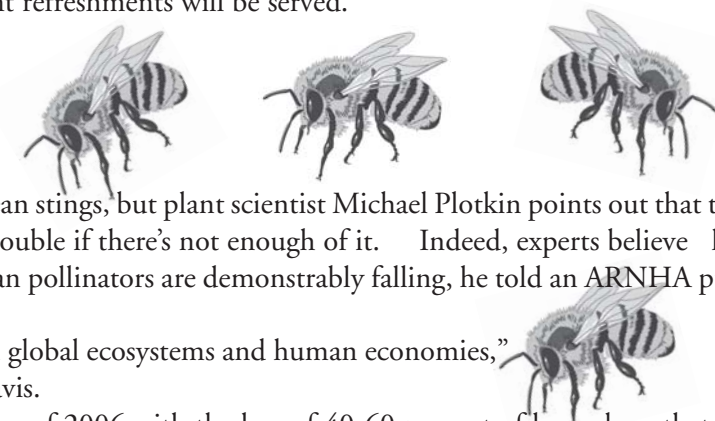
To many people pollen means allergies and bees mean stings, but plant scientist Michael Plotkin points out that taken together they mean pollination and that could mean trouble if there's not enough of it. Indeed, experts believe long-term trends show that numbers of some North American pollinators are demonstrably falling, he told an ARNHA public forum audience Oct. 27.

"Loss of pollinators could have dramatic impacts on global ecosystems and human economies," said Plotkin, who has an M.S. and Ph.D. from UC Davis.

California received a taste of this threat in the Spring of 2006 with the loss of 40-60 percent of honeybees that were afflicted by mites. This forced growers to import bees for the first time since 1922 and to forecast the cost of hives to soar from \$125 each to over \$200 in 2007.

Bees are the most important of the creatures charged with transferring pollen from the male plant's anther to the female's stigma. Other pollinators include moths, which usually take the night shift, beetles, flies, butterflies, and hummingbirds. They may be attracted by the plant's size, shape, color, scent, or promise of a food reward. Wind and water do the job, too.

Plotkin, who teaches at the University of San Francisco and Mt. San Jacinto College, said everybody can help protect the pollinators. We can grow more flowers (if you want butterflies, the butterfly bush is a good one), garden with native plants, provide water, don't use pesticides, build bee houses, join the xerces society www.xerces.org which is dedicated to conserving pollinators. And educate your friends on all of the above.



Holiday Sales Proceeds

Nearly \$3,200 in nature-related books and other merchandise were purchased at ARNHA's annual Holiday Sale held Dec. 2 in the Effie Yeaw Nature Center's Discovery Shop. The sale benefiting the nature center was boosted by the patronage of people attending the Save the American River Association's annual meeting being held at the same time in the EYNC Assembly Building. Lynne Pinkerton of the EYNC staff coordinated the sale.