

# RIVERWATCH

A publication from  
 Save the American River Association  
 a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization



## THE MOB HAS MOVED IN: A NEW PEST SILENTLY EXPANDING

Sarah Norris, Wild Rye Consulting, LLC

The Mediterranean oak borer (*Xyleborus monographus*, MOB) is a small ambrosia beetle now expanding in Sacramento County, threatening valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) and blue oak (*Q. douglasii*) trees in both urban and wildland habitats. Two confirmed infestations have been found in the American River Parkway.

MOB tunnels into the sapwood, creating trellis-like galleries for reproduction, larval development, and cultivation of ambrosia fungi. Spores carried on the beetle's mandibles are introduced into the wood, where fungi grow and spread beyond the galleries, plugging the xylem and blocking water transport. Symptoms begin with small, stunted leaves and progress to wilting and decline that begins at the top of the tree and then downward, often

*Continued on page 3*



Bobcat at Larchmont Park - Photo by Michele McCormick

## CVFPB Approves Army Corps Project; ART Continues the Fight

BY CANDICE HEINZ, AMERICAN RIVER TREES

For almost two years, American River Trees (ART) has worked tirelessly to oppose the unnecessarily destructive elements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Erosion Control Project (Contract 3B), which is slated to remove 685 trees and precious habitat along the Wild and Scenic American River Parkway. It has been a tumultuous journey of highs and lows, wins and losses, but ART has never given up!

Over the years, ART had been persistent in its requests to meet and discuss project concerns and potential improvements with the Army Corps and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB), the project decision-makers. While the Army Corps never agreed to meet, a sit-down meeting between ART and CVFPB Staff was finally granted on July 7<sup>th</sup>. To ART's disappointment, Staff did not effectively engage in discussion, and the team was informed that Staff had already prepared their final

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# SARA ANNUAL MEETING

**SATURDAY**

**DECEMBER 6, 2025**

BREAKFAST ROLLS & COFFEE - 9:30AM

PROGRAM BEGINS - 10AM

LUNCH - 11:30AM

EFFIE YEAW NATURE CENTER

ANCIL HOFFMAN PARK

2850 SAN LORENZO WAY, CARMICHAEL

# President's corner

## SARA & THE AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY COALITION

SARA founded the American River Parkway Coalition in 2004, inviting all active Parkway protect and preserve organizations and individuals, both non-profits and grassroots, to attend a monthly gathering on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month. The attendees are all exceptional DOERS.

Following are updates from six current Coalition Parkway partner organizations as to their projected goals and happenings over the next few months. They are:

A recent addition to the extensive Parkway protect and preserve community is the **Waterbird Habitat Project**, collaborating with the community to keep river wildlife safe from fishing gear injuries and clearing gear laden primrose around the fishing deck at Arden Pond.

The **Sacramento Area Creeks Council** hosted their popular 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual *Streamside Social* on October 19, 2025, at Camp Pollock. In addition, SACC is in active discussion with the Wilton Rancheria re: a possible grant to remove water primrose from Steelhead Creek.

The amazing **River City Waterway Alliance**, having collected more than 3,000,000 pounds of trash over the last couple of years, continues its incredible cleanup and restoration projects in critical areas of Sacramento waterways. Check out their cleanups on You Tube.

**Friends of Sailor Bar (FSB)** have partnered with Sacramento County Parks to make Sailor Bar accessible for all persons, including those with sight, sound, and limited mobility issues to enjoy nature, plus stop and rest at benches and tables to be provided by FSB in the Spring of 2026.

For the last two years **American River Trees (ART)** has worked tirelessly to oppose the unnecessary destructive elements of the U S Army Corps of Engineers Erosion Control Project (Contract 3B), which is slated to remove 685 trees and precious habitat along the Wild and Scenic American River Parkway. While supportive of flood control needs, ART and Co-Plaintiff, SARA, have filed an injunction to prevent excessive habitat removal.

The **Effie Yeaw Nature Center** celebrated *Fall Feast in the Forest*, their 16th Annual Gala & Auction, on September 28, 2025, followed by the ARNHA Annual Meeting in October (date TBD). The 2025 *EYNC Holiday Sale* follows on November 29, 2025.

SARA kudos to all of the above individuals and organizations who volunteer their time to keep our Parkway and the Lower American River beautiful and safe.



### Coalition attendee organizations include:

**Preserve the American River:** to preserve a pristine 20 acre site right on the river;

**American River Trees:** fighting the mass removal of trees by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on either side of Howe and Watt on the river, for flood control;

**Friends of Sailor Bar:** to preserve Sailor Bar as a nature area for all: able, disabled and the resident wildlife, with vehicles barred from the dirt roads;

**Audubon Society;**

**Friends of the River;**

**Sacramento Area Creeks Council**, who sponsor the incredible **River City Waterway Alliance** – homeless camp cleanup badgers as they call themselves;

**American River Bike Patrol;**

**American River Parkway Volunteer Equestrian Patrol;**

**Waterbird Habitat Project:** removing lures and lines from the foliage, banks and logs by the river;

**California Fly Fishers Unlimited;**

**California Native Plant Society;**

**Effie Yeaw Nature Center;**

**Friends of Lakes Folsom & Natoma (FOLFAN);**

**Friends of Sutter's Landing;**

**Sacramento Valley Conservancy;**  
**Soil Born Farms;**

**Wild Rye Consulting;**

and other organizations and individuals too numerous to mention, who contribute time, talent, and treasure to further the mission. ■

*Warren V. Truitt*

## AMERICAN RIVER TREES

*Continued from page 1*

recommendation document prior to the meeting.

The CVFPB met on July 18<sup>th</sup> to vote on the fate of the project. ART and the public valiantly pushed back in a compelling effort to sway the Board to require project improvements that would significantly reduce its impacts while not compromising flood control, a feat that ART strongly believes is feasible. More than 150 written public comments and 60 factual, heartfelt spoken public comments were provided to the Board! Despite a passionate and dedicated effort on behalf of the public, the Board unanimously voted to approve the project as proposed.

**The fight continues!** ART is now pursuing legal action as the next chapter in their efforts to preserve Sacramento's Crown Jewel. ART holds strong to their position that the project report contains a variety of significant flaws, including critical California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) violations. They stand firm in their assertion that less destructive, nature-based solutions were not sufficiently analyzed and could have been incorporated to provide the same level of erosion protection while reducing the project's environmental and ecological footprint. ART will continue to hold the Corps responsible for producing a project that is the least destructive possible.

**Please aid ART's efforts!** ART is now seeking donations to support their growing legal expenses. Donations can be made through SARA to the American River Trees fund at: [sarariverwatch.org/american\\_river\\_trees\\_donations](http://sarariverwatch.org/american_river_trees_donations) For more information, please visit: [americanrivertrees.org](http://americanrivertrees.org) ■



Page 1 photo: View of a 56-inch diameter valley oak located inside the American River Parkway with a heavy MOB infestation. Branch failure led to MOB identification. Page 3 photo (above): View of MOB galleries.

## MEDITERRANEAN OAK BORER

*Continued from page 1*

affecting one side. Female beetles can reproduce without mating, and infestations are difficult to detect early. Wilt symptoms can result from many stressors, further complicating diagnosis.

The MOB likely entered California through imported wine barrels but has since spread through the transport of infested firewood and other wood products. Preventing the spread of pests depends on not moving firewood or green waste from infested areas. Once infestation is confirmed, tree removal is often recommended, chipping wood into 1–3-inch pieces, and leaving it on-site, or burying infested material. Proper disposal by the green industry is essential. Because MOB targets large branches and trunks, removing infested trees often requires a tree removal permit from Sacramento County or local municipality.

Maintaining tree health is the best defense. ISA-certified arborists offer evaluation and care guidance. Pruning should be avoided during peak beetle dispersal (March–May). While the pest poses a serious threat, proactive care can help preserve existing mature oaks. Planting new oaks can help future generations continue to enjoy the majesty of the region's native oaks.

**Suspected infestations should be reported with photos to the local municipal arborist, California Department of Food and Agriculture** (1-800-491-1899 or <https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/plant/reportapest/>), and **University of California Agricultural and Natural Resources** (<https://ucanr.edu/site/mediterranean-oak-borer/reporting-infestations>). ■

## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

# tim viall

**Tim Viall**, SARA Board of Directors member representing the **American River Bike Patrol**, is a Rancho Cordova resident who's lived in Rancho's Sun River neighborhood near mile 19 on the American River Bike Trail for the past six years.

He's retired from three careers; 21 years in advertising sales management of daily newspapers, including the *Sacramento Bee* and the *Spokane Spokesman-Review*, 20 years in Stockton nonprofits, including the Downtown Stockton Alliance and the Emergency Food Bank and most recently, 12 years as the weekly travel writer for the *Stockton Record* and other Gannett newspapers.

Shortly after moving to Rancho Cordova, several neighbors told him about the **American River Parkway Coalition** meetings and he began attending in mid 2019. After attending four meetings and hearing concerns about trail safety, crime, fires, and homeless issues, he tossed out the idea of a bicycle safety patrol, which received a positive reception by the Coalition attendees. In early 2020, Tim, and two cohorts, formed the American River Bike Patrol, a subset of the National Ski and Bike Patrol.

In five years, membership has grown to 115 members, acting as goodwill ambassadors, offering directions, safe cycling tips, dispensing free helmets to young riders, offering flat tire and bike mechanical repair and first aid and CPR when needed. The fast-growing patrol has twice been voted top Bike Patrol in the Nation by its parent organization, and has expanded its patrol presence to trails in El Dorado County, Placer County and the two state recreation areas, Folsom Lake and Auburn SRAs.

Tim credits the American River Coalition for helping inspire, and helping grow, the bike patrol. He's pleased to offer his time and talents to the SARA Board of Directors. ■



## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:

### Waste Management (WM)

Save the American River Association is proud to partner with local businesses that share our commitment to protecting and celebrating the Lower American River and Parkway.

In August, SARA President, **Warren Truitt** (pictured below, center), SARA Advisory Council member, **George Nyberg** (right), and **Joe Cadelago** (left) of WM, placed labels on 68 trash cans our respective organizations donated to Sacramento County Parks for the American River Parkway.

To date, SARA and WM have replaced 368 damaged and rusting waste cans along the American River Parkway. ■

## IN MEMORIAM

Save the American River Association has received donations in memory of the following friends:

**Eli Kazer**  
**Nina Rynearson**  
**Fermin Viteri**

SARA frequently receives donations in memory of lost loved ones, many of whom were users and supporters of the American River Parkway. Some donors give names. Others prefer to remain anonymous. SARA notifies family members when donations are made. The money is used to further SARA's advocacy work on behalf of the Parkway.

Contributions may be made by check or online via SARA's Web site. SARA also has a Legacy program. For information on the program, please contact the SARA office.

— ” —

**Advice from a River:  
 go with the flow;  
 immerse yourself in  
 nature;  
 slow down and meander;  
 go around the obstacles;  
 be thoughtful of those  
 downstream;  
 stay current;  
 the beauty is in the  
 journey!**

ILAN SHAMIR

## SARA MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS

MAY - AUGUST 2025

Granite Bay Flycasters  
 Mark Berry  
 Geraldine Bigelow  
 Corey & Marcy Brown  
 Jesse & Kathleen Burdick  
 Mary Ellen Carboni  
 Marianne Conarroe  
 Sydney Cooley  
 Betty Cooper  
 Sam & Rachael Cowan  
 Jacqueline DeLu  
 Jim & Polly Dodds  
 Michele Dodge  
 Yvonne Dufault  
 Dennis Eckhart  
 Jason Ellis  
 Dick Forehand  
 Bruce Forman  
 Curtis & Sue Fossum  
*in honor of Betsy Weiland*  
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 Alan Wade  
 Lori Ward  
 Fred & Betsy Weiland  
 Lynda White  
 Glory Wicklund  
 Andrea Willey  
 Leo & Brenda Winternitz  
 Donald & Gloria Yost

SARA appreciates the support of our generous members. Without your support, SARA would not be able to continue our role as *Guardians of the American River and Parkway since 1961*. New and renewing members are listed in RiverWatch according to their preference (indicated on the SARA membership/renewal form).

## Update on Preserve the American River & the Kassis Site

BY BRENDA GUSTIN, PHD

Our enduring relationship with nature is at stake. Here in Sacramento, that truth comes to life every day through the work of SARA and its dedicated project group, **Preserve the American River (PAR)**, as we engage on the **Kassis Site** along the American River. Together with many individuals and partner organizations, we are united in our commitment to protect our beautiful Wild & Scenic River. Let's continue to *Keep Her Wild* so that we, our children, and future generations can enjoy her beauty and the health and wellness she provides to all beings, in the water and along the shore.

### Community Celebration: Trees & Tunes

The **Trees & Tunes** gathering on **June 1** brought our community together in celebration. Many remarked that it felt “like a family reunion.” Others shared, “It’s powerful to feel this land and learn its history and spirit,” and “I love this beautiful sunset among friends and family who love our Parkway.”

Jazz musicians **Kent Lacin**, **Stan Jarmolowica**, **Barry Hutcherson**, and **Darius Babazadeh** serenaded us throughout the evening. Our very own **Carl Salmonsén** provided sound, and **Jessica Ocenosak** led our



neighborhood team to create a lovely event for all. **Geri Littlejohn** set the tone for dinner, at sunset, and for our closing, playing songs of the trees on her finely crafted flutes. Attendees also enjoyed a humorous homage to the land's history by **Brenda Gustin** and **Mark Berry**, with the culmination in a special tribute to **Betsy Weiland**, SARA's land use coordinator and a force of nature.

Numerous river advocates, community leaders, and local policymakers joined the celebration—honoring the river, the Kassis parcel's rich history and evolution, and our shared hopes for its future preservation and inclusion in the Parkway. We are deeply grateful to everyone who helped and to all who attended.

### Project Status: Kassis Site & Floodway Protections

Regarding the **proposed development**, the City of Rancho Cordova responded to **Trumark** that building homes in the designated floodway remains inconsistent with the City's General Plan. We hope to learn soon what Trumark will decide to do next. Will the developer continue to seek exceptions and loopholes to build in the **CVFPB-designated floodway** of the American River? Or will they present a reasonable plan that does not build in the lower basin floodway and that assures the recorded public hiking and riding easements—intended as part of the natural Parkway experience—are maintained on the upper tier?

The Parkway faces multiple encroachment pressures on many fronts as our urban region grows. To keep a truly natural Wild & Scenic River for our children and generations to come, **we must uphold the American River Parkway Plan within Parkway boundaries and honor the intent to expand habitat and naturalistic qualities through the Parkway Corridor Combining Zone** (known as the Parkway Overlay District in Rancho Cordova).

*For questions or to get involved with Preserve the American River, please reach out to SARA or the PAR team.*

# Family FALL FEST



Honoring & Preserving the natural habitat of the American River Parkway for people and wildlife to thrive now & for generations to come!

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> • 12:00PM – 4:00PM**  
near the entrance of River Bend Park Rod Beaudry Drive

Come tour this scenic and treasured area near our American River Parkway that includes hiking, biking and bird watching. Learn about wildlife and critters, our California Pony Express, the historic William Alexander Leidesdorff Jr. Ranch, and the Miwok & Nisenan Indians native to the area.

**LIVE MUSIC • NATURE WALKS\* • LOCAL HISTORY**  
**KIDS ENTERTAINMENT • ARTS & CRAFTS**  
**LIVE ANIMAL SHOW • FOOD & DRINK** \*Closed-toed Shoes Are Required

**Wear a Family Friendly Costume ~ Receive a Gift!**



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
Jessica Ocenosak at 916-300-9990 or [eventsforpar@gmail.com](mailto:eventsforpar@gmail.com)



## Celebrate the River and Parkway: Family Fall Fest

In celebration of all river-lovers' efforts, SARA and PAR invite you to join us for the Family Fall Festival on **Sunday, October 26, 2025**, from 12–4 pm at Stirling Park Drive & Rod Beaudry Drive, near the entrance of River Bend Park in Sacramento.

Join us for a **free** afternoon of family fun—music, live wildlife shows, storytelling, crafts, and a joyful gathering of people who love our river, our wildlife, and life itself. Family-friendly costumes are welcome and will receive a small gift. We hope to see you there!

### Sponsorship and Volunteer Opportunities:

- Interested in supporting the event? Sponsorships are available.
- Want to help out on festival day? Volunteers are always welcome!

For details, please email [eventsforpar@gmail.com](mailto:eventsforpar@gmail.com)

## SUPPORT COUNTY PARKS

*Buy An Annual Pass*

For as little as \$70 per year, you can have unlimited access and parking in the parks. All funds go directly towards maintaining and operating the 15,000-acre system. Pass holders receive free daily entry into Regional Parks and annual passes are valid for one year from the date of purchase.

### Pass Fees Are Based On Use:

- Vehicle: **\$70**
- Vehicle + Trailer/Boat/RV: **\$130**
- Senior Citizen Vehicle\*: **\$35**
- Senior Citizen Vehicle + Trailer/Boat/RV\*: **\$65**

\*Senior discount passes must be purchased in person at the County Parks office. Discount applies to ages 65 or older and must have proof of age at time of purchase.

### Where to Purchase Your Parks Pass:

- Online through the County's Purchasing Portal <https://govhub.com/sacramento/regionalparks>
- Regional Park offices and park kiosks
- Mail in a completed Parks Annual Pass Application to:  
Parks Passes  
10361 Rockingham Dr.  
Sacramento, CA 95827
- At any of the retail locations on the right

### Carmichael / Fair Oaks / Citrus Heights

- Bobs Cycle Center: 9920 Fair Oaks Blvd, Fair Oaks, CA
- Effie Yeaw Nature Center: 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael, CA
- Patriot Bicycle: 7441 Madison Ave, Citrus Heights, CA
- American River Raft Rentals: 11257 S Bridge Street, Fair Oaks, CA
- Mission Oaks Parks District: 3344 Mission Ave, Carmichael, CA

### Downtown / Arden

- Fleet Feet Sacramento: 2311 J St, Sac, CA
- Mike's Bikes Sacramento: 1411 I Street, Sac, CA
- Rack N Road Car Racks and Hitch Superstores: 2021 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA
- REI: 1790 Expo Pkwy, Sacramento, CA 95815

### Rancho Cordova / Folsom

- Mike's Bikes Folsom : 705 Gold Lake Dr #320, Folsom, CA
- REI: 2425 Iron Point Rd, Folsom, CA 95630
- Sportsman's Warehouse: 2344 Sunrise Blvd, Rancho Cordova, CA

### Elk Grove / South Sacramento

- Fleet Feet Laguna: 7460 Elk Grove Blvd Ste 120, Elk Grove, CA

### Roseville / North Sacramento

- Fly Fishing Specialties: 6360 Tupelo Dr. Citrus Heights, CA
- Natomas Bike Shop: 3291 Truxel Rd Ste 30, Sacramento, CA
- REI: 1148 Galleria Blvd, Roseville, CA 95678
- Orvis Roseville: 1017 Galleria Blvd, Roseville, CA



**SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSOCIATION**

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**GUARDIANS OF THE  
AMERICAN RIVER AND  
PARKWAY SINCE 1961**

**MEMBERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

**My gift to SARA is a:**

- Renewal  New Membership  Non Membership Donation

Memorial - In Memory of (Name): \_\_\_\_\_

May we publish your name as a SARA member in a future *RiverWatch* issue?  
(Contribution amount will **not** be included)  Yes  No, thank you

**Please indicate your total contribution** \$

- Check  Credit Card

*Please provide credit card info below or go to our secure Web site to donate:  
sarariverwatch.org -VISA, Mastercard, AmEx or Discover accepted*

**The following membership categories are suggested:**

- \$10-24 Student \$25-49 Regular
- \$50 + Supporting \$100 + Family
- \$250 + Business \$1,000 + Sustaining

**Please send me information on SARA's legacy program**

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