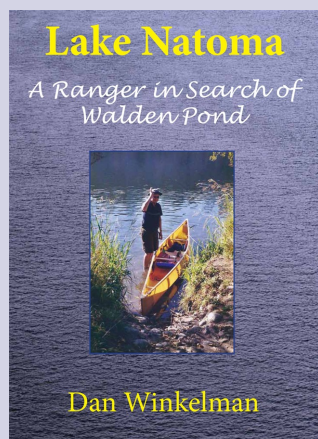


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Book Review

Lake Natoma: A Ranger in Search of Walden Pond
by Dan Winkelman,
Publishing Syndicate. \$16.95



Dan Winkelman was a park ranger for 30 years working at different times for both Sacramento County and California State Parks. From 2007 thru 2012, he wrote a series of logs on his canoe trips on Lake Natoma that explore the lake's natural and cultural history, and the relationship between the life of a ranger and the American River.

Those logs have now been compiled in a delightful book, "Lake Natoma: A Ranger in Search of Walden Pond."

Continued on Page 2



Photo by George Nyberg

SARA Honors Alan Wade

By Stephen Green

Former Save the American River Association President Alan Wade was honored with the "Big Fish Award" at SARA's annual meeting last December for his many years of work on behalf of clean water and fisheries in California.

Wade was SARA President from 1998 to 2007 and still serves the Board of Directors as secretary of the organization in addition to chairing the Water Committee.

"Under Alan's tenure as president, SARA tackled some of the most complex

environmental issues in the region," said current President Clyde Macdonald. "We were so fortunate to have his leadership and his continued service in the key issues that SARA is pursuing."

Wade expressed thanks for the honor, but noted that water has been the "Mother of All Political Issues" in California since the Gold Rush and probably always will be so.

Wade is a retired Professor of Social Work at Sacramento State University where he also held leadership positions in faculty organizations. ■



Former SARA President Alan Wade (left) receives the "Big Fish Award" from current President Clyde Macdonald for his years of service.

Book Review

Continued from Page 1

Some of the most interesting content is found in his descriptions of the wildlife, their behaviors and characteristics.

One learns, for example, that the Double-crested Cormorant is a diving duck. They don't have oil on their feathers, so their bodies will sink when they swim underwater searching for fish. On the surface, they swim with their whole body submerged with only their head and neck out of the water.

There are photos and illustrations, including some from a seven-year-old artist named Maddie Walker. Winkelman explained that he gave a talk on rangering which included the use of puppets to 2nd graders at Theodore Judah Elementary School in Folsom. Soon after, he received a mailing of about 30 drawings the students had made for him.

Maddie's drawing stood out. So, he met with her and asked if she would help illustrate the book. "She agreed," Winkelman said, "and I present to the world an artist with a tremendous talent and future."

The book can be purchased at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Ancil Hoffman Park.

Or you may order it directly from Dan Winkelman for \$15 including tax and postage. His address is: 1374 Young Wo Circle, Folsom, CA 95630. ■

Sacramento River Parkway Plan Gets New Life

By Stephen Green

Back in 1997, the Sacramento City Council approved the Sacramento River Parkway Plan. One day, it will provide a key link in a trail system that will allow people to travel all the way from Camino in El Dorado County to the Bay Area.

On Nov. 13, 2012, the city council finally voted to take the first steps toward removing the Sacramento River barriers that are preventing that trail link from happening. And the vote was unanimous!

Those barriers are on and near many of the 118 privately owned parcels in the Pocket and Little Pocket Areas adjacent to the Sacramento River levees.

The city council also voted to release \$100,000 to start planning and to research property title and legal issues to determine where it is

necessary to create public easements along the tops of the levees.

When the Pocket and Little Pocket neighborhoods were created in the 1960s, the law did not require property owners to give up title to the levees or to grant easements. Fortunately, that wasn't a problem on the American River where vacant land was being acquired in the 1960s for the American River Parkway.

Some Pocket and Little Pocket property owners have built fences onto levees and even down to public lands on the riverbank to keep the public out. Some of those fences have barbed or concertina wire.

State law says that the strip of land between low- and high-water marks on the riverbank are to be kept "in its last natural condition." The state

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The encroachment on public lands not only keeps the public out, but the fences are a threat to people and wildlife in the area.



Parkway Plan Gets New Life

Continued from Page 2

owns that land and is supposed to keep it in trust for public use. The state Central Valley Flood Protection Board, however, hasn't enforced the law and former board members even directed their staff to assist a property owner who wanted to construct two new fences on public lands. After the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers objected, the project was terminated.

"In fairness," said former Sacramento Mayor Anne Rudin, "these are not the actions of the current board, most of whom were appointed recently. But this board can alter this unfortunate course."

Rudin, who lives in the Pocket, added that the city has even allowed area homeowners to put up a locked gate at an entrance to the 11-acre Chicory Bend Park, giving nearby residents nearly exclusive use of the park.

The encroachment on public lands not only keeps the public out, but the fences are a threat to people and wildlife in the area. And in times of flood, dirt and debris can accumulate on the fences and cause the fragile levees to wash out. That threatens the 42,000 people who live behind the levees and the property of business owners.

Property owners have argued, however, that opening the levees to walkers, cyclists and equestrians will disturb their privacy and create a path for criminals to enter their property.

At the Nov. 13 meeting, Councilmember Sandy Sheedy said she lived in River Park at one time

and there was public access to levees behind her home. And she had none of the problems that Pocket and Little Pocket property owners complained about.

The late Bill Griffith, a former Save the American River Association board member, added that he had lived behind a levee with human traffic for 47 years and in all that time there had been only one minor incident.

The city council's Nov. 13 vote was taken at the behest of Council members Rob Fong, Darrell Fong and members of the Sacramento River Parkway Coalition (includes Save the American River Association).

It is notable that the Delta Protection Commission has been directed by the Legislature to plan the Great California Delta Trail from Sacramento to the Bay Area. The commission has asked the Central Valley Flood Protection Board to provide for bike trails on levees. But the flood protection board has yet to act.

Rudin has said the flood protection board "has a unique opportunity to stop protecting private interests at the expense of the public rights and safety. We who live in the Pocket," Rudin continued, "hope this board will act to protect our interests and stop a few homeowners from keeping their interests above the 42,000 people who are put at risk by demands of a few homeowners."

More information on the Sacramento River Parkway Plan is available at www.sacramentoriverparkway.org.



A Great Place to Meet

Whether you're planning a meeting, retreat, memorial, class or workshop, the Assembly Building at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center is a great place to gather.

The building in Ancil Hoffman Park is available for rent.

It seats 130 people, has a courtyard and patio, a full kitchen, a room that can be divided and is in a beautiful natural setting.

For information on booking the building, call 489-4918.



"Just living is not enough ... one must have sunshine, freedom and a little flower."

- Hans Christian Andersen

Support County Parks — Buy An Annual Pass

The Pass pays for itself in 10 visits and all funds go directly towards maintaining and operating the 15,000-acre system. For as little as \$50 per year, you can have unlimited access and parking in the parks.

Pass holders receive free daily entry into Regional Parks and annual passes are valid for one year from date of purchase.

Pass Fees Are Based On Use:

Vehicle	\$50
Vehicle + Trailer or oversized vehicle (over 22 feet):	\$100
Vehicle + Horse trailer	\$75
Vehicle and small watercraft:	\$80
Parks supporter pass*	\$50

** This pass is for those who want to support Parks but do not drive to Parks facilities*

Where to Purchase Your Parks Pass

- Online through the Sacramento County Web site
www.co.sacramento.ca.us
- At REI stores in Sacramento, Roseville and Folsom
- Patriot Cycles in Fair Oaks
- Effie Yeaw Nature Center at Ancil Hoffman Park
- Regional Park offices and park kiosks
- American River Parkway Foundation Office at the William B. Pond Recreation Area

SARA Stalwart Bill Griffith has Passed On

In late December, Bill Griffith returned from one of his almost daily paddles on the Lower American River and lay down for a nap. Soon thereafter, he died peacefully.

"I know I speak for all board members of Save the American River Association when I say I feel privileged to have known Bill," said SARA Vice President Stephen Green. "He led such a productive life. He did so much for California fish and wildlife, water purity, and the American River Parkway. For many years, his intellect and insights help advance the causes that SARA pursued."

Griffith, 85, served on the SARA board for 20 years during two different stints. He stepped down from the board last year and was still serving on the SARA Advisory Council.

For 40 years, Griffith served as a wildlife biologist for the State Dept.

of Fish & Game. He also was a Sacramento County Parks and Recreation Commissioner for four years.

Griffith had lived behind a levee by the American River for 47 years and took advantage of every opportunity to spend time on the Parkway. He served on winning teams competing in Eppie's Great Race and also was a canoe and kayak instructor for both the American Red Cross and Canoe and Kayak.

Griffith took part in many cleanups on the Lower American. Green said he manned a canoe with Griffith during one cleanup where they saw otters, deer, beavers and many bird species.

"Bill shared his knowledge of all the critters and it was unique experience for me," Green said. "He will be greatly missed." ■



Bill Griffith (left) stood with fellow SARA Board Members Frank Cirill (center) and George Nyberg at William B. Pond Park at the June 4th, 2011, 50th Anniversary Celebration of SARA's founding.

Photo by Warren Truitt

SARA Membership Donations *October — December 2012*

Sacramento Bike Hikers	Guy Galante	Patty Richardson
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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 Parkways since 1961*. New and renewing members are listed in *Riverwatch* according to their preference (indicated on the SARA membership/renewal form).

In Memoriam

Save the American River Association has received donations honoring the memory of the following friend:

Bill Griffith

Save the American River Association 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 and those people are always very appreciative. The money is used to further SARA's advocacy work on behalf of the Parkway. Contributions may be made by check, Visa or Master Card. A form for contributions appears on the last page of this newsletter.

SARA also has a Legacy program. For information on the program, please call the SARA office (916) 482-2551. ■

In Honor Of

Save the American River Association has received donations in honor of the following friend:

Alan Wade

Federal Law Requiring a Million Salmon is Ignored

By Dan Bacher

Reprinted with permission from The Fish Sniffer, an online magazine.

The Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), signed by President George H.W. Bush in 1992, set a goal of doubling the Bay-Delta watershed's Chinook salmon runs from 495,000 to 990,000 wild adult fish by 2002.

The legislation also mandated the doubling of other anadromous fish species, including Central Valley steelhead, white sturgeon, green sturgeon, striped bass and American shad, by 2002.

The landmark legislation also made fish and wildlife a purpose of the Central Valley Project for the first time. The CVPIA's Anadromous Fish Restoration Program was supposed to dedicate 800,000 acre-feet of CVP water every year to environmental protection.

The Act included reforms intended to

encourage efficient water use, including authorizing transfers of agricultural water and creating a land retirement program to reduce water use on tainted land. It shortened the term of Central Valley Project (CVP) contracts from 40 to 25 years and required a reduction in agricultural water subsidies.

Unfortunately, a decade after the law's deadline, the salmon fishery continues to struggle to rebound due, in part, to ineffective enforcement by federal and state agencies, and continued excessive pumping of fresh water from the Bay-Delta, primarily for corporate agribusiness interests in the San Joaquin Valley.

According to a new salmon index released by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the Golden Gate Salmon Association (GGSA), the Central Valley Chinook salmon fishery has suffered a dramatic collapse over the past decade, now standing at only 13 percent of the

population goal required by federal law.

The NRDC and GGSA analysis, published in the Salmon Doubling Index, reveals a steady decline in Bay-Delta Chinook salmon from 2003 through 2010, at which point it reached a record low of seven percent.

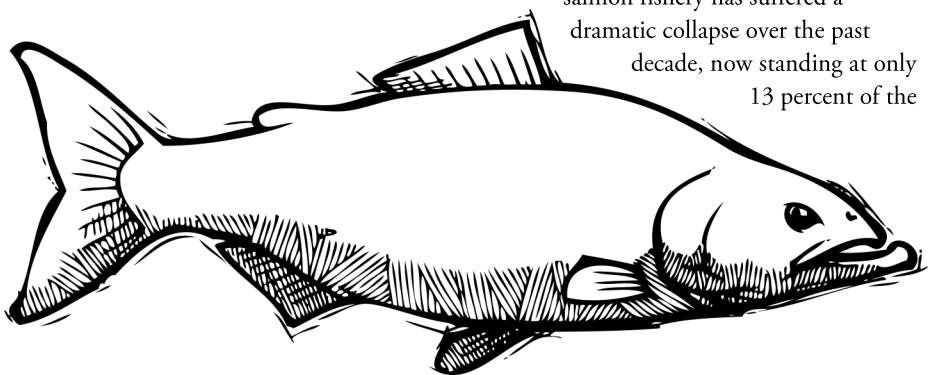
While the state and federal governments claimed that ocean conditions prompted the decline, fishing and environmental groups pointed to increased water diversions as a significant cause. Between 2000 and 2006, freshwater pumping from the Bay-Delta increased 20 percent in comparison to 1975-2000. The record water export year was 2005 until a new record was set in 2011 under the Brown and Obama administrations.

The annual export total via the state and federal Delta pumps was 6,520,000 acre-feet in 2011 – 217,000 acre-feet more than the previous record of 6,303,000 acre-feet set in 2005. U.S. Rep. George Miller, D-Martinez, the House author of the CVPIA, strongly urged the federal government to comply with the law by restoring California salmon.

"Despite indefensible foot-dragging and countless lawsuits, salmon restoration has remained the lynchpin of federal water policy in California for twenty years," Miller said. "California salmon support businesses and communities up and down the West coast, and it's long past time for the federal agencies to take their responsibility to our state's wild fisheries seriously. The federal government must restore California's iconic salmon runs to health: that's the law."

In 2008, in response to a lawsuit brought by NRDC, Earthjustice and the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, stronger federal court-ordered protections went into effect for salmon and other native fish, reducing water pumping from the Bay-Delta.

"In 2011, there was a modest rebound of wild adult Chinook salmon, directly



Bike Trail Upgrade is Underway

A 3.5-mile section of the American River Bike Trail between Beals Point and Negro Bar is being repaired, repaved and upgraded in places.

The action is being taken thanks to a \$422,900 Federal Highway Administration grant obtained by the California Dept. of Parks & Recreation.

That trail section had been crumbling in places for some time. Some of the

shoulders have eroded away. By the time the work is completed this spring, it should be back in a good state of repair.

Letters of support for the grant were submitted by Friends of Lakes Folsom and Natoma, and Save the American River Association. ■

Truckin' Event Violates Parkway Plan

By Stephen Green

On a Saturday last October, 15 or so commercial food trucks were parked on the grass in William B. Pond Park on the American River Parkway within a fenced area that included a beer garden and a stage with live entertainment.

The event, called "Truckin' on the River," was a fundraiser. Organizers had received a Special Event Permit from the Sacramento County Regional Parks Department.

Trucks were parked under trees where they probably damaged root systems. Some trucks were leaking fluids and still others had generators operating which made considerable racket. At the

conclusion of the event, trash was left on the ground.

Save the American River Association subsequently filed a complaint with the county, pointing out that such events are prohibited by the American River Parkway Plan.

The plan, which was incorporated into state law in 2009, provides that commercial activities that are compatible with the "goals of the Parkway shall only be considered as an auxiliary component to permitted recreational or interpretive/educational facilities."

SARA's complaint noted that "we will see the destruction of the Parkway's

natural resources unless not only the literal word, but also the clear intent, of the Parkway Plan is honored."

SARA's leadership recognizes that the event is history and expressed hope that it was one of a kind. SARA will be monitoring future Special Event Permits.

■

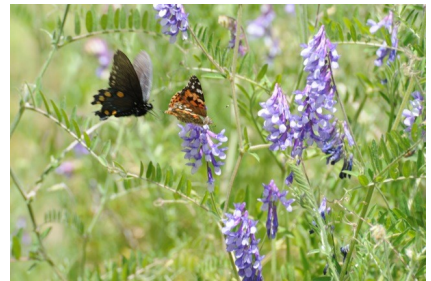


Photo by Warren Truitt

Salmon

Continued from Page 6

correlating to this reduction in pumping," according to GGSA and NRDC. "Chinook salmon have a three-year life cycle."

As a result, the benefits of stronger protections in 2008 are reflected in the numbers of adult fish that returned to spawn in 2011, the groups said. Early federal agency projections predict stronger numbers for this year's salmon run, which is currently underway. Nevertheless, the salmon index for 2012 will likely remain dramatically short of meeting state and federal goals.

Victor Gonella, president of the Golden State Salmon Association, said if current laws were enforced and the mandated restoration goal was achieved, the salmon fishing industry would provide a large contribution to the California economy. Consisting of commercial fishing men and women, fresh and salt water recreational anglers, coastal communities, tribes, fish processors, equipment manufacturers, marinas, and food and hospitality. A fully restored California

salmon industry would provide \$5.6 billion in economic activity annually and tens of thousands of jobs from Santa Barbara to northern Oregon.

Interest groups recommend five actions for salmon recovery:

- The Dept. of the Interior should reform CVPIA water contracts and revamp its salmon doubling efforts in response to a scathing independent review. Specifically, Interior should better manage water and restoration funds dedicated to salmon recovery, incorporate the latest scientific information and appoint a manager to be accountable for the progress of the restoration program.
- The State Water Resources Control Board should set stronger standards to protect salmon in the San Joaquin River and the Bay-Delta ecosystem, in proceedings to revise these standards that are currently underway.
- The state's Dept. of Water Resources should incorporate salmon doubling

into the Bay Delta Conservation Plan process.

- The state Dept. of Fish and Game should launch an ambitious state salmon restoration effort.
- The Interior Dept. should aggressively implement NRDC's agreement to restore the salmon run on the San Joaquin River.

The Salmon Doubling Index graphic and a table listing the index by year can be found here: <http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/kcoplin/Salmon%20Index%20Chart%20and%20Table.pdf>

While the federal government fails to comply with the provisions of the CVPIA, the Brown and Obama administrations are fast-tracking the Bay Delta Conservation Plan to build the peripheral tunnels. This plan will hasten the extinction of Central Valley salmon, Delta smelt, longfin smelt and other species, according to independent scientists. ■



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*(Contribution amount will **not** be included)* ☐ Yes ☐ No

\$ _____ *(Please indicate your TOTAL contribution)* Check _____ VISA _____ MC _____

Insert credit card info below or go to our secure Web site to donate — www.sarariverwatch.org.

The following membership categories are suggested: *(Please circle your choice)*

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