

ASRA General Plan Nearing Completion



PARC President Tim Woodall (right) and PARC Secretary Tony DeRiggi (center) discuss repairs to the Birdsall River Takeout and temporary access to the "Pump Station Rapids" with Auburn SRA Sector Superintendent Mike Howard.

2018 has seen continued progress on the development of a new general plan for Auburn State Recreation Area, with final plan adoption now expected to take place in the fall of 2019. Following extensive public input on four alternative proposals for future management of the park, State Parks in June made public its "Draft Proposed

Action." For the most part the proposed action closely follows the extensive recommendations submitted by PARC for future management goals. We believe the current proposal, with a few modifications before it is finalized, will lay the groundwork for enhanced recreational opportunities and effective resource protection in the American

River canyons for many years to come. State Parks has now received and reviewed comments on the proposed action from more than 500 individuals and organizations, and is currently developing a draft of the final plan along with a draft environmental impact report. Those draft documents will be available

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- March 16...W&S Film Festival pg 5
- April TBA... River Cleanup pg 7
- May 2... Big Day of Giving



General Plan...

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for public review and comment this coming spring.

We are pleased to report that the proposed action adopts PARC's call for construction of a trail bridge across the river at China Bar in the canyon below Auburn, along with related trail and river access improvements. Once approved, funded and constructed, this new infrastructure will connect the trail networks on each side of the river and allow China Bar's recreational potential to blossom. The proposed action also recommends adding parking spaces where feasible, increasing camping capacity in select areas, placing a bigger emphasis on education and interpretive opportunities, and improving resource protection and fire prevention strategies.

For more information on the proposed Auburn SRA general plan, please visit the State Parks website at www.parks.ca.gov/PLANASRA.

SNC's Jim Branham Honored at Retirement

PARC and Placer Land Trust honored retiring Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) executive director Jim Branham with a retirement picnic on the North Fork at Mineral Bar. Jim was presented with an American River 'newtie fish' by PARC and a Placer County Commendation from Supervisor Jennifer Montgomery. Award winning watercolor artist Juan Pena provided a watercolor painting demonstration along the river while Sierra College Professor Emeritus Joe Medeiros sang the 'Praises of the Wild & Scenic North Fork'. SNC awarded grants for PARC's ASRA Guidebook and Map Projects as well as a Hwy 49 Bridge Debris Study to remove unsafe 49 Bridge metal debris in the river since the bridge washed out in the mid-1960s.



Friends gather along the North Fork American River to congratulate retiring SNC Executive Director Jim Branham and his wife Patricia.

PARC Secures New Office Space

PARC has secured an office space in downtown Auburn at the General Gomez Arts & Event Center on Lincoln Way. This location is ideal for PARC! We will be able to use the event facility here for public presentations along with exhibiting river canyon art in the gallery. A grand opening celebration is being planned. We will keep you posted on the date.

PARC Donates Picnic Tables

By the time you receive this newsletter PARC will have donated and placed 5 new picnic tables in the Auburn SRA for your convenience and enjoyment in 2018. The best part of a hike is to drop your backpack and share food and conversation with hiking partners!



Phillippe (PARC's mascot) awaits your company at the new PARC picnic table by super popular North Fork Dam-Lake Clementine scenic view spot.

A Poem by Roger...

Working Meditation

Stacking stove wood on a hot afternoon,
I stop for a moment of rest.
Photons fall on my skin,
mingle into me making vitamin D,
a last vibration of summer.

Almond logs,
cut and split for a sixteen inch stove.
Started as select seed, sprouted to saplings,
grown in acres of rows, transplanted
and nursed into production.
They produce until the area under
the curve of differential equation
tells the manager 'nuts are in decline'.
It's firewood.
Not just one tree but the whole crop,
making room for the new bare-root stock.

Warm air rising from the ground
carries the smell of pine needles.
The slap of an acorn falls through a tree,
and a soft cackle above -
Sandhill cranes flying south.
All tell me
there is wood to be stacked.

Seventh Annual PARC Scholarship Essay Contest



Gary Hughes Photo

2018 PARC Scholarship Essay Contest Winners from left to right, Edward Polkenhorn, Lincoln High School; Layton Birchell, Placer High School; Brenn Haydon, Placer High School; Adrienne Russell, Granite Bay High School; (Rachel Nicholson, Oak Ridge High School, not in photo)



2018 PARC Scholarship winners attended their scholarship awards ceremony at the Annual Earth Day Cleanup at the Confluence Area of the American River below Auburn. They each read their winning essays to family members, PARC volunteers and the general public.

Scholarship Awards to Total \$2500 for 2019 Essay Contest

The Essay Contest topic for High School Seniors graduating in 2019 will be:

Why are the American River and its Canyons important to me and my community, and what can my generation do to protect the canyons' natural habitat while improving recreational opportunities?

Students can apply for the PARC Scholarships by submitting an original essay of no more than 500 words describing their response to the topic question about the North and Middle Fork American Rivers and their canyons located upstream of Folsom Reservoir, in the Auburn State Recreation Area.

Deadline for submission is March 3, 2019. Details and application forms for the 2018 PARC Scholarship Essay Contest are NOW available on the PARC website www.parc-auburn.org.

THE CONFLUENCE...

is a seasonal, or as needed, publication of **Protect American River Canyons**.

THE CONFLUENCE is included with basic annual membership. Email us to get on our digital e-news list.

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Tahoe National Forest American River Trails Updates

Good news for Tahoe National Forest Trail fans in 2019. The TNF trail crew and the Great Basin Conservation Corps trail crew logged dead fall, brushed and corrected tread problems on the fabled Picayune Valley, Mumford Bar, American River and Beacroft Trails this past summer. These Sierra Nevada Mountain-American River trails feature a variety of world class attributes including the Granite Chief Wilderness, the 1868 John Mumford log cabin, (partially restored), Generation Gap Class V kayaking access and the “harsh mistress” Beacroft Trail rated most difficult by the TNF rising over 2,500 feet in 2.3 miles as it crosses the historic 40 mile long Iowa Hill Ditch that provided water for mining operations along the ditch length. Plans are to continue to restore the trail connection to the Sailor Bar - Trinidad Mine Trail.

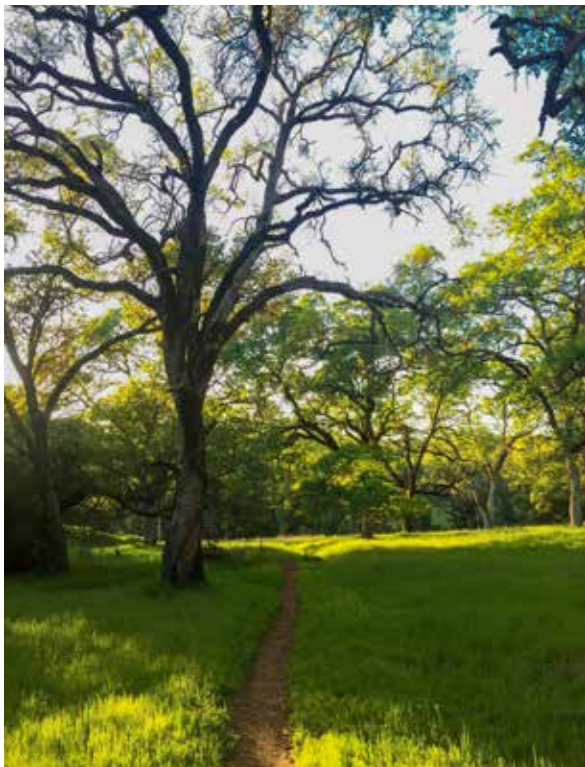


The Great Basin Conservation Corps takes a break from trail work with Alex Wolfgram and his daughter Clementine near the American River Beacroft Trail intersection.

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Support PARC when shopping at Save Mart. Join the “Save Mart Shares program powered by eScript.” This “no cost to you” program means PARC earns when you shop. Enroll at: <https://escrip.com/merchants/identity/savemart/>

Auburn SRA Trail Crews Reestablished



Auburn SRA Superintendent Mike Howard has re-established a seasonal trail crew led by summer Whitewater Manager Josh Verseman. Josh trades his oars for trail tools and dedicated, trained ASRA staff to work with him to implement trail improvements. The trail tread soil is easier to work in the wet months. Josh recently completed intensive State Parks trail building and maintenance workshops. The new trails maintenance plan also calls for volunteer participation from the public. Learn trail maintenance techniques that will help keep our incredibly diverse and unique trails system in the park sustainable. The trails volunteer work schedule is listed at the bottom of the Auburn SRA home page http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=502. Please organize your trail loving friends for a work party with Josh and staff!



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**The pictures
are awesome!**

**Julie Thomas
is our
Instagram Guru**

2019 "On Tour" Wild & Scenic Film Festival with PARC

On March 16th, the "On Tour" 2019 Wild & Scenic Film Festival returns to the State Theater in Auburn with another incredible selection of films to change your world. The theme of this year's festival is "Choose Your Own Adventure." Considered one of the nation's premiere environmental and adventure film festivals, this year's films combine stellar film making, beautiful cinematography and first-rate storytelling. These films will inform, inspire and ignite solutions and possibilities to restore the Earth and human communities while creating a positive future for the next generation. Festival-goers can expect to see award winning films about nature, community activism, adventure, conservation, water, energy and climate change, wildlife, environmental justice, agriculture, Native American and indigenous cultures. Join PARC on Saturday, March 16th for a fun filled evening of films, great food & drinks and American River Canyon News & Updates. This event sells out every year! Tickets & information will soon be updated and posted at LiveFromAuburn.com & PARC-Auburn.org.

Sponsorship Opportunities for Businesses & Individuals

2019 "On Tour" WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL



State Theatre, Saturday, March 16th

Benefiting Protect American River Canyons (PARC)

Your sponsorship shows your commitment to the community and your support of PARC's mission to protect our American River Canyons.

River Champion (\$500)

Get center stage and be one of the hosts for the "On Tour" Wild and Scenic Film Festival. Benefits: Your name and logo on the big screen, poster, PARC website, event program, and on-stage acknowledgment plus 4 guest tickets.

River Crusader (\$250)

Benefits: Your name and logo on the big screen, PARC website, event program, and on-stage acknowledgment plus 2 guest tickets.

River PARCster (\$100)

Benefits: Your name and logo on the big screen, event program, PARC website and on-stage acknowledgment plus 1 guest ticket.

Checks made out to: PARC, PO Box 9312, Auburn, CA 95604 Tax ID # 68-0468121 PARC-Auburn.org

Contact Information: Michael Anderson, 530-852-2836 / amriver@gmail.com

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Membership and Donation Opportunities

Protect American River Canyons is a river education and conservation organization dedicated to the protection of the natural, cultural and historical resources of the North and Middle Forks of the American River and its canyons. PARC is very active in the community, sponsoring a variety of social, educational and river service events each year. PARC remains vigilant to destructive development and political threats to the river and canyons. Visit our website www.parc-auburn.org.

Yes! I want to join/renew membership with PARC and help shape the future of the American River!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

- \$25 Regular Member ~ Receive a PARC window sticker
- \$50 River Guardian ~ Receive waterproof version of PARC's new Auburn SRA Trails and River map
- \$100 River PARCster ~ Receive the American River Insiders Guidebook
- \$250 River Crusader ~ Receive Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada
- \$500 River Champion ~ Receive both the AR Guidebook and Laws Field Guide to Sierra
- \$1,000 River Angel ~ First two donors will receive Tim Palmer's Rivers of California book
- I want to support the PARC High School Scholarship Program with an additional tax deductible donation of \$_____.
- I want to support the PARC Legacy Fund with an additional Donation of \$_____.
- I want my entire donation to go to PARC. Please do not send a premium gift.

For your convenience, please take a moment now to complete and return the enclosed envelope to renew your membership. If you prefer to renew online, go to www.parc-auburn.org and click on "Join PARC." There is also a link on our website for contributing to the **PARC Legacy Fund and Scholarship Award Fund**.

PARC is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law. .

Estate Planning and Leaving Your Own River Legacy



The PARC Legacy Fund is available for those who want to protect the American River and its canyons forever. This endowment fund will grow and provide PARC with a solid financial foundation to continue protecting this unique and irreplaceable environment. The Placer Community Foundation professionally manages the PARC Legacy Fund.

To learn more about estate planning options, please contact Veronica Blake, Executive Director, Placer Community Foundation by phone (530) 885-4920 or by email at: VBlake@placercf.org. *Please consider leaving a river legacy.*

Outings and Volunteer Opportunities

New Year's Night Moonlight Hike on Stage Coach Trail

January 1, 2019, Tuesday Night

Meet at 5:30 pm at the Stage Coach Trailhead parking area where Foresthill and Russel Roads come together in Auburn. Celebrate New Year 2019 on a moonlight Stage Coach Trail hike with the PARCsters and friends. Using an ultra violet spectrum flashlight we can search for scorpions and millipedes in the rocks, moss and leaves alongside this easy wide relatively flat former stage coach road-trail. The scorpions and millipedes glow in the black light! We will also be listening for screech and great horned owls known to frequent this area. The hike will be short -to the bench that overlooks the Confluence for a group picture- and then back to the trailhead. Approximately 2.5 miles round-trip. Dress warm in layers and bring a headlamp or flashlight. Rain cancels. For more information contact Eric at eriverpeach@gmail.com or 530-885-8878.

"Wall of Thorns"

Knickerbocker Area trail pruning opportunity.

The invasive Himalayan Blackberry has formed a wall of thorns on the popular Indian Grinding Rocks Pond Trail in the north end of the Knickerbocker Trails Area causing hikers to use a steep non-sustainable alternate route that is eroding the pond's earthen dam. Bring hedge or lopper type pruners, leather gloves and wear sturdy shoes and long sleeves. Learn more about the trails of this area that offer many loop hike opportunities. For a date and time contact Eric at eriverpeach@gmail.com or call 530-885-8878.

State Parks Foundation Earth Day 2019 Auburn SRA Cleanup

April date to be announced.

Meet at the American River Confluence 3 miles below Auburn near the Hwy 49 Bridge river crossing for a list of projects, cleanup supplies and snacks. Wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves and your own water bottle. Let's take good care of this essential natural habitat and excellent recreation area!



Our Auburn State Recreation Area American River Trails bandanas make great stocking stuffers. Visit our website at <http://www.parc-auburn.org>

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*Protect American River Canyons
protects the natural, recreational and
cultural resources of the North and
Middle Fork American River Canyons
for all to care for and enjoy.*

PARC Working to Improve American River Access

PARC board members continue to work to increase public access to the North and Middle Forks of the American River. With support from American Whitewater, PARC has been meeting with ASRA and PCWA leadership with the goal of increasing and improving river access at China Bar, The Confluence, and Mammoth Bar.

At China Bar, the Birdsall river access road is still closed due to damage from Winter 2017 high water flows, but the Bureau of Reclamation and ASRA are now evaluating plans to repair and re-open the road. Oregon Bar remains the only river access at China Bar, (open 4 days per week, Friday-Monday all year) but now there are more parking spots at the end of the road, and PARC is working to have ASRA repair the trail to the river. Road access directly to the pump station rapids is still needed, and PARC is working with ASRA and PCWA to provide temporary seasonal access via the existing but currently closed PCWA road.

Mammoth Bar river access is now open year-round after being closed last season. Please remember that there are sudden increases in the flow of colder water every afternoon due to hydroelectric dam releases upstream, and that there is a risk for swimmers and waders being swept downstream into the very dangerous Class 5 Murderer's Bar rapid. At the Confluence, PARC is working to create a boating put-in site with a convenient loading zone for boat drop-off.



Gary Hughes Photo

Auburn State Recreation Area and The Pump Station Rapid area was the site of the 2018 Auburn River Festival