

### Birdsall River Access Repairs Underway



*Birdsall River Access below Auburn was damaged in the by high river flows in the winter of 2017. Repairs are now underway and are slated to be complete by the spring of 2020.*

Repairs are underway for the Birdsall River Access in the China Bar Area of the Auburn SRA. High river flows, peaking upwards of 40,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), washed out this popular river access in winter 2017. Normal flows are a few thousand cfs. The Bureau of Reclamation and California State

Parks contracted with McCullough Construction Company to stabilize the road, rebuild the river access ramp and armor both with concrete walls and boulders to protect them from future high river flows that arrive each year with winter, spring rains and snowmelt.

Birdsall is a popular

takeout for boaters paddling from the Confluence to China Bar. It also provides access to the up-river man-made Olympic quality whitewater Rocky Island Rapids, aka Pump Station Rapids. The man-made rapids are a popular river play area for kayakers, rafters and tubers. The

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#### DATES TO ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR:

- December 21...Winter Solstice Hike pg 7
- March 15... Scholarship Essays Due pg 3
- March 14...W&S Film Festival pg 5
- April TBA... Spring River Cleanup
- May 7... Big Day of Giving



## **Birdsall Repairs... Access to Auburn's Whitewater Park Gets a Big Boost**

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2018 Auburn River Festival featured kayak slalom races and a whitewater rodeo at what is becoming known as Auburn's Whitewater Park. Spectators lined the shore to enjoy the competition and festival volunteers provided complimentary rafting splash trips through the rapids.

**NOTE: During the construction period China Bar vehicle access is open weekends only. When repairs are complete China Bar will reopen for Friday through Monday vehicle access. Repairs to Birdsall are scheduled to be completed in early 2020.**



### **A Poem by Roger...**

#### SUMMER AFTERNOON

Up beyond the trees to a granite outcrop,  
Where butterscotch boulders, larger than houses,  
Are tumbled and leaning on each other.  
A carpet of decomposed granite  
Amid occasional young pines,  
Huckleberry oak and pinemat manzanita.  
One short stout pine  
With a broad flat top stands alone.  
A zig zag of tangled branches  
Awaiting the next lightning strike.  
Clouds white on blue over Tahoe.  
Hot sun  
Sue under a Jeffrey with a book,  
Alone in the mountains.  
Leaning against a gritty curved surface  
With a hand lens and Law's book,  
I explore the camouflage of Map Lichen  
And the wrinkled center of Blushing Rock  
Tripe.  
A stone of large block crystals crumbles in  
my fingers  
Like the rhythms of wind and ice.

### **GET SOCIAL WITH PARC...**



*Instagram*  
**@official\_parc**

*Special Thanks to Gloria Lee @glogram, PARC's Instagram administrator, for posting provocative photographs that reveal the complex beauty, web of river wildlife and recreational highlights of folks enjoying the American River.*

**Find us on** 

<https://www.facebook.com/Protect-American-River-Canyons-Auburn-CA-PARC>

# ***Eighth Annual PARC Scholarship Essay Contest...***

***...\$15,000 Awarded to local high school seniors since 2013***



2019 PARC Scholarship winners, from left to right, Sierra Hagen, Colfax HS; Marco Carniglia, Woodcreek HS; Hanna Rose Yazdi, Placer HS; Emily Youngblood, Placer HS. (Winner Connor Ryan, Placer HS, not in photo)

2019 PARC Scholarship winners attended their scholarship awards ceremony at the PARC American River Art Show in Auburn at the Gomez Arts and Events Center.

## **Up to \$2,500 in Total Scholarship Awards for 2020 Essay Contest**

The Essay Contest topic for high school seniors graduating in 2020 will be:

**How will your personal connection to the American River and its canyons lead to active environmental stewardship that will help reduce the impacts of climate change on the American River watershed?**

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 Forks of the American River and their canyons located upstream of Folsom Reservoir, in the Auburn State Recreation Area.

Deadline for submission is March 15, 2020. Details and application forms for the 2020 PARC Scholarship Essay Contest are NOW available on the PARC website [www.parc-auburn.org](http://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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# The Laws Guide to Nature Drawing and Journaling...Where Citizen Science and Art Merge



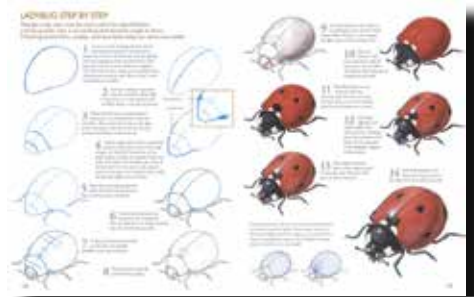
## Why Keep A Nature Journal?

Think how often you have said to yourself, "I will never forget this moment." Sometimes the moments stick but often they are forgotten. The process of drawing and journaling can help burn these observations and experiences into your memory and forge a deep relationship with nature. Every day you can fill your mind with wonder and fill your journal with a record of the beauty and observations of flora and fauna you have experienced. Train yourself to be more curious, active and playful.

## Slow Down, Observe, Discover and See.

Sit down, look, and look again. Once you slow

down and look long enough to satisfy your curiosity and record your observations in your journal, nature's mysteries and survival strategies will unfold before your eyes. As you discover the symbiotic relationships that have evolved between plants and animals to benefit each other, your scientific understanding of the natural world will deepen. Scientific problem solving and understanding provides a frame work for journaling and art.



## Where Citizen Science Journaling and Art Merge.

As journaling and art pulls you into a deeper connection with the world, this connection may lead you to action. Look for ways to make a difference where you live. Find and join a community of stewards or be the catalyst for work you feel strongly about.

*A citizen scientist is an individual who voluntarily contributes his or her time, effort, and resources toward scientific research in collaboration with professional scientists or alone. No formal science background is required to participate!*



## The Laws Guide to Nature Drawing and Journaling

Gold Medal, 2016 INDIES Book Awards

In straightforward text complimented by step-by-step illustrations, dozens of exercises lead the hand and mind through creating accurate reproductions of plants and animals as well as landscapes, skies and more. Laws provides clear, practical advice for every step of the process

for artists at every level from the basics of choosing supplies to advanced techniques.

**Paperback 8.5 X 11, 312 pages, 2016**

**\$42 includes tax and shipping**

**Available from PARC at [www.parc-auburn.org](http://www.parc-auburn.org)**



\*Selected passages from John Muir Laws' book:  
*The Laws Guide to Nature Drawing and Journaling*



## **"On Tour" Film Festival with PARC**

This upcoming March the "On Tour" 2020 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 "(re)GENERATION". Considered one of the nation's premiere environmental and adventure film festivals, this year's films combine stellar filmmaking, beautiful cinematography and first-rate storytelling to 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. Please join PARC on **Saturday, March 14th from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm** for a fun filled evening of films, live music, great food & drinks, the Haute Trash Fashion Show and American River Canyon news & updates. This event sells out every year! Tickets available on-line at [LiveFromAuburn.com](http://LiveFromAuburn.com) or [PARC-Auburn.org](http://PARC-Auburn.org).

### ***Sponsorship Opportunities for Businesses and Individuals***



**For the 2020 "On Tour" WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL**

**State Theatre-Auburn, Saturday, March 14th, 2020**  
Benefiting Protect American River Canyons (PARC)

**Your sponsorship shows our community your commitment to protecting the American River.**

#### ***River Champion (\$500)***

Benefits: 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 bigscreen, 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](http://PARC-Auburn.org)

**Contact Information: Michael Anderson, 530-852-2836 or [Michael@parc-auburn.org](mailto:Michael@parc-auburn.org)**

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# Membership and Donation Opportunities

**P**rotect 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](http://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 the Sierra Nevada

\$1,000 River Angel ~ Receive Laws Guide to Nature Drawing and Journaling

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](http://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



**T**he 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](mailto:VBlake@placercf.org). *Please consider leaving a river legacy.*

# Outings and Volunteer Opportunities



## Winter Solstice Foresthill Divide Loop Trail Hike

Saturday December 21st 9am to 2:00ish. Heavy rain cancels.

*Meet at the front of Raley's parking lot near the intersection of I-80 and Foresthill Road*

A PARC Classic Hike that explores the Gold Rush era Grizzly Bear House site, the Upside-Down Tree, winter fungi, and Rainbow Rock scenic views. We will hike approx. 4 to 5 miles depending on whether we do a loop or an out and back. There are a few short steep climbs. Bring a lunch and water, field guides, binoculars and your ASRA parking pass. Contact Eric at [eriverpeach@gmail.com](mailto:eriverpeach@gmail.com) or 530-885-8878 for info.

## Auburn SRA Volunteer Trail Work Days Fall 2019 / Winter 2020

For a list of work days and projects visit Auburn SRA webpage: [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=502](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=502). Send an email to: [ASRA.Trails@parks.ca.gov](mailto:ASRA.Trails@parks.ca.gov) and sign up. Work projects consist mainly of trail brushing and tread work. Meet 9:00 am at ASRA Ranger Station 501 El Dorado Street Auburn unless otherwise noted. Email coordinator Joshua Verseman at [Joshua.verseman@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Joshua.verseman@parks.ca.gov). Dates and worksites subject to change according to weather conditions.

Ron Gould is our local Trail Master who is passionate about maintaining and protecting North Fork American River Trails. Over the years he has led many hikes for PARC and the North Fork American River Alliance educating the public about the rich history, unique characteristics and scenic beauty associated with our North Fork Trails. He authored and self-published the North Fork Trails book. Ron's trail interest and resource knowledge have proven to be an invaluable tool in keeping many of these public trails available for continued public use. **Thank you Ron!**

***Walking on a trail of beauty,  
Lively, I walk. Navajo Indian Meditation***

Contact Eric Peach at [eriverpeach@gmail.com](mailto:eriverpeach@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer to lead a hike.



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PARC's 2020 wishlist includes shuttle bus service to the Confluence area of the American River during peak summer usage.

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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.*

## ***ASRA General Plan Adoption Slated for Spring of 2020***

The new general plan for Auburn State Recreation Area has moved closer to final approval, which is now expected to occur in the spring of 2020. The draft general plan and environmental impact report were released in July, with the proposed plan closely following PARC's recommendations for enhanced resource protection and recreational development goals and guidelines. State Parks received extensive comments on the proposed plan, both at a well-attended public workshop in August and in written comments submitted by the mid-September deadline. Thanks to all who submitted comments expressing your priorities for the future management of Auburn SRA. For more information on the proposed general plan, please visit the State Parks website at [www.parks.ca.gov/PLANASRA](http://www.parks.ca.gov/PLANASRA).



*Photo courtesy of California State Parks, 2019*