

# American River Guide Book Completely Revised!

# The Confluence

December 2013



**An Insider's Guide to the North, Middle and South Forks of the American River and Canyons**

This thoroughly researched guide provides a wealth of knowledge for exploring and appreciating the American River canyons. Filled with insider secrets on where to go, how to get there, when to visit, and what treasures to look for, this guide invites you to come and explore the easily accessible wilderness of the Auburn State Recreation Area, no matter what your age, interests or abilities.

**Trail Guides**  
Detailed maps, descriptions and trailhead directions to more than 50 trails for:

- Hiking • Running • Camping
- Equestrians • Mountain Biking
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**Whitewater Guides**  
Mile-by-Mile guide for 74 miles of river, including detailed maps and geology for:

- Rafting • Kayaking • Canoeing
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Updated information on river access and camping

**Plant and Animal Guide**  
Color guide to the canyon plants and animals illustrated by Sierra Field Guide author, John Muir Laws

**History**  
Rich accounts of Native American traditions  
Tales of Gold Rush history with historic photos  
Chronology of the Auburn Dam project and the efforts to protect the American River

ISBN 978-0-9912364-0-4 \$24.95  
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**COMPLETED Updated Third Edition**

**The American River**  
Insider's Guide to the North, Middle & South Forks

**The AMERICAN RIVER INSIDER'S GUIDE TO**  
Recreation, Ecology and Cultural History of the North, Middle and South Forks

Deep appreciation and concern for the future of the American River watershed brought together a cadre of river canyon recreational enthusiasts, writers, historians, naturalists, artists, photographers

and editors to share their knowledge and expertise in the completely revised 3rd edition of The American River Insider's Guide to Recreation, Ecology and Cultural History of the North, Middle and South Forks.

New for this edition is a mini-color guide to scores of plants and animals found in the Auburn State Recreation Area illustrated by Sierra Field Guide author John Muir Laws and edited by Sierra College

*Continued on pg 2*

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### DATES TO ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR:

- By Dec 31, 2013-Be sure to get your State Park Poppy Pass at Discount Price- \$125  
Call ASRA 501 El Dorado St, 530 885-4527
- January 1, 2014-Hike Quarry Road Trail p.5
- January 9-12-Wild & Scenic Film Festival p.5
- March 15, 2014-HS Essay Contest Due p.3

# American River Guidebook Revised...

Continued from pg 1

professor Joe Medeiros.

The whitewater chapter has been completely revised with the most up to date access information including mile-by-mile whitewater guides with river maps to over 70 river miles for rafters and kayakers from beginner to expert. The new stretch of river from the Confluence to Rattlesnake Bar that opened to paddlers when the Auburn Dam site was restored is highlighted in detail. The chapter features thorough descriptions of the major rapids, gold rush river history and geologic commentary on the North, Middle and South Forks.

The trails are the backbone of the canyon experience with over 50 easy to strenuous challenging trails covering over 150 trail miles are thoroughly described for hikers, runners, mountain bike riders, equestrians and fishermen. Detailed maps, trail snapshots and descriptions are provided for the entire Auburn State Recreation Area. The trails chapter is conveniently

divided into location area categories including Confluence, Knickerbocker and North and Middle Fork trails. Special attention is given to the over 30 miles of Western States and Tevis Cup Trails as they pass through the Auburn SRA. Loop hikes using multiple trails are identified. The trails chapter is richly illustrated with photos, graphics and intimate descriptions of the ecology found along the trails.

The River History Chapter is filled with Native American River dance traditions creation stories and descriptions of basket making that relied on the use of fire ecology for weaving materials. The much romanticized Gold Rush that established many of trails in use today is viewed through song, accounts of individual miners and profiles of the mining companies that formed to extract the precious metal from the river and canyons. Many of the trails in use today were established by gold seekers.

The pursuit of permanent river protection for the American

River is summarized in the final pages of the book. All who contributed to the book hope that the American River inspires us all to protect the river for all generations to come.

The guidebook has been lovingly and professionally designed by Laurel Mathe of Mystic Design. Clear concise recreational information combined with the rich natural and human cultural history side bars allow the reader to casually time travel down the river through the canyons. Following the best field guide traditions, Laurel creates space on the pages for the guidebook user to personalize the book by adding their adventure notes to the pages!

## *The Confluence*

is a seasonal, or as needed, publication of **Protect American River Canyons**. *The Confluence* is included with basic annual membership.

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this area.*

# 2nd Annual High School Scholarship Essay Contest



PARC 2013 High School Essay Contest Winners; 2nd place \$250 Garret Jordan, 1st place Kellyn McDonald, 2nd place \$250 Toby Qualls all of Placer High School in Auburn.

PARC received many, many wonderful and thoughtful essays for last year's contest. Kellyn, Garret and Toby wrote outstanding and inspiring essays on the question: "What do the American River and its canyons mean to me and my community, and what should be done to protect them for future generations."

The students shared their family and personal connections to the River Canyons, which often included hiking, rafting, jogging or fishing experiences. They explained how the canyons are important to our local community and economy, and offered suggestions for protecting the canyons for future generations. Their ideas included promoting river stewardship education of youth, such as training Youth River Ambassadors, and obtaining Wild and Scenic Protection for the Canyons.

### Sneak Peek at This Year's Essay Topic:

*What motivates me to care about the American River and its canyons and what can my generation do to help shape a positive future for the river and its canyons?*

**Top five winners will share \$500, \$250, \$250, \$100 and \$100. Scholarships deadline will be March 15, 2014**

Details and application forms for the 2014 Scholarship Essay Contest will be available on the PARC website [www.parc-auburn.org](http://www.parc-auburn.org) in mid-December.

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# Membership and Donation Opportunities

Dear Friend of the American River,

There are good reasons Protect American River Canyons has not been sending out our newsletters as often as before. PARC has been busy this year working hard to protect the Canyons of the North and Middle Forks, sponsoring programs and events such as:

- **Writing a new completely revised American River Insiders Guidebook to Recreation, Ecology and Cultural History to be published this December 2013**
- **First Annual PARC Scholarship Essay Contest awarded a total of \$1200 to five local High School Seniors**
- **Working with a professional film crew to create a new video to promote California Wild & Scenic designation for the American River to be released December 2013**
- **Co-sponsored the American River Wild Duck Derby with the Auburn Chamber of Commerce which raised funds to support local non-profit groups**
- **Spring and Fall River Clean-up Days**
- **Paddle Safety Day at Lake Clementine**
- **Seasonal hikes in the American River Canyons**
- **Educational Rafting trips from Confluence to China Bar**

As you may know, our local Congressional Representative Tom McClintock and the Auburn Dam Council have vowed to resurrect the Auburn Dam. Your PARC membership and donations are necessary to ensure that we can continue to educate the community and work for the protection of the natural, recreational, cultural and historical resources of the North and Middle Forks of the American River for all to enjoy.

**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. Help PARC plan for the future. Follow the link for information on contributing to PARC through your trust or will. PARC is a non-profit 501(c)3, donations are tax deductible.

Thank you,

*Tim Woodall*, PARC President and the PARC Board

Please consider these amounts in renewing your PARC membership.

Amount:

\$25 Regular Member  
\$50 River guardian  
\$100 River PARCster  
\$250 River Crusader  
\$500 River Champion

Premium:

Three River Cards  
Confluence Parkway & ASRA Topo Maps  
American River Insiders Guidebook  
Laws Guide to Sierra Nevada  
Both of the Above Books

You can request that your entire donation to go to protect the American River by us sending no premium.

Other Giving Opportunities Noted on Renewal Envelope:

Support the PARC High School Scholarship Program with an additional tax deductible donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

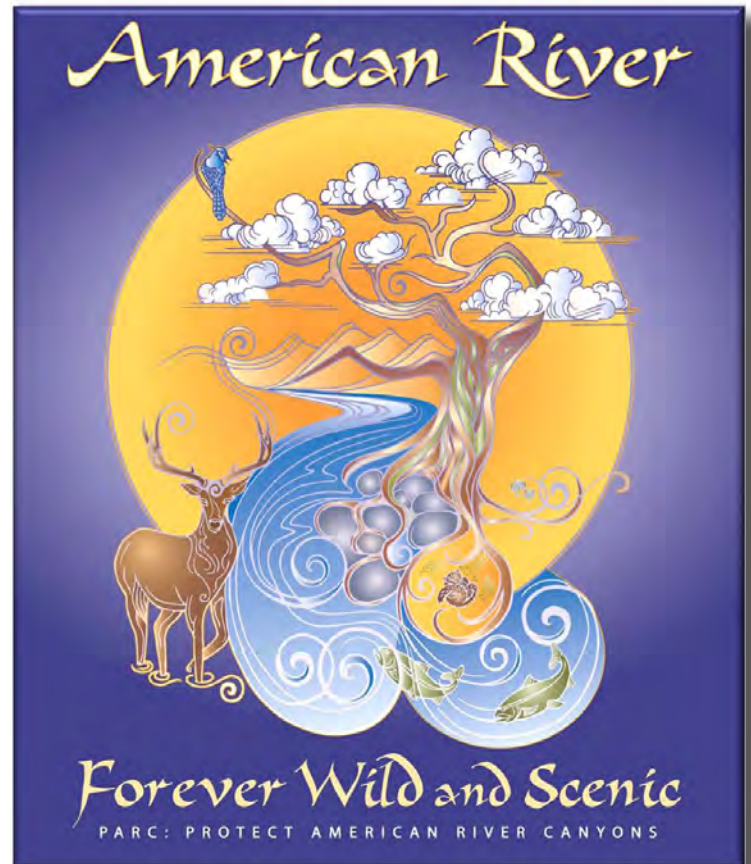
Support the PARC Legacy Fund with an additional tax deductible donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

## ***PARC Produces Wild and Scenic Video***

Earlier this year PARC started working on producing a DVD video promoting California Wild & Scenic designation for a 16 mile segment of the North Fork American River from Colfax Iowa Bridge to Lake Clementine. This part of the river has already been deemed eligible for Wild & Scenic designation. The DVD is being made with support of a grant from Sierra Nevada Conservancy and is hosted by local educator, Bart O'Brien. Ridgeline Entertainment, an Auburn based film production company, has been assisting PARC in the filming and editing of this educational DVD.

This video will be part of PARC's on-going campaign to garner local and statewide support to keep the North Fork free-flowing from the threat of the still authorized Auburn dam. Local Congressman Tom McClintock has been actively working on lobbying support to build the dam with his recent keynote address to the revived Auburn Dam Council. The video will be available to view on the PARC website in January 2014.

SYRCL's Wild & Scenic Film Festival will feature the premiere screening of PARC's North Fork California Wild & Scenic DVD sometime between January 9th and 12th. Check the Festival's website, ([wildandscenicfilmfestival.org](http://wildandscenicfilmfestival.org)), for the exact date and time when the schedule becomes available.



## ***Join Canyon Keepers on New Year's Day Hike***

The Auburn State Recreation Area Canyon Keepers will lead a hike on the Quarry Road Trail at 10:00 a.m. on January 1, 2014. The group will meet at the trailhead parking area off Hwy. 49, 1/4 mile south of the river confluence bridge (approx. 2.5 miles south of Auburn towards Cool). The hike will be an easy seven mile round trip hike. Bring water and snacks. Heavy rain will cancel. Dogs on leashes are welcome. Questions can be directed to 530-346-7032.

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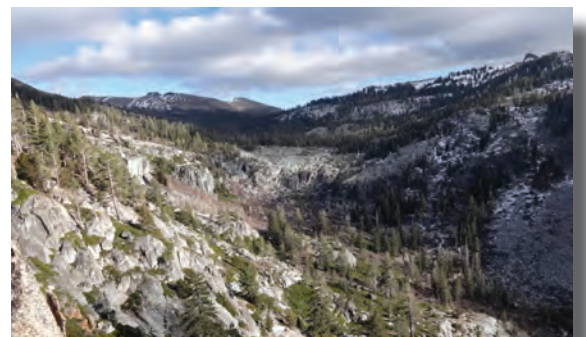
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## **Expanding the Granite Chief Wilderness**

The American River Conservancy, based in Coloma, recently acquired 160 acres on the western edge of Granite Chief and has launched a campaign to raise \$10 million to acquire an additional 10,000 acres from a logging company. The 19,000 acre Granite Chief Wilderness, established in 1984, is located along the Pacific Crest in the headwaters region of the Middle Fork of the American River and the Rubicon River. It was established as a roadless wilderness area that includes many historic trails including the Western States/Tevis Cup Trail and the Pacific Crest trails that provide access to the day hiker and backpacker. It is immediately adjacent to the Desolation Wilderness on the southern boundary and the Wild & Scenic North Fork American River on the northern boundary.

Over the years PARC has led many fall outings into Picayune Valley in the Granite Chief Wilderness (See photo on page 2.) This exciting tiny glaciated valley has the same geologic features of Yosemite but on a lesser people-sized scale. Granite spires polished by the glaciers rise from the valley on its northern edge. Old growth fir and pine trees, alpine wildflowers, waterfalls and obscure Indian petroglyphs tease the high country hiker. The icy-clear streams are highly productive rainbow trout nurseries. Northern goshawk, Clark's nutcrackers, California spotted owls, black bears and coyotes have been sighted in the valley area. The Sierra mountain wilderness stage is completed by a conglomeration of volcanic lava peaks that snag clouds as they go swirling by.



Please donate to:  
Granite Chief Wilderness Campaign  
C/O American River Conservancy  
PO Box 562 Coloma, CA 95613  
530-295-2199 ~ [www.arconservancy.org](http://www.arconservancy.org)