



# AMIA

THE ANDERSON MARSH INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION  
*Promoting education & interpretive activities at  
Anderson Marsh State Historic Park*

PO BOX 672, LOWER LAKE, CA 95457 (707) 995-2658 WWW.ANDERSONMARSH.ORG SPRING/SUMMER 2018

## ***AMIA Announces Special Campaign to Open the Anderson Ranch House for Weekend Tours***



**By Henry Bornstein,  
Treasurer**

When meeting visitors to Anderson Marsh State Historic Park, I am often asked: "When will the Ranch House be open for tours?"

The Anderson Ranch house provides perhaps the only surviving

example of what it was like to live on a Lake County ranch in the late 19th and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. With the help of AMIA funding, the historic Anderson Ranch House has been refurnished after being evacuated during the Clayton fire (which burned onto park property), and has been cleaned and repaired, with a new roof, new attic insulation and modifications that will make sure that the local bats can no longer make the house their home.

If we are to preserve the knowledge of our past, it is important not only that the Ranch House be properly maintained, but that the public has an opportunity to visit the house and learn about Lake County life as it was then.

Right now, however, the only public tours of the Ranch House occur when an AMIA volunteer who is also a State Park docent can open the Ranch House for a tour after a monthly Guided Nature walk that is hosted on most second Saturdays of the month. This means that at most,

there are presently scheduled about nine Ranch House tours each year.

AMIA is doing its best to change this by having the Ranch House available for public tours on every Saturday and Sunday. In order to accomplish this, AMIA has made a donation to State Parks that will allow the hiring of a Park Visitor Aide who will work at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park on the weekends and will be available to give tours and to answer questions about the Park.

This goal to have the Ranch House open for visitors whenever the Park gates are open on the weekends had to be put on hold last year after the Ranch House was emptied out during the Clayton fire. Now that the Ranch House has once more been cleaned and made ready for visitors, funds have been made available by AMIA for hiring the Park Aide for the first year and the position has been advertised. As this article is being written, the period for receiving applications will soon expire and AMIA hopes that we will be able to find the perfect person to fill this position.

AMIA was able to fund the first year of the salary for the Park Aide by dipping into its reserve account. The cost of a weekend Visitor Park Aide is about \$12,000 per year. In order to find the funds necessary to keep the Park Aide position for the year after next, AMIA is announcing its special campaign to raise the necessary

*(Continued on page 3)*

# President's Message

By Roberta Lyons

## Why Should You Care?



**By Roberta Lyons**

At a recent Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association (AMIA) “mini” retreat, the AMIA Board focused on framing our “message” to the public and to our supporters. When pondering what I would write my President’s Message about for this newsletter, I first went to all of the usual material: “what we have

accomplished and what we look forward to.”

These topics are important, but then I started thinking about the “messaging” issue. The effort to work on “messaging” came about because two of our board members attended a training sponsored by the California State Parks Foundation that focused on this issue. The fundamental theme of what they learned, and what we worked on, is how to communicate to our supporters what our organization represents, what our fundamental values are, and why you — our members and supporters — should care about our organization.

This idea grabbed me.

I’m sure you like to hear about all of the things we have accomplished and all of the things we have planned. Our accomplishments are absolutely important, and so are our plans, but the bigger picture is: what do we stand for, what do we value, why do we care, and more importantly, why should you care?

Let me stress that these ideas are not strictly about “how do we get you to give us money,” alt-

hough let’s be honest, that’s pretty darn important. Mainly, I think it is an exercise for us to look at ourselves and deeply ponder “why do we do this volunteer work?” Although this work can sometimes seem tedious, frustrating and anxiety-producing, is it worth it and are we accomplishing what we want to accomplish: garnering support for our State Park?

We haven’t yet parsed the words into a formal message, but what came out during our retreat, voiced by everyone attending in one way or another, is that what we are all about involves sharing the experience of the natural, historical and cultural resources of our wonderful State Park.

We want everyone to care, just as we do, about this great asset that we are so fortunate to enjoy here in Lake County, California. We also want to educate residents and visitors about the wonders of this place and very importantly, to expose youngsters to all of the fascinating aspects of Anderson Marsh State Historic Park.

So, even though we haven’t yet come up with the exact and inspiring wording for our message, please don’t let that stop you from supporting us now and joining us for our monthly field trips and fun events. Remember, Anderson Marsh State Historic Park is your park. Get to know it, enjoy it, and most importantly — protect it.



[www.facebook.com/AMIA.org](http://www.facebook.com/AMIA.org)  
See our Facebook page for up-to-date news about AMIA and happenings at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park.



Gae Henry, AMIA Board member and Park Docent (2nd from right), leads a tour of the Ranch House kitchen.

## ***AMIA Announces Special Campaign***

*(Continued from page 1)*

\$12,000 by the end of this year. We hope that the State can be convinced to provide funding for this position after the first two years are completed.

More details about this special fund drive will be announced soon. Anyone who wants to support AMIA's efforts to make this important piece of Lake County history available to those who may be interested in learning about our county's past are encouraged to donate to this special campaign fund. AMIA can be contacted by email at [info@andersonmarsh.org](mailto:info@andersonmarsh.org) or by telephone at 707.995.2658. Donations can be made by mail sent to AMIA, PO Box 672, Lower Lake, CA 95457, or on the AMIA website: [www.andersonmarsh.org](http://www.andersonmarsh.org).



## **ANDERSON MARSH NEWS**

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Association

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AMIA Board members Henry Bornstein (left) and Gae Henry (2nd from right), with CSPF staff members in Sacramento.

## Board Members Attend “Partnership Convening” in Sacramento

On January 22, 2018, AMIA Board members Henry Bornstein and Gae Henry attended a “Partnership Convening” hosted in Sacramento by the California State Parks Foundation (CSPF). The meeting was designed to help “park partners” such as AMIA to improve their ability to help support California State Parks – in particular, in our case, Anderson Marsh State Historic Park.

One of the subjects covered at the meeting was the concept of a “One-Minute Message.” How can you in a short time convey what your organization stands for and why it should be supported?

We were urged to concentrate at first on values we shared with others, letting what we do be discussed later. This led to a valuable AMIA Board discussion at a “mini-retreat” concerning

this topic – what values did we all agree on that drive us to support this organization?

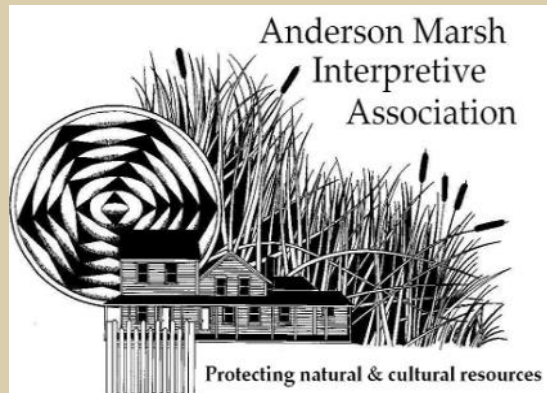
We found that while many different things were important to the members of the Board, we have certain values in common – a desire to preserve the natural, cultural and historical resources found at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park, and a belief that it is vital that the public, and especially the young people of Lake County, take advantage of the opportunity to experience the nature and wildlife found in the Park, learn about local history found there, and understand and appreciate the long history of the Native Americans who’ve lived on the land now known as Anderson Marsh State Historic Park.

Now all we have to do is to “find the words” to express these values in our “One-Minute Message”!

# *Thanks to our generous supporters*

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# State Parks Report

By Darin Connor, State Parks Supervising Ranger for the Clear Lake Sector

## Greetings AMIA Members!

It is an exciting time of year at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. After a long hiatus, we got some well-deserved wet weather, and now it appears warmer weather is on the way. It is refreshing to see all the wildlife buzzing about the park – birds building nests, rabbits racing through the tall grass, and buds developing on the trees. Last year's flooding had a tremendous effect on our Park, most notably by making much of the McVicar Trail inaccessible for most of 2017. Fortunately, the water finally retreated and our Maintenance Staff, assisted by Cal Fire crews, were able to clear and re-open all the trails.

I encourage those of you who have not visited Anderson Marsh State Historic Park recently to treat yourself to a visit. Perhaps you could make a picnic on a sunny afternoon (especially while it is still somewhat cool) or go for a walk on a trail you don't normally venture out on. If you haven't seen the ranch house since it was closed, please stop by for one of the monthly Nature Walks and Ranch House Tours and see what is new.

As much as I love to be outside enjoying our State Parks, sometimes I have to step away for various work-related reasons. This January that reason was particularly engaging: I participated in a week-long Cooperative Association Liaison Training at the Matt Training Center in Asilomar. Our Department had quite a variety of "student" participants from all across the state, including a Museum Curator, a Maintenance Chief, several Rangers, some Interpre-



**Supervising Ranger Darin Connor with young hiker Djoser Williams.**

tive Specialists and a District Superintendent. Our instructors were also from a variety of backgrounds, including former and current Cooperative Association board members, representatives from the Department's Partnership Office, and even an accountant.

Going into this training, we all knew how essential cooperating associations such as AMIA are to accomplishing our Department's Mission. Like so many things in our State Parks, there is tremendous diversity in the types and

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AMIA had a booth at the Earth Day celebration hosted by the Lake County Campus of Woodland Community College. Those attending enjoyed visiting the many booths sponsored by county environmental groups. At AMIA's booth, attendees had the chance to learn about what Anderson Marsh State Historic Park and AMIA have to offer. Pictured with AMIA's booth is Gae Henry, AMIA Secretary and Board member.

## State Parks Report *(Continued from previous page)*

sizes of the many partners that we have. Even with such diversity, there was a common theme for us all: improving these relationships for the benefit of interpretation and education in our Parks.

During this course, I spent a substantial amount of time reflecting on goals we have achieved as well as those we are currently working on. It is inspiring to see how much we have accomplished together. The relationship between AMIA and State Parks is quite strong and productive. Through so much hard work and dedication, the ranch house complex is coming back to life in extraordinary fashion. An interpretive "Spring" is beginning to bud following the autumn-like dormancy necessitated by the evacuation and construction projects impacting the

Anderson family ranch house. Even Santa stopped by during the Christmas at the Ranch event to celebrate!

As we move forward, focusing on key needs through a shared vision of our common goals will enable us to be much more effective in our partnership. It is a joy to work with you all. I thank you for your passion and tireless efforts to breathe life into our Parks. I am eager to work with you to create a legacy to empower those that follow us to work effectively together to inspire and educate future generations. I thank you all for your commitment to our California State Parks. Your invaluable support helps make our parks a special, memorable destination for a diverse variety of visitors who come here from all over the world.



A great blue heron perching below the heron nests on Cache Creek.

## Heron Days in Anderson Marsh State Historic Park

On May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, the Redbud Audubon Society sponsored pontoon boat birding tours into Anderson Marsh as part of the 2018 Heron Days event. The “Captains” (all of whom have been qualified and licensed by the state as “captains for hire”) volunteer their boats and the “bird guides” are also volunteers. Highlights of the trips always include the Great Blue Herons and the fabulous “courting rituals” of the Western and Clark’s Grebes. This year, AMIA Board members Henry Bornstein and Gae Henry led boat tours into Anderson Marsh, lending their expertise about Anderson Marsh State Historic Park to the event.



“Captain” Henry Bornstein and “Bird Guide” Gae Henry lead a group on a pontoon boat tour into Anderson Marsh as part of Redbud Audubon’s Heron Days.



Clark’s grebes dancing on the water as part of their “courtship ritual”.



# School Field Trips



AMIA volunteer Don Coffin plays and discusses “old time” music to students on a field trip to the Park.

## School field trips at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park

AMIA works to ensure that Lake County student field trips will continue at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. AMIA has donated money to Konocti Unified School District specifically to pay for field trip busses to allow its students to come to the Park. AMIA also supports schools and California State Parks by working with teachers in setting up and coordinating the school field trips to the Park. In addition, AMIA provides the volunteers on the day of the field trip in order to bring the students a variety of experiences (such a guided walk, tours of the ranch house & south barn interpretive center and learning about old-timey music). Donations to AMIA help make sure that these field trips will continue.



School children enjoying a picnic at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park.



AMIA volunteer and Park Docent Henry Bornstein passes out binoculars to students before leading a nature walk in the park.



AMIA volunteer and Park Docent Gae Henry explains when electricity first came to Lake County during a field trip tour of the Ranch House.

# “Bluegrass at the Ely” fundraiser to be held on September 8

By Don Coffin

Last year’s “Bluegrass at the Ely,” a benefit for AMIA and the Lake County Historical Society, was a big success and AMIA has decided to hold a second Bluegrass at the Ely event on Saturday, September 8, from noon until 5pm.

The event features bluegrass music, food and craft vendors and music workshops, and will be held again at the Ely Stage Stop and Country Museum on Soda Bay Road in Kelseyville. Headlining the event will be Blue and Lonesome, a Northern California traditional bluegrass band. Also playing will be local vocal group InVoice, Konocti Fiddlers, Scott Serena and Mike Heinz.

Tickets will be \$25 on the day of the event. Advance sale tickets will be available soon for a reduced price of \$20. Look for upcoming an-

nouncements in local media and on the AMIA website: [www.andersonmarsh.org](http://www.andersonmarsh.org). For further information call Don Coffin at (707) 477-0458.



Blue and Lonesome will headline at the Ely Sept. 8.



Pictured are 95 of the 150 people who attended the 2018 First Day Hike.

## 150 people attend the 2018 First Day Hike

For the past five years, AMIA has sponsored a January 1<sup>st</sup> “First Day Hike” at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. Each year, over 100 people have “started off the year right” by participating. In 2018, over 150 people came to the park January 1<sup>st</sup> to walk the 3½ mile loop over Cache Creek, Anderson Flats, Marsh and Ridge trails. This was the most attendees ever at a hike at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. Join us January 1, 2019 and start off the year outside in nature with family and friends.



## AMIA continues to improve displays in the South Barn

By Henry Bornstein

For the past two years, AMIA has been working on converting the South Barn at the Park into an Interpretive Center that can be used to house exhibits for public tours and school field trips. We have repaired the roof and installed security doors and windows to make the building more secure. More recently, we have been able to install an alarm system that will provide more security for the exhibits stored in the building.

With the Ranch House already providing ample exhibits related to European settler history at the Park, we have concentrated at first on creating exhibits about nature and wildlife and the Native American history at the Park. Exhibits include “mounts” of birds and other wildlife, stone copies of some of the Native American petroglyphs (carvings) found in the Park, pelts from local wildlife and a skull exhibit. Our latest additions expand our ability to education the public and



**Top photo: Students on a field trip view the new Native American diorama in the South Barn. (Bottom photo) Native American artifacts exhibit being set up in the South Barn.**

students about the Native Americans who lived on this land for over 10,000 years. First, we have finished setting up a Native American “village diorama” that depicts the life of the Native Americans living around Clear Lake. Second, we have set up a new exhibit that contains Native American artifacts, including obsidian points, knives and scrapers, a stone mortar and pestle used to grind acorns, and a stone “matate and manos,” used to grind grains and seeds.

We are continuing to add to the exhibits in the South Barn, which are being used on Lake County School field trips.

# A Day on the Ranch



**By Gordon Haggitt,  
AMIA Board member  
and Anderson family  
descendant**

The first part of May was always a special time for me when growing up. We lived in Petaluma, but spent most weekends in Lower Lake staying with my grandmother. My Dad

was a nephew to the Andersons, so my Dad, brother Gary and I had the ranch as our playground, so to speak. The beginning of May usually signaled the start of trout season so the three of us would begin at daylight and fish Seigler Creek from Cache Creek to the Jessie Street bridge in Lower Lake. This section of creek meandered through a portion of the ranch property so we didn't have any competition on opening weekend. However, we knew after opening weekend, the locals would be fishing here and the chances of catching any trout would greatly diminish. The Andersons were very reserved, kind, generous people, so the thought of them chasing down a trespasser and having them arrested was not a reality. The fishing was super and we would often catch trout in the 12-15 inch range. The hitch population back in those days (late '50's-early 60's) was phenomenal. Literally thousands of hitch would swim upstream to spawn. so keeping them off the hook so a trout could bite was a challenge.

After a morning of fishing and cleaning the catch, we would grab some breakfast at my Grandmother's house on Lake Street and then head back out to the ranch. Sometimes we would walk through the hay fields and permanent pastures between the ranch house and Cache Creek to do some catfishing or just bird-watch. It wasn't unusual to see dozens of turtles

and bullfrogs as we would walk along the bank. A hen mallard sitting on a nest wasn't an uncommon sight either. We were constantly on the lookout for rattlesnakes and my Dad made me wear hard leather leggings that covered me from the top of my boots to below my knees. I remember them being horribly hot and uncomfortable, but they must have worked since I don't remember any close calls with a snake.

On other occasions we would hop in the '54 Buick Roadmaster and tour the ranch from the vernal pool behind the present Social Services building out to what we called the "Dell" and beyond (depending on the Winter and how wet the tules were). On the return trip we would loop back on the marsh side of the Long Ridge and return through the hay fields and permanent pastures to the ranch house. The reward of such a trip was seeing countless species of bird and animal life. Deer of all sizes were a frequent sight and the Anderson Ranch had some of the largest bucks in the County at that time. Coyote and bobcat sightings were not uncommon and on a few occasions we would see a roadrunner hunting for a lizard. I have one vivid memory of walking the Long Ridge on a warm day in the Spring, when the wild oats were about three feet high and coming across a pair of baby buzzards that were apparently just learning how to fly. I couldn't see them in the tall grass, but I heard a hissing sound that startled me. I finally found them and let me tell you if you think an adult buzzard is ugly you should see what the chicks look like – yikes! They were both together, their little fuzzy heads weaving back and forth wondering what I was going to do. Anyway, being a kid, I had to get a closer look and as I bent down to touch them they both vomited some of the grossest looking and smelling stuff I had ever witnessed. I quietly withdrew and left them alone. I'm thinking that was a defensive

*(Continued on page 13)*

# A Day on the Ranch

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mechanism and it worked quite well – UGH!

Anyway, after a full day of enjoying all the amenities of the ranch, we would stop and visit with the Andersons at the ranch house. My Dad would visit with Uncle Willie and Uncle Charlie and discuss the business of raising cattle over a piece of fresh baked pie and I would accompany Aunt Mora out to the barns to gather eggs. The Plymouth Rock chickens were definitely “free ranging” and it was often challenging to find their nests. It took a while but we eventually had one or two dozen eggs – enough so we could take a dozen home to enjoy.

Sadly, my Dad’s visit with the uncles would end and I knew our day on the ranch was over. We headed back to Lower Lake exhausted from the day’s activities. I knew, however, that in a week or two at the most we would be back doing it again. Not a bad thing to look forward to for a young boy ☺. And the best part is not one of us got a text message or a tweet or a “like” on Facebook the whole day! Hope you enjoyed the “day on the ranch”.



AMIA Board posed for a photo after its “mini-retreat” held at Clear Lake Campground on Cache Creek. Behind the Board across Cache Creek is part of the riparian habitat of Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. Left to right in the back row: Roberta Lyons, Lisa Wilson, Ranger Darin Connor and Gordon Haggitt; Left to right in front row: Gae Henry, Nancy Langdon, Henry Bornstein, Don Coffin.

# “Christmas at the Ranch” returns to the Park



Ranger Trevor Irace, Justine Schneider, with Dahlia and Haley, visit with Santa at last year’s “Christmas at the Ranch.” Below, always a favorite, the “Cookie Table”.



After a two-year “hiatus” caused in part by the closing of the Ranch House due to the effects of the Clayton Fire, AMIA’s annual Christmas at the Ranch open house returned in December to Anderson Marsh State Historic Park.

The yearly event is a chance for AMIA to thank the public for all of its support. The free event recreates a Victorian Christmas with cheery fires burning in the Ranch House parlor and dining room, home baked cookies, hot cider and coffee, a Christmas tree decorated by local students, music provided by local musicians (with everyone encouraged to sing along), and Santa Claus, who is a big fan of the Park and makes time in his busy schedule to attend.

The next Christmas at the Ranch will be held in the Anderson Ranch House on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> and everyone is invited to attend.



Western Grebes. *Photo by Brad Barnwell*



Bobcat.



North American Raccoon. *Photo by Jim Duckworth*



Phainopepla. *Photo by Gae Henry*

# WILDLIFE IN THE PARK



**White Tailed Kite. Photo by Holly Finney**



**Great Egret. Photo by Jim Duckworth**



**American Black Bear. Photo by Gae Henry**



**American White Pelican. Photo by Jim Duckworth**



**Wood Duck. Photo by Gae Henry**

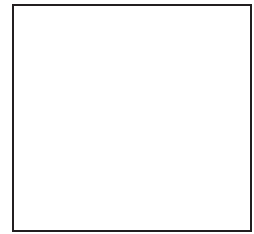


**Immature Bald Eagle. Photo by Gae Henry**



# ANDERSON MARSH INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 672 LOWER LAKE, CA 95457 (707)995-2658  
WWW.ANDERSONMARSH.ORG — info@andersonmarsh.org



## ANDERSON MARSH INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

*Dedicated to the preservation of all facets of the park. New members are always welcome! Come Join the Fun!*

### 2018 AMIA Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interest (music, education, history, ecology, archaeology, other): \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to know about volunteer opportunities

AMIA members receive two (2) newsletters a year, special invitations to attend events being held at the park and the satisfaction that comes from supporting a community treasure and working to preserve it for future generations.

#### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

##### Annual

Amount	Membership Level	Member Benefits
<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	Educator/Student	Newsletter
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	Individual	Newsletter
<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	Family	Newsletter
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	Supporter	Newsletter and Newsletter Mention
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	Sustainer	Newsletter, Newsletter Mention, Donor Event and DVD of "A Walk Through Time" film
<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	Patron	Sustainer benefits + special recognition at event
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<b>Business Supporter</b>	Newsletter, Donor Event, Newsletter Mention, Website Link
<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<b>Business Sustainer</b>	Business supporter benefits +DVD of AMSHP film

Please send check and completed application to

### AMIA

**P.O. Box 672  
Lower Lake, CA 95457**

Or join online by  
visiting us at

[www.andersonmarsh.org](http://www.andersonmarsh.org)

For more info call AMIA  
at 707-995-2658