



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 WINTER/SPRING 2023



Rita Durgin, Assemblyperson Cecilia Aguiar-Curry's aide (center, holding plaque with AMIA Board Member Gae Henry) presented a State Resolution honoring Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. (L-R rear: Ranger James Morris, Supervising Ranger Chris Glen, AMIA Board Member Gordon Haggitt, Retired Ranger Tom Nixon, Archaeologist John Parker, Retired Ranger Bill Beat; L-R front: Seasonal Life Guard Jacob Jensen, AMIA Board Members Henry Bornstein and Gae Henry, Rita Durgin, Park Supporter Dee Parker and AMIA President Roberta Lyons.

A day to remember at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park's 40th Anniversary

By Gordon Haggitt

Anderson Marsh State Historic Park (AMSHP) celebrated its 40th anniversary on Oct. 1, 2022. The 1,615 acre park officially opened on August 15, 1982. In attendance for the anniversary were scores of community supporters including board members and volunteers from the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association (AMIA) which hosted the event at the historic Ranch House.

It was a day of fun and reflection as people shared stories of their experiences in the park over the past four decades. Featured speakers

included AMIA Board members Roberta Lyons (President) and Henry Bornstein who spoke briefly about the park and introduced guest speakers William (Bill) Beat, Tom Nixon and Rita Durgin, a representative from Assemblywoman Cecilia Aguiar-Curry's office.

Bill Beat was the first State Park Ranger for the park and he relived his most memorable experiences - from the people he met to the wildlife and natural beauty he witnessed. Tom Nixon,

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AMIA president, Roberta Lyons speaks to the crowd at the park celebration.

40th anniversary was a great day of fun

(Continued from page 1)

who was Bill's successor as State Park Ranger, also gave an entertaining account of his many years with the park and the experiences he remembered. It was apparent from listening to Bill and Tom that they had, and still do have, a deep sense of love and commitment for this wonderful treasure known as Anderson Marsh State Historic Park.

Rita Durgin presented a beautiful plaque with a resolution from the offices of Assemblywoman Cecelia Aguiar-Curry and State Senator Mike McGuire commending the park on its anniversary.

Other attendees included John Parker, a well known archaeologist, who spearheaded the work in finding and protecting the artifacts of the local Koi tribe which helped convince the State to purchase the property for the park. It is the existence of an incredible number of Native American archaeological sites that spurred the State of California to purchase the park as one of its few parks designated as "historic."

Winnie Lea was also in attendance. Winnie is the great granddaughter to John and Sarah Anderson who, along with their children, raised cat-

tle and farmed the land for roughly 80 years. The Andersons developed a keen sense of love and respect for what is now Anderson Marsh State Historic Park.

All in all, it was a wonderful celebration with all the amenities of the park on display - from the historic Ranch House to the South Barn, where AMIA board secretary and volunteer, Gae Henry talked about the displays, to the serenity of the trails and wildlife.

Editors Note: Gordon Haggitt is the great grandson of John and Sarah Anderson and is a member of the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association's board of directors.



A cake honoring the 40th anniversary of the park.

President's Message

By
Roberta
Lyons

As we emerge from Covid isolation, it has been wonderful to see old friends and make new friends at our Senior Days events at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. We have been enjoying



hosting over 20 community seniors on the first and third Saturdays of the month since March. Attendees gather in the morning in the historic ranch house to enjoy an educational and/or entertaining program; feast on a delicious free lunch provided by Joyce Overton's catering company, Chatterbox Catering, a service affiliated

with Highlands Senior Center in Clearlake, then gather again for another program.

So far those participating have learned about Lake County geology and the history of Clear Lake; the indigenous people of Anderson Marsh and Indian Island, the Koi tribe; wild cats and native birds; and the European history of the park. Programs will continue through June.

Board member Henry Bornstein formulated the idea of inviting our local senior citizens to the park as a way to encourage them to come to the park and discover all it has to offer – from beautiful nature to fascinating history. Henry applied for and received a grant from the California State Parks Foundation to pay for the presenters and the lunches, and we were off and running.

Thanks are due to our presenters who work hard to provide interesting, educating and entertaining programs to the group. Joyce Overton (who many of you know from the Clearlake Community/senior center) has been doing a stellar job preparing and serving the lunches and cleaning up afterwards. Thank you Joyce!

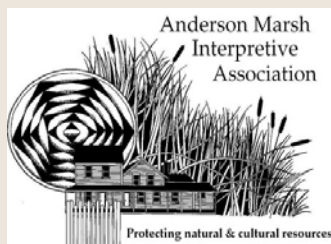
We feel these programs have given many people the opportunity to experience our State Park and to appreciate how lucky we are to have such a beautiful park right in our own back yards. Many thanks also to the state parks department for assigning more rangers to the park and developing a project to repair and improve the historic ranch house so it will be opened to the public, hopefully soon.

The Koi Nation is also contributing greatly, especially by patrolling the park to stop the looting of precious artifacts that still remain.

Anderson Marsh State Historic Park is unique in that it is the only Historic State Park created specifically to protect Native American archaeological sites that show an indigenous habitation on the land for over 14,000 years.

Our organization, the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association (AMIA) is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to helping to educate the public about all our state park has to offer and to allow it to grow and thrive.

If you would like to join us as a volunteer, or consider serving on our very active hard-working board, please email us and let us know. We need more help to keep our organization going.



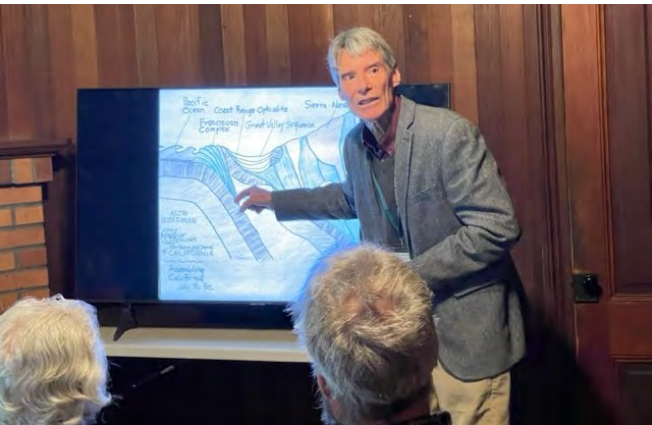
"If you received this newsletter through the US mail, it may be because we do not have your email address. If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, along with other news about happenings at the Park, please email us at info@andersonmarsh.org."



Jenny Papka of Native Bird Connections was among the first presenters. She is pictured here with a live Asian Eagle Owl.



Jenny Papka and her crew from Native Bird Connections.



Harry Lyons presented programs on local geology and Clear Lake.

AMIA “Senior Days” programs begin at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park

By Henry Bornstein

You may have read in our last newsletter about a “Parks Improvement” grant AMIA received from California State Parks Foundation that made possible a series of special twice-monthly “senior days.”

Well, as I write this article, we are about to finish hosting the 8-day series of “Senior Days” events.

The Senior Days events, which are provided at no cost, include a morning and afternoon talk and a free lunch provided by Chatterbox Catering, a service affiliated with Highlands Senior Center in Clearlake, with all profits from the food going to support senior center programs. The events so far have been a big success and we are hoping to do another series of programs after this one concludes.

In one previous event, participants considered the question of whether Clear Lake is a “healthy” lake, and if it isn’t what we can do about it. Another previous event discussed “Big Cats” in Lake County, and another featured an amazing live raptor demonstration, where folks attending got to learn about and get “up close to” live hawks.

Events focused on the history and culture of the Indigenous inhabitants of Anderson Marsh, and the history of the families that settled at the Anderson Ranch in the 19th century and the wildlife found in Lake County oak woodlands. Future events will focus on what kind of insects live with us in Lake County and what is being done to control potentially harmful insects, a leisurely walk to Cache Creek and a program about the fishes of Clear Lake.

The events are completely “sold out,” with a waiting list for each upcoming day. For more information, visit www.andersonmarsh.org.

AMIA Senior Days



Michelle Koschik greeting people at her booth.



Michelle Koschik of the Lake County Vector Control District presented a fascinating program on the insects and vectors of Lake County.



Gordon Haggitt, an Anderson family descendent, presented an early history of the Anderson Ranch.



A delicious lunch prepared by Joyce Overton was enjoyed by all.



Val Nixon presenting a program on Big Cats.

Membership Report

By Anne Riggs, AMIA Membership Chair

Are you an AMIA member?



Anne Riggs

If you have been a member of AMIA in the past and you are not sure when you are supposed to “renew,” you may have noticed that we are no longer mailing out quarterly renewal notices to our members as their “membership anniversary” arrives.

Instead, in the interest of keeping things simple, we have gone to a “one-time renewal” system – all memberships are now due at the end of each year in December. So, if you didn’t renew your membership in December, it’s not too late to join us now in our work to create and sustain new programs for visitors to our park.

If you have not donated before and would like to help AMIA keep Anderson Marsh State Historic Park open and thriving, or if it’s time for you to renew your AMIA membership, please join us now by using the form on the last page of this newsletter or by visiting us online at www.andersonmarsh.org. Any amount is appreciated, and your donation will help ensure that AMIA is here to continue supporting the park and all the benefits it provides to our community, now and into the future.



AMIA Board Member Henry Bornstein with State Parks Director Armando Quintero at 2023 CALPA Conference. Photo by Gae Henry

AMIA board members attend State-wide conference

AMIA Board members Gae Henry and Henry Bornstein attended the 2022 3-day California League of Park Associations (CALPA) conference, held in October at the Warner Center in the San Fernando Valley. Henry is a CALPA board member and helped coordinate the conference; he also presented a workshop geared towards helping coop boards deal with their individual coop bylaws.

**Looking for another way
to get information about
events at Anderson Marsh
State Historic Park?
Ask to be put on our
events email list
by sending an email to
info@andersonmarsh.org**



Volunteers gathered to help cage the newly planted oak trees at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park.

AMIA and State Parks protect newly-planted Valley Oak trees

By Henry Bornstein

In the fall of 2022, 100 Valley Oak trees (*Quercus Lobata*) were planted at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park in a joint project between AMIA, California State Parks and the City of Clearlake, which funded the project using fees paid to the City of Clearlake under its Native Tree Protection Ordinance.

On February 17, 2023, a crew composed of State Parks employees, AMIA volunteers, and a representative of the Koi Nation got together to build and install “cages” around the newly-planted trees to protect them from the ever-hungry deer that evidently see oak sprouts as pretty high up on the food desirability list.

Thanks to the State Parks staff and AMIA volunteers, in 30 years or so, there will be shady spots to picnic in the park.



A caged Valley Oak at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park should be protected from deer.

School Field trips continue at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park

Field trips continue at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. School trips are led by State Parks Interpreter Tiana Cicco, as well as by State Parks volunteers and AMIA Board Members Henry Bornstein and Gae Henry. Henry and Gae have also led special tours for the local Upper Lake 4H Club and for the District Meeting of Rotary. All field trips include a guided nature walk and tours of the South Barn Interpretive Center and the Anderson Ranch House and barns.



Gae Henry in the South Barn showing AMIA's interpretive displays during a school field trip.



Henry Bornstein points out features of the park to a group of youngsters.

Guided Nature Walks continue

Anderson Marsh State Historic Park continues to hold monthly guided Nature Walks in 2023 starting at 8:30am on the second Saturday of each month except September & December. The Nature Walks are led by California State Parks volunteer docents. The hikes usually last about two hours. The actual route taken will depend on the weather and the condition of the trails. Participants should bring water and wear sturdy shoes and a hat and binoculars if they have them.

There will also be a special hike in the park on January 1, 2024 starting at noon as part of the nationwide First Day Hike program, with state parks systems in many states across the country helping to get American families to start off the New Year right by getting out into nature.

For more information, please contact AMIA at 707.995.2658 or email info@andersonmarsh.org. See you at the park!

A Message from our new State Park Interpreter



Tiana Cicco

Hello everyone! My name is Tiana Cicco (pronounced "Chico") and I'm very excited to be the new State Park Interpreter and Volunteer Coordinator for Anderson Marsh State Historic Park and Clear Lake State Park! I have

an eclectic background

that has prepared me well for tackling the unique challenges of these roles. Growing up in Marin County surrounded by pristine natural areas, I was raised in a community of West African dancers and musicians. My mother taught Congolese and Senegalese song and dance and my father is a professional conga drummer and percussionist. Throughout my adolescent and teenage years, I studied all forms of dance and excelled at singing and creative writing. I was admitted to UCLA's Dance/World Arts and Cultures program and ended up graduating with a B.A. in Philosophy and a minor in English Literature.

While attending UCLA, I began working for California State Parks in the Los Angeles District as a Visitor Services Park Aide for Will Rogers SHP, Topanga Canyon SP, and Leo Carrillo SP. When I moved back up to Marin County after graduating, I continued working for State Parks as a Visitor Services and Maintenance Park Aide for Mt. Tamalpais SP and Samuel P. Taylor SP. I eventually became a Park Interpretive Specialist, leading groups of under-served urban youth on educational day trips and campouts in all our Marin District State Parks.

After leading the Summer Learning Program for three consecutive years, I decided to further my career by enrolling at the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS), which is a cutting-edge, inter-disciplinary graduate school in San Francisco. I received my M.A. in ecopsychology, which is the study of how humans relate to nature: how cultures around the world were once

deeply integrated with nature, how societies fell out of connection with nature during the industrial revolution, and the techniques we can use now to help guide people back into harmonious and mutually beneficial relationships with the natural world.

While researching my family's maternal lineage for an ancestral healing class at CIIS, I discovered that we are direct descendants of the Yaqui people, an indigenous group from the Sonora Desert region of Mexico. Uncovering this information was bittersweet as it became clear that this aspect of our family history had been purposefully erased by the English- and Spanish-descended members of our family. Learning this ignited my passion to create supportive environments where Indigenous Americans feel safe to tell their stories and share their precious knowledge, which is why I feel so honored to help interpret the history of Anderson Marsh SHP.

After my graduation ceremony, which culminated in a nine-day solo vision quest in the Snow Mountain Wilderness, I began teaching all outdoor nature-connection classes with a non-profit called Vilda, and eventually branched out to start my own homeschool program: True Nature School. All the while, I was composing, recording, and performing music with a band of other singers and musicians until the Covid-19 pandemic shut everything down. You can listen to some of my original music on Spotify or any other streaming platform.

At the beginning of this year, I accepted the Interpreter position with State Parks and moved my family to Cloverdale. I live with my partner, Michael, and my two stepsons, Waylon (9) and Maverick (5). I am excited to learn everything I can about Lake County and to serve as a bridge between State Park staff, cooperating associations AMIA and CLSPIA, local indigenous tribes, State Park volunteers, and the general public as we work together to protect and interpret our treasured natural and cultural resources!



A group of park advocates at Park Advocate Day in Sacramento. AMIA Board member Henry Bornstein with his "team" is on the right.

Park Advocacy Day is an important time to advocate for State Parks

On May 16, 2023, AMIA Board members Gae Henry and Henry Bornstein attended the 2023 Park Advocacy Day (PAD) sponsored by California State Parks Foundation.

About 80 state parks advocates met with State Senators and Assembly members during the day-long event, lobbying for passage of bills that will help state parks programs and funding. The attendees are trained in lobbying techniques and the specific bills being supported. Henry acted as a "team leader" during the event, guiding a group through the process. The day ended with sore feet and a feeling of accomplishment.

ANDERSON MARSH NEWS

is published by the
Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association
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Henry Bornstein - Grants Coordinator

Anne Riggs - Membership Chair

Gordon Haggitt - Board Historian

John Portner

Robert Riggs - Emeritus



Roberta Lyons - Newsletter Coordinator
Newsletter Layout - Robin Winniford



The 2023 First Day Hike at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park was a big success.

2023 First Day Hike at AMSHP

By Henry Bornstein

Anderson Marsh State Historic Park (AMSHP) again participated in the nation-wide First Day Hike program, held on January 1st of each year. State Parks systems across the country participate in the effort to help people start the year off right with a family-friendly walk in a local state park.

We had over 70 people come to the park on New Year's Day to participate in the event. A wonderful way to start the new year!



AMIA board member and co-membership chair Henry Bornstein presents volunteer Jon Henderson with a "Volunteer of the Year," award.

Volunteer Jon Henderson named AMIA's Volunteer of the Year for 2022

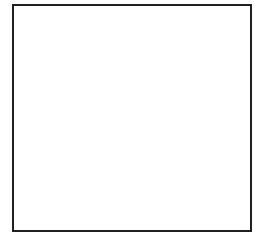
By Gae Henry

The AMIA Board was delighted to select Jon Henderson as its 2022 Volunteer of the year. Jon has helped at many events including South Barn cleanup, set up and break down at several Park events and fairs and helping with parking at events. He also helped with the Oak tree planting and tree caging. He was presented the award at the 1st Senior Days event in February.



ANDERSON MARSH INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

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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!

2023 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	Business Supporter	Newsletter, Donor Event, Newsletter Mention, Website Link
<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	Business Sustainer	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

For more info call AMIA
at 707-995-2658