



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 SUMMER 2026

AMIA celebrates the reopening of the Anderson Ranch House to public tours

On May 9, 2026, the historic Anderson Ranch House at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park was reopened to the public after being closed for many years. First, the Ranch House was evacuated when the Clayton Fire burned onto park land. Then, it was decided this was a good time to do some needed repairs on the Ranch House. Then, the artifacts and furniture needed refurbishing. Finally, it all got done and the Ranch House is back together and ready for tours.

AMIA's celebration of the opening of the Ranch House to tours was highlighted with an early morning nature hike guided by Henry Bornstein. Following the nature hike, tours of the Ranch House were given by AMIA board members Roberta Lyons, Henry Bornstein and Gordon Haggitt.

The Ranch House tours focused both on the original house built in 1855 and additions made to it after the Anderson family settled there in 1885. The parlor, dining room, kitchen and downstairs bedrooms were the focus of the tours. Also open to the public were the many wildlife and archaeological displays in

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Visitors gather for the reopening of the Anderson Ranch House at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. Photo by William Roller



AMIA Board Member Henry Bornstein in the kitchen demonstrating how to use an old-fashioned mayonnaise maker.

Ranch House reopening event well-attended

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the South Barn Interpretive Center, where AMIA board member Gae Henry answered questions posed by curious attendees.

The event wouldn't have been complete without a beautiful cake, snacks and refreshments served by board member Nicola Selph. Also, special thanks to State Parks Interpretive Specialist Tyler Lindberg and AMIA members Joe Lundergreen and John Henderson for their much appreciated help with the event.

It was estimated that over 150 people attended the reopening with several newspapers featuring the event. Thanks to William Roller of the Record-Bee and Elizabeth Larson of Lake County News for both helping get the word out about the event and then covering the celebration as it happened.

Tours of the Ranch House will be offered in 2026 after many of the "second Saturday" guided nature walks. For the schedule and further information, visit <https://andersonmarsh.org>.



AMIA board member Gordon Haggitt in the ranch house dining room.



Secretary Gae Henry with the AMIA photo exhibit.



(Above) AMIA treasurer Nicola Selph served up the cake. (Right) Redbud Public Library in Clearlake was on hand with information about Lake County history.



President Roberta Lyons in the parlor.



First Day Hike on New Year's Day



The drizzly morning couldn't keep the smiles off the faces of the First Day Hikers.

First Day Hike held on a rainy New Year's Day at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park

Over 40 people turned out for the First Day Hike at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park on New Year's Day to start the year off right with a walk in the park.

It was a drizzly, rainy day. The crowd was smaller than usual, but those who took part had a wonderful day at the park.

If you missed the event this year, make plans now to be there on January 1, 2027.

(Top right) Board Member Gordon Haggitt, State Parks Interpreter Andy Carpenter, and AMIA member Harry Lyons on the deck at Cache Creek.

(Bottom Right) Board Member Henry Bornstein helped with parking.



President's Message

By
Roberta
Lyons

On May 9, 2026, board members of the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association (AMIA) along with our volunteers and some state park staff hosted an opening of the historic Anderson Ranch house. It was a fun day with a nice turn-out of interested people who have been longing to see the inside of the house since it was closed over 7 years ago because of the numerous fires that plagued the Lower Lake Area.



Roberta Lyons

Park staff had labored to evacuate the house twice over the years and was hesitant to bring back original furniture and items. However, thanks to state interpretive specialists and our district superintendent, AMIA was able to help facilitate the repopulation of the building with Anderson furniture and items. We are looking forward to hosting

more house tours and the plan is to open the house for tours after many of our second Saturday of the month walks.

As always, we continue to request involvement from our community members. We need more board members and more volunteers. If you live in the Lower Lake, Clearlake, or Clearlake Oaks area, please consider getting involved with your state park. There is much we could accomplish here if we had the participation of more volunteers.

This year, we lost a beloved member of the Anderson family. Winnie (nee Anderson) Lea passed away in February of 2026, leaving her two children, John and Leandra, son-in-law Gabriel Medina, several relatives and friends and her local cousin, Gordon Haggitt. Winnie and I used to play together as neighbors growing up in Jago Bay. We had fun riding horses, swimming in Clear Lake and fishing at her dad's (Ted Anderson) Sunrise Shore subdivision which is just over the hill from our little community in Jago Bay. Winnie was an accomplished horsewoman and a real fashionista, having gone to a school of fashion in the Bay Area, and owned a clothing store in Clearlake with her late husband Leonard. She always looked sharp when we attended events together, even while suffering from the cancer that eventually took her life. Winnie was the great-granddaughter of John Still

and Sarah Anderson who settled in Lake County in 1885 and lived at the Anderson Ranch for decades. RIP Winnie. You will be missed.

I look forward to seeing lots of visitors at Anderson State Historic Park this summer. Please attend one of our walks and enjoy visiting the historic ranch house. It is definitely worth a few hours on your Saturday morning. See you then!



Wendy Lieberg with AMIA board members Henry Bornstein and Gae Henry.

Wishing Park Maintenance Chief Wendy Lieberg a wonderful retirement

After a long career at State Parks, Clear Lake Sector Maintenance Chief Wendy Lieberg has retired. At the recent retirement celebration held at Clear Lake State Park, it was very obvious that Wendy is greatly respected and will be truly missed. Jokes were heard about needing to hire 3 people to replace her!

Wendy has been working at the two Lake County State Parks since 2013. She grew up in Borrego Springs, where she spent her youth exploring Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the largest state park in California. She first went to work for State Parks in 1989, and has worked throughout the state, including time spent at Lake Perris State Recreation Area in Southern California, Will Rogers State Park, Candlestick State Park, Russian Gulch State Park, Samuel P Taylor State Park and Salt Point State Park, finally ending her career in Lake County.

Wendy's next adventure will be to travel with her 7 dogs in an RV across country to where she plans to live near her sister in Christiansburg, Virginia, near Virginia Tech.

All of us at AMIA will miss working with Wendy and wish her a wonderful, well-deserved retirement. Bon voyage!



(Above) AMIA board members Roberta Lyons, Gae Henry and Henry Bornstein with state parks director Armando Quintero and former state parks director Ruth Coleman at a previous CALPA Conference.

AMIA Board members to attend CALPA Conference

By Henry Bornstein

In November 2026, the California League of Parks Associations (CALPA) will host a statewide conference in Santa Rosa. The primary mission of CALPA is to create and support a network of nonprofit park partners through education, collaboration, innovation and advocacy, with the aim of strengthening the California state park system for future generations.

AMIA is a member of CALPA. AMIA Board member Henry Bornstein is also on the CALPA Board of Directors and is serving as CALPA Vice President this year.

The conference will bring together California State Park staff and park partners such as AMIA for an opportunity to interact and collaborate. AMIA Board members will be attending the Conference, where they will attend workshops, visit local Sonoma County state parks, and have the opportunity to network with State Parks employees and representatives from other park associations.

AMIA membership explained

By Anne Riggs, AMIA Membership Chair



Anne Riggs

If you renewed your membership at the beginning of 2026, 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.

If you did not renew your membership, or if you have not donated before and would like to help AMIA keep Anderson Marsh State Historic Park open and thriving, it's not too late to join us now in our work to create and sustain new programs for visitors to our park.

You can renew your membership or 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 us fulfill our mission to support Anderson Marsh State Historic Park.



Native Valley Oak planting project continues at park

In 2022, AMIA partnered with the City of Clearlake and California State Parks to plant 100 native Valley Oaks at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. The tree-planting project was funded by fees paid to the City of Clearlake under its Native Tree Protection Ordinance, which requires developers who cut down native oak trees to either replant trees of the same species or choose to pay a fee to fund replanting by the City.

State Parks agreed to do the initial planting, with AMIA agreeing to do the follow-up watering to help the trees survive.

Although many trees failed to survive the recent hot summers, the trees that have for the past four years are doing well. AMIA hopes that most of the remaining trees will thrive and grow to provide shade to park visitors and add to the iconic nature of the park.



(Top left) Gordon Haggitt waters one of the newly planted Valley Oaks at Anderson Marsh.

(Left) Roberta Lyons helps keep a young Valley Oak alive with summer watering at the park.

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The group leaders: Tyler Lindberg, Roberta Lyons, Gae Henry, Henry Bornstein, Val Nixon and Andy Carpenter.



The first grade students from Kelseyville Elementary, were split up into four groups for the day's events.

School field trips

We had a delightful spring visit with 75 1st graders from Kelseyville Elementary School. Students enjoyed a nature walk to Cache Creek led by State Parks Interpreter Andy Carpenter, a tour of the Anderson Ranch House led by State Parks Interpreter Tyler Lindberg and volunteer docent Henry Bornstein, a visit to the South Barn Interpretive Center led by volunteer docents Gae Henry and Roberta Lyons, and an entertaining exploration of oak trees held under the big Valley Oak in the picnic area by retired State Parks Ranger Val Nixon.

For more information about scheduling field trips, please contact AMIA at 707-995-2658 or info@andersonmarsh.org



In the South Barn Interpretive Center.



Dr. Butterfield uses a drone to monitor how restoration work is affecting nesting grebe colonies.

Grebe Monitoring Project Takes Flight Over Anderson Marsh

Led by Pacific Union College Scientist in Residence, Dr. Scott Butterfield, a new grebe monitoring project has literally taken "flight" over Anderson Marsh. Funded by a multi-year grant from the California Natural Resources Agency, and in collaboration with the Blue Ribbon Committee for the Rehabilitation of Clear Lake, Redbud Audubon Society, Robinson Rancheria, Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians, and Upper Lake, Lower Lake, and Clear Lake High Schools, the project is focused on developing new drone-based methods that will allow Dr. Butterfield and high school students from across Lake County to conduct annual monitoring of grebes, their nests, eggs, and hatchlings at Clear Lake and to help tell the story about how restoration efforts currently happening at Clear Lake are impacting these iconic bird species.

This year, like many in the past, the grebes of Anderson Marsh are tucked in to channels and within and behind wetland vegetation that is hard to access, even with kayaks and boats.

Over the Memorial Day weekend, AMIA Board members Gae Henry and Henry Bornstein used their pontoon boat to carefully guide Dr. Butterfield and his collaborator Donna Mackiewicz from Redbud Audubon Society into the Grebe nesting area of Anderson Marsh, where they launched the first drone for this project over Anderson Marsh.

Flying a drone over a protected Natural Preserve such as Anderson Marsh is illegal without a permit such as the one granted to Dr. Butterfield for his research. With Dr. Butterfield flying the drone, Donna Mackiewicz acting as his drone and grebe behavior observer, and Henry and Gae keeping the boat in position, the drone was flown 150 feet above the grebes, confirming previous findings that at this altitude, the grebes acted as if they had no idea they were being filmed from high above.

The first videos and still photos taken by the drone that day revealed over 5000 grebe nests in the Marsh! This means that there are more than 10,000 Clarke's and Western Grebes in the Anderson Marsh breeding colony this year.

Lake County high school students trained by Dr. Butterfield will help apply more structured counting methods using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and to test whether artificial intelligence can be used to automate some of the counts over time.

The drone was able to fly deep into the marsh, behind tules and other wetland vegetation, to see grebes and grebe nests in places no one would be able to monitor visually, confirming high nest counts that support the informal estimates about grebe populations in Anderson

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Drone aerial photos show over 5,000 grebe nests in Anderson Marsh

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Marsh that have been made by observers such as Gae and Henry for years.

When monitoring was done for the day, Dr. Butterfield had one last challenge ahead of him - to safely land the drone! With the boat having drifted away from the "home" site that the drone "recognized" as the launch site, and with low battery warnings echoing from the drone, Dr. Butterfield had one chance to land the drone on "dry land" and did so, setting the drone down on top of the boat's Bimini top!

Dr. Butterfield and his team plan to monitor the Anderson Marsh population, traditionally one of the three largest grebe colonies at Clear Lake together with Rodman Slough and locations in the Upper Arm near Lakeport, at least four more times through September, documenting total grebe nests and testing drone-based methods counting eggs, hatchlings and adult grebes themselves. All past grebe monitoring efforts at Anderson Marsh and Clear Lake have been done visually from boats, kayaks and the shore, including the 10-year study published by Dr. Floyd Hayes in 2022. These studies have documented annual variability in grebe populations driven by precipitation, lake water levels, prey fish availability and other factors, but generally a steady increase in populations, to a high of close to 6000 grebe nests - Clear Lake-wide - in the mid-2010s, as Clear Lake rehabilitation has happened over the last more than twenty years.

This project is somewhat unique to other research and monitoring projects because it is being co-developed with local Lake County high schools, with the goal to have the drones, the methods, and monitoring program live within drone and environmental clubs, classes, and curriculum, developed as part of this project, establishing a sustainable - and collaborative - monitoring program that engages and inspires local students and the local community. Dr. Butterfield and his team want this project to be something that increases over time a better understanding from the local community of how special the lake, its plants and animals are, and how they can contribute to its healthy future.



Nests as they appear from above.



Donna Mackiewicz observes the drone's successful landing on the bimini top.



State Parks volunteer docent Henry Bornstein leading a guided nature walk.

Guided Nature Walks and Ranch House tours continue at the park

Anderson Marsh State Historic Park continues to hold monthly guided Nature Walks in 2026 starting at 8:30am on the second Saturday of each month except for December. The Nature Walks are led by California State Parks volunteer docents and State Parks Interpreters and usually last about two hours. The route taken depends 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.

After many of the guided nature walks, there will be any opportunity to take a tour of the Anderson Ranch House, with docents explaining the history of the Ranch House and Barn complex and the Anderson cattle ranch.

On January 1, 2027, there will also be a special hike in the park 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 about the guided nature walks or the Ranch House tour, please contact AMIA at 707.995.2658 or email info@andersonmarsh.org.

See you at the park!



AMIA welcomes our new State Parks Interpreters

AMIA is pleased to welcome our two new State Parks Interpreters to Lake County. The job of interpreters is to connect park visitors with the park's historical and cultural background and resources.



Tyler Lindberg

Tyler Lindberg is a relatively recent addition to California State Parks, having moved up from Los Angeles in the summer of 2025 to become a parks interpretive specialist at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park and Clear Lake State Park.



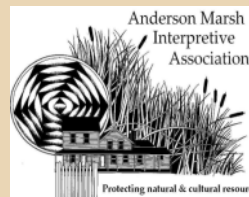
Andy Carpenter

Andy Carpenter is a long-time Lake County resident who recently retired from his career as a public school teacher before becoming a parks interpreter.

Together, Tyler and Andy manage the recreational and educational programming for both Anderson Marsh State Historic Park and Clear Lake State Park, overseeing field trips and events including guided hikes, junior rangers, night programs

such as stargazing, and holiday programs.

Their goal is to increase visitation to both Lake County State Parks, to provide a diversity of recreational and educational programs, and to present opportunities for the public to learn about what our Lake County state parks have to offer.



"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

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Christmas resumes at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park

On Saturday, December 12, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., AMIA will once again host its annual Victorian "Christmas at the Ranch" open house at the historic Ranch House at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. The Ranch House will be warmed by cheery, crackling wood fires, and the Christmas tree set up in the Ranch House parlor will have Victorian-style decorations.

This fun Christmas event features a chance to join local musicians as they sing and play Christmas carols, and to enjoy yummy Christmas goodies including coffee, hot cider, tea, cookies and other refreshments.

And of course, there will be a visit from Santa for the kids of all ages.

This event is a favorite holiday tradition for many families. The public is warmly invited to enjoy the atmosphere of the cozy Ranch House at the park and the delicious holiday goodies being served.

The event is presented by the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association, whose board members and



The public is invited to meet Santa Claus and enjoy refreshments and live music.

volunteers will be on hand to answer questions about the Ranch House and the park, and how Christmas was celebrated in Victorian days.

We hope to see you there!

ANDERSON MARSH NEWS

is published by the
Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association

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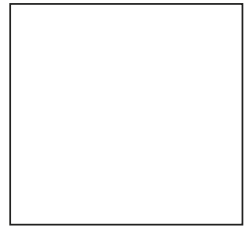


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ANDERSON MARSH INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

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

2026 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 the AMIA newsletter, 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
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Please send check and completed application to

AMIA

P.O. Box 672
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For more info call AMIA
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