

Newsletter of AMIA : the Anderson
Marsh Interpretive Association
Winter/Spring 2009

AMIA has a successful 2008

By Roberta Lyons,
President

2008 was a tough year for many people, but despite the economic downturn, the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association (AMIA) is continuing to grow and starting to accomplish some long sought after goals.

The first accomplishment, which was made possible in large part by the efforts of local resident, Leona Butts, who is an active member of the Clear Lake State Park Interpretive Assoc., was actually keeping the park open. After the Governor announced his intention to close both of the county's state parks as a budget cutting measure, Leona set out on a campaign that overwhelmed the governor's office with protests. Many AMIA members joined in Leona's efforts and the Governor backed off on his threat.

AMIA is working with the Children's Museum of Art and Science on the proposed Discovery Center, and the third annual Old Time Bluegrass



Over 1700 people attended the Bluegrass Festival at Anderson Marsh State Park in 2008.

Festival was once again a success, garnering funds to help promote the Discovery Center proposal, as well as to continue funding AMIA's work.

With several new board members, there is increased energy and ability to carry out some of the goals of the interpretive association. One of those goals is to try to staff the

old ranch house on a regular basis so it can be open to the public on weekends for visitation and tours. Ranger Ryen Goering has conducted some trainings for state park volunteers, and hopefully by this summer, we will have volunteers available to start staffing the house. If you are interested

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Lots of folks enjoyed the great music at the Bluegrass Festival.



Musician Don Coffin performed at the festival along with numerous local and out-of-county musicians.

Old Time Bluegrass Festival Review

By Anna McAtee

The third annual Old time Bluegrass festival went off without a hitch. The music was the best ever and the food was, without a doubt, the most varied and best quality so far. We hear over and over again from attendees how much they enjoy the food, music, vendors, and children’s activities. We also hear how much they appreciate the organization and cleanliness of the park and how friendly everyone is – this indeed feels like a home town event with a best foot forward in what Lake County and specifically Anderson Marsh State Historic Park have to offer.

Now that we have said that, let’s turn to what the Bluegrass Festival means to the community. Did you know that the money earned by Carle High School for setting up and tearing down the festival funds their entire student body activities for the year? Also, the tea and lemon aide stand earned over \$1,000 for field trips. The boy scouts and explorers earned money for parking that helps to pay and further these programs in the community. Local arts and crafts people earn money and sell their products. Local clubs that do an enormous amount of good in our community such as the Lions, Kiwanis and Rotary

earn money to continue their work to make Lake County a better place. The Culinary Program at Konocti Unified School District was at the festival and the students were learning culinary skills, but were also earning money to advance their program and expand services to future students.

Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association and Children’s Museum of Art and Science do not quit with the festival. Money earned in ticket sales, tee shirts sales and membership help to support education in science, art and history through day camps and field trip sponsorship. These two organizations have also funded grant writing efforts for the Discovery Center to be built on site at the park. What goes on behind the scenes is the most exciting part of the Old Time Bluegrass Festival. It is a privilege to work beside neighbors and friends to continue making Lake County the best place to live in California. We are proud of “your” park and hope that you will spend some time there whenever you get a chance. Helping to support activities such as the Old Time Bluegrass Festival by coming and enjoying the music, sets into motion the recycling of dollars and energy back into our wonderful community. Thanks for coming to the festival!



People attending the Bluegrass Festival in September got a chance to tour the new Children's Museum of Art and Science interpretive trailer.

Discovery Center fundraising kick off

On November 12, 2008, the first meeting of the joint CMAS/AMIA Discovery Center Project Task Force was held to discuss and plan for the CMAS/AMIA project for a Discovery Center at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park.

The Executive Board members are: Carolyn Jarrett, Roberta Lyons, Ruth Matz, John Burke, Adeline Brown, Bob Geary, Don Coffin, Nora Moore, Frank McAtee, Anna McAtee and Karen MacDougall.

Several tasks have already been assigned to this working executive board. For example, visits to Congressman Mike Thompson, the Director of State Parks Ruth Coleman, National Audubon as well as several other identified stakeholders in the community have been assigned to different members for possible partnerships and connections for funding sources.

Karen MacDougall has been retained to lead the grant writing efforts. At the meeting, she outlined all of the necessary paperwork and procedures that will be needed to organize for successful grant applications. She also discussed several possibilities for grant applications which she will research and report on at the next meeting.

Please submit your email address to amfmjr@hotmail.com if you are interested in receiving updates on the progress of this project. The next meeting of the Joint Task Force is scheduled for February 3, 2009.

Anderson Marsh News

is published by the
Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association

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Breaking news!!! We have secured Laurie Lewis, Nina Gerber, and Susie Glaze to perform at the Bluegrass Festival!!!! Don't miss these "Ladies of Bluegrass" coming to Lake County on Sept. 12!

Successful '08

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in volunteering for AMIA or the State Park, and playing an important role in supporting one of the south county's most valuable assets, please call (707) 994-2024. Volunteering for your local state park offers a great way to get involved that is interesting and fun. All it takes is some training and documentation and you can become an official State Park volunteer and/or docent.

The Andersons Marsh State Park Interpretive Association is the "cooperating association," for the park. Our goal is to provide interpretive opportunities and fund raise for the park. You can be both a member of AMIA and a volunteer or docent for the State Park. You can join AMIA, starting at \$20 a year. As a member, you receive the AMIA newsletter and at certain levels, membership includes passes to the Bluegrass Festival (see back of newsletter for membership information).

We are looking forward to a successful and productive 2009 – Please join us!

Ranger's Report

By Ryen Goering, Supervising Ranger

I would like to introduce myself "officially" to Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association! My name is Ryen Goering and I am the new Supervising Ranger at the Clear Lake Sector State Parks including Anderson Marsh State Historic Park and Clear Lake State Park. I transferred and promoted here in February 2008 from Brannan Island State Recreation Area (3 months) and prior to that, Mount Diablo State Park (6 years). Before working for California State Parks, I worked for Elk Grove Parks and Recreation (Sacramento Co.) as a Recreation Coordinator for 9 years. I graduated from California State University, Sacramento with a Bachelors Degree in Recreation Administration and a minor in Biology. Currently, I am married to a wonderful lady, named Meredith and so far we love living in Lake County!

As many of you know our Sector has been hit hard over the years to budget cuts and retirements or transfers of Rangers. Ranger Tom Nixon and his wife, Val retired in the fall of 2007 and we miss them dearly. Luckily they are still involved in the parks as volunteers and we hope to retain their valuable knowledge and skills into the future. To fill vacant Ranger positions, we added a new Ranger to our staff. Her name is Marisa Holman. She has been working at the Sector since October. If you see her, say hi. Another new addition coming to the Sector is Ranger Brian Ratledge. He recently graduated from the Parks Academy and is doing his field training at Lake Oroville State Recreation Area. He is projected to start working full time here in April and boy do we need his help!

This season, I was able to attend and work the annual Bluegrass Festival. What a great event that was quite a success! I was so impressed with the organization of the event by everyone involved. I'm looking forward to this years festival and other events sponsored by the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers and association members who helped to stave off last year's threat to the closure of Clear Lake State Park and Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. It was great to see the grassroots effort to

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(Above) New Supervising Ranger of the Clear Lake Sector State Parks Ryen Goering and Clear Lake State Park's newest Park Ranger, Marisa Holman.

Welcome to Marisa Holman, Park Ranger

Marisa Holman is the newest ranger at Clear Lake State Park, but she can sometimes be found at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park as well. Although born in Los Angeles, she was raised in Northern California – her family moved to Auburn, when she was seven years old. Her mother was a nurse and Marisa, following her mother's example, wanted to work in public safety and to help people as her mother had done. After graduating from high school and attending a community college, she transferred to CSU, Sacramento, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice.

She participated in an intern program through the Administration of Justice program at Sierra College, and after an internship at Auburn State Recreational Area, she decided she wanted to become a state park ranger and to serve park visitors. She was accepted to attend the State Parks Academy at Pacific Grove and completed the Academy on June 27th, 2008.

Marisa says she is excited to be here in Lake County and is looking forward to working at Clear Lake State Park. The board and members of AMIA extend a warm welcome to our newest ranger!



Musicians at the Bluegrass Festival last September.



The Konocti Fiddlers performed at the festival.



Children's activities were popular at the festival.

Ranger's Report

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obtain petition signatures and promote the need for keeping open the great State Park resources of Lake County! I have truly seen how much this county loves it's parks! Hopefully now with the budget issues at hand, we can survive the latest threats to State Parks and continue to enjoy our beautiful parks! I hope to see you soon!

2009 Bluegrass Festival planning has started

You're invited to get involved!

Get your suspenders and sunbonnets ready! The 4th Annual Old Time Bluegrass Festival will be held rain or shine on Saturday, September 12, 2009 at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. Presented by AMIA, Children's Museum of Art and Science (CMAS) and the Clearlake Chamber of Commerce, the festival is a family event, with great music, food, art and crafts, a children's activity area and more.

The Bluegrass Festival creates a wonderful opportunity to showcase not only Anderson Marsh State Historic Park, but all of Lake County and its communities. The Festival supports projects of AMIA, CMAS as well as local schools and service groups and cannot happen without community support and involvement.

This year, AMIA Board Member Henry Bornstein will be the Event Coordinator for the Bluegrass Festival. Henry looks forward to meeting and working with those who have worked on the Festival before and welcomes new-comers.

Henry and Carolynn Jarrett from CMAS have already completed a successful presentation before the Clearlake City Council, with the council providing a \$1000 donation towards the Festival. If you would like to be involved in this year's Bluegrass Festival as a volunteer or sponsor, or would like to become an AMIA member, please contact AMIA at (707) 995-2658.



The Lower Lake High School Culinary program served up some delicious food for the Bluegrass Festival.

Anderson Marsh

Interpretive Association

P.O. Box 672

Lower Lake, CA 95457

A MIA Membership

“Come Join the Fun”

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

Zip _____ Email _____

Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association

Is dedicated to the preservation of all facets of the park. New members are always welcome!

Annual Dues

- \$20 Mink - 10% discount @ AMIA booth at festival
- \$40 Otter - Blue Grass T-shirt voucher
- \$60 Cougar - 1 pass to BG Festival
- \$80 Pond Turtle - 2 passes to BG Festival
- \$100 Wild Turkey - 4 passes to BG Festival & BG T-shirt

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mail to:

A.M.I.A.

P.O. Box 672

Lower Lake, CA 95457