



# AMIA

THE ANDERSON MARSH INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

*Promoting education & interpretive activities of  
Anderson Marsh State Historic Park*

PO BOX 672, LOWER LAKE, CA 95457 (707)995-2658 WWW.ANDERSONMARSH.ORG FALL/WINTER 2012-13

## AMIA succeeds in keeping Anderson Marsh State Historic Park open

This is the story of how AMIA has succeeded (so far!) in keeping Anderson Marsh State Historic Park open and accessible to the public. The path that AMIA has traveled so far to keep the Park open has had many twists and turns. Although as of the date of this newsletter, the situation has not been finally resolved, AMIA is confident that a deal will be struck soon with the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) that will keep the Park open until more permanent financing can be figured out at the state level.

The story begins about 18 months ago, when we were shocked to find out that due to the state's financial crisis, Anderson Marsh State Historic Park was scheduled to permanently close in July 2012, with a "seasonal closure" planned to begin in September 2011. Although there had been threats to close the Park before, this time it was different. Anderson Marsh State Historic Park would be definitely closing unless a way could be discovered to take the Park off the closure list.

Immediately after the release of the closure list, the AMIA Board began discussions about what would have to be done to keep the Park open and available to the many student and senior groups and members of the public who visit the Park.

As a first step, AMIA entered into an agreement with Bill Salata, State Parks Clear Lake Sector Superintendent, to keep the Park open at least until July 2012, while AMIA explored ways to keep the Park open. In order to do this, AMIA

*(Continued on page 2)*



**AMIA works to keep park open**—In 2012, Gae Henry & Henry Bornstein represented AMIA both at the California League of Park Associations (CALPA) conference held in San Diego in May and at the California State Parks Foundation (CSPF) Parks Advocacy Day, held at the State Capitol in April. Participation in these events helped AMIA in its fight to keep Anderson Marsh State Historic Park open and available for educational and interpretive programs that continue serving the public. The opportunity to get together face-to-face with people in other organizations who have been working with AMIA to keep the parks open was invaluable. Also, the chance to speak with California legislators and their aides has been very helpful during this time. Due to all their efforts, AMIA Board members Gae Henry & Henry Bornstein were awarded the Starts of Lake County Environmental Award for 2012. They are pictured with Congressman Mike Thompson and AMIA President Roberta Lyons.

# President's Message

By Roberta Lyons

It has been an interesting year since the announcement in May of 2011 that our beloved Anderson Marsh State Historic Park was on the closure list. I'm not going to review the whole story here; for a good explanation on what occurred, read Henry Bornstein's article in this newsletter. It is an excellent narrative of what happened and where we stand now.



Roberta Lyons

Over the last many months, members of the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association (AMIA), along with local citizens and volunteers and our State Park sector superintendent and rangers, have remained committed to keeping our park open. This commitment has

proven successful, and AMIA is anticipating that it will soon finalize an agreement with State Parks to cooperate in operating the Park. This agreement will require AMIA to help with park expenses and allow us to get started on the deferred maintenance projects that need to be done in order to keep the Park safe and accessible to visitors.

And we intend to continue helping. Our goal is to provide interpretive experiences at the park through our monthly guided nature walks and house tours; host grade-school field trips and other special field trips; pay for much needed deferred maintenance work on the historic ranch house and present events that introduce people to this wonderful resource that we have in our community.

For all of this to happen, we need your continued support – as donors, members, and volunteers. We all need to continue to work together to improve and maintain our park. Thank you all for joining in this effort.

## AMIA succeeds in keeping Anderson Marsh State Historic Park open

*(Continued from page 1)*

took over the responsibility for providing the portable toilet at the park and for opening and closing the gates on weekends. This allowed AMIA to continue to conduct its monthly guided nature walks and ranch house tours, to continue to host school and senior field trips to the Park and to continue planning educational events at the Park.

In October 2011, Assembly Bill 42 was signed into law by the Governor. This law for the first time allowed certain nonprofit associations such as AMIA to enter into "operating agreements" with State Parks that would allow the nonprofits to fund and operate a Park that had been on the closure list.

AMIA immediately began working with our Sector Superintendent to fashion an agreement that would allow the Park to remain open for the next three years, with AMIA operating the Park

with funds it raised from donations from the community. At the same time, AMIA began its fundraising drive to raise the money it would need to operate the Park.

In early 2012, AMIA's proposal to operate the Park was approved by State Parks, with the formal approval coming in April 2012. It cannot be emphasized enough how important the help and support of Bill Salata, State Parks Clear Lake Sector Superintendent, was to this success. Bill has never wavered in his commitment to keep Anderson Marsh State Historic Park open, whatever it takes to do so.

For the next six months, AMIA conducted negotiations with State Parks about important issues that needed to be resolved before AMIA could begin operating the Park, including how State Parks and AMIA would share responsibility for lawsuits or liability relating to the Park. Al-

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Christmas open house to be at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park on Saturday, Dec. 8

The annual old-fashioned Christmas Open House at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park will be held on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The park is located on Highway 53 between Lower Lake and the City of Clearlake.

Santa Claus will be there to greet children and hand out treats. Christmas songs will be performed by local entertainers with the public invited to join in. The Christmas tree, decorated with the help of local elementary students, will be on display in the parlor of the historic ranch house at the park. Free hot cider, coffee, and lots of cookies and other treats will be provided.

Entertainers include Dr. Harry Lyons from Yuba College, Rick McCann, Tom Nixon, Middletown's David Neft, Bluegrass musician, Don Coffin; Anna McAtee, Gae Henry, Henry Bornstein, Joan Moss and others.

This is a great opportunity to spend some time in the ranch house. The event has been a favorite holiday tradition for many years; and is continuing this year with the help of many local volunteers. Christmas at the Ranch was started by the original members of the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association (AMIA) and is continuing to be presented by the association. The event is designed to welcome visitors to the house to enjoy the warm and festive atmosphere.

Christmas music is enjoyed by all and Santa waits in the parlor for youngsters to tell him of their Christmas wishes. A fire burns cheerily in the dining room where cookies, hot coffee, and cider are served.

The public is warmly invited to attend this traditional, relaxed, and fun holiday event. Join the volunteers of the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association for an old-fashioned Christmas open house at the ranch.



(Above) Don Coffin, Gae Henry, and Dr. Harry Lyons will be just a few of the entertainers of the evening. (Left) Santa Claus will be on hand to take children's Christmas wishes.



## ANDERSON MARSH NEWS

is published by the  
ANDERSON MARSH INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

### Board of Directors

Roberta Lyons - President  
Henry Bornstein - Treasurer  
Gae Henry - Secretary  
Robert Riggs - Director  
Don Coffin - Vice President  
Nancy Langdon - Director  
Frank McAtee - Director  
Ellen Lundquist - Director  
Anna McAtee - Vice President  
Bill Salata - CAL

Roberta Lyons - Newsletter Coordinator  
Newsletter Lay-out Robin Winniford



# Superintendent Report for Clear Lake Sector

By Bill Salata, State Park Superintendent II

The summer is over and we made it through the busy season. We have recently layed off most of our seasonal staff and the visitor center's doors were closed after Labor Day. It's now time for our staff and volunteers to take a deep breath and reflect upon their accomplishments.



The maintenance staff Bill Salata did a wonderful job with just two permanent staff in place. We had a great seasonal crew of six who completed several skilled projects such as the footbridge over Cole Creek, bench addition and replacement at the visitor center deck, as well as fence and gate updates throughout the park. You may notice new paint on the gates and even new interpretive panels throughout the sector. Maintenance staff have also placed and stained new picnic tables at the Educational Pavilion. Maintenance and Ranger staff recently placed 5mph buoys along the shoreline of Kelsey Creek campground and retrieved the swim beach buoy line for winter.

I have been working with Henry Bornstein on completing an agreement involving AMIA to keep the Historic Park open. I anticipate good things to come of this.

With all of the successes our maintenance staff has had, we have also had a tragedy with the loss of two of our maintenance buildings and a vehicle due to a fire in the Clear Lake SP maintenance yard. Much of the maintenance power equipment was a total loss. We are receiving help from the district but it will take a while to get back to where we were with tools.

I have recently advertised and hired a Maintenance Chief and an Office Assistant position for Sector Operations. It is a great relief to get these positions filled.

Please welcome Ranger Ayala who is off of field training. Ranger Ayala is a great addition to the Clear Lake team and will finally get us the coverage we need in the field.

The Junior Ranger program was a success thanks to the Clear Lake State Park Interpretive Association's funding of a park aide. There were at least 300 participants!

I would like to thank all of my staff, volunteers, and park visitors for a successful 2012 season.

## AMIA succeeds in keeping Anderson Marsh State Historic Park open

*(Continued from page 2)*

though these negotiations proceeded slowly, AMIA succeeded in getting an agreement from State Parks that the Park would remain open as long as these negotiations continued. When AMIA submitted its most recent contract proposal, it hoped that a final agreement was close.

Meanwhile, AMIA was touched and overjoyed by the generous response of Lake County to AMIA's fundraising drive. As detailed elsewhere in this newsletter, local environmental, educational and park groups joined hundreds of individual supporters in donating the money that AMIA needed in order to demonstrate to the state that it had the financial resources to successfully operate the Park.

Then, in July 2012, everything changed when it was revealed that State Parks had been in possession of nearly \$54 million in "undisclosed" money for the past 12 years, while parks such as Anderson Marsh were being threatened with closure over a \$20 million parks budget cut. It was later clarified that about \$20 million of the undisclosed funds could have been spent on state parks at risk of being closed.

The discovery of these undisclosed funds led to the resignation of the State Parks Director and the termination of several upper level State Parks administrators and staff. Eventually, an Acting Director was appointed to investigate the situation and get the Department back on track.

*(Continued on page 5)*



Amy Thorn of Thorn Hill pouring for Debbie Ickes at the Rita Hosking concert held September 8.



Rita Hosking & daughters Kora & Hava selling CDs at the event. Proceeds went towards keeping Anderson Marsh State Historic Park open to the public.

## Rita Hosking concert a big success

On September 8, AMIA sponsored an evening at the Soper-Reese Community Theatre in Lakeport with award-winning singer-songwriter Rita Hosking. Also performing at the concert were local performers Uncorked, Three Deep and the Clearlake Klikkers. Hosking and the other performers generously donated their time and talent for this event. All proceeds from the concert went directly toward the effort to keep Anderson Marsh State Historic Park open to the public.

The event was fun and successful. A big thank you to all of the musicians, to the AMIA volunteers who made the evening possible and to Amy Thorn of Thorn Hill Winery, who poured wine and donated half of the proceeds to AMIA.

And, of course, thanks to everyone who attended and supported AMIA. It was a great evening with wonderful music and good fellowship. We look forward to future events of this sort to



Ed & LaVonne Moore of Lakeport with volunteers Arlene Hanlon and Chelsea Michael.

help our efforts to keep our beautiful Anderson Marsh State Historic Park open and to protect the precious historical and cultural resources found there.

## AMIA succeeds in keeping Anderson Marsh State Historic Park open

*(Continued from page 4)*

The resulting disruption of business at the upper levels of State Parks management caused work on our contract negotiations to be delayed, with the Park remaining open until an agreement could be worked out.

Finally, in response to the State Parks financial scandal, in September 2012, Assembly Bill 1478 was signed into law. Among other things, the new law postponed any Park closures for the time being and allocated \$10 million of the "undisclosed funds" to match any money raised

by nonprofits being used to keep Parks open. The existence of these matching funds means that State Parks may be able to take on a bigger role in operating our Park than originally contemplated in AMIA's contract proposal. During a meeting with the Acting Director and other top State Parks staff, an idea was proposed that would allow AMIA and State Parks to cooperate in operating the Parks, with AMIA paying for the "hard costs" of keeping the Park open and the

*(Continued on page 9)*

# Nature Walks, Ranch House Tours and field trips

AMIA held monthly walks & tours in 2012 on the second Saturday of each month except September (musical fundraiser) and December (Christmas at the Ranch event). Walk leaders included Dr. Harry Lyons, Brad Barnwell, Tom Nixon, Billy Gear, Roberta Lyons, Gae Henry and Henry Bornstein. AMIA docents led a tour of the historic Ranch House Museum after each walk. Over 200 individuals participated in these monthly walks & tours in 2012.

The Road Scholar program visited AMSHP in 2012 as part of a week-long birding event in Lake County. Brad Barnwell led a walking-birding tour; while Roberta Lyons & Gae Henry took participants on a tour of the Historic Ranch House and talked about local Native American history and the European Settler experience.

AMIA volunteers also held field trips in the spring for groups of local 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade school children. Gae Henry and Henry Bornstein led tours of the Ranch House and nature walks, Don Coffin, Anna McAtee & Dennis Purcell helped with old-time music and Ranger Darin Conner explained about the animals living in the area and shared animal skins. Each field trip ended with a picnic lunch.



Field trip team for May 2012: Gae Henry, Henry Bornstein, and Ranger Darin Conner pictured with a bobcat display.



Dr. Harry Lyons leads a Nature Walk at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park.



**Clean-up coordinated with City of Clearlake** – In April 2012, as part of a coordinated effort with other citizens in the city, AMIA volunteers removed over 3 pick-up truck loads of garbage and trash from the “north flat” part of the Park, which is within the City of Clearlake.

# AMIA completes a successful 2012 fundraising drive

Last year, in May of 2011, it was announced that Anderson Marsh State Historic Park would close on July 1, 2012. Neither the members of the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association, our Sector Superintendent, Bill Salata, nor many members of the community were going to let that happen; and it didn't.

Thanks to the hard work of AMIA volunteers, park administration and the work and contributions from our local community, the park was spared closure, even before the scandal regarding the "secret fund" broke and the legislation passed preventing any further park closures, at least for the time being.

In order to keep the Park open, AMIA had to raise enough money to operate the Park. Two local non-profits: The Redbud Audubon Society and The Lake County Land Trust, have pledged to donate \$1,000 a year to Anderson Marsh State Historic Park for this year and the next two years. The Sierra Club has pledged \$500 for the next three years, along with the Clear Lake State Park Interpretive Association. The Children's Museum of Art and Science, CMAS donated \$1,000 for a one time donation and local resident Charlotte Griswold has pledged \$5,000 a year to the park.

Along with these donations, we have increased our AMIA membership and have many members now at the \$250 a year level along with numerous smaller memberships. All in all, our individual memberships have increased to 118. This year, we have raised over \$17,000 including our major donors and our individual memberships. It is thanks to community support that Anderson Marsh State Historic Park will stay open. Thank you!!!!



The Clear Lake State Park Interpretive Assoc. (CLSPIA) has pledged \$500 a year to help keep Anderson Marsh State Historic Park open. Pictured from left: Henry Bornstein, AMIA treasurer; Roberta Lyons, AMIA president; Madelene Lyon, CLSPIA president; and Gae Henry, AMIA secretary.



The Redbud Audubon Society is one of the four local environmental groups pledging funds to Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. Redbud has pledged \$1,000 a year for three years to support the park. Pictured with Redbud Audubon president, Marilyn Waits, center, are Gae Henry and Henry Bornstein of the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Assoc.



(Left): AMIA is currently in the middle of a project to repair the ADA-accessible Boardwalk on the Cache Creek Nature Trail. The trail provides public access to the rich riparian habitat of the Park that supports many species. The completion of these repairs will insure that the Boardwalk remains open and accessible to the public.



2012 Park Advocacy Day: Assemblyman Wesly Chesboro with Henry Bornstein and Gae Henry.

# 30th anniversary event celebrates parks, volunteers, and supporters

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for Anderson Marsh State Historic Park was a great day. It was made even better by the fact that the park was still open, after being placed No. 1 (because of its name, only) on the park closure list that was released in May of 2011.

The public was invited to come to the park that day to enjoy music, speeches, and a giant anniversary cake. The celebration started with an 8:30 a.m. guided nature walk. Then from 10 a.m. on there was music on the porch and tours of the ranch house.

Sector Superintendent Bill Salata opened the ceremonies, followed by Roberta Lyons who talked about the struggles the park had been undergoing and handed out certificates of appreciation to outstanding donors, and acknowledged volunteers and AMIA members.

Dr. John Parker, who was the leader in preserving and founding Anderson Marsh State Park, gave a history of the park and the trials and tribulations along the way before the park was finally purchased by the state and preserved.

The day was complete with cake and refreshments. It was a great day for park supporters to gather and enjoy a morning in the park.



Certificates of appreciation were awarded at the 30th anniversary celebration to park supporters. (Above, clockwise from left): Roberta Lyons presenting Dr. John Parker with a certificate of appreciation for his work to create Anderson Marsh State Historic Park; Lakeshore Lions Club member, Fred Moeller, accepting a certificate for the Club; donor Charlotte Griswold with Gae Henry, AMIA secretary; and Sierra Club representative, Victoria Brandon, with Gae Henry.



(Pictured far left) Local musicians entertained at the 30th anniversary celebration.

(Pictured at left) Members of the Grigsby family, descendants of the original Grigsby family (owners of Anderson Ranch before the Anderson family) traveled all the way from the Central Valley to attend the 30th anniversary celebration.

# Certificates of Appreciation

August 11, 2012

Brad and Kathy Barnwell, Victoria Brandon, D.A. and Leona Butts, Steve Devoto, Ken Frank, Charlotte Griswold, Peggie King, Roberta and Harry Lyons, David Neft, Weldon and Dee Parker, Amy and Roberto Reyes, Children's Museum of Art and Science, Clear Lake State Park Interpretive Assn., Lakeport English Inn, Lakeshore Lions Club, Redbud Audubon Society, Sierra Club Lake Group, Lake County Land Trust, Vigilance Winery and Vineyards, Gregory Graham Wines, Clearlake Waste Solutions.

## AMIA succeeds in keeping Anderson Marsh State Historic Park open

*(Continued from page 5)*

state matching funds being used to provide certain services essential to keeping the Park open. The existence of the additional matching funds will mean that instead of using the money it has raised to do things such as trail maintenance or housekeeping, AMIA will be able to use some of the money that it has raised to get started on the deferred maintenance projects that need to be done in order to keep the Park safe and accessible to visitors.

Included in current plans are repairing the Cache Creek Nature Trail Boardwalk and fixing things that have been allowed to deteriorate in the Historic Ranch House and Barn complex due to lack of funding, such as repairing broken windows and screens, repairing and securing doors and "bat proofing" the South Barn. Also contemplated are projects to upgrade the toilet facilities and improve the South Barn so that it can be used as an interpretive and educational center.

As this newsletter is being written, AMIA is in final negotiations for its proposal for an agreement with State Parks to cooperate in operating the Park. State matching funds will be used to help keep the Park open for the next two years, with AMIA paying the bills and making needed repairs and improvements that will ensure that the Park remains usable and safe.

While we can never know what will confront us next on this twisting path, the AMIA Board is committed to doing whatever is necessary to keep the Park open. With the support being shown by the members of the Lake County community, along with the continued support of our local Lake County State Parks staff, the Board is confident that whatever is required to accomplish this goal will be done.

Stay tuned!



---

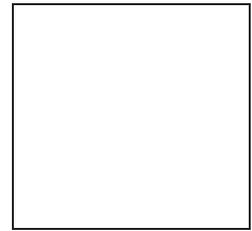
### **(Photos at left) Oak seedling planting and watering**

– About 35 AMIA and community volunteers assisted California State Parks Environmental Scientist Jim Dempsey in the planting of 53 valley oak tree seedlings at AMSHP. To give support during the first year, a group of AMIA supporters under the guidance of AMIA Volunteer Tom McFarling and AMIA Board member Henry Bornstein watered the seedlings several times over the summer to help the little trees survive their first Lake County summer.



# ANDERSON MARSH INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 672 LOWER LAKE, CA 95457 (707)995-2658  
WWW.ANDERSONMARSH.ORG



## ANDERSON MARSH INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

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

### 2013 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:**

- \$25** — Individual Membership
- \$35** — Family Membership
- \$50** — Business Membership (includes acknowledgement on the AMIA website.
- \$100** — Supporting Membership
- \$250 or more** – Join at this level and enjoy a special guided interpretive walk at Anderson Marsh State Park with fellow donors, followed by lunch at the Historic Ranch House hosted by AMIA volunteers.

Please send your 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