And into the forest I go, to lose my mind and find my soul
attributed to John Muir

First Day trekkers queued up at North Bloomfield on New Years Day to tromp the Humbug Creek Trail uphill, for about 3 miles to the Diggins Overlook, offering a spectacular panorama of the imprint of Hydraulic Mining.

Enroute, leader Rhea Williamson interpreted the history and use of that vital source of water, while noticing evidence of historic structures from the gold mining era. Passing through a forest heavily damaged by bark beetles led to a discussion of the research of Dr. Chris Fettig, a research entomologist with the U.S. Forest Service’s Pacific Southwest Research Station, who investigated the impact of forest density and drought on the ability of trees to survive an infestation of the bark beetle.

The overlook offered visual evidence of the impact of Hydraulic Mining and opportunity for more discussion.

Many participants were first time visitors to Malakoff and made for a good mix of ages represented, with high-school cross country team members, veteran Park Champions, and locals who hadn’t visited the park in years. Overall it was a good day to get out into the forest and commune with the spirit of John Muir.
New Sierra Gold Parks Support Organization Envisioned
--From Many, One

Ten representatives from Western Nevada County’s three state parks’ cooperating associations gathered together on a brilliant Sunday, united in their desire to forge a stronger and more sustainable organization to support the educational and interpretive mission of California State Parks.

Delegates from Empire Mine Park Association, South Yuba River Park Association, and Friends of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins are collaborating with each other and State Parks to form a brand new organization designed to take advantage of common goals and capabilities, and to more efficiently serve the needs of the State Parks in Western Nevada County.

Empire Mine State Historic Park, South Yuba River State Park and Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park make up the Sierra Gold Sector of the expansive Sierra District.

Each of the three existing organizations have successfully sponsored special events, supported educational programs, led hikes and building tours, raised funds and helped to build the volunteer ranks so essential for the operation of the state parks. They also have helped to advocate for major projects such as the restoration of Bridgeport’s covered bridge, installation of a solar electricity system at Malakoff, and clean up and mitigation for the legacy impacts of mining in the parks.

Professional facilitator Randy Widera of Blue Oaks Consulting was hired to help the delegates forge the process that will transition from the current three separate entities to a single park cooperating association. He reflected on the efforts of the day: “The Sierra Gold state parks share cultural and natural histories, while individually representing signature differences. The collective wisdom, experience, and energies of the de facto founders impress me. The future looks bright!”

cont.
The representatives are united by a common vision to support all three state parks, and recognize that joining forces will produce a stronger, more robust organization better positioned to provide what State Parks needs, now and in the future.

Acting State Park District Superintendent Matthew Green observes “Our Western Nevada County non-profits are on the rise and taking their organizations to another level.”

The founding of the new organization will take time and will be designed to employ the best ideas and traditions of each of the current park associations.

During the transition period, each park association will continue with their activities as before, until the new organization is launched.

Details of how membership, assets, and committees will be handled will be decided while the process develops in the coming months.

The goals of this effort are to build deeper connections with all three parks in the Sierra Gold Sector, to strengthen the ties between the community and the parks, and to grow the capacity for support beyond the local geographic area.

Syd Brown
Friends of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins Publicity
friends.nbmd.publicity@gmail.com

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**Donation to FNBMD**

John W. Walsh, of Oakland, has made a monetary contribution to *Friends of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins* in the name of Charles Lafferty, who was killed at Woolsey Flat in 1865, being blown up while blasting. The *Grass Valley Union* of the day, reported he was; “Loved and respected by all who knew him, leaving a wife and small family.”
### Discover Malakoff! 2019

Sponsored by Friends of N. Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins

Some Events Require Pre-Registration: [http://malakoffdigginsstatepark.org](http://malakoffdigginsstatepark.org)

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Welcome
Callan McLaughlin - Supervising State Park Peace Officer

I grew up in Humboldt County where I enjoyed playing basketball, baseball and soccer. While in high school I began working in the North Coast Redwoods District, ultimately serving six seasons there as a Park Aide and Senior Park Aide. After graduating high school I attended College of the Redwoods where I received two AA Degrees.

In 2005 I attended CA State Parks Ranger Academy at Mott Training Center in Pacific Grove.

After graduating I spent the first 2 years of my career working at Lake Oroville SRA. I got a lot of good experience working at a very busy park, and met Ranger Marc Wetherbee who now works here at South Yuba River.

In 2007 I transferred to Del Norte Coast Redwoods where I got a lot of good experience working in a traditional Park and working with the National Park Service, with whom we comanaged the park. While there I worked with Ranger James Carey who is now also at South Yuba.

On January 1st 2010 I transferred down to Ocotillo Wells SVRA in the desert of eastern San Diego County. There I met my wife, who is also a Ranger. After 4 plus years at Ocotillo Wells I transferred to Anza Borrego Desert State Park. In 2016 I promoted to Supervising Ranger at Anza Borrego Desert State Park. In 2017 I took an out of class Superintendent position at OHV Division in downtown Sacramento. At the end of the assignment I went back down to Anza Borrego before transferring to South Yuba River.

In my spare time I enjoy doing projects around the house with my wife. We also like to travel and see new areas. I look forward to working with everyone here at South Yuba River.

Leland Stanford,
prior to his days as a Big-4 Partner, parlayed money he made after he arrived in San Francisco into a few wagon loads of necessities for gold seeking, hauled the goods to Coloma where he set up a tent store, or sold directly from his wagon. Then he struck gold, in the form of a necessity sought by almost every miner. With their daily fare of beans becoming boring, Stanford learned that vinegar would make the mush palatable, bought a wagon full and sold it all to the miners and was on his way to make history. Ed.
The Great Noachian Flood of 1862

(Noachian “antiquated, related to Noah”)

Much of the past year, Mother Nature has ravaged our blue planet, causing mankind to call upon biblical comparisons, with some suggesting we are being punished. The agitated media often act as if the current forces of nature are unprecedented.

While frequency; present and past may be debated, over the centuries thousands have perished by sudden fire, quake, tornados, hurricanes, freezes, and floods; something we are familiar with in the golden state.

157 years ago, in early 1862, raging waters drowned much of our state as the greatest flood in recorded California history burst forth from snow laden mountains. Bridges were washed out as far north as Trinity and Shasta Counties and as far south as Los Angeles. January, 1862 rainfall in Northern California set records that have never been equaled; (24.36 inches. CA Dept. of Water Resources)

Beginning in December, 1861, rain caused damaging floods in Sacramento when nearly 10 inches of rain fell. However, a lot of the December rain in Northern California was stored in California’s greatest reservoir, the snow pack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The depth was 10-15 feet. January brought more rain and warm winds. John Muir describes very well what happened: “The Sierra Rivers are flooded every spring by the melting of the snow as regularly as the famous old Nile. Strange to say, the greatest floods occur in winter, when one would suppose all the wild waters would be muffled and chained in frost and snow...But at rare intervals, warm rains and warm winds invade the mountains, and push back the snow line from 2000 to 8000, or even higher, and then come the big floods.”

On the South Yuba River at Bridgeport; the main crossing bridge on the Virginia Turnpike was again; carried away in succession with downstream bridges.

Red Dog, Nevada County:
Eleven inches of rain in 48 hrs. Total rainfall for the season was 9ft.1in. (Red Dog is noteworthy because it was a key place in the Bret Harte novel, The Luck of Roaring Camp, which described a mining camp flood, most likely based on the 1862 event. Ed.)

cont.
The Sacramento Daily Union reported:
By noon the 9th, J, K and I Streets were under water. During the afternoon, floodwater rose at a rate of 1-foot/hour. No dry land in the Sacramento Valley to Red Bluff except old Indian Mounds. Every day more drownings in the Feather, Yuba, & American Rivers.
10th In Sacramento at 9:00 pm, high water was 24 feet above low water, and the water was waist deep in downtown. Sacramento is out of food.

When touring Old Sacramento, notice as you visit the historic buildings, that you are entering on the 2nd floor. After the many floods, city streets were raised one level, where merchants and other owners moved their businesses to escape future deluges.

Many 1st floors, if not filled in, now serve as cellars. Ed.

The Daily Union Commenting in the vernacular of the day:
“No less than 45 Chinamen were carried away in their cabins at Oregon Bar, in Placer County. The Chinese hongs in San Francisco have since received letters from the interior, to the effect that near 1000 Chinamen were washed off from Long Bar and vicinity on the Yuba, and drowned. It appears that the poor fellows remained in their cabins as they had done during the previous floods, until the raging waters rose about them rendering escape impossible.”

The use of the word “Hong” likely refers to a Cantonese meaning of, “traders or merchants”, yet there are many other uses of the word. Ironically, one of those is, “flood”. Ed.

Cont.
The great central valley of the state is under water, three to three and a half millions of acres! Thousands of farms are entirely under water – cattle starving and drowning. All roads in the middle of the state are impassable; all mails are cut off. We have had no ‘Overland’ for some weeks. The telegraph does not work clear through, but news has been coming for the last two days. In the Sacramento Valley for some distance the tops of the poles are under water. The entire valley is a lake, from the mountains on one side to the coast range hills on the other. Steamboats run back over the ranches fourteen miles from the river, carrying stock, etc, to the hills. Wm. Brewer

A week ago news came down at 9 o’clock at night, by steamer, of a worse condition at Sacramento than was anticipated. Boats have been sent up and thousands are fleeing that city. Men went to work and before daylight tons of provisions were ready, including 11,000 pounds of ham. Two steamers, with over 30 tons of cooked and prepared provisions, 22 tons of clothing, several thousand dollars in cash, and boats with crews, etc., were under way for the devastated city. Thousands of people escaped by steamer to Benicia, the first high land down stream. Water in Sacramento at such a depth that no one could move about except by boat. The State Treasurers office in the Capital Building has three feet of water. Confusion and consternation reign. News from River steamers that from Tehema (sic) to Stockton, a great sheet of yellow rippling water spread from the Sierra Nevada to the Coast Range. With telegraph down no rapid news got north and south in state until February. Wm. Brewer

The Daily Union of the 13th: “The water has so far receded from the western part of the city. Some houses are turned partially around; some are broken and shattered, and all are covered inside and outside up to the high-water mark with mud -- mud of the worst kind -- of a soft, slippery, greasy character, which it requires a great deal of labor to get rid of.”

“The streets are strewn with fences, doors, shutters, lumber, cord-wood, broken furniture, dead horses, and lifeless beasts. Fruit-trees and shrubbery are greatly injured, if not utterly destroyed. Boats of various sizes are still actively engaged in the water, picking up whatever is worth taking possession of.”

The Feather, American and Yuba Rivers, were choked with boulders, cobbles, gravels, sand, and mud, as it all spilled downstream drowning Marysville and beyond with years of accumulated hydraulic mining debris exacerbated by enormous “check dams” that failed in the storms. Disposal of hydraulic mining runoff still plagues Malakoff Diggins to this day, and nervous river watchers debate when the next Noachian Flood will rampage down from the high Sierra.

LC/Editor
Junior Rangers, between 7 and 12 years old, gather at more than 70 California state parks, from the redwood region, to the high Sierra, to sunny ocean beaches, to explore such activities as geology, ecology, history, safety, plants, wildlife, play games, hike trails, create your own animal, discover tracks, observe wildlife, all while making friends your own age.

At your first Junior Ranger program you will get a badge and a logbook which will be stamped for each activity completed. Kids can participate at one park over several days, or can start at one park, and then do other programs at different parks. You should plan to spend about an hour of creative fun for each activity!

The Program is offered free of charge to visitors who have already paid park entrance or camping fees. Not all of the state parks participate in these programs. So, to find out which parks offer Junior Ranger activities, you can use our handy list.

Call the park at the listed number for the program schedule. You can also visit the state parks Upcoming Events webpage, where dates and times are listed for Junior Ranger programs at many parks. (Not all Junior Ranger programs are listed on the events page.) There are also special Junior Ranger Adventure Guides for each of these parks. Fill them in and learn more about the park when you visit. Show your completed booklet to park staff, and you can collect your Junior Ranger badge.
Kid’s Fishing Derby Canceled for 2019
Blair Pond is Closed for Structural Repairs
Hopefully Will Be Open for 2020 Derby

Soggy Environmental
Living Students are Coming
In Out of The Rain

State Parks is preparing to replace the aged and leaky ELP tents with Miner’s Cabins to be used for those students to sleep dry while in camp.

The work should be completed in time for the 2020 season. For this year the kids will be billeted in the existing Miner’s Cabins behind the gazebo.

The project is generously funded by the Foster Family Private Foundation.  

Ed.
State Park Maintenance has been busy with their post-hole diggers, perhaps taking advantage of the rain-soft earth in which to dig, in order to continue installing various site-specific Interpretive Panels throughout the park. The latest pair, located along N. Bloomfield Road, west of N. Bloomfield, concern the Hiller and North Bloomfield Tunnels. Although the tunnels initially had different purposes, they both ultimately carried Hydraulic Mining debris away from the Malakoff “diggins” and into the S. Yuba River.
Striking it Rich

One day, around 1760, Rip Van Winkle wandered off into the Catskill woods to escape his nagging wife. Hearing thunder, he unwittingly followed gnomes or the ghosts of Henry Hudson's men into the wilderness and was lulled to sleep as the men play nine-pins. Thus the legend. (Ed.)

When miners said they made a rich strike in the 1850s, it didn’t necessarily involve gold. They may have been rejoicing about knocking down all the pins with their first ball. After a hard day in the diggins, many found relief and enjoyment with the ageless sport of bowling. Some even started spending more time bowling than mining.

“The rolling of balls never ceased for as much as 10 consecutive minutes during any 24 hour period. And the only difference Sunday made was that it never ceased for one minute”; observed Louise Amelia Knapp Smith Clapp of Rich Bar. (aka Dame Shirley)

The growing popularity of the sport prompted the “set up” of one or two-lane alleys all around the Sierra. In Downieville, they appeared beneath a saloon. Cold Springs, near Columbia, the lanes were inside the Bowling Alley Saloon. Indian Creek, Washington, Stoutenburgh and other lucky Diggings were the sites of popular alleys built in spare rooms, basements or outside saloons and other businesses. The length of the lanes, the weight of the balls and pins, and even the rules often varied, depending on the owner. Some of the lanes were 72 feet long and made out of Sugar Pine logs.

Eager bowlers usually “mined” 10 pins set in a triangle, although some preferred 9 pins in a diamond pattern. Traditional pins were tall and slender, but around 1850, they became heavier and bottle-shaped thus easier to knock over, leading to higher scores.

One entrepreneur, who got caught up on the craze, allowed miners to play for free until midnight, on opening day. He then raked in over $80 from midnight to dawn.

Naysayers complained of an incessant rumble of balls and rattle of pins. But most 49ers, pining for any kind of entertainment, poured their emotions along the path of the rumbling balls, with side bets that heightened the competition.

Distant Rumblings still echo over the Mother Lode, even in Grass Valley where Wm. Bourn, owner of the Empire Mine had two lanes built in the basement of his venerable Club House, evoking memories of tantalizing strikes, be they gold or Old Rip’s nine-pins.

Condensed from: *Bowling in the Gold Rush* by Craig & Franklin MacDonald  LC/Ed.
LET THE SUN SHINE IN

Few Rays of sunshine peeked through the overcast as Superintendent Matt Green (center, hatless) walked the ground behind the Jeffer’s Barn with park staff and Solar representatives in anticipation of a Solar Power Array at that place come September. Ed.

photo by Holly Mitten
WELCOME

Dustin Patterson - Peace Officer/Ranger - Malakoff Diggins SHP

I grew up in Ventura County to an active outdoor family that loved to camp all over the western states. In high school, I ran cross country and track, and I was fortunate enough to compete on the first national team from California. For college, I attended UC Santa Barbara and graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in Zoology. While at UCSB, I hung up my competitive running shoes and instead joined the triathlon team and the surf team. I first started working for the state under UCSB as a beach lifeguard, and later became the head lifeguard of the UCSB aquatics program.

In 2011, I joined California State Parks and attended the academy as a cadet in BVST 36. I graduated in 2012 and started as a ranger at Carpinteria State Beach. After nearly a year at Carpinteria, I transferred to the Santa Barbara area and primarily worked the state parks of the Gaviota Coast: Refugio State Beach, El Capitan State Beach, and Gaviota State Park. Refugio and El Capitan have popular and busy campgrounds, seeing over a million visitors a year. The next few years I faced and responded to a variety of challenging events at and near the parks, including the 2014 Isla Vista riots and mass shooting, the 2015 Refugio Oil Spill, the 2016 Sherpa Fire, the 2017 El Capitan mudslide, the 2017 Thomas Fire, and the 2018 Montecito mudslide. These events were easily surmountable thanks to the support and teamwork of the Santa Barbara Sector staff and volunteers.

In 2013, I married my fellow BVST 36 graduate Leigh Collins. Leigh and I moved to a state residence at El Capitan in 2014 and welcomed our daughter, Arietta (now 4 years old), to our family. Leigh worked as a ranger in Malibu until she switched classifications in 2015. Leigh now works as an environmental scientist for California State Parks OHV. In 2017, our family grew with the arrival of our son, Brennen (now 21 months old).

In my personal time, I enjoy being with my family, hunting (turkey and deer), raising chickens, and gardening-botany. Leigh and I are avid runners and we are excited at the prospect of new trails to explore. Our family loved Santa Barbara, but we are excited to join the Sierra foothill community and we are happily shopping for a home to make our own. We are thankful to be welcomed into the State Park family in the Sierra District and cannot wait to live and work in such a beautiful area and for such a fine community.
Friends of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins joined with the South Yuba River Park Association as sponsors of the Nineteenth Annual Joanie Bumpass Daffodil Run through the streets of Penn Valley.

Over two hundred runers, joggers and walkers kicked off from Western Gateway Park for the 5k/10k sojourn amid blooms of the honored spring flower, with proceeds going to local schools and to the Butte County schools affected by last year’s Paradise Fire disaster.

The two associations shared a booth at WGW Co. Park, staffed with volunteers advertising both state parks and up-coming special events.  

Robert Coats, FNBMD

VOLUNTEER
Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park
530-265-2740
THE CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM & FOUNDATION
SESQUICENTENNIAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR SPRING 2019

-HeritageRail Conference in Sacramento – April 25-27
-Judah Map on Public Display inside the Railroad Museum – Debuts in April
-Gold Spike Exhibit Redesign inside the Railroad Museum – Spring
-The Chinese Workers’ Experience Exhibit inside the Railroad Museum – Spring
-Free Community Sesquicentennial Event – May 8
-Sesquicentennial VIP Gala at the Railroad Museum – May 11
-Waterfront Days Heritage Event at the Old Sacramento Waterfront – May 24-26

For Info:
-Foundation, www.californiarailroad.museum
-Waterfront Days happening Memorial Day Weekend, www.oldsacramento.com

Source: California State Railroad Museum
Join Friends
of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins
or Renew Your Membership - See Last Page

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Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park  -  Malakoff.Diggins@parks.ca.gov  530-265-2740
The Friends of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins (FNB&MD) is a non-profit organization assisting the California Department of Parks and Recreation in the operation of Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park.

Your tax-deductible membership in FNB &MD will

- help preserve, protect and enhance the man made and natural resources of Malakoff Diggins SHP
- support interpretation of the park's rich biological diversity, geologic features, historic and cultural resources
- provide you with a quarterly newsletter and other notices of Park activities
- include a 10% discount on purchases from the Malakoff Park Store.

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### Membership Levels

- ☐ Annual Senior/Student ($15)
- ☐ Annual Individual membership ($20)
- ☐ Annual family membership ($35)
- ☐ Lifetime individual membership ($150)
- ☐ Lifetime family membership ($200)

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**Name**

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**Street Address**

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**City** .................................................... **State** ........................ **Zip** ........

**Phone (home)** ____________________________ **(cell)** ____________________________

**Email**

I am interested in:

- ☐ helping the park organization financially
- ☐ becoming a trained docent
- ☐ becoming a park volunteer
- ☐ other

---

**Mission:**

*We enhance the interpretive experience for visitors, promote park-based education for learners of all ages, and support and preserve the natural and cultural resources of Malakoff Diggins SHP. We also assist other cooperative associations and the State Park System mission for the benefit of the public.*

for more information call 530.265.2740 or check out our website:

www.malakoffdigginsstatepark.org

friendsofmalakoff@gmail.com

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