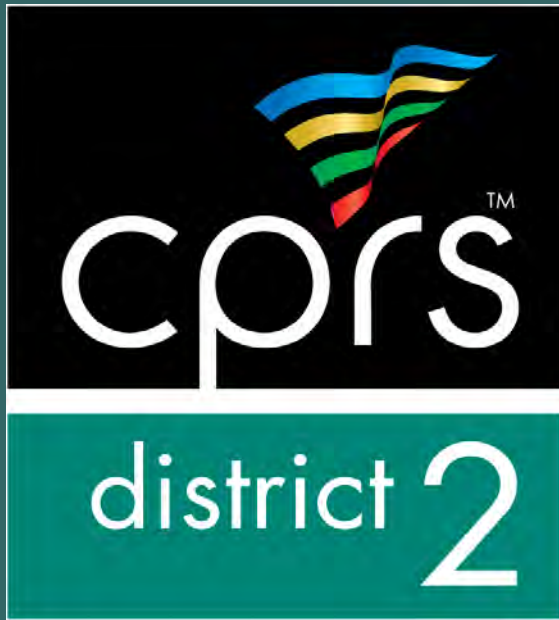




**Hall of
Honor
Sample
Application**



district 2

Application

cprs
district 2

Hall of Honor 2012 Awards

Celebrating Regional Quality of Life
through Parks, Recreation & Leisure

Universally Accessible Playground at Mahany Park
Ed Mahany, 2007 Professional Leadership Inductee

Nominations Due
October 7, 2011

Awards Ceremony
Spring 2012

www.cprsd2.com

Award Categories

- Professional Leadership
- Legacy
- Regional Treasure

District 2 Awards - Hall of Honor Application

Award applying for (Check only one; see category for eligibility)

- ☐ Professional Category
- ☒ Legacy Category
- ☐ Regional Treasure Category

Name of Nominee or Regional Treasure Jo Smith

Person Submitting the Nomination

Name [REDACTED] Title/Position [REDACTED]

Mailing Address [REDACTED]

City/State [REDACTED] Zip Code [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Email [REDACTED]

Person Submitting the Nomination should follow the steps below:

1. Review the complete submitted category criteria (professional, etc.).
2. Submit on a separate sheet, detailed information about each sub-criteria area of the category submitted (failure to cover any one sub-area will affect the eligibility or merits of the nomination process). Award recipient will be required to submit an electronic copy of the application and support materials.
3. If assistance or answers to questions are needed, [REDACTED] Chair of the Selection Committee, can be reached at [REDACTED]
4. The following timetable will be strictly adhered to by the Selection Committee:
 - Application distributed: August 2010
 - Filing period: August-September 2010
 - Filing deadline: Friday, October 1, 2010, 5:00 p.m.
 - Submit application and supporting information to:
 - Name: [REDACTED]
 - Address: [REDACTED]
 - Email: [REDACTED]
 - Applications reviewed and evaluated: October-November 2010
 - Notification of results to applicant by December 3, 2010.
 - Presentation of awards: April 1, 2011. Details of presentation and award ceremony will be discussed with award winners at time of notification.
5. Person submitting nomination additionally agrees to the following:

I hereby give CPRS District 2 the irrevocable right and permission to copyright and publish photographs or other digital materials submitted for use in its printed publications, audiovisual presentations, and/or online presentations.

Signature [REDACTED]



district 2

Application Narrative

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Hall of Honor 2012 Awards

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Award Categories

- Professional Leadership
- Legacy
- Regional Treasure

CPRS District 2 Hall of Honor Committee Members

c/o [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Re: 2011 Hall of Honor Legacy Category Nomination for Jo Smith

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this application for recognition of Jo Smith's significant contributions to the Sacramento region's natural environment. Jo's accomplishments align well with the Hall of Honor Legacy Category criteria. Jo was a private citizen, volunteer and board member for several organizations.

She lived in the Sacramento area for over 50 years and contributed to our awareness of our unique and beautiful surroundings through her many publications and accompanying illustrations. I had the great fortune to work with Jo Smith, the volunteer at the beginning of my parks career, over 30 years ago. Her legacy of stewardship was a gift I have been able to take with me, and share with others, throughout my career with State Parks.

Her legacy is explained in the accompanying Hall of Honor application.

Additionally, I've included:

- A letter of support for the nomination from Marilee Flannery, Executive Director of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and on behalf of ARNHA
- A letter of support for the nomination from Anne Rudin, former Mayor of Sacramento
- A letter of support from Jane Steele, District Administrator Arcade Creek Recreation and Park District
- A letter from the County of Sacramento Recreation and Park Commission
- A tribute to Jo Smith
- An announcement of the dedication of the Jo Smith Nature Trail on Arcade Creek
- An article from the Girl Scout Council journal, Interview with Jo Smith Naturalist/Environmentalist
- Sacramento Bee article following her passing
- A copy of Discovering the American River Parkway
- A copy of The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region
- A copy of OOTI A Child of the Nisenan
- A copy of An American River Journal

I truly appreciate your consideration of this nomination. Should you need additional information I can be contacted at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

CPRS District 2

Hall of Honor 2011 Awards – Legacy Category

Name of Nominee: Jo Glasson Smith

Name of person making Nomination: Bonnie Morse West
Associate Park and Recreation Specialist
California State Parks

Address: P.O. Box 372
Coloma, CA 95613

Telephone: (530) 642-8218 or (916) 651-7740

Email: bwest@parks.ca.gov

Special projects or programs candidate responsible for accomplishing:

Jo Smith graduated from Stanford University with a degree in art. She was not only an accomplished artist but an artist with a passion for preserving the environment with her actions and with her pen. Jo moved to the Sacramento region in the early 1960's. She became instant friends with Effie Yeaw and together they embarked on projects that would change the course of our natural history, preserving and promoting the diversity of nature found in our own community. Jo became the illustrator, the vision for the outdoor world of the Sacramento region. She could create the true essence of a bird or a black-tailed deer or a blue oak leaf through her superb artwork. She co-edited and illustrated over eight publications related to the American River Parkway and the Sacramento Region. She helped to keep Effie Yeaws' The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region current and was involved in all eight revisions of the book, most recently in 2004. The book includes details and drawings of over 600 plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and insects. Jos' illustrations brought life to the descriptions. School children today can envision a ruddy duck or a Cooper's Hawk or a Chicory Flower from the wonderful illustrations Jo shared with our region. Her illustrations in An American River Journal are truly inspiring. She and her friend Peter Hayes created a journal that will delight your senses and give you a whole new appreciation of the American River. Jo not only wrote and illustrated, she led. For more than 40 years Jo shared nature with children so they could explore and appreciate their local environment and wildlife. She and Effie Yeaw voluntarily led children through the Deterding Woods which came to be known as the Effie Yeaw Nature Area. With Effie's passing in 1970, Jo continued her vision of bringing children into nature to discover the wonders of the woods along the American River. In 1976, with the opening of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Jo again volunteered to develop and deliver programs to the public. In 1980, the center was threatened with closure and Jo worked to form the American River Natural History Association to partner with the County. This group continues to be active today and has most recently taken over management of the Nature Center. Jo also co-founded the Sacramento Chapter of the Urban Creeks Council and coordinated the first annual Neighborhood Creek Cleanup that started in 1990. The event now takes place in several counties throughout the region. Several events are planned throughout the week leading up to the weekend cleanup and celebration. The event emphasizes that everyone has creeks and the cleanup is one way for people throughout the region to connect with each other. Jo, a humble and unpretentious lover of nature left her mark on our region. She spent years devoting time to the community and sharing her passion. Her quest to bring people into nature, to savor their environment and explore the natural ecosystems was realized and continues to live on in her publications and her accomplishments, as her legacy.

Leadership Positions held:

Founding member - American River Natural History Association (1981)

ARNHA was organized and incorporated as a private foundation in 1981 by a group of citizens to promote, aid and augment the educational and interpretive programs of the Sacramento County Department of Parks and Recreation, especially at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and throughout the American River Parkway

Founding Member - Effie Yeaw Nature Center (1976)

Cofounder - Sacramento Chapter – Urban Creeks Council

Service included:

Sacramento County Parks & Recreation Commission

Advisory Committee to update the American River Parkway Plan

Sacramento County Open Space Task Force

Arden Arcade Community Planning Council

Girl Scout Leader, environmental mentor

Sacramento Science Center Board of Directors

Sacramento County Grand Jury

Arcade Creek Recreation and Park District Board of Directors

American River Parkway Advisory Committee

Active member of many nature groups including:

Audubon Society

American River Parkway Foundation

Save the American River Association (SARA)

Sacramento Tree Foundation

Service to Public Groups and Organizations:

Jo, as stated in a tribute to her, was an environmental evangelist in the tradition of naturalist Effie Yeaw, her mentor and friend. She made much of the natural world come alive for people, especially children. Jo was a passionate volunteer who enjoyed helping others to savor the beauty of their natural surroundings in a way no other person could. Someone once said "Mrs. Smith was a forceful organizer but reluctant leader. Her passion for preserving the environment inspired others to get involved." Jo not only inspired others, she herself put in an immeasurable amount of time as a dedicated volunteer who shared her gift with several different organizations. Be it as a volunteer leading a school group down a trail at Effie Yeaw Nature Center, or picking up trash in the creeks on Creek Week, or staffing a booth for the Sacramento Tree Foundation, Jo Smith seemed to be everywhere, giving a hand. This hand was not only extended to groups that touched the environment. Among other things, Jo was also a state leader and member of the League of Women Voters for more than 50 years, serving on the State Board as Legislative Director for several years.

Jo Smith, a prominent Sacramento naturalist and environmental advocate who inspired others to save nature by savoring the beauty of its wildlife and habitats, passed away in December of 2008. In a letter from the County Parks and Recreation Commission, it was stated, "Jo has left a legacy of good work, stewardship, and important publications that will encourage children and adults that visit the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, or see and read her work elsewhere, to take up the cause of beneficial stewardship for our natural areas. All who enjoy and benefit from clean creeks and the American River Parkway have her to thank. Her energy and guidance will be missed, but never forgotten."

Awards and Honors:

Although Jo was not the kind of person who expected to be recognized or rewarded, her good deeds did not go unnoticed. Some of the awards Jo received include:

National Chevron Conservation Award, one of 25 people honored in the oldest privately sponsored conservation recognition program in the nation. The awards ceremony was held in Washington D.C.

Sacramento Regional Pride Award

Tierra del Oro Girl Scout Council, Girl Scout Role Model Award

Jo Smith Nature Trail, a trail along Arcade Creek adjacent to a bridge crossing and interpretive exhibits, near American River College, was named in her honor.

Professional Publications:

Jo was known for her remarkable abilities as an illustrator, writer and editor.
Her publications included:

An American River Journal (illustrator)

Wild Neighbors – the American River Parkway Activity Book (co-illustrator)

Discovering the American River Parkway (co-writer and illustrator)

The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region (co-editor and illustrator)

Nature's Window (co-editor and illustrator)

Otti: A Child of the Nisenan (revision and illustrator)

Sacramento's Outdoor World (co-editor and illustrator)

The American River Almanac (co-editor and illustrator)

SARA filmed an oral history interview with Jo, one of the American River Parkway pioneers, in October of 2007

Training and Education:

Jo became interested in nature as a child while playing and exploring in open fields and a creek behind her family's home in Los Altos. She earned a bachelor's degree in art at Stanford University. Jo's education and appreciation of the outdoor world of the region came when she moved to Sacramento and met Effie Yeaw in the 1960's. "It was my introduction into appreciating what we have right here, in our own back yard". Her education and interest continued to blossom over her nearly 50 year involvement as an environmental evangelist for the Sacramento Region.

Other Noteworthy Information:

As professional park people, when we look for someone who has made a contribution for many generations to come, we often times over look those who prefer to work behind the scene. Jo Smith was one of those people. Her contribution was having the foresight to be a part of those doing the leg work to create the world renowned American River Parkway, and then following up with helping to provoke and educate others about its value will live on as long as there is an American River Parkway.

Jo's legacy will also live on in the many natural and cultural history publications she illustrated, co-wrote, revised and edited. Her publications can be found throughout the region in the hands of grade school teachers as well as college professors. They have also been used throughout the country as fine examples of how providing information on one's outdoor world can truly make a difference.

Jo was quoted in a publication as saying, "We must accept responsibility for the condition of our society and the environment and do what we can to make a better world."

She did just that...



district 2

Letters of Support

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Hall of Honor 2012 Awards

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Universally Accessible Playground at Mahany Park
Ed Mahany, 2007 Professional Leadership Inductee

Nominations Due
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Awards Ceremony
Spring 2012

www.cprsd2.com

Award Categories

- Professional Leadership
- Legacy
- Regional Treasure

**Effie Yeaw
Nature Center
and American River
Preserve**

P.O. Box 579
Carmichael, CA 95609
arnha.org
916.489.4918

*"Bringing children and
families into nature"*



September 23, 2010

CPRS District II, Hall of Honor Committee Members

c/o [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear CPRS District II Hall of Honor Committee Members:

On behalf of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and the American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) I am delighted to be able to write this letter in support of the nomination of my friend and mentor Jo Smith for the 2010 CRPS Hall of Honor – Legacy Category. Although she thought doing service was far more important than receiving awards, she certainly deserves this recognition.

In the 1960's Jo Smith assisted Effie Yeaw in leading nature tours for school children in what was then known as the Deterding Woods and is now known as the Effie Yeaw Nature Area. With Jo's assistance the two of them were able to lead many groups through the Deterding Woods and touched many young lives. Their shared exuberance for nature made them quite a team.

This team work extended into other areas including the re-printing of the important field guide book *The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region: A Local Field Guide* published by ARNHA. It was originally written and illustrated by Effie Yeaw. Jo once told me that Effie Yeaw was grateful to Jo for doing all the illustrations in the re-printed additions she then remarked that she thought that even though Effie Yeaw did not have formal art training she thought her drawings were quite charming.

One of Jo Smith's most outstanding qualities was her ability to take action when she saw a need and she'd do so with very little fuss. She saw a need for preserving and protecting some of the



A community service of the American River Natural History Association

Sacramento area's precious creeks so she helped organize the Sacramento Urban Creeks council with other dedicated people; she learned that the County was going to close the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in 1981 so she helped to found the American River Natural History Association a nonprofit that helped the County to financially support the EYNC and provided hundreds of volunteers to operate the Center. She saw the need for illustrated guides to the natural and cultural resources of the Sacramento area's parks and open space to further the public's education; Jo was able to make this a reality and she did so much more.

Jo has left a legacy of good work and important publications that will encourage children and adults that visit the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, or see and read her work elsewhere, to take up the cause of beneficial stewardship for our natural areas. All who enjoy and benefit from the clean creeks that drain into the American River have her to thank.

She provided me with much support and encouragement and we became good friends. I feel honored to offer this letter of support on behalf of the American River Natural History Association and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

Sincerely,


Marilee Flannery, Executive Director
Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Anne Rudin
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

September 28, 2010

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Members of the California Park and Recreation Society Hall of Honor Committee,

It gives me great pleasure to support the nomination of Jo Smith for the California Park and Recreation Society District (CPRS) II, Hall of Honor Legacy Award.

I knew Jo Smith for over 50 years through the work we did together on the League of Women Voters. She did an amazing job analyzing complex State ballot issues and writing arguments for and against them to enable voters to make informed decisions.

Jo Smith was instrumental in helping us to preserve our local environment by writing, illustrating and editing eight river and creek naturalist books. These publications will allow future generations to learn about how to appreciate and protect our environment. Jo was also a founding member of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and made numerous contributions to its existence.

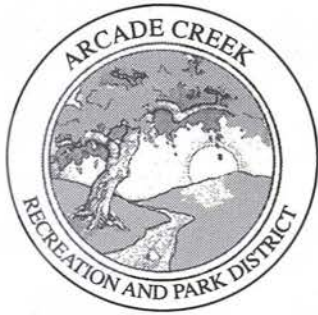
Jo Smith was a remarkable woman and I am pleased that she is being considered for the CPRS Hall of Honor Legacy Award.

Sincerely,

Anne Rudin

Anne Rudin

Former Mayor of the City of Sacramento



ARCADE CREEK RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs since 1959

September 30, 2010

California Parks and Recreation Society
District 2 Awards Committee

Re: 2011 CPRS District 2 Hall of Honor Awards - Legacy Category

To Whom It May Concern:

We understand that Jo Smith is being nominated for the 2011 CPRS District 2 Hall of Honor Awards - Legacy Category Award.

We knew Jo for many years. She was a prominent Sacramento naturalist and environmental advocate who inspired others to save nature by savoring the beauty of its wildlife and habitats.

Jo began her environmental advocacy when her children were young. She worked with Effie Yeaw to provide environmental education programs. She was a founding member of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Jo assisted in the development of many environmental publications for the American River Natural History Association. This work continued throughout her life ending a few years before her death.

I met Jo in 1988 when we began a chapter of the statewide Urban Creeks Council. Jo Smith along with Frank Cruzen were the organizers of the chapter. As an active member of the organization, Jo helped develop the educational program and school curriculum we use for nature education. In her quiet ways and strong will, Jo helped guide the organization and influenced volunteer board members. As a result the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council grew to become a very active environmental organization with regional participation in council programs.

Jo served on the Board of Directors of the Arcade Creek Recreation and Park District for ten years. She held various offices on the board. Jo was a tireless advocate of the district, its parks and programs. In honor of Jo's community and environmental commitment, the Board of Directors named the trail in the Arcade Creek Nature Area in her honor. The trail is now called the "Jo Smith Nature Trail".

Jo had influence outside the environmental community. She was active in the League of Women Voters. She worked tirelessly with local government representatives always educating and advocating.

Our district heartily recommends that Jo Smith receive the Legacy Category Award. Her influence in Sacramento will continue to be felt long after her death.

Sincerely,

Jane A. Steele
District Administrator

Municipal Services Agency

Department of Regional Parks
Janet R. Baker, Director



Terry Schutten, County Executive
Paul J. Hahn, Agency Administrator

County of Sacramento

January 17, 2009

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Smith and Family:

We were saddened by the news of the passing of Jo Smith on December 29, 2008. On behalf of the Recreation and Park Commissioners and the County of Sacramento Department of Regional Parks staff we wish to offer our condolences to all of you for your loss.

Jo Smith did so much for the Sacramento community, the Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. For more than 25 years Jo shared nature with children so they could explore and appreciate their local environment and wildlife in the area now known as the Effie Yeaw Nature Area. From 1965- 68 she and Effie Yeaw voluntarily led children through the area that was then known as Deterding Woods.

On August 12, 1968, Jo became a Recreation Leader with the Parks Department and continued to provide popular tours of the Ancil Hoffman nature area as an employee for four years. After Effie Yeaw's death in 1970, Jo continued Effie's vision of bringing children into nature to discover the wonders of the woods along the American River. When the Effie Yeaw Nature Center opened in 1976, Jo volunteered to develop and deliver programs to the public.

In 1980 the new Nature Center was threatened with closure. Jo worked with other concerned citizens to found the American River Natural History Association, a not-for-profit partner with the Regional Parks Department that is very active and continues to support the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. One of its other important functions is publishing information to educate the public about the natural and cultural history of the Sacramento area and the American River Parkway. Jo provided wonderful illustrations and co-edited many of these publications.



She was appointed by the County Board of Supervisors to serve on the Recreation and Park Commission from 1977-1981. As a Commissioner, Jo acted in an advisory capacity to the County of Sacramento Board of Supervisors and the Regional Parks Department Director. During her tenure, Jo helped to promote, aid, and encourage public recreation and community involvement, and oversaw the development and operation of all recreation areas and facilities in the County Parks system. Jo also served on the American River Parkway Advisory Committee for many years, representing District 3.

She was active in the American River Parkway Foundation, Save the American River Association and the Sacramento Tree Foundation, whose works encourage good stewardship of Sacramento's American River Parkway and other precious natural areas and resources of Sacramento County. Jo also co-founded the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council and coordinated the first annual neighborhood Creek Cleanups.

Jo has left a legacy of good work, stewardship, and important publications that will encourage children and adults that visit the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, or see and read her work elsewhere, to take up the cause of beneficial stewardship for our natural areas. All who enjoy and benefit from the clean creeks and the American River Parkway have her to thank.

Her energy and guidance will be missed, but never forgotten.

Most Sincerely,

Theodore Robinson
2nd District, Chair

Michele McCormick
4th District, Vice Chair



district 2

Tribute

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Hall of Honor 2012 Awards

Celebrating Regional Quality of Life
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Ed Mahany, 2007 Professional Leadership Inductee

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Award Categories

- Professional Leadership
- Legacy
- Regional Treasure

A Tribute to Jo Smith

It was my good fortune to have known Jo Smith for many years both as a friend and close neighbor. Our mutual interests in natural history insured that our paths met and crossed many times over the years. Sometimes it was working together on that delightful publication *The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region* where I would write up an account of a bird species and Jo would expertly create the essence of that bird through her superb artwork. But more often it was simply meeting up with her as she worked in her back yard when I was walking along Arcade Creek to meet with my classes at American River College. I always welcomed such happy encounters when we could catch up on the happenings along the creek and share our sightings and findings. These were always special moments and her eyes would light up as we talked about the natural world about us. She was a careful and watchful observer who could always describe an interesting event along the creek. I always enjoyed those meetings no matter how rushed I might be to get to the college. A few days ago as I once again walked past by her home, I felt a keen loss knowing those glorious visits with her had come to an end. I am certainly richer in spirit for having known Jo and each time I now set foot on the Jo Smith Nature Trail it has even more meaning to me. She touched many lives and not the least mine.

«GreetingLine»



district 2

Supporting Documentation

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Hall of Honor 2012 Awards

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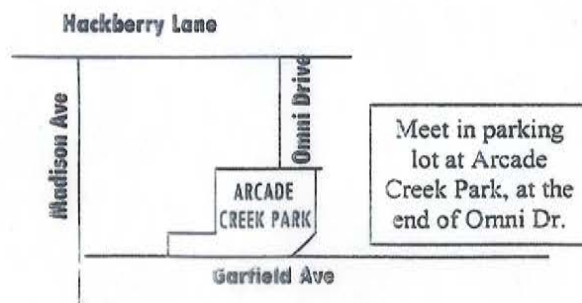
**ARCADE CREEK RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
and the SACRAMENTO URBAN CREEKS COUNCIL
Invite you to attend the:**

**ARCADE CREEK NATURE AREA
JO SMITH NATURE TRAIL
DEDICATION**

**Date: Saturday,
Nov. 24, 2007**
**Time: 10:00 a.m.—
12:00 p.m.**
**Place: Arcade
Creek Park,
End of Omni Dr.,
west off
Hackberry Lane,
just south of
Madison Avenue**



Join us for the dedication of the completed trail, bridge, and interpretive exhibits. We are honored to name the trail after Jo Smith, long time resident, environmentalist, and retired Director of the Arcade Creek Recreation and Park District. We will also be honoring Frank Cruzen cofounder (with Jo Smith) of the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council. This is the final link of the trail that runs south of Arcade Creek from Arcade Creek Park to American River College.



**RSVP (916) 482-8377 or
kcook@arcadecreekrecreation.com**

PROGRAM:

- ◆ 10:00 Ribbon Cutting for trail
- ◆ 10:20 Jo Smith Nature Trail sign dedication, cofounder of Sacramento Urban Creeks Council
- ◆ 10:30 Dedication of bench in memory of Frank Cruzen, cofounder of Sacramento Urban Creeks Council
- ◆ 10:40 Walk to view new interpretive exhibits.
- ◆ 10:50 Dipping Into Creeks Activity

Interview Jo Smith Naturalist/Environmentalist

Because this is the year of environmentalism in Girl Scouting, an interview with a former Girl Scout who cares for the earth seemed appropriate. Jo Smith is an avid supporter of nature areas and open spaces and is a proponent of finding nature in your own backyard, hence her long-time support of the American River Parkway in Sacramento County.

"Because of the excellent quality of nature programs on television, people tend to think that nature is something that is far away and something they'll never see except on television," says Jo. "But if you do some investigating, you can find nature areas very close to home." A pristine example of one of these areas is the land around the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Ancil Hoffman Park in Sacramento County, and a place very dear to Jo's heart. Maintained and protected by the County of Sacramento, the Effie Yeaw Nature Center consists of 73 acres of riparian woodland along the American River. Here you can see over 100 species of birds, deer, river otters and beavers, rabbits, and other wonders of nature.

Jo was first introduced to the area in the early 1960's when she took her Girl Scout troop there on a field trip and was given a tour of the natural area by Effie Yeaw herself. "I remember that after the tour of the area, Effie took us to her house and showed us the wild animals she had and was nursing back to health," Jo says. "It was my introduction to appreciating what we had right in our own backyard." So in 1965, after her Girl Scout leader days were over, Jo became a volunteer at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and helped with school programs and nature walks. After Effie Yeaw's death in 1970, Jo and others like her founded the American River Natural History Association to keep alive the vision Effie had for the area. In the late 1970's the Nature Center interpretive center was built, and a new era began for the facility.

During this time Jo served on advisory committees to update the American River Parkway plan and on Sacramento County's Open Space Task Force. She also served for a time on the board of directors of the Sacramento Science Center. During her time at Effie Yeaw, Jo helped write and illustrate several editions of a book called *Sacramento's Outdoor World*, a guide to the flora

and fauna of the Sacramento area. "We were carrying out Effie's vision, that of preserving and promoting the diversity of nature found in our own community," remembers Jo. "It was a special project for those of us who were Effie's friends, for we felt that we were keeping her visions alive."

As if her work at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center wasn't

enough, about five years ago, Jo became one of the founding members of the Sacramento Chapter of the Urban Creeks Council, which is a statewide organization. "My involvement in this is even closer to home. I live on Arcade Creek, and I saw a great need to keep the creek clean and natural." With the help and interest of other creek dwellers, the local Urban Creeks Council was founded and work began on saving the Sacramento area's creeks right

away. "The first thing we did was develop information packets about creeks for school children. Then just last year we held our first community creek cleanup and started the local program called Creek Week." Last year during Creek Week, volunteers, including a handful of Girl Scouts, cleaned tons of debris out of Arcade Creek and planted native oak trees along its banks.

Jo credits the success of the Urban Creeks Council with the fact that local people showed more interest in preserving an area that was in their neighborhood. "Sometimes I think that people who are concerned about the environment become overwhelmed at the many large-scale problems which face this planet," says Jo. "But when they can do something that benefits the environment close to home, it becomes more personal and they feel good about being able to make an impact on a natural area."

As a young girl in the Bay Area, Jo remembers her time as a Girl Scout being one of fun and learning. She has fond memories of camping, but when asked what she remembers most about Girl Scouting, she talks about the Girl Scout Promise. "The Promise really stuck in my mind and still influences me to this day," Jo says. "The real values I learned endured, and I believe the lessons I learned helped me become the person I am now."

Commenting on the Girl Scouts Care For The Earth national service project, Jo believes it's vitally important

Continued



INSIGHTS

INTERVIEW, *continued*

to get children outdoors and observing their own environment. "It's good to see young children learn an appreciation for the environment and wildlife," she says, "because if we don't start teaching them when they are young, we may not have adults who will care for our open spaces in the future."

In 1989, Jo was a nominee for the Girl Scout Role Model Award. When asked to cite examples of her character, conduct or behavior she would want Girl Scouts to emulate, Jo wrote the following: "I believe we must give of what talents we have to improve the quality of

our environment and act to insure a fair and responsive government. We must personally care for our natural world through learning and action. We must actively participate in government, not only by casting informed ballots, but constantly working to influence legislation and decision makers. We must accept responsibility for the condition of our society and the environment and do what we can to make a better world."

At the time of this writing, Jo had just been nominated for Sacramento Magazine's Regional Pride Award in the Environment category.



Obituary
Naturalist Jo Smith, who helped found the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, has died. **Page B4**

Sunday, January 4, 2009 | The Sacramento Bee | sacbee.com/ourregion

B1

OBITUARY

Smith was a force of nature for area

BY ROBERT D. DÁVILA
bdavila@sacbee.com

Jo Smith, a prominent Sacramento naturalist and environmental advocate who inspired others to save nature by savoring the beauty of its wildlife and habitats, died Monday. She was 83.

She died of complications from post-polio syndrome related to polio she had in her 20s, said her daughter Cindy.

Mrs. Smith was a founding member of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in 1976 and helped start the American River Natural History Association in 1981. She co-founded the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council and its popular Creek Week cleanup of neighborhood streams and riparian habitats.

County supervisors appointed her to the Sacramento Parks and Recreation Commission and the Arden Arcade Community Planning Council. She was elected to the Arcade Creek Park District board and served on the Sacramento County grand jury. She was active in many nature groups, including the Audubon Society, the American River Parkway Foundation, Save the American River Association and the Sacramento Tree Foundation.

Mrs. Smith was an environmental evangelist in the tradition of naturalist Effie Yeaw, her mentor and friend. She loved giving nature tours in the American River Parkway.

"She made much of the natural world come alive for people, especially children," nature center director Marilee Flannery said.

Mrs. Smith also inspired wildlife artists as an illustrator for publications, including "The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region," first published by Yeaw in 1963. She co-edited and illustrated "Nature's Window" in 1976 and helped produce "The American River Almanac" in 2001.

She received the Chevron Conservation Award in 1991 as one of 25 people honored nationwide for environmental protection. She was among 12 winners of the 1992 Sacramento Regional Pride Awards. Last year, a path along Arcade Creek behind her home near American River College was designated the Jo Smith Nature Trail.

Mrs. Smith also was a former state leader and member of the League of Women Voters for more than 50 years. She served on the league's state board as legislative director from 1971 to 1975.

She volunteered as a private citizen in local elections and advised candidates on environmental issues.

"She was very generous with her time and talent," former Sacramento Mayor Anne Rudin said.

Jo Frances Glasson was born in San Jose in 1925. She began exploring nature while playing in open fields and a creek behind her family's home in Los Altos.

She earned a bachelor's degree in art at Stanford University and married her husband of 61 years, T. George Smith. She reared four children as a

Jo Smith

Born: Nov. 10, 1925

Died: Dec. 29, 2008

Remembered

for: Environmen-

tal advocate and founding member of Effie Yeaw Nature Center, the American River Natural History Association and the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council; former legislative director for the state League of Women Voters; national recipient of 1991 Chevron Conservation Award
Survived by: Husband, T. George Smith of Carmichael; daughters, Cindy J. Smith and Susie Durant, both of Sacramento, and Shelley Smith of Chico; son, William F. Smith of Davis; and four grandchildren

Services: Celebration of life, 2-5 p.m. Jan. 17 at Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Donations may be made to the American River Natural History Association, P.O. Box 241, Carmichael, CA 95609.



homemaker while the family lived in Turlock and Marysville before settling in Sacramento in the early 1960s.

Mrs. Smith was a forceful organizer but reluctant leader, colleagues said. She was "very bright and very caring about the community in which she lived," former Sacramento County Supervisor Illa Collin said. Her passion for preserving the environment inspired others to get involved.

"She had a critical mind and a critical eye, but she never spoke critically," said Alta Tura, president of the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council.

"When she saw a problem, she found a way to approach it with positive, kind words."

Call The Bee's Robert D. Dávila, (916) 321-1077.