



US Army Corps
of Engineers
San Francisco District

The Eagle's Talon
Official Newsletter of Lake Sonoma

Editor
Linda Clapp, Park Ranger

Contributors
Michael Carroll, Park Ranger
Lisa Gurian, Park Ranger
Collin Phillips, SCA

Comments? Email to:
Visitor Center Director
Charles.E.Fenwick@usace.army.mil

Phone
707-431-4533 Visitor Center
707-431-4590 Park Office

Website [www.spn.usace.army.mil/
lake_sonoma/index.html](http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/lake_sonoma/index.html)

Coming Events

National Public Lands Day
September 25 8:00 to 3:00

Halloween Prowl 10/24/10
FREE Family Fun

Boo Shoot 10/16/10
Hunter registration 11/03/10

Thanksgiving 11/25/10
1st Hunt Day 11/27/10

1st Steelhead Spawn 1/6/11

Bird walk
Every Sunday at 9:00

For more information
call 707-431-4533

Join our Email list!

Save a tree and save our
Lake water by receiving our
calendar via email.



If you are new to our commu-
nity or have received a print
copy and would like to switch
to email, please notify:
Linda.S.Clapp@usace.army.mil
or call the Milt Brandt Visitor
Center at Lake Sonoma:
(707) 431-4533

VISITOR CENTER HOURS
8:30 am to 5:30 pm daily
FISH HATCHERY HOURS
8:30 am to 3:45 pm Daily

BOOK NOOK New to the
shelves in September
"Chronicle of the West" and
"Health of the Earth, Heal the
Soul." Written by Michael
Frome, the books cover 40
years focus on environ-
mental issues.

Milt Brandt Visitor Center at Lake Sonoma
3288 Skaggs Springs Road
Geyserville, CA 95425



The Official Newsletter of Lake Sonoma, Volume 1, Issue 4, Fall 2010

LAKE SONOMA PARK NEWS FALL 2010



THE EAGLE'S TALON

WELCOME TO LAKE SONOMA!

Paraphrasing poet Bonaro W. Overstreet,
"Fall is a symphony of permanence and
change."

Here at Lake Sonoma fall brings the annual
end of our season, with the end of the swim
line at Yorty Creek, end of extended hours at
the Visitor Center, end of camp-fire programs
and a big drop off in camping and recreational
boating. Also part of the annual rites of fall
here is our biggest volunteer workday of the
year - National Public Lands Day on Septem-
ber 25th. We hope you can join us (article pg.
4)

Fall is also bringing changes to Lake So-
noma. The Visitor Center and Fish Hatchery
will undergo major renovation and will be
closed for an extended period. We will try to
minimize any reduction in services (article to
the right.) Also look for some changes to the
very popular annual pig hunt that starts Nov
27th (article on pg. 3)

Have a great Fall and get involved in your
local Federal Park.

Merle Griffin, **Park Manager**



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CHANGES IN THE AIR

Seasons are sliding from Summer into
Fall, leaves are turning colors, and it's
time for one last ride on the lake; even
the dam face sports its fall coat of soot

The **Milt Brandt Visitor Center** will
soon undergo the biggest change. A
contract has been awarded to bring the
building into the 21st century and
"green" all infrastructure. Plans include
upgrading the theater to a state of the
art classroom, a lighting system de-
signed to save energy, a heating and
cooling system for the entire building,
existing spaces rearranged and even-
hot water in the bathrooms!

Although a start date has not been set
yet, we recognize these changes will be
disruptive as the visitor center will be
closed during construction. We rangers
are excited and are looking forward to
this challenge of providing quality ser-
vice to our customers while minimizing
the effects of restructuring.

As this contract covers only the facili-
ties, Nancy Rogers, District NRM
Ranger/Interpretive Specialist and
David Moore, CA DFG have submitted
grant proposals to fund new interpretive
displays.

LAKE SONOMA, THERE'S MORE TO DO THAN JUST BOATING AND CAMPING



WHAT'S THIS? WHY - IT'S A LIFE JACKET BUSH!



Have you seen the colorful life jackets at Yorty Creek and the Public Boat Launch? Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs or lifejackets) in sizes from infant to extra large, are now available for loan while swimming and boating at Lake Sonoma. The Life Jacket Loaner program is also available at the private marina. This program is made possible by a donation of 24 PFD's from Wal-Mart, a donation from BoatU.S. Foundation and funding from Friends of Lake Sonoma and the Corps. The Corps is the leading provider of outdoor recreation on all Federally-managed public lands in the United States and has a dedicated focus on water safety.

CALLING ALL PIGGIES - During the cooler winter months when visitation is low and the trails are empty, the Corps opens the Lake Sonoma hills to wild boar hunts. This year, hunter registration will begin on Wednesday, November 3rd with Saturday, November 27 as the first hunt day. While hunt regulations remain the same, there is one change for registration. Hunters need to present a drivers license, hunting license and a pig tag; they will also pay \$20 to complete the process. This charge covers the cost of the hunt and will also be used to promote environmental education in the park. October is a good time to visit the archery range built by Sonoma County Bowmen at Lone Rock to sight-in your bow and practice hiking the hills while carrying your equipment.



THE GEYSERS - (Technically, they are fumaroles) Steam columns can often be seen from Rockpile Road in the winter. For 50 years, this steam field has generated enough electricity to meet 60% of Northern California's power needs. To celebrate this milestone, Calpine is holding an Open House on Friday, November 5th. For reservations or more information, call 707-987-4270.

FRIENDS OF LAKE SONOMA (FOLS) - The Friends and Bike Monkey co-sponsored a 34 mile bike race in August. The winning cyclist, Levi Leipheimer, donated his prize to the Friends and in turn the Friends are contributing to the stream restoration project by the hatchery. Check it out and get involved! For more information go to www.lakesonoma.org.

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS UPDATED



James Clark and Darrell Huck, both summer resident volunteers, spruce up one of the lake's floating restrooms. Volunteers manned the fee kiosk at Liberty Glen, painted the kiosk and other bathrooms, worked with the maintenance staff, assisted at the front counter, split wood for campfires and assisted rangers throughout the park. The Hucks have returned to Texas while the Clarks (from Arkansas) continue to volunteer in the park. David Feaster and Dave Harmeson completed the summer staff.

Ann Bullard, volunteer from January through August, is now Survey Party Chief for Green Valley Consulting Engineers.

Suzanne Tolksdorf introduces our newest volunteer, Annelise Eileen, born September 8th. Proud papa, Hans, also celebrates an 2010 Outstanding Individual Award Winner, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

With Ann and Suzanne's departure, we are looking for volunteers at the information counter. When spawning season starts in January, we need school tour guides. The Trail Patrol continues to be very active. Call 431-4535 for more information.

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY 09/25/10

NPLD is the nation's largest volunteer effort to enhance public lands. Here at the lake, user groups such as; Bike Monkey, Sonoma County Bowmen, Backcountry Horsemen and the Boy Scouts of America will join with Corps Rangers and the public to work on park projects. This year's highlight will focus on the park's first handicap-accessible trail located at Yorty Creek.

Registration at Milt Brandt Visitor Center will begin at 8:15 with coffee, juice and paperwork. Work projects start at 9:00. Volunteers will return at 1:00 for a BBQ lunch on the lawn and everyone receives a coupon for entry to a federal park.

Volunteers should be prepared; wear sturdy shoes, bring a hat, work gloves and sunscreen. Additional tools, water and snacks will be available at registration.

See you Saturday, September 25th.

STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION,

Interns Steven Allen and Collin Phillips are wrapping up their season at Lake Sonoma after a successful summer of water safety and other interpretive programs. Both Steven and Collin led many water safety demonstrations at Yorty Creek with over 1800 contacts. While in the visitor center, they developed exhibits, guided hatchery tours, assisted with ranger projects and created camp fire programs