



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®
San Francisco District

The Eagle's Talon
Official Newsletter of Lake Sonoma

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

Coming Events

Wild Steelhead Festival
February 11 & 12, 2012

Daylight Savings Time
March 11, 20112

1st Day of Spring
March 20, 2012

Easter April 8, 2012

Earth Day April 22, 2012

Bird walk
Call Michael Carroll 431-4535

For more information on any
program call 707-431-4533

Join our Email list!

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



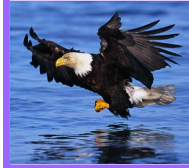
If you are new to our commu-
nity or have received a print
copy and would like to switch
to email, please notify:
Linda.S.Clapp@usace.army.mil
or call the Milt Brandt Visitor
Center desk at Lake Sonoma:
(707) 431-4533

LAKE SONOMA PARK NEWS

WINTER 2012



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THE EAGLE'S TALON

FORMER PARK MANAGER RETIRES

ALAS, Merle Griffin,
Park Manager from
2009-2011, retired
after 42 years with
the U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers.
Griffin served in
senior ranger, maintenance and man-
ager positions at both Lake Sonoma
and Lake Mendocino.



Lt. Col. Torrey DiCiro, SPN com-
mander, presented the Achievement
Medal for Civilian Service to Griffin
during his farewell luncheon. The
send-off was enjoyed by many of his
past and current co-workers, and he is
missed.

The Chief of Operations and Readiness,
Mike Dillabough, is now over-
seeing the park until a new manager is
hired.

CONSTRUCTION ZONE:

HARD HATS MANDATORY!



Have you noticed the big, red barn
behind the hatchery? Crews covered
the Coho rearing tanks, protecting this
endangered species from predators and
the elements.

More visible is the visitor center and
the fish hatchery which closed for reno-
vation last May. Work is progressing
slowly, and most of it is not obvious as it
is happening behind the scenes. Updat-
ing the heating, electrical and water
systems all take longer than expected.
If you've survived a remodeling proc-
ess, you understand how elastic time-
frames can be.

The park received approximately \$4.4
million in American Recovery and Rein-
vestment Act (ARRA) money over the
past two years.

Opening date for both facilities is ten-
tatively set for April 15, and all news
outlets will be notified.



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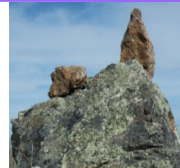
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Milt Brandt Visitor Center at Lake Sonoma
3288 Skaggs Springs Road
Geyserville, CA 95425

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



Q: WANT TO HOLD A SPECIAL EVENT?

WHAT QUALIFIES AS SPECIAL USE?

A: Anything above and beyond the normal guidelines of using the facilities at Lake Sonoma is Special Use. Do you want to have more people than a site can hold? Do you want to have amplified music? Do you want other special accommodations? If so, you can apply for a Special Use Permit. The application fee is \$50 and the forms are available at Park Headquarters. If you still aren't sure if your event is considered "special use", call one of our Special Use Coordinators, and they will be happy to answer your questions: Nicole Davidson at (707) 431-4525 or Michael Carroll at (707)431-4535.



CARROLL'S CORNER

Hello bird lovers! There are some beautiful birds migrating through Sonoma County this time of year and Lake Sonoma is certainly a popular resting spot for many of them.

If you are interested in viewing some of these fine feathered visitors along with our year round resident birds, then I'd be happy to take you on a Ranger led tour. We have binoculars and a spotting scope, but feel free to bring your own.

To schedule a walk, call me at 707-431-4535 or e-mail at Michael.T.Carroll@usace.army.mil.

VOLUNTEERS

Kate and Paul Goldberg joined us in November and will stay through Easter. Full-time RVers for the past nine years, they have volunteered hundreds of hours, mostly with the National Park Service from Washington's San Juan Islands to Fort Sumter in Charleston, N. Carolina. Lake Sonoma is their first Corps experience.

As both the Visitor Center and Fish Hatchery are under construction, Kate has focused on Front Desk activities in Headquarters, registering pig hunters and campers. Paul has engaged in a variety of tasks ranging from data entry to landscape maintenance. He has worked with the rangers painting amphitheater seats and other similar task. Both have added to the Corps presence at Liberty Glen with regular roves through the campground and periodic trash pickup.

The Goldbergs plan to return to Yellowstone National Park in April, where they will spend their third summer working at the Madison Junction campground.

MONUMENTS, MEMORIALS AND MARKERS



Manmade, natural or an unusual combination of both: examples of each can be found throughout the park. Have you spotted one during your visit in the park? Monuments and markers are installed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel to mark boundaries or surveyor points

The Corps set the park's first memorial at the Overlook to honor James Anders; Jim was the first Lake Sonoma Ranger and planned many of the trails around the lake. Perhaps you have rested on the newest memorial located at Skaggs Springs Vista; placed there by Eric Wiggins' friends and family. If you are considering a remembrance in the park, please discuss your ideas with the rangers as there are guidelines for memorials in the park.



UPDATES And the Rains Came

Late rains affect more than fish. Fewer hunters are out in the park this year and they complain that the dry fields are hurting the hunt as they can not stalk the hogs. Last year 30 pigs were harvested while only 12 have been taken this year.

Returning steelhead counts were very low in January with fewer than 75 fish in four weeks: the hatchery crew were unable to run a Thursday spawning session as there were so few fish. After the rains, (6" during the first storm), fish are returning in droves. More than 400 fish came in that week and over 200 the next. The hatchery count is more than 60 ahead of last year: February 9th's count is over 800. Although the buildings are closed, visitors can see Steelhead jumping the ladder and resting in the restored creek before swimming into the hatchery to spawn.

HAVING A PARTY?

Need a place to hold your family reunion, birthday party, baby shower, etc? Warm Springs Recreation Area group picnic shelters are available for only \$50! Log on to www.Recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777 to make your reservation today!

