

# CLEAR LAKE HORIZONS



Spring 2018  
C.L.S.P.I.A.

## In Remembrance of Lake County's Great Gift

2018 will mark 70 years since Lake County's State Park opened its gates to visitors. This happened only because 71 years ago a local resident decided that she needed to carry out her dad and late husband's wishes.

In August 1947, the Lake County Board of Supervisors received a letter from Nellie Dorn in which she and her family gave land to the county. Eventually this gift of valuable land was transferred to the State of California to become a park for the citizens of Lake County and its visitors.

A portion of that letter stated, *"Some years ago when my father, Lewis Henderson, was alive, Buckingham Park and Soda Bay were offered for sale for a few thousand dollars. He used all his influence to arouse interest in the possibility in providing the land for a park. He felt the county could buy it over a period of years, but the public could not be persuaded to see the coming need,*

*My husband, Fred Dorn, was vitally concerned that an adequate place should be provided where all people could enjoy his lake, and three years ago he took the first steps, that have now set aside the land for a public park.*

*It is our hope that the benefits of this park be maintained for the pleasure of all, by the gift of my children and myself, in memory of those two who formulated the idea, Lewis Henderson and Fred Dorn."*

Nellie Dorn's letter started a series of events culminating in the establishment of Clear Lake State Park in 1948. It seems only right that from time to time we remember those whose foresight and over-the-top generosity have left us with our precious Lake County jewel.



## It's Spring! WILDFLOWER BRUNCH Time!

2018 will make it 20 plus years that Clear Lake State Park Interpretive Association (CLSPIA) has opened their park events for the year with the -- **Wildflower Brunch Fund Raiser!** From 9AM to noon on the morning of April 28 at our beautiful Clear Lake State Park you'll be able to **Design your very own, unique, gourmet omelet.** You'll ...



- pick your fillings (*choose from 12*)
- watch your own *gifted chef* cook your omelet to your likings
- select a favorite pastry,
- add fresh fruit
- pour yourself juice
- and/or coffee ---- and enjoy a beautiful morning in a wonderful park!

## A Message from Madelene



Oh, my! What a winter we've had! From record warmth to record cold, we've had it all. And now, we're all wondering about a very dry season again.

With all this varied weather, the Park continues to be its beautiful self. Everyone needs to walk (or drive) through the Park to appreciate the mosses, ferns and the other plants that thrive on the boulders

along the roadway. Do you know Miner's Lettuce when you see it? It's lush right now.

CLSPIA continues its work supporting education and interpretation for the Park. Plans are underway for the Wildflower Brunch, which will be on April 28th, 2018. We're looking forward to a beautiful day, plenty of omelets and delightful music by David Neft. Don't forget to save the date!

We have redone the fish tank and are restocking it with new fish. We are also continuing to work with the State on creating a new camp fire center as well as other projects.

This is a wonderful time to appreciate the beauty of our precious Clear Lake State Park! Hope to see you there.

Madelene Lyon

## Clear Lake Horizons

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Clear Lake State  
Park

Interpretive  
Association

[www.clearlakestatepark.org](http://www.clearlakestatepark.org)

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## COME VISIT THE PARK VISITOR CENTER!



The Visitor Center will open for the Wildflower Brunch, April 28th, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. In May it will be open on Saturdays from 10-4 until Memorial Day weekend, after which it will be open from 10-4 on Saturday and 11-2 on Sunday through the summer / Labor Day weekend. We welcome folks to come visit the wonderful exhibits and store in the Visitor Center.

## *The Majestic WHITE PELICAN - Up Close*

So far 2018's winter and spring have afforded many opportunities to observe Lake County's largest water bird, the American White Pelican. If you've been near or on our beautiful Clear Lake this year, you have probably seen the white pelicans as they fly overhead -often in undulating formations, drift by in the breeze, or join the grebes, mallards, coots, gulls, cormorants, Ruddy Ducks and Buffleheads feeding together when and wherever the Lake's small fish are plentiful.

Although the number of this year's White Pelican visitors is up it does not compare with 2002 when we experienced what became known as The Winter of the American White Pelican. At various times over 500 pelicans could be seen loafing on the docks of Konocti Harbor. Often, large groups could be seen soaring over our area or foraging on the lake for food. That year, we witnessed the most White Pelicans since they returned their visits to the county in 1990.



During the period of 1948 to 1958, pelicans disappeared from Clear Lake. It was 31 years later that they began to return. Their absence was likely due to the use of DDT and TDE and/or other chemicals which may have washed into the lake causing reproductive failure in several bird species.

Another event that connects us to that Winter of the American White Pelican, happened to be the opening of CLSPIA's new White Pelican exhibit mounted from the ceiling of the bird area in the Visitor Center. Our beautiful White Pelican was discovered by Mildred Pickersgill at her home on the shore of Clear Lake in Lakeport. Once she found the dead bird she contacted the Park staff who quickly picked it up, stored it in their freezer and alerted CLSPIA of our good fortune. The bird was in excellent condition and our support group moved to have it prepared for display in the Visitor Center.

Although it's easy to overlook many of the birds we have on exhibition, the very size of our White Pelican demands a second look. Several of the docents, when interpreting the birds exhibition, tell how we obtained our Pelican. They explain who, when and where the bird was found and relate how it met its demise. It seemed this bird latched onto a fish which turned out to be a 12 inch, 3.3 pound Carp. Too big for the bird to consume, and consequently it choked to death. The docents then ask if they (especially the kids) can find any wisdom in this birds fate. Usually an accompanying adult will share that "we shouldn't bite off more than we can chew."

If by chance you haven't seen the American White Pelican in the Visitor Center, it alone is worth a trip. It is displayed in full flight and White Pelicans' wingspans measure 8 to 9.5 feet. Impressive! These large birds averages 63 inches in length and weigh an average of 15.4 pounds with males out weighing females. They have massive bills and huge throat pouches used as dip nets to catch fish.

Clear Lake provides a large predator-free area for winter foraging and preening for these pelicans that migrate from northern interior lake breeding sites which can be as far away as British Columbia. White Pelicans range to southern areas through Mexico, east across the southern states to Florida and down to Yucatan during non-breeding season.

American White Pelicans feed on the water surface by bill dipping. They do not dive into the water for food as Brown Pelican do. They seek food alone or in groups, often driving fish into more shallow water by wing raising and bill dipping. They consume non-commercial fish and can eat a fish that is half the length of their bill. When a fish is captured the pelican raises its bill skyward, water drains from the bill and the fish is swallowed. They feed both day and night.

(Continued on page 4.)

# Board Actions

## September 2017

- Paid \$500 annual premium for CLSPIA liability insurance.
- Were informed the fish tank in the Visitor Center has been drained and now ready for upgrade.
- Learned that Kelsey Creek Campground will be closed in November for water line upgrade.
- Was explained that some campgrounds would always be open, and closures would be rotated to accommodate the water line upgrades throughout the Park.
- Learned that Clear Lake State Park's first campfire event in several years drew about 90 people. An outstanding success thanks to Ranger Darin, Aide Molly and members of the Kelseyville Observatory staff. Consensus was to produce more such campfire events.
- Ranger Trevor will be getting his K-9 dog by the end of the month.
- "Walks in the Park" scheduled on a once-a-month basis.
- Arrangements completed for a CLSPIA Booth at the Kelseyville Pear Festival -last Sat. in Sept.

## October 2017

- \$479 in sales were realized from the Kelseyville Pear Festival booth.
- Aquarium cleaning will take place on the 23rd of this month.
- Park staff are searching to fill two camp hosts spots.
- Learned the California State Parks Dept. is going through a "revamp of focus" in 7 different departments. When this will happen is dependent on the legislature.
- Brad, Gina and Bobbi will each forward an article to Verna to enrich our website.
- Expressed need to update our handling of credit card sales in the Visitor Center.
- Board members were asked to search 2018 calendar for conflicts with our regularly scheduled events.  
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## (White Pelican -- Continued from page 3.)

At the breeding site, the birds establish pairs and create a shallow scrape in the ground for a nest. The female will lay two white eggs which are about 3.5 by 2 inches. Both the female and male incubate the eggs for 28 to 30 days under their webbed feet. Yes, the eggs are incubated under their webbed feet! Imagine the care taken in turning the eggs over at least three times every day.



Brooding begins with the first squawk of the chick. The eggs are no longer kept under the feet. Each chick takes about a day and a half to hatch. Since the eggs are laid two days apart, the chicks hatch in that order. New chicks are naked, helpless, eyes are closed, bodies are orange and bills and pouch are gray. By the end of the first day their eyes are open, and by the end of the first week they are covered with white down. Often only one chick survives as the older becomes stronger and harasses the younger, sometimes pushing it out of the nest.

Initially the chicks are brooded continuously as they would die quickly if exposed to the sun or cold. The chicks are fed by regurgitation. A pelican never carries food in its pouch. As the chicks grow the food is regurgitated in larger pieces and finally, the young actually reach down the throat of the parent to obtain food.

Both parents brood to about 18 days, stopping gradually. After 25 days, the parents visit the chicks only for brief visits to feed them. The young leave the nesting site after 10 to 11 weeks. This is about a week after their first flight.

Fossils tell us that the species *Pelecanus* has been in California about 600,000 years. Pelican fossils have been found in a glacial age lake bed near Barstow, CA. Pelican fossils found in France date back 21 million years before present time.

We invite you to come see this marvelous American White Pelican up close and personal the next time you are at the Visitor Center. Otherwise enjoy it wherever you spot it in our wonder-filled Lake County.

*Much of the information in this article is credited to a Newsletter article written by Leona Butts*

(Board Actions -- Continued from page 4.)

### November 2017

- Paid \$3,706.16 for new machinery and labor to upgrade our Visitor Center fish tank exhibit.
- Ailing trees in the Park are being marked for possible removal.
- Phil & Pam are currently filling a camp host spots, and staff are looking for more host help..
- Learned “Green Friday,” the day after Thanksgiving, will feature free admission, -- dawn to dusk.
- Were informed the annual “Christmas Bird Count” by the National Audubon Society will count birds at CLSP and Anderson Marsh. The info gathered will be entered into the “eBird database at Cornell University in New York and used worldwide.
- “Hikes in the Park” are scheduled as follows: Jan.1 – Chuck Sturges; Feb. 10 -Val Nixon; Mar. 10 – Billy Gear; and April 14 – Chuck again.
- Volunteers from both Anderson Marsh and Clear Lake State Park enjoyed an appreciation luncheon beautifully arranged and set up by Molly. CLSPIA paid for the event expenses.
- Consensus was that the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association (AMIA) should share the expenses if the event is to continue.
- Discussed updating our (CLSPIA) website. Brad volunteered to work with Verna on this.
- Our fish tank upgrade is complete and looks great. Staff will need training for proper care.
- Finalized 2018 CLSPIA events: Wildflower Brunch April 28th; Annual Membership Meeting July 19; Staff Appreciation Luncheon August 16th; Patrons Appreciation Evening Sept. 23rd, and Visitor Center will open April 28th and close on Labor Day Sept. 3rd.

**December 2017 no meeting.**

### January 2018

- Darin reported a new camp host in place, and four other parties interested to host through Fall.
- Molly, our interpretive aide, has been offered position of Park office coordinator.
- Wanted - an Interpretive aide. Darin will work at doing this.
- Park office hours will be Tue. through Thur. 8AM - 4:30PM with lunch break Noon – 1PM.
- Bobbi & Neil have membership renewal letter ready for mailing.
- Decided on two newsletters annually. 1st -out before Wildflower Brunch, 2nd out by Labor Day.

### February 2018

- Approved unanimously our 2018 budget.
- Darin reported park aides interviews are underway. No interest in interpretive aide job to date.
- Molly will continue to schedule hike leaders and produce press releases on the hikes.
- Board members will schedule volunteers for Visitor Center duty this camping season.
- Copies of CLSPIA by-laws will be distributed in preparation for discussion at Mar. meeting.
- Discussed growing membership. Using wi-fi was suggested. Darin will obtain information.
- CLSPIA’s website upgraded by Verna & Brad. Board asked to check it, and offer new ideas.
- Reported 44 renewals of memberships with 18 being Patrons.
- A one week count of CLSPIA website hits totaled 699 with 200 of them being brand new hits.
- Completed arrangements for Wildflower Brunch. David Neft will provide music. Tickets \$20.
- Flyer advertising the Brunch will be sent to all members with e-mail addresses.
- Board will send letter to State Parks defining a) our commitment to rebuilding a campfire facility, and b) our initial financial backing of \$21,000. In return we will ask the state for assurance that they are doing their part in making this project happen.
- Re-reminded board members that their articles for the Newsletter need to be with Verna by 3/1.



# THE PILEATED WOODPECKER

(*Dryocopus pileatus*)

Although listed as “Uncommon” in the “Birds of Lake County bird list”, the Pileated Woodpecker can be regularly heard and often seen in Clear Lake State Park at almost any time of year. It seems that over the past ten years the number of sightings has increased, particularly within Clear Lake State



Park, but also throughout the county in suitable habitat of mature mixed forests and Oak woodland. The Pileated’s scientific name, *Dryocopus pileatus*, (“tree cleaver” or “wood cutter”) is very representative of one of the birds most entertaining and infamous activities, the destructive pounding, “cleaving”, “cutting” and tearing of both large and small holes or crevices in trees, as well as the state park’s buildings.

Reference: “The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds” by John K. Terres, Wings Books, New York, 1991. “...genus name: from Gr. *Drys*, a tree, especially an oak (Jaeger, 1955), and *kopis*, cleaver: a “tree cleaver” or ‘wood cutter’.”

## Physical Characteristics

Length: 16.5” (Crow size)

Wing span: 29”

Weight: 10 oz to 16 oz with the male > female

The male and female can quickly be identified by the red head cap which extends from the bill over the head to the back of the head on the male and only from the forehead to the back of the head on the female. The male also has a red malar or red streak extending from below the bill back along the lower cheek, while the female has a black streak.

## Feeding

Loves carpenter ants, wood-boring beetles, flies, mosquitoes, moths, ants, grubs, poison oak berries (about 75% animal food and 25% vegetation).

## Nesting

Normally excavates a hole, in a dead snag or limb, with the hole 15 to 40+ feet above the ground. The hole is about 3 or 4 inches long and 3 inches wide appearing oblong while most other woodpeckers in the area have circular holes. The interior-nesting cavity is about 10 to 24 inches deep, large enough to house two adults and maybe 3 to 5 young chicks. It has been my observation that when the chicks get big enough to stick their heads out the hole, one or both of the parents move-out to perch/roost nearby in-order to cut down on the household congestion. The literature states that the parents make a number of holes in addition to the nesting hole and roost in these holes while the mate is caring for the young. If you have the time to watch a nest hole you will see that the parents switch nesting duties. One study observed the male entering the nest just prior to sunset and leaving before sunrise. I have also witnessed similar shift changes at nest sites in the park over the years.



(Continued on page 7.)

**FRIENDS of Clear Lake State Park Interpretive Association (CLSPIA) who have ALREADY renewed their 2018 memberships, THANK YOU !**

**INDIVIDUAL members**

Leona Butts  
Kelly F. Cox  
Cathy Dion  
Virginia Graziani  
Barbara Harris  
Darlene Hecomovich  
Ellen Karmowski  
Bella Kluyt  
Elyse Mengle  
Sandy Moura  
Linda Pyers  
Kathleen Scavone  
Verna Schaffer  
Janice Stokes  
Marilyn Waits  
Yvonne Walters

Ron & Anna Hess  
Bob & Beth Keiffer  
Mike & Dena Keithly  
Jayne & Jeff Lyon  
Tom & Pam Lyon  
Sheila O'Hara & William Fredriks  
Patrick & Janet Peterson  
Keith & Denise Petterson  
Cameron & Sharon Reeves  
Jim & Susanne Scholz  
Helen & Robert Stettler  
Stephen & Nancy Stetzer  
Chuck & Joan Sturges  
Janet & Robert Swedberg  
Tom & Tina Wasson  
Sharon Weeks & Barry Oselett

**PATRON members**

Bradley & Kathy Barnwell  
Julie & John Berry  
John & Betty Brookes  
Henry Bornstein & Gae Henry  
Lynne Bruner  
Kim & Charlie Eadie  
Pam Harrington  
Myron & Marilyn Holdenreid  
Kathy & Larry Jansen  
William & Mary Kettenhofen  
Madelene Lyon  
Harry & Roberta Lyons  
Pam & Gary Maes  
John & Vicki Maley  
Tom & Val Nixon  
Russell & Joyce Porterfield  
Carolyn & Skip Rohner  
Rich & Oleta Simpson  
Bob & Nancy Smith  
Jay T. Smith  
Bobbi & Neil Towne  
Lisa & Paul Vartabedian

**FAMILY members**

Bill & Roberta Beat  
Kim & Olga Clymire  
Donald & Margaret Eutenier  
Daniel Hanson & Ellie  
Perinoni

**BUSINESS members**

Bernie & Lynne Butcher  
Joanne Jameson  
Bill & Colleen Kranz  
Twin Pine Casino

**If your name does not appear above, we invite you to renew your membership using the form at the end of this newsletter, or go to [www.clearlakestatepark.org](http://www.clearlakestatepark.org) to renew online.**

(Pileated Woodpecker -- Continued from page 6.)

Watch for the nest building (hole digging) to begin in March or April and for the heads of the young birds to be popping out of the nest hole in late May or June.

Normally 3 to 5 white eggs are incubated for 15 to 18 days and the young fledge in 28+ days. The most young I have seen in one nest has been 3. After the young are truly independent they leave the parents territory and they have been known to relocate up to 20 miles away.

**Age**

There are a few cases noted in my research that had documented cases of birds living 9 to 10 years, with one still alive at age 13.

**Migration**

The pileated is not a migratory bird and in fact will occupy a guarded territory of a few hundred acres throughout their life.

Happy Birding  
Brad Barnwell

**Note:** If you are reading Clear Lake State Park Horizons for the first time and find the goals and activities interesting enough to pursue further, we would welcome your inquiry into becoming a volunteer docent. It really is lots of fun, as well as highly educational. If you are interested, please call the Ranger's office at 279-2267.



Clear Lake State Park  
Interpretive Association  
5300 Soda Bay Road  
Kelseyville, CA 95451

## 2018 CLSPIA Membership Form

*Clear Lake State park Interpretive Association (CLSPIA)*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**\*ANNUAL CLSPIA MEMBERSHIP FEES for 2018** *(Please check those that apply)*

Individual (\$10)  Family (\$18)  Business (\$50)  Patron (\$100)  Contribution  Gift Membership (for another)

**PAYMENT** *(Please check one):*  **Check**  **VISA Card**  **Master Card** or online at [www.clearlakestatepark.org](http://www.clearlakestatepark.org)

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE *(if using credit card)* \_\_\_\_\_

**INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING at the PARK?** *(Please check any and all)*

Park Newsletter  Board of Directors  Wildflower Brunch  Special Events

**Clip and Mail to -- CLSPIA -- 5300 Soda Bay Road, Kelseyville, CA 95451**

*\* MEMBERSHIP CARD ENTITLES MEMBER TO 10% DISCOUNT ON VISITOR CENTER STORE ITEMS.*