

The Orange Peel

2026-2027 | President Steve Blair | Rotary Creates a Lasting Impact!

Next Meeting Friday, Sept 25, 2026

Speaker - Jackie Hadley
and Jules Baez - American
River Parkway Foundation

Greeters - Mary Shears

Invocation - Bert Smith

Vocation - Bert Smith

Raffle tickets - Phyllis
Macdonald

The Four-Way Test

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to All
Concerned?

Will it build GOOD
WILL and BETTER
FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL
to all concerned?

Effie Yeaw Nature Center: 50 Years of Wonder

Speaker-chair Licia Green introduced **Greg Dewey** who is the the President of the Board of Directors of the **American River Natural History Association (ARNHA)**, the not-for-profit that manages the **Effie Yeaw Nature Center**.



Greg retired to Sacramento after a life-long career as a faculty member and administrator in a number of colleges and universities including the Claremont Colleges and the University of La Verne. He taught and did research in biochemistry and computational biology. Greg and his wife, Cindy, came to Sacramento in 2022 to be

near family. They immediately fell in love with the American River and hike or bike along it almost daily.

They both became involved in the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and Cindy has worked as a docent. They have been captivated by the mission of the Nature Center and are impressed by the admirable commitment of those who work and volunteer here.

Greg grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Its a city where two rivers come together, just like Sacramento which has two rivers that come together. The steel mills of Pittsburgh polluted the Monongahela River for years. When Greg came

Recap of the Meeting Sept 11, 2026

Guests

Greg Dewey - Effie Yeaw Nature Center: 50 Years of Wonder.

Ernie Womack - husband of Past-President Katrina Womack

Visiting Rotarians

None

District 5180 Governor
Dave Veden
2026-2027

Rotary International
President 2025-2026
Olayinka Hakeem Babalola

The 2025-2026 Rotary
International presidential
theme is "Create Lasting
Impact"

to Sacramento, he thought that the American River was one of the most beautiful rivers he had ever seen.

The Effie Yeaw Nature Center is located on county land. The land is leased from the county and its not a county park. It is a nature preserve and fishermen, bikes and dogs are prohibited from going into the preserve. Through the years the native animals such as deer, raccoons, squirrels, coyotes, etc., and many birds species have made their home there. It is named in honor of **Effie Yeaw**, an educator and passionate conservationist, the center reflects her enduring commitment to curiosity, learning, and stewardship of the natural world.



The American River Natural History Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public benefit corporation whose purpose is to conduct, promote, aid, and augment educational and interpretive activities about the natural and cultural histories of the Sacramento region, principally in the American River Parkway, the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, and the educational facilities of other organizations and agencies along the lower American River. The ARNHA does not receive any money from the county. Seventy percent of the budget comes from a fundraising gala and the rest comes from donations and grants.

In 2024 financial problems were discovered and there was a turn over of the board. There is a rejuvenated board in place and the community is supporting them. Financial guard rails have been put in place.

Education programs offered at the center are school programs and teacher resources, adult programs, speaker series, group tours and Nature Day camps. Naturalist are available to talk to at the Interpretive Center. There is a small number of animals, reptiles, birds and a tarantula. There is a recreated Miwok Indian village showing their tradition of living with the land.

The center turns 50 years old this year. Greg reflected on where the natural preserve is



going. In Ethiopia, when a church was built, it was set on a large piece of land. The belief was that the land surrounding the church represented Eden. Over many years, the cities grew up around the churches. The church and the surrounding land became islands of refuge from the over populated places.

Greg said that Effie Yeaw is an island of green where visitors can get away from the business of life and connect with nature. Visitors can sit in nature (ie., forest bathing) without electronics.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary, work is planned to enhance ADA accessibility so every visitor can explore with ease, refresh the interactive exhibits that spark curiosity for all ages, and a long-awaited renovations to refresh and revitalize our beloved center. Further plans include building an aviary for raptors.

The Effie Yeaw Nature Center is located inside the Ancil Hoffman County Park: 2850 San Lorenzo Way (off Tarshes Dr) Carmichael CA 95608.



The center is open six days a week and closed on Mondays. An \$8 Daily Parking Pass is available for purchase at the self-pay station in the parking lot near the park entry kiosk. EYNC Members and Sacramento County Park Pass holders enjoy free parking.

Greg wrapped up his talk by talking about volunteer opportunities. For more information, visit EffieYeawNature.org. President Steve thanked Greg for commitment to preserving nature and presented him with a speaker's gift, a handcrafted pen made by member Bob Kurtz.

Announcements & Committee Reports

Note from the editor - I joined the meeting late via Zoom and I missed the announcements and committee reports. Don Russell sent me his notes so that is what I'm reporting on.

Don Russell said that it's National Cheese Burger Day. What do you call a donkey with only three legs? A Wonkey!

The next social event will be on Saturday, September 19, 5pm. It will be a backyard BBQ at Don Glover's home located at 7701 Greenridge Way, Fair Oaks.

Vocational

There was no vocational speaker today. Instead **President Steve Blair** played a video about Polio and Rotary's effort to eradicate polio from the world.

Happy Fines

Note from the editor - I joined the meeting via zoom and I couldn't hear the happy fines with the exception of one.

Licia Green was happy that people came to the crab meeting that she held at her home.

The Orange Ball Raffle

There were seven balls and \$95. **Phyllis Macdonald** had the winning ticket and she pulled the white golf ball out of the basket! Too bad, so sad. That means that Phyllis will be selling raffle tickets at the next meeting.



Photo Album

BBQ party at Don Glover's home!