

**Hall of
Honor
Sample
Application**



district 2

Letters of Support

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

Award Categories

- Professional Leadership
- Legacy
- Regional Treasure

Nominations Due
October 7, 2011

Awards Ceremony
Spring 2012

www.cprsd2.com

**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.

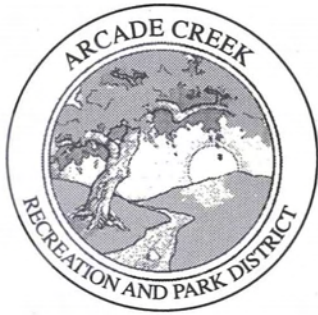
Jo Smith was a remarkable woman and I am pleased that she is being considered for the CPRS Hall of Honor Legacy Award.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane A. Steele".

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