

**Hall of
Honor
Sample
Application**



district 2

Supporting Documentation

**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

Nominations Due
October 7, 2011

Awards Ceremony
Spring 2012

Award Categories

- Professional Leadership
- Legacy
- Regional Treasure

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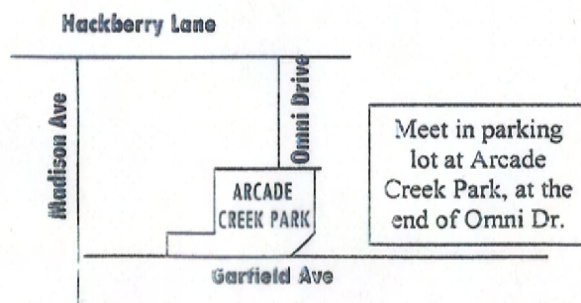
**ARCADE CREEK RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
and the SACRAMENTO URBAN CREEKS COUNCIL
Invite you to attend the:**

11/24/07 5:2007 **ARCADE CREEK NATURE AREA
JO SMITH NATURE TRAIL
DEDICATION**

**Date: Saturday,
Nov. 24, 2007**
**Time: 10:00 a.m.—
12:00 p.m.**
**Place: Arcade
Creek Park,
End of Omni Dr.,
west off
Hackberry Lane,
just south of
Madison Avenue**



Join us for the dedication of the completed trail, bridge, and interpretive exhibits. We are honored to name the trail after Jo Smith, long time resident, environmentalist, and retired Director of the Arcade Creek Recreation and Park District. We will also be honoring Frank Cruzen cofounder (with Jo Smith) of the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council. This is the final link of the trail that runs south of Arcade Creek from Arcade Creek Park to American River College.



**RSVP (916) 482-8377 or
kcook@arcadecreekrecreation.com**

PROGRAM:

- ◆ 10:00 Ribbon Cutting for trail
- ◆ 10:20 Jo Smith Nature Trail sign dedication, cofounder of Sacramento Urban Creeks Council
- ◆ 10:30 Dedication of bench in memory of Frank Cruzen, cofounder of Sacramento Urban Creeks Council
- ◆ 10:40 Walk to view new interpretive exhibits.
- ◆ 10: 50 Dipping Into Creeks Activity

Interview Jo Smith Naturalist/Environmentalist

Because this is the year of environmentalism in Girl Scouting, an interview with a former Girl Scout who cares for the earth seemed appropriate. Jo Smith is an avid supporter of nature areas and open spaces and is a proponent of finding nature in your own backyard, hence her long-time support of the American River Parkway in Sacramento County.

"Because of the excellent quality of nature programs on television, people tend to think that nature is something that is far away and something they'll never see except on television," says Jo. "But if you do some investigating, you can find nature areas very close to home." A pristine example of one of these areas is the land around the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Ancil Hoffman Park in Sacramento County, and a place very dear to Jo's heart. Maintained and protected by the County of Sacramento, the Effie Yeaw Nature Center consists of 73 acres of riparian woodland along the American River. Here you can see over 100 species of birds, deer, river otters and beavers, rabbits, and other wonders of nature.

Jo was first introduced to the area in the early 1960's when she took her Girl Scout troop there on a field trip and was given a tour of the natural area by Effie Yeaw herself. "I remember that after the tour of the area, Effie took us to her house and showed us the wild animals she had and was nursing back to health," Jo says. "It was my introduction to appreciating what we had right in our own backyard." So in 1965, after her Girl Scout leader days were over, Jo became a volunteer at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and helped with school programs and nature walks. After Effie Yeaw's death in 1970, Jo and others like her founded the American River Natural History Association to keep alive the vision Effie had for the area. In the late 1970's the Nature Center interpretive center was built, and a new era began for the facility.

During this time Jo served on advisory committees to update the American River Parkway plan and on Sacramento County's Open Space Task Force. She also served for a time on the board of directors of the Sacramento Science Center. During her time at Effie Yeaw, Jo helped write and illustrate several editions of a book called *Sacramento's Outdoor World*, a guide to the flora

and fauna of the Sacramento area. "We were carrying out Effie's vision, that of preserving and promoting the diversity of nature found in our own community," remembers Jo. "It was a special project for those of us who were Effie's friends, for we felt that we were keeping her visions alive."

As if her work at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center wasn't enough, about five years ago, Jo became one of the founding members of the Sacramento Chapter of the Urban Creeks Council, which is a statewide organization. "My involvement in this is even closer to home. I live on Arcade Creek, and I saw a great need to keep the creek clean and natural." With the help and interest of other creek dwellers, the local Urban Creeks Council was founded and work began on saving the Sacramento area's creeks right

away. "The first thing we did was develop information packets about creeks for school children. Then just last year we held our first community creek cleanup and started the local program called Creek Week." Last year during Creek Week, volunteers, including a handful of Girl Scouts, cleaned tons of debris out of Arcade Creek and planted native oak trees along its banks.

Jo credits the success of the Urban Creeks Council with the fact that local people showed more interest in preserving an area that was in their neighborhood. "Sometimes I think that people who are concerned about the environment become overwhelmed at the many large-scale problems which face this planet," says Jo. "But when they can do something that benefits the environment close to home, it becomes more personal and they feel good about being able to make an impact on a natural area."

As a young girl in the Bay Area, Jo remembers her time as a Girl Scout being one of fun and learning. She has fond memories of camping, but when asked what she remembers most about Girl Scouting, she talks about the Girl Scout Promise. "The Promise really stuck in my mind and still influences me to this day," Jo says. "The real values I learned endured, and I believe the lessons I learned helped me become the person I am now."

Commenting on the Girl Scouts Care For The Earth national service project, Jo believes it's vitally important

Continued



INTERVIEW, *continued*

to get children outdoors and observing their own environment. "It's good to see young children learn an appreciation for the environment and wildlife," she says, "because if we don't start teaching them when they are young, we may not have adults who will care for our open spaces in the future."

In 1989, Jo was a nominee for the Girl Scout Role Model Award. When asked to cite examples of her character, conduct or behavior she would want Girl Scouts to emulate, Jo wrote the following: "I believe we must give of what talents we have to improve the quality of

our environment and act to insure a fair and responsive government. We must personally care for our natural world through learning and action. We must actively participate in government, not only by casting informed ballots, but constantly working to influence legislation and decision makers. We must accept responsibility for the condition of our society and the environment and do what we can to make a better world."

At the time of this writing, Jo had just been nominated for Sacramento Magazine's Regional Pride Award in the Environment category.



OBITUARY

Smith was a force of nature for area

BY ROBERT D. DÁVILA
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Jo Smith, a prominent Sacramento naturalist and environmental advocate who inspired others to save nature by savoring the beauty of its wildlife and habitats, died Monday. She was 83.

She died of complications from post-polio syndrome related to polio she had in her 20s, said her daughter Cindy.

Mrs. Smith was a founding member of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in 1976 and helped start the American River Natural History Association in 1981. She co-founded the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council and its popular Creek Week cleanup of neighborhood streams and riparian habitats.

County supervisors appointed her to the Sacramento Parks and Recreation Commission and the Arden Arcade Community Planning Council. She was elected to the Arcade Creek Park District board and served on the Sacramento County grand jury. She was active in many nature groups, including the Audubon Society, the American River Parkway Foundation, Save the American River Association and the Sacramento Tree Foundation.

Mrs. Smith was an environmental evangelist in the tradition of naturalist Effie Yeaw, her mentor and friend. She loved giving nature tours in the American River Parkway.

"She made much of the natural world come alive for people, especially children," nature center director Marilee Flannery said.

Mrs. Smith also inspired wildlife artists as an illustrator for publications, including "The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region," first published by Yeaw in 1963. She co-edited and illustrated "Nature's Window" in 1976 and helped produce "The American River Almanac" in 2001.

She received the Chevron Conservation Award in 1991 as one of 25 people honored nationwide for environmental protection. She was among 12 winners of the 1992 Sacramento Regional Pride Awards. Last year, a path along Arcade Creek behind her home near American River College was designated the Jo Smith Nature Trail.

Mrs. Smith also was a former state leader and member of the League of Women Voters for more than 50 years. She served on the league's state board as legislative director from 1971 to 1975.

She volunteered as a private citizen in local elections and advised candidates on environmental issues.

"She was very generous with her time and talent," former Sacramento Mayor Anne Rudin said.

Jo Frances Glasson was born in San Jose in 1925. She began exploring nature while playing in open fields and a creek behind her family's home in Los Altos.

She earned a bachelor's degree in art at Stanford University and married her husband of 61 years, T. George Smith. She reared four children as a

Jo Smith

Born: Nov. 10, 1925

Died: Dec. 29, 2008

Remembered

for: Environmen-

tal advocate and founding member of Effie Yeaw Nature Center, the American River Natural History Association and the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council; former legislative director for the state League of Women Voters; national recipient of 1991 Chevron Conservation Award
Survived by: Husband, T. George Smith of Carmichael; daughters, Cindy J. Smith and Susie Durant, both of Sacramento, and Shelley Smith of Chico; son, William F. Smith of Davis; and four grandchildren

Services: Celebration of life, 2-5 p.m. Jan. 17 at Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Donations may be made to the American River Natural History Association, P.O. Box 241, Carmichael, CA 95609.



homemaker while the family lived in Turlock and Marysville before settling in Sacramento in the early 1960s.

Mrs. Smith was a forceful organizer but reluctant leader, colleagues said. She was "very bright and very caring about the community in which she lived," former Sacramento County Supervisor Illa Collin said. Her passion for preserving the environment inspired others to get involved.

"She had a critical mind and a critical eye, but she never spoke critically," said Alta Tura, president of the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council.

"When she saw a problem, she found a way to approach it with positive, kind words."

Call The Bee's Robert D. Dávila, (916) 321-1077.