







## A Tribute to Jo Smith

It was my good fortune to have known Jo Smith for many years both as a friend and close neighbor. Our mutual interests in natural history insured that our paths met and crossed many times over the years. Sometimes it was working together on that delightful publication The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region where I would write up an account of a bird species and Jo would expertly create the essence of that bird through her superb artwork. But more often it was simply meeting up with her as she worked in her back yard when I was walking along Arcade Creek to meet with my classes at American River College. I always welcomed such happy encounters when we could catch up on the happenings along the creek and share our sightings and findings. These were always special moments and her eyes would light up as we talked about the natural world about us. She was a careful and watchful observer who could always describe an interesting event along the creek. I always enjoyed those meetings no matter how rushed I might be to get to the college. A few days ago as I once again walked past by her home, I felt a keen loss knowing those glorious visits with her had come to an end. I am certainly richer in spirit for having known Jo and each time I now set foot on the Jo Smith Nature Trail it has even more meaning to me. She touched many lives and not the least mine.

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