

FRIENDS OF CA CITRUS PARK



FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT!

The Friends of CA Citrus Park is delighted to spotlight the National Charity League of Riverside for their continued partnership with us.

The NCL is a nationally recognized organization where mothers and daughters bond together through community service.

Through our new and expanding partnership, NCL has kindly staffed our community events as well as agreed to volunteer in our gift shop during weekends.

It is partnerships such as these that contribute to the overall development of the park.

When the Visitor's Center is able to reopen and we are able to safely hold events, we will be seeking additional volunteers.

If interested, and over the age of 16, please contact Stephanie Breads at stephaniebreads@yahoo.com on ways to become involved in volunteer work!

THE GLORY OF WESTERN ENGINE

During the early 1900's, California experienced huge growth thanks to the citrus industry. Often referred to as the second Gold Rush, California's citrus industry was heavily influenced by the industrial revolution.

The use of large mechanical machines supported groves and communities around California. Thanks to dedicated volunteers, one of these impressive machines has been restored and housed at the California Citrus State Historic Park.

This impressive machine, manufactured by the Western Engine Company of Los Angeles, was accompanied by a sister engine in the original pump house. Together, they would distribute millions of gallons of water throughout the groves and surrounding towns.

The machines ran 24 hours a day from April to September. Built in 1926, the engines were fitted with large 7 foot diameter flywheels that provided power through flat belts to turn large centrifugal pumps. These pumps would lift the water to elevated reservoirs throughout the area and flowed by gravity to the groves.

Today, the California Citrus Park houses the Western Engine as a historical piece of the Citrus Industry, reminding visitors of the grand machines that helped nurture and grow the entire state.

For the last seven years, the Western Engine Restoration Team (WERT), comprised of Ron Haskell, Dutch Bankston, Jim Treadwell, Kim Hammel and Dick Bouma, have given the Western Engine the glory it deserves by completely restoring the engine and building a period correct display in the park.

Surrounded by wooden walls and antiques that were generously donated, the Western Engine now has a wonderful home.

With the support of the Friends and State Parks, the Western Engine's development team continues to make improvements and maintain this amazing engine, in order to share and educate about the wonders of the machine.

With the goal of constructing a bridge to make the engine more accessible, Haskell hopes that soon enough, the team will be able to hold tours twice a month. Visitors will be able to see the Western Engine run and learn about the engine's history and significance to the state. To get a glimpse of the engine running, check out the video on YouTube: [WAPA Running the Western 200hp Engine at Citrus State Park](#).

Fun Facts: The engine weighs 32,000 pounds and produces 200 horsepower!



LETTER FROM PRESIDENT RON LOVERIDGE

The Friends of California Citrus Park send best wishes for this holiday season.

At the beginning of the year, we had many plans for what could happen in the Park. One of our primary goals has been to secure funding for major capital improvement projects that would allow the Park's voices and history to be more effectively shared and enjoyed.

As we know all too well by now, 2020 had different plans for us, but as you can see by all of the news we're highlighting, we continue to look for initiatives and opportunities to enhance the Park.

As Thanksgiving draws near, we can't help but be thankful. Kudos to our State partners who keep the Park beautiful and safe for the public to enjoy, for John Gless and Gless Ranch for all that they do to care for the groves, and for CCEM (Classic Coordinating and Event Management) for doing their best to offer safe events.

God speed to you and your family, remain healthy and safe.

See you at the Park in 2021.

Ron Loveridge, President
Friends of the CA Citrus Park

"Be well. Do good work. And keep in touch."



LOOKING FORWARD



After the economic crash in the early 2000's, California Citrus State Historic Park was only one-third completed. The dreams and goals of a complete and welcoming historic park were postponed because of the recession.

A primary focus of the Friends is to ensure the full build out of the Park. The top three projects are landscaping the Concourse Area, construction of a historic Grower's Residence (illustration above), and construction of a bridge across the arroyo that connects the Park and the Western Engine.

The Friends have raised and committed \$400,000 towards these improvements and are actively seeking additional funding through grants, donations and partnerships.

To this end, a Fundraising Committee has recently been formed to help us engage donors to be part of this effort.

**For more information, please contact
our General Managers:**

**Sarah Mundy and Susan von Zabern
at (951) 333-6786 or by email at:
sarah.mundy.citrusparke@gmail.com,
susanvz.citrusparke@gmail.com.**

GRANT AWARDS

The Friends were recently awarded funding from both the City and the County! In recognition of the financial hardship caused by the Coronavirus closures, the City and County are assisting non-profits to modify their operations, prepare for a safe reopening and cover some of their operating costs in order to continue doing business. The Friends are very thankful to the City and County for their support at this time.

**City of Riverside
CARES ACT
Community Support Program
Awarded \$10,000!!!**

**County of Riverside
Non-Profit
Assistance Fund
Awarded \$10,000!!!**

NOTE FROM KELLY ELLIOTT, INLAND EMPIRE SUPERINTENDENT CA CITRUS STATE HISTORIC PARK

The CA Citrus State Historic Park has been in partnership with the Friends of CA Citrus Park, formally known as the Non-Profit Management Corporation, from the Park's inception.

The partnership between State Parks and the Friends was particularly active the past two years. Some highlights include:

- **Tag Hunts**– This interpretive trail system guides visitors through the park with engaging, educational information about the history of and fun facts about citrus.
- **Western Engine** – Beyond the financial support for the restoration, the Friends also hosted a fundraiser that not only raised dollars for further improvements, but also raised awareness of this amazing resource and educational exhibit.
- **Varietal groves**– The park boasts 2 separate varietal groves for public enjoyment with over 100 varieties of citrus trees. An Operating Agreement between the Friends and State Parks provides ongoing maintenance of the varietal groves and management of the commercial grove lease.
- **School bus funding**– The Friends have also supported the Interpretive and Educational efforts of the park by providing school bus funding for elementary school children to visit the park. School tours bring almost 2,500 students each year to the park for a guided tour which include a hike through the varietal groves and citrus tasting. Tours are designed by the State Parks interpretive staff and conducted by staff and volunteers.

With the donations received
and revenues generated, the
Friends have invested over
\$225,000 into the Park over
the last four years!



2020 IMPROVEMENTS

While the Visitor's Center, Museum and Gift Shop have been closed for much of the year, we are so thankful that the Park has been available to the public for outdoor recreation and to support individual health and well being!

It has been a welcomed haven for visitors to get out and even connect in a socially safe way.

The Friends decided to make the most of the situation and took this time to give the Gift Shop an interior facelift and repainted the Picnic Shelter, Amphitheater, gazebo and benches around the gazebo.

We hope you enjoy them when you visit the Park!





STATE PARKS HIGHLIGHT: ENRIQUE ARROYO

September 2020 marked the first anniversary of Enrique Arroyo taking over as the Sector Manager for the California Citrus State Historic Park.

Enrique came to the Park with several years of experience working for California State Parks as a Planner for the Inland Empire District. On top of managing our Park, he also oversees Chino Hills State Park.

Enrique shared, "My ultimate goal is to provide a positive, lasting experience for the park visitor. Regarding the Friends of Citrus Park, my goal at the start of this year was to improve our relationship so that we could realize a more efficient and collaborative short-term and eventually long-term operation. I appreciate the effort that it takes to get us there."

The Friends have been working closely with Enrique over the last year as we navigate the opening and closing of facilities and how to safely allow public and private use of the Park. Enrique has been a great partner and we appreciate his dedication to the Park and its visitors.

Thank you, Enrique!

EVENT RECAP: FAMILY & CITRUS TASTING FESTIVAL

MARCH 1ST:

The CA Citrus State Historic Park hosted its annual Family & Citrus Tasting Festival from 2 to 4 PM!

This was the one event we were able to hold this year.

It was a windy wintry day, but we still had 500 visitors come to enjoy the festival.

CITRUS SAMPLING:

The CA Citrus State Historic Park hosted booths where guests sampled citrus grown at the park!

VISION TOUR:

The Friends shared information about the history of the citrus industry and the plans to fully develop the park.



COMING THIS SPRING! CITRUS EDUCATION FORUM



Planning is underway to host a citrus education forum featuring several key industry and research leaders who will provide information that can benefit all citrus growers.

As we finalize the program details and date, we will post information about the event on our website, Facebook and Instagram, so keep an eye out.

We hope you will join us at the forum!

FUTURE EVENTS: CITRUS CELEBRATIONS

In addition to the education forum, several other events will be offered in the months ahead, so keep checking back for opportunities to connect with the Friends and the Park!





Gift Shop News!



EVENT RECAP: FIRST ANNUAL HOLIDAY MARKET!

Last year at this time, the Friends of CA Citrus Park hosted our first Holiday Market at the Park.

Attendees were able to shop from an array of local vendors, sample citrus, and partake in free arts and crafts. The Holiday Market showcased not only local vendors, but the wonderful museum and gift shop.

Given the positive response to last year's market, we were preparing to host a similar event this year, but just recently had to postpone it due to continuing health concerns.

Be on the look out though, because as soon as the conditions improve, we will be planning another fun Market day.

Here are some of the local vendors: **The Cedar Company, Chalk Couture, Color Street, Dissertation Soap, Hippie Lawyer Mom, Reinvented Boards, Robertson's Roasted Almonds, Miss Mini Donuts, Scentsy, the Plant Pedaler, Paparazzi Jewelry and Ursie's Apothecary!**

To learn more about them, visit our Facebook or Instagram pages. Links are noted at the bottom of the page.

CITRUS THEMED GIFTS!



Just in time for the Holidays!!

Even though the Gift Shop has only periodically been open this year, Gift Shop Manager, Stephanie Breads continues to find creative ways to make those fun citrus products available.

The Gift Shop is currently offering an array of gift bags and baskets for delivery within Riverside or for pick up. If you are interested in shipping a gift pack to family and friends, please contact Stephanie at stephaniebreads@yahoo.com.

You can find a description of all of the items available on Facebook and Instagram. Links are noted at the bottom of this page.



MUSEUM STORE SUNDAY

The Sunday following Thanksgiving is "Museum Store Sunday," a day in which museum stores across the world are featured for their inspired shopping that includes unique, mission-specific gifts.

The Citrus Park Gift Shop is pleased to participate in this program this year. With hopes that the Visitors' Center will be able to safely reopen, we encourage you to come visit the Gift Shop to find those one-of-a-kind gifts for the upcoming holidays.



Citrus Park Gift Shop

Instagram @Citrusparkgiftshop

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ronald Loveridge, President	Ken Gutierrez	Nancy Melendez
John Brown, Vice President	Joyce Jong	Kenneth Noller
Greg Neal, Treasurer	Tracy Kahn	Tom Spellman
Maureen Kane, Secretary	Sherli Leonard	Bradley Tilden
Mark Balys	Connie Librenjak	Alan Washburn

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Philip Falcone	Jefferey Greene	Gabriela Plascencia
Allison Ellingson	Eric Johnson	Ted Weggeland
Erin Gettis	Tyler Madary	
Cesar Gomez	Pauline McGuigan	

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Kelly Elliott, Inland Empire District Superintendent
Enrique Arroyo, CA Citrus State Historic Park Superintendent

STAFF

Susan Von Zabern, Co-General Manager
Sarah Mundy, Co-General Manager
Stephanie Breads, Gift Shop Manager & Volunteer Coordinator

WEDDINGS & EVENTS

Classic Coordinating & Events Management (CCEM)
Shelby Worthington
Cindy Alden
Marketingloft84@gmail.com

Giving Thanks

The Friends extend our heartfelt appreciation to all of the members, donors and longtime supporters that make it possible for us to continue to enhance the Park.

*Sherli Leonard, Board Member,
Friends of CA Citrus Park*

"Almost three decades ago, a handful of people had the vision for the California Citrus State Historic Park, and the courage and patience to take on the project to create a comprehensive and beautiful commemoration of the citrus industry of the early 20th century. For those people, we should all be deeply grateful."

*Mark Balys, Board Member,
Friends of CA Citrus Park*

"As a past docent and current Board Member, there are many park aspects to be thankful for, in particular, our State Parks Staff and many volunteers who insure a well maintained park and offer our visitors information, interpretive programs, tours, history and friendly interaction."

*Tracy Kahn, Board Member,
Friends of CA Citrus Park*

"My love of the Citrus State Historic Park and my commitment to help this park grow was ignited by Rosanna Scott. When I first joined the board in the early 2000s, Rosanna took me to lunch to tell me the "story" of the park. Rosanna Scott played a key role in the creation of the Citrus State Historic Park and served as first president of its board of directors. This home-grown park where California's commercial citrus industry originated and Rosanna's passion for the park was inspirational to me and others. Rosanna Scott was a member of Riverside City Council from 1971 to 1978 representing Ward 4 and largely responsible for the creation of the popular walking, jogging and bicycle trail along Victoria Avenue in 1976."

**Please send
correspondence
and contributions to:**

***Friends of California Citrus
Park***

P.O. Box: 21292,
Riverside, CA 92516
(951) 333-6786

Location:
Corner of Van Buren Blvd.
and Dufferin Ave.

*Gaby Plascencia,
Riverside City Councilwoman,
Ex-Officio Member,
Friends of CA Citrus Park
"I am grateful to the Board
for giving Norte Vista Avid
students an opportunity to
learn real life skills and for
contributing scholarships
to support their life long
learning goals."*