

# YOLO FLYWAY

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Photo credit: Ann Bries

*Pintails—a sure sign of fall.*

Photo credit: Mike Reinhart

## Bucks for Ducks 2014


**Y**olo Basin Foundation will hold its annual benefit *Bucks for Ducks* on October 17<sup>th</sup> at the UC Davis ARC Pavilion from 5:30 to 9 pm. The evening includes both live and silent auctions, exciting raffle prizes, a Buckhorn catered meal, local wines, and the popular auctioneer, Joe Gates!

### What's New at Bucks for Ducks?

Many new items are in store for this year's event in addition to Sudwerk's new Wildlife Area wild rice beer! The raffle will feature an assortment of great prizes including a \$500 REI gift card grand prize. Several of the new live auction items include a two night stay at a boutique hotel in Healdsburg, a whitewater rafting trip on the South Fork of the American River, and a Joseph Bellacera painting of the Wildlife Area. Tickets for the *Gaggle of Gatherings*, a series of field trips and adventures will be released at *Bucks for Ducks*. An exciting new field trip to the Sutter Buttes will be available. This trip is guided by Gene Trapp and will include some time with Dave Wyatt who is researching and live-trapping ringtails. A full listing of 19 live auction items, *Gaggle of Gatherings*, and raffle items is available on the Yolo Basin Foundation website.

*Bucks for Ducks* tickets are \$75 per person and include parking. Tickets may be purchased at [www.yolobasin.org](http://www.yolobasin.org) or by calling 530-757-3780.

### Betsy Marchand to be honored

This year's event will honor Betsy Marchand for over twenty years of dedication to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area as a Yolo Basin Foundation board member. Betsy was a strategic leader in the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and has continued to support the Yolo Basin Foundation since its formation. 

## Brewing Up a Wildlife Area Beer!

**T**hanks to Sudwerk Brewing Co., Yolo Basin Foundation will be pouring local wild rice beer at *Bucks for Ducks* on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Sudwerk brewers are currently developing a wild rice lager packed with a variety of local ingredients, including California grown hops. "We had been looking to make a beer with a local ingredient that incorporates and reflects our unique agricultural position here in the greater Sacramento Valley," explains Sudwerk Head Brewer, Mike Hutson. "Rice, more specifically wild rice, seemed to be the logical choice. Brewing a beer with tomatoes just seemed wrong!"

—continued on p. 3



Photo credit: Vern Laadd

*Other fall visitors to the Wildlife Area include these goats brought in to eat the unwanted vegetation.*

# *We couldn't do it without them!*

By Michael Herrera, Volunteer Coordinator

For most small non-profits, having a community of dedicated volunteers is essential to the success of their programs and validation of the importance of their mission. The Yolo Basin Foundation was created when a group of passionate people, from different walks of life, decided that the reconstruction of wetlands in the Bypass would be beneficial to the surrounding communities and to wildlife.

Over the past 24 years, YBF has developed and provided environmental education programs for people of all ages encouraging exploration and appreciation of wetlands. Greatly valued by the participants and our patrons, our programs continue to grow: an accomplishment that could not be achieved without the time, the dedication, and the diversity of our volunteers, who work in all aspects of the organization.

A simple measure of their generosity would be 10 1/2 hours a day every day for the past 365 days. That is what volunteers contributed to the Yolo Basin Foundation in the past year, nearly 4000 hours: the equivalent of two full time employees. More importantly is the amount of knowledge, compassion, artistry, leadership, and inspiration that they have shared. It's immeasurable.

From all the staff, tour guests, teachers, supporters, and students, thank you for all that you contribute to our programs and our community.

To volunteer at Yolo Basin Foundation contact Michael Herrera at 530-758-1018 or [mherrera@yolobasin.org](mailto:mherrera@yolobasin.org). 

*“Volunteers are the water to our wetlands,  
the wind for our wings,  
and the essence of our song.”*

—MICHAEL HERRERA



# Joy Elson: A Woman of Many Talents

By Ann Brice, Co-Executive Director

Joy Elson began her career at Yolo Basin Foundation as a volunteer IT person, helping us get our database organized. She proved to be so indispensable that we then hired her to do it. Later, when we needed a new Development Coordinator, Joy stepped up and said she'd like to try it. She shepherded our membership and donor programs along as well as our growing IT needs. A tall order for anybody! Finally this year, Joy said she would like to cut back on her work with us so she could spend more time with her family, and she now works part time taking care of our database and other IT needs again.

Joy, however, uses both sides of her brain, and besides being a rational computer geek, she's a talented artist. She's had a dream for a couple of years to paint a mural on the Discover the Flyway education trailer. We all thought it was a great idea, but nobody had time to implement it. Once again Joy raised her hand, and, as a volunteer, she has organized an amazing team to bring the mural to life.

Her co-leader on the project is Barb Engel with guidance from Kerry Rowland-Avrech. It's funded by donations made to Yolo Basin Foundation in the memory of two local women, Nancy Seyden and Maggie Goggin Rodoni.

The design sketches were done by two talented high school students, Annie Brennan and Sophia Lu, and the wetlands-themed mural is being created by a group of volunteers of all ages and skill levels. An overall view of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area with the Sacramento skyline and the Sierra Nevada in the distance is seen on the front section of the trailer, and a view from the bat fly-out spot is on the end.

This will be a wonderful backdrop for the students who begin their Discover the Flyway field trips on the benches in front of the trailer. Congratulations to Joy, Barb and their crew of dedicated volunteers! 🍷



WILDLIFE AREA BEER, *continued from page 1:*

Trenton Yackzan, Operations Manager of Sudwerk Brewing sees this beer as a “great local partnership. We love sourcing local, working with local partners, and supporting our community.” The Sudwerk staff and brewers have generously donated their time and their beer to make this creative lager a success. Sudwerk Brewing Co. is dedicated to “redefining the American lager” and a Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area wild rice beer allows them to do just that.

The wild rice for this beer comes from DeWit Family Farms and is grown in the Wildlife Area. Jack DeWit has been growing rice since the 1970's in what is now the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and is a Yolo Basin Foundation board member.

Sudwerk will be brewing two different beers this fall, using Jack's

rice. The first beer, which is already in the tank, includes wild rice and rye. Mike describes this beer as “copper in color and will showcase the nutty and toasty qualities of the wild rice as well as the spicy character contributed by the rye malt.” He continues, “It should be a fairly complex beer. The next beer we brew with it will be an amber/red beer that will contain a portion of crystal malts. These malts will contribute a malty sweetness that should play well with the nutty flavors the wild rice imparts. Both should be solid, flavorful beers.”

Yolo Basin Foundation is very excited to serve a beer so close to our home and hearts! If you are interested in submitting a name for our beer, post your suggestions on Yolo Basin Foundation's Facebook page. 🍷

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*The Yolo Basin Foundation is a non-profit public benefit corporation dedicated to the appreciation and stewardship of wetlands and wildlife through education and innovative partnerships.*

To become a member of Yolo Basin Foundation, go to:  
[www.yolobasin.org](http://www.yolobasin.org) and select "Donate".

# Bucks for Ducks 2014

a benefit for yolo basin foundation

**Friday, October 17, 2014 • 5:30 - 9:00 pm**  
New venue! ARC Pavilion, UC Davis Campus, Davis, CA\*

\$75 per person. For a full listing of the evening's activities and to purchase tickets, please go to [www.yolobasin.org](http://www.yolobasin.org) or call 530.757.3780.

*Photograph by Marc Hoshovsky*