

Laura Gerhart: Friends of Purdon awarded grant from California State Parks Foundation

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Submitted photo |

Over the years Friends of Purdon has and continues to maintain four portable toilets at the Purdon Crossing located above the parking lot area and upriver from the bridge.

Crossing bridge.

Friends of Purdon was founded in 2005 by David Chapman and Markus Keicher to help resolve problems at or near Purdon Crossing due to lack of funding or lack of response by federal, state and local government agencies as well as private property owners.

Over the years, the group has and continues to maintain four portable toilets at the Purdon Crossing located above the parking lot area and upriver from the bridge. They have removed thousands of pounds of garbage yearly, acted as the Purdon Crossing site leader for SYRCL's annual Yuba River Cleanup, worked closely with BLM to adopt and promote the "Pans and Hands" approach to placer gold mining, and worked with California State Parks to address parking, camping, waste removal and fire abatement issues in the area.

As has been discussed recently in local news, ever increasing visitors and foot traffic each year require more financial resources to pay for the expenses of "caring" for the river. The CSPF grant generously covers toilet maintenance and administration costs for the 2016 summer season. Tax

We are proud to announce The Friends of Purdon (FOP) has been awarded an enrichment grant from the California State Parks Foundation (CSPF).

Friends of Purdon is a Nevada County based, community-driven, environmental non-profit project of The Hub for Direct Community Action (The Hub), a 501(c)3 non-profit fiscal sponsor corporation.

Members and supporters of Friends of Purdon are dedicated and committed to keeping the beautiful South Yuba River watershed clean and healthy, especially in the area upstream from the Purdon

deductible donations from the community of river lovers and users are also welcome and will help Friends of Purdon to continue its collaborative efforts to maintain a clean, healthy and safe Purdon Crossing on into the future.

Our sincere thanks and acknowledgment also go out at this time to:

- Brian South and Audra Rohrback South, owners of Quick Response Septic, for extending credit to Friends of Purdon over the years and for pumping toilets in a remote river canyon location when no other septic company would take on the responsibility.
- Jason Rainey, former director of SYRCL, and current director Caleb Dardick who helped guide and fund the Friends of Purdon since its inception.
- The Hub for Direct Community Action and the thoughtful guidance of Director Laura Gerhart in helping us establish ourselves as a nonprofit project.
- Jude Bischoff, Gary Wright, Tad Kitada and Gary Tufts founding advisory committee members of Friends of Purdon.
- Faye Schoolcraft (artistic director), Matthew Hoffman, Obo Martin, Dusty Rogers, Alden Olmsted and many others for thoughtful participation and generous donations.
- Private property owners, Steve Reilly and his son Clay, who have graciously allowed portable toilets to be placed on their property by Friends of Purdon and gate access to allow for periodic toilet pumping and cleaning.
- And, finally, for moral support at Friends of Purdon events, thanks to the official mascot, Marley, the Goldendoodle dog!

More information regarding FOP can be found online at <https://friendsofpurdon.org>. Donate online at <https://www.directcommunityaction.org/users/friends-purdon>.

Laura Gerhart lives in Cedar Ridge.