



CIRCLE OF SUPPORTERS
MEMBERSHIP FORM

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| Membership Categories | Annual Dues |
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| Student | \$ 15 |
| Senior | \$ 15 |
| Individual | \$ 25 |
| Family | \$ 50 |
| Sponsor | \$ 100 |
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| Corporate or Life | \$ 1000 |

Make checks payable to:
Animals for Education

Members receive our quarterly newsletter
Visit CritterCreek.org to see back issues of the Chronicle

Mail to:
Critter Creek Wildlife Station
36710 Sand Creek Road
Squaw Valley, CA 93675



Critter Creek
Wildlife Station's
Fall Open House
Saturday,
September 22nd
11:00am-2:00pm
Gates will close at 1:30
to allow time to tour

Entrance is by donation. Field parking is free. The Open House will be unguided, so the pace is leisurely and there are more opportunities to take pictures. Our volunteers will be on hand to answer any questions that you have and to share stories about some of our permanent residents. The gift shop will be open. We have a picnic area, so bring a lunch or the country store next door has refreshments. Call (559) 338-2415 or email at crittercreekwildlife@hughes.net for information.

You Can't Miss Us



We have finally managed to replace our old Critter Creek sign with a new one. Our original sign was carved on a plank of wood and suspended over our front entrance. Over decades the wood began to rot and the woodpeckers had a field day. It became so weak, it had to be taken down. We renovated the entrance to allow a vehicle with a trailer to enter the drive without sticking out into the road. Once the entrance and electric gate were installed, it was time to decide on a sign. We actually started a



slate shingle sign but the sand blasting wasn't practical. The entrance sign languished for many years, but we finally found someone to help us with the design and fabrication of the sign. We want to thank Darryl Hofer and Chad Spray at D.H.Machine in Orange Cove for the metal work, Hector Chapa for the paint job on such short notice, and Lyle Metcalf for lending his truck and expertise lifting the sign into place. We were able to incorporate the eagle and coyote from our old sign into the new one. At the end of August the sign was completed and mounted. If you come to Open House on Sept. 22nd, you will be able to see it.



We Need Help Finding a Diving Board for Tick Tock



We are still in need of an 8' diving board in fairly good condition to use in the alligator enclosure. If you are able to help, please contact us at (559) 338-2415.#



Black-Crowned Night Heron (Nycticorax nycticorax)

This heron is stocky with a short neck and legs. The adult has a black crown and back. The hind neck has long white plumes. It takes 3 years for a Black-Crowned Night Heron to get all of its adult plumage. Its call is a very guttural squawk. It typically roosts and nests in trees. It is a wading bird using its long legs to stalk food in shallow waters. Then using its long beak, it spears its prey.



This year we have had many Black-Crowned Night Herons come into the station as fledglings. There are rookeries in Corcoran, Kingsburg, and Selma area just to name a few. These herons are the most plentiful in the United States but are susceptible to habitat changes. The parents have done a great job raising these youngsters but when they decide to try to fly they often are unsuccessful and wind up on the ground. This is also the case for many small birds although they are better able to hide under brush until their aviation skills get good enough to make it into a tree. Unfortunately young Black-Crowned Night Herons are too obvious. Often the problem arises when development surrounds an area where they have nested for decades. They get run over in the roads, injured by dogs, or tormented by children who become fearful because of the heron's loud squawks. Usually a Good Samaritan takes pity on the heron and collects it up. These herons mostly eat fish so they are not an easy keeper. Once with us, we take care of them until they are able to fly well and search for food. We select release sites near rivers, creeks or lakes where there are fish and shallow water. As more of their nesting sites compete with development, more human-heron interactions will be occurring.

release of a black-crowned night heron

some of our current herons due for release

