

MOSQUITO BYTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MOSQUITO VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION



Volume 39, No. 8

May 2026



MVFA UPDATE

by MVFA Board of Directors

MAY AT FINNON – A SEASON OF RENEWAL

May arrives with that familiar sense of anticipation across the Mosquito community—longer days, warmer evenings, and the unmistakable feeling that summer is just around the corner. Finnon Lake is waking up in full color: wildflowers are opening along the shoreline, the campground is buzzing with early-season visitors, and our local wildlife is as active as ever.

This is the time of year when everything seems to shift at once. The trails dry out, the fishing picks up, and the lake becomes a gathering place for neighbors and newcomers alike. Our April Bird Watch brought a lively mix of species, from warblers to waterfowl, reminding us just how rich and resilient our local ecosystem is. Even our resident bald eagles—whose story has been one of loss, renewal, and remarkable perseverance—continue to anchor the landscape with their presence.

As we move into the heart of spring, we're grateful for the volunteers, supporters, and community members who keep Finnon thriving. Whether you're tending the grounds, attending meetings, supporting the fire district, or simply enjoying the lake with family and friends, your involvement is what makes this place feel like home.

Here's to a month filled with clear skies, community connection, and the steady return of all the things we love about life at Finnon.

EAGLE UPDATE – A NEW CHAPTER AT FINNON LAKE

Two years ago, our community experienced the difficult loss of one of Finnon Lake’s resident bald eagles. The male was tragically electrocuted while carrying a fish in flight and collided with nearby power lines—a sudden and heartbreaking end for a bird so many of us had come to admire.

At the time, many wondered what would become of the nest, the fledgling, and the surviving female. Bald eagles form strong pair bonds, and losing a mate can be a profound disruption. Yet, as we shared then, eagles are remarkably resilient. Studies show that when a mate is lost, the surviving eagle does not remain solitary for long. Instead, they actively seek a new partner and continue defending and maintaining their territory, demonstrating both adaptability and a deep instinct to carry on their lineage.



That resilience has now fully revealed itself at Finnon.

Last year, the female successfully re-mated, forming a new pair bond that has restored stability to the territory. Even more encouraging, the eagles have relocated their nest from the old dead tree—where the loss occurred—to a sturdier pine nearby. This new nest site offers better protection and a safer structure for future broods.

Their choice to remain here, despite the challenges, speaks to the strong nest-site fidelity bald eagles are known for. Once bonded to a territory, they rarely abandon it. Instead, they rebuild, refurbish, and continue the cycle of raising young. The new pair has been observed working together, hunting, and defending the area—clear signs that Finnon Lake remains their chosen home.

From loss to renewal, the story of our eagles is a reminder of the resilience woven into the natural world. We look forward to watching this new pair thrive in the seasons ahead.

A NOTE TO OUR READERS: BYTE SUBSCRIPTION UPDATE FOR 2026–27

Like many small community publications, the BYTE has been facing steadily rising printing and mailing costs. We’ve worked hard to delay these increases for as long as possible, but to keep the newsletter sustainable — and to continue delivering the quality and consistency our community deserves — an adjustment is now necessary.

Beginning with the upcoming subscription year, the annual BYTE subscription fee will increase from \$15 to \$20.

This change allows us to cover the higher costs of production and postage while ensuring the BYTE remains a dependable source of local news, history, events, and community connection.

We're deeply grateful for the continued support of our readers. Your subscriptions make it possible to keep this long-standing tradition alive and thriving for the Mosquito community.

If you have questions about your subscription or are needing to renew, please reach out to us at MVFA95667@gmail.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fall Festival at Finnon Lake - 10 am - 3 pm Free Lunch September 12, 2026

Trunk-R-Treat - 6 pm - 8 pm October 24, 2026

Christmas Dinner at Station 75 - 5:30 pm Free Dinner December 5, 2026

The MVFA Board meeting will be on Thursday, May 21 st at 3:00 pm at the Diner
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DISCOVER THE STORIES BENEATH OUR FEET

The Mosquito area holds a history far richer—and far more surprising—than many realize.

From early settlements to remarkable local events, our community's past is full of stories waiting to be rediscovered. If you've ever wondered who lived here before us, how the land was shaped, or what once stood where we now gather, this is your chance to dive in.



Join us for a **special 2+ hour presentation** at the **Mosquito Fire Station on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.** Seating and parking are limited, so plan to arrive early.

Come learn something new about the place we call home—we hope to see you there.

PET OWNERS NOTICE

From El Dorado County Animal Services Website

Be Careful with Your Pet Near Lakes, Rivers, and Ponds - Animal Services is reminding residents to use caution when recreating at lakes, rivers or ponds where potentially dangerous algae may be present. To avoid possible cyanobacterial toxin poisoning, practice safe water habits. Dogs can be especially susceptible when algal mats are present. Do not let your dog drink water or enter water where patches of algae are present, or to eat scum or algal material. Wash your pets with clean water after lake or river play. Provide clean drinking water. For more info, visit https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/resources/domestic_animals.html

NEW NEIGHBORS

If you are new to the area, or know someone new to the area, MVFA has welcome packets that contain great information about our community and helpful guidance for living in a high risk fire area. Please contact us at MVFA95667@gmail.com so we can get one delivered to your door!

BIRDING AT FINNON LAKE

April brought a lively mix of returning migrants and familiar residents across the Mosquito and Finnon Lake area, offering a vibrant snapshot of early spring bird activity. With warming days and longer light, many species were active, vocal, and easy to observe.

Waterfowl numbers were modest this month, with **2 Canada Geese**, **1 Mallard**, **4 American Coot**, **2 Pied-billed Grebes**, and a single **Double-crested Cormorant** making appearances on the lake. Overhead, soaring conditions were favorable, producing sightings of **4 Turkey Vultures** and a striking **Bald Eagle**.

Ground and woodland activity remained steady. Observers recorded 2 California Quail, 8 Acorn Woodpeckers, 3 California Scrub-Jays, 1 Common Raven, 2 Wrentits, and 2 White-breasted Nuthatches. Songbirds were especially active, with 12 American Robins moving through the area and 2 Yellow-rumped Warblers foraging in mixed habitat.

Blackbirds and their relatives were the standout group this month. The watch tallied **12 Red-winged Blackbirds**, **2 Brewer's Blackbirds**, and an impressive **11 Great-tailed Grackles**, signaling strong seasonal movement and flocking behavior.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the April Bird Watch. As spring continues to unfold, we look forward to even more activity in the coming weeks. Happy birding!

The Count

2 Canada Goose	4 Turkey Vulture	2 White-breasted Nuthatch
1 Mallard	1 Bald Eagle	12 American Robin
2 California Quail	8 Acorn Woodpecker	12 Red-winged Blackbird
4 American Coot	3 California Scrub-Jay	2 Brewer's Blackbird
2 Pied-billed Grebe	1 Common Raven	11 Great-tailed Grackle
1 Double-crested Cormorant	2 Wrentit	2 Yellow-rumped Warbler



Double-crested Cormorant

CELEBRATING 14 YEARS OF DEDICATION: THANK YOU, DEE TAYLOR

At our most recent board meeting, the community took a moment to recognize **Dee Taylor** for her remarkable **14 years of leadership and involvement** in the monthly Bird Watch program. Dee stepped into the lead role when the original organizer **Nancy Foley** moved away, and she has carried the tradition forward with consistency, enthusiasm, and an expert eye.

Dee has been instrumental in accurately identifying species each month, using the **eBird app** to ensure our counts are reliable and contribute to broader citizen-science efforts. Her diligence has made it possible for the **BYTE** to share high-quality monthly bird reports that our readers look forward to.

To honor her years of service, Dee was presented with an **eBird t-shirt and sweatshirt**—a small token of appreciation for her commitment to this community tradition.

The Mosquito community extends its heartfelt thanks to Dee for her dedication, her steady leadership, and her ongoing contributions to documenting the rich bird life around Finnon and beyond. Her work continues to deepen our connection to the natural world that surrounds us.

MOSQUITO CRAFTERS

By Natasha Cutter

The Mosquito Crafters had a successful spring season; we sold over 17 of the baskets we had to offer! Thank you to the community for supporting us and shopping with us! We love seeing our neighbors, friends, and new faces come by and shop our selection of handmade goodies.

Our crafters have dedicated significant effort throughout the year to expand our inventory. We've been showcasing our crafts during our monthly meetings, and everyone agrees that our inventory is becoming increasingly exciting and impressive with each passing year.

Our Crafters are very enthusiastic about what they do and it shows in their quality of work! We look forward to the year ahead of us and the opportunities to see and interact with our community members!



SMOKE ON THE WATER

by Kirk Bronsord and Matt Ridgeway

April came in splashing, but May is rolling in with a celebration—because Smoke on the Water is turning **TWO!**



Two years ago, we opened our doors with a soft launch and a big dream. It's been a wild ride, but thanks to the MVFA, our incredible community, and every brave foodie who joined us along the way, we're still here and ready for more.

Year 3 starts now, and we're kicking it off with sunshine, good vibes, and new refreshment options for guests dining in or grabbing something to enjoy later. Don't forget—you can pick up the extras you need to keep everything chilled.

Diner Hours:

Monday - Friday- Closed

Saturday - 11 am - 6 pm

Sunday 9 am - 2 pm

(Breakfast served on Sunday only)

<https://www.facebook.com/smokeonthewaterplacervilleca>

We're gearing up for our best season yet: great food, great atmosphere, and great people—**that's you.**

Where's the party? At **Smoke on the Water**, of course!

Cheers,

Your Smoke on the Water Family

SCPOA REPORT

By Meredith Blain

The Swansboro Country Property Owners Association (SCPOA) Board of Directors generally holds monthly meetings at the MFPD Fire Station, located at 8801 Rock Creek Road, on the fourth Wednesday of each month. All SCPOA members are invited to attend.

The next SCPOA meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2026.

Meeting notices and agendas are posted on the bulletin board at Dyer Lake and on the official SCPOA website at SCPOA.info.

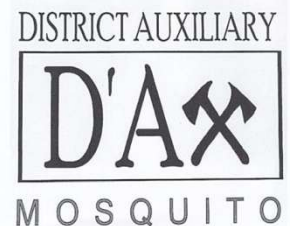
Visit SCPOA.info for general public information. SCPOA members can also access details about upcoming meetings, agendas and minutes, association bylaws, individual unit DC&Rs, use of the Swansboro Airport and common areas, and more.

Member access requires a login. If you need login credentials, please email Kpaulscpoa@gmail.com or Ashley.silva@managementtrust.com.

DISTRICT AUXILIARY aka D'Ax

By Meredith Blain

D'Ax* hosted a Meet and Greet for candidates for the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors on Saturday, April 25, 2026. This event marked several firsts for the organization. It was hosted by D'Ax* and held at the Pavilion at Finnon Lake in coordination with MVFA and Smoke on the Water.



The event went smoothly and was well attended. While it was not a fundraising event, it aligned with D'Ax*'s mission statement and bylaws to provide social and educational opportunities for the community. D'Ax* greatly appreciates the MVFA staff for their assistance with setup, parking, and cleanup, which helped make the event a success.

All candidates—Gina Posey, Greg Clark, Ted Gaines, and Robert Deitz—were in attendance and expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to connect with residents. Each shared their commitment to serving the community and emphasized that they have the best interests of local residents in mind.

More than 30 people attended, and the questions posed to the candidates were thoughtful, engaging, and relevant to the community's needs and concerns. Several candidates also stayed to enjoy a meal at the diner. D'Ax* is working to make a video of the event available on its website.

D'Ax* is currently working on bringing Bingo events to the community. Stay tuned—we hope that next month's BYTE will include details on the date, time, and location.

Additionally, D'Ax* has moved its monthly meetings to the fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 PM at the diner, located at 9100 Rock Creek Road. We hope this regular schedule makes it easier for members to attend, and we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on Monday, May 25, 2026.

MVFA CRV RECYCLE PROGRAM

Please drop off bags of **Plastic Bottles** and **Aluminum Cans (Sorry no Glass)** at the back of Station 75. Note: Lids and caps on plastic bottles must be removed before they can be redeemed. Lids and caps can be included for redemption. Stay green, stay responsible, and happy recycling! ♻️



SWANSBORO PILOT ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

by Kim Purcell

The Swansboro Pilots Association is offering Swansboro/Mosquito high school seniors a chance to compete for a college scholarship of up to \$1000. If you are a high school senior going on to college this fall we hope you will apply. We've had some amazing winners and applicants in the past and look forward to seeing more!

To apply, send at least a one-page, double spaced, typed essay that states:

- Your life and college plans
- Any community service projects you have done.
- What college you plan to attend.
- Your high school grade point average.
- Mailing address, phone number and email address.
- Send your essay, postmarked no later than June 30th to:

Swansboro Pilots Association

2724 Swansboro Road

Placerville, CA 95667

If you have any questions, please contact Kim at (530) 621-1049.

AIRCRAFT DISPLAY DAYS

By Kim Purcell

The Swansboro airport is home to many interesting aircraft, both homebuilt as well as production built. We are doing our aircraft display May 22, 23 and 24th from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM each day at the airport. Aircraft that are unique as well as older than 35 years will be out and you are invited to look but be sure to remain well clear of the active runway. Please also be respectful and look but do not touch without guidance from owners. If you have any questions, would like further information or a guided tour you can contact Kim Purcell at (530) 621-1049.

ANTIFREEZE COLLECTION TANK

by Kim Purcell

There is now a collection tank available at the fire station to make disposal of antifreeze convenient for our community. The tank is located next to the oil collection tank and requires monitoring, so it is locked. The pilots group has volunteered to manage this and will soon be setting up a schedule for disposal but in the meantime if you have antifreeze to dispose of, please call (530) 621-1049 and we'll set up a time to meet.



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(Classified Ads are free to all paid subscribers)

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LOCAL ORGANIC FARM

Seeks manure source, specifically goat, sheep, chicken, llama or alpaca. Please contact Ryan at THREE GOATS FARM. (530) 497-4279 or farm3goats@gmail.com

FOR SALE

THE GOAT DOCTOR OF THE SIERRAS

book by Gloria Hockensmith is available locally. Call Taffy (530) 626-8689 to buy your copy. A great fact based read about a local legend. Perfect for gifting, \$20.00. A few books with section of upside down pages are still available for \$10.00.

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MEETINGS

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1540 Broadway, Placerville Wednesday –
Saturday 10 to 6 and Sunday 10 to 5 with
10 Indoor Shooting and 8 Archery Ranges,
Firearms and Recurve Bow rentals, Milo
Virtual Shooting Range w/ live fire
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CCW classes, One on One training, Basic
Pistol Classes, Women's Classes. Call
(530) 497-5443 for more information.

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

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MAY 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Support Group Training 9am Station 75
3 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	4	5	6	7	8 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	8 Bird Watch Finnon Lake 9am
10 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	18	19	20	21 MVFA Board Meeting 3pm Diner	22 Crafters Meeting 10am MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	23
24 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering, 11am	25 D'Ax Board Meeting 6 pm Diner	26	27 SCPOA Board Meeting 6pm Station 75	28 MFPD Board Meeting 1pm Station 75	29	30

Local Area Web Links

Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA)
 Finnon Lake Recreation Area
 Mosquito Fire Protection District (MFPD)
 District Auxiliary - Mosquito
 Swansboro Country Property Owners Association
 Mountain Fellowship in Mosquito (MFOM)
 El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

<https://www.gomvfa.org>
<https://www.finnonrecreationarea.com/>
<https://mfpd.us>
<https://dax-np.org>
<https://scpoa.info>
<https://mfom.net>
www.edcfiresafe.org

The MOSQUITO BYTE is mailed first class to subscribers each month. A subscription is \$20.00 per year, with a two-year maximum pre-pay. Please mail your check, payable to MVFA, to 9009 Orval Beckett Ct., Placerville, CA, 95667. The deadline for advertising and articles is the 19th of each month. It is also posted on the www.goMVFA.org website each month.

Editors have the right to edit, limit, or refuse any article submitted for publication. Authors are responsible for article accuracy and their opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the MVFA Board of Directors or the editors. MVFA is organized as a non-profit tax-exempt entity and is funded entirely by grants, donations, fundraisers and rents and fees at Finnon Lake - which it owns. MVFA receives no tax revenues, nor any dues money from SCPOA. As per IRS mandate, MVFA gives no cash nor has any financial connection to any non-501(c)(3) organization or to the Mosquito Fire Protection District (MFPD). MVFA has no paid employees, and operates primarily with volunteers who donate their own time and often their own money to make our community a better place. If you would like to enhance your membership in MVFA, please become a volunteer. MVFA is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations may be tax deductible. A letter stating your donation will be provided on request. Send your donation to MVFA, 9009 Orval Beckett Ct., Placerville CA 95667.

MVFA values and promotes voluntary efforts in our community. MVFA continues to carry on the work begun by its predecessors many years ago. If you have any questions about MVFA, please attend the MVFA Board of Directors meetings on the first Thursday of each month at the Mosquito Fire House, 8801 Rock Creek Road, Placerville at 3:00pm. At the meetings, you have the opportunity to obtain correct and updated information about MVFA and its committees, legal obligations at Finnon Lake and events and volunteer opportunities. Mosquito residents may request a copy of approved MVFA Board meeting minutes by emailing your name and address to mvfa95667@gmail.com, or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to: MVFA, 9009 Orval Beckett Ct. Placerville CA 95667.

ADVERTISING POLICY

There is no charge to subscribers advertising in the MOSQUITO BYTE. Ads must be limited to 7 column lines maximum. Please email ads for the Classified Section to Mosquito BYTE Editor at mbyte.editor@gmail.com. Ads in the "Free", "For Sale", and "Wanted" categories will run for three months unless the submitter requests it to be removed or extended.

The MOSQUITO BYTE accepts ads from subscribers without endorsement.

The MOSQUITO BYTE and other updates are posted each month on the www.gomvfa.org website.

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