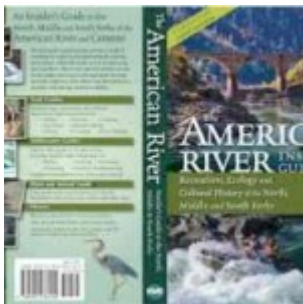


American River guidebook full of information

By Sam McManis, Sacramento Bee

A ceramist by profession, and by passion, Eric Peach often leaves his home studio in Auburn, to venture down into the American River Canyon, looking for inspiration in the rushing white water, the winding trails, the abundant wildlife and bountiful flora of a thriving ecosystem.

You can see the result in his works, ranging from playful river otters to fish sculptures to those psychedelically hued fire belly newts.



But you can also see Peach's love for California's American River and its foothills in bookstores and at outdoor retailers. The third edition of "The American River: Insider's Guide to Recreation, Ecology and Cultural History of the North, Middle and South Forks" (\$24.95, Protect American River

Canyons, 416 pages) recently was released, all proceeds going to the nonprofit Protect American River Canyons, the organization that sponsors the American River Confluence Festival and other fundraising events.

Peach, 64, and wife Paula enlisted no fewer than 44 writers and editors, and 30 photo and graphics contributors, to completely revamp the second edition, published a decade ago. This time around, 15 trails were added, as were scores of new and updated rafting routes, including a new stretch from the confluence down to Rattlesnake Bar. There's also a complete digest of plants and trees, birds, reptiles and mammals, as well as an exhaustive history of the area, from the Indian settlements up to the now-revived attempts to dam the river.

Read the whole story