

The STAR

JUNE 2014

THE NORTH STAR HISTORIC CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

Our Mission...

To rehabilitate the Julia Morgan-designed North Star House and its immediate grounds, reconnecting it to the greater Grass Valley area and to restoring its place as an active hub of the community.

NSHC Board Members

Joe Heckel - President
Alex Szabo - Vice President
Cheryl Belcher - Treasurer
John Taylor - Secretary
Peggy Levine - Executive Director
Jim Bair
Ron Mathis
Carole Miller
Barbara Tanner
David Wright

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

The North Star Historic Conservancy is Moving Forward!

To all of our greatest supporters and those who may wish to join the North Star Historic Conservancy (NSHC) and become a member.....welcome! The NSHC is pleased to announce a number of exciting changes for the North Star House and its historic grounds.

We are fortunate to live in an area with such natural beauty and interesting history. One of the most beautiful and historic treasures in our County, at least from our perspective, is the North Star House. Built in 1905 as the main building for the North Star Mine headquarters, this National Historical Register Landmark has many stories to tell. The North Star House was the business hub of the second largest gold producer in California history, the home of one of the significant and interesting families of the American West (The Foote family), and the first major work of the world's premier female architect (Julia Morgan). The legacy of this building and what it not only means to Nevada County, but on an international level, would certainly justify the restoration of the property.

SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 16TH - A HOUSE PARTY WITH LORRAINE GERVAIS AT THE NORTH STAR!

More stars will shine at the North Star House when Lorraine Gervais and her Love Bombs will be in concert, August 16th, from 7:30 - 10:00 PM. Sponsored by the North Star Historic Conservancy, this is a benefit event for the restoration of The North Star House. Gates will open at 6:30 and guests can enjoy a docent-led house tour and may purchase tantalizing morsels and beverage prior to the festivities.

Come and enjoy the casual lawn seating, lounge under the stars, listen to amazing music and dance to the beat of Lorraine and the Love Bombs with their soul-satisfying sounds.

Bring your blankets and low-back chairs (leave coolers and picnic baskets at home), and settle on the lawn to enjoy the party! Tickets go on sale June 15th—check our website for full details. the NSHC is grateful to our event sponsors for their great support! TELESTREAM, Young's Interiors, Mohr Excavation, Comfort Plumbing, A & A Air Conditioning, Heating and Sheet Metal, and Real Image Graphics.



Lorraine and the Love Bombs.

HISTORIC NOTES

The A.D. Foote – Luther Burbank Connection

By Carole Miller

The Foote family has often told us about A.D. Foote's interest in Luther Burbank and his many hybrids. Burbank's thornless blackberry variety, "Sebastopol," still grows on the North Star property.

It is understandable that A.D. Foote and Burbank would have had much in common. A.D. Foote was also a hybridizer as evidenced by his holly trees. But we have often wondered how Foote and Burbank came in contact with each other.

Luther Burbank and A.D. Foote were both members of the University Club of San Francisco in the early 1900's. William Bourne II and David Starr of the Empire Mine were members during this same time period. A.D. Foote was also a life member of the 6,400 member Luther Burbank Society that formed in 1912 to help publicize Burbank's research. Each member of the society was asked to proof a chapter of Burbank's book, *Luther Burbank: His Methods and Discoveries and Their Practical Application*.

With the help of the Luther Burbank House and Gardens Association, we are attempting to ascertain whether Foote contributed to Burbank's book by investigating the thornless blackberry.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE... CONTINUED

Since the North Star House and about 14 acres of land were set aside and dedicated to its preservation in 2004, this building is slowly being restored to resemble the California Arts and Crafts architectural gem it was in 1905. **Now, for the next important step in 2014.....the NSHC wishes to open this vital piece of our local history to the public.** Our vision for the North Star House and property is that it evolves into a community event center open to all. The North Star House and grounds could be used for public or private events including weddings, conferences, educational classes, theatrical or musical performances and the display of arts.

To this end, the NSHC has prepared a Master Plan for the property, which not only seeks to restore and rehabilitate the North Star House and grounds, but allows it to be opened to the public in a phased approach. On January 16, 2014, the NSHC filed a series of applications with Nevada County seeking approval of the Master Plan and a zoning designation that allows public access to this historic property. It is anticipated that our applications will be presented before the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors in July – August. We are hopeful that the County will be supportive of our efforts and our applications would be approved. It will take time to implement the Master Plan and we will need the support of our members, neighbors, businesses and government leaders to achieve our goals.

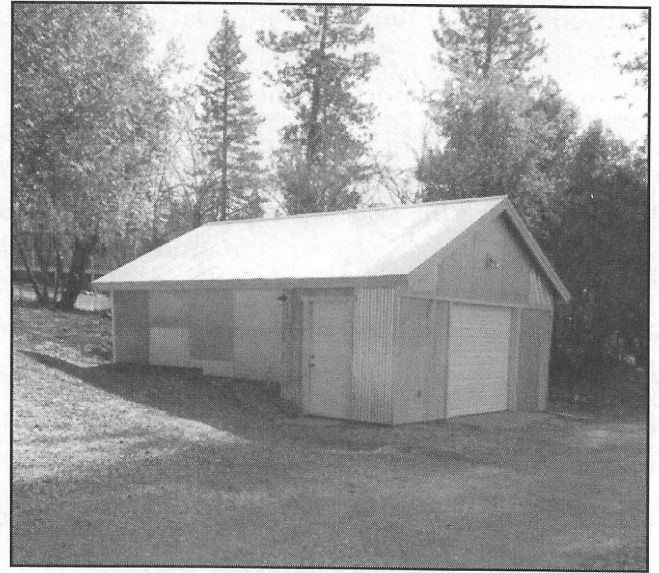
How can you be a part in helping to restore this unique piece of history? If you wish to learn more about our Master Plan and efforts to restore the North Star House, please contact us or become a member. Any donation of time or funding would be appreciated.

Joe Deckel

EXCITING PROGRESS AT THE STAR...

LET THE WATER FLOW! *The new septic system* for the House is completed. This is the major first step to getting indoor plumbing back in the house for the first time in over 30 years! Many thanks to the work of the folks at Mohr's Excavation for doing such a fine job and completing their work on schedule. Comfort Plumbing has now taken over and is working their magic inside the house as part of the preparation to the kitchen and bathroom work currently underway.

THE IS COMPLETED! *The new work shop* is completed! Thanks to Steve Becker and crew, Bill Haire and Trail Crew from the Bear Yuba Land Trust, Tim Colbert and David Wright! We now have a place to store the tractor and can begin building workbenches and cabinets. We are also grateful to the timely donation of siding materials from Bill Trabucco that helped us keep the cost of the shop much lower than planned.



DOORWAY MASONRY REPAIR WORK NEARS COMPLETION: Volunteers are working to repair sagging masonry over the doorway to the kitchen. It is a testament to the design and construction of the house that this is the first masonry repair of this type we have had to do since we acquired the House. Thanks to Larry Dulmage, Don Dumas, and David Wright for their timely work on this project.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The work of the North Star Historic Conservancy continues to move forward with the help of hard working and dedicated board members and volunteers. Our dedicated *volunteers have donated over 20,000 hours* towards reaching our goals since the Conservancy was formed. Each issue of the "Star" introduces some of these amazing volunteers.

Ron Mathis was a founding member of the Board of Directors of The North Star Historic Conservancy and served as its treasurer until early 2014. He was a member of the Nevada County Land Trust Board of Directors from 1996 to 2008 where he served as board president and treasurer, and worked hard to help the land trust acquire the House. He has worked tirelessly to improve the grounds and house at North Star for about 10 years! He retired from the County of Los Angeles after thirty-two years of service working in the areas of Finance and Information, Information and Technology, and the County Road Department. Locally, Ron works as the director and treasurer of the Nevada City Winery. He also served as the former director and treasurer of the Alta Sierra Country Club.

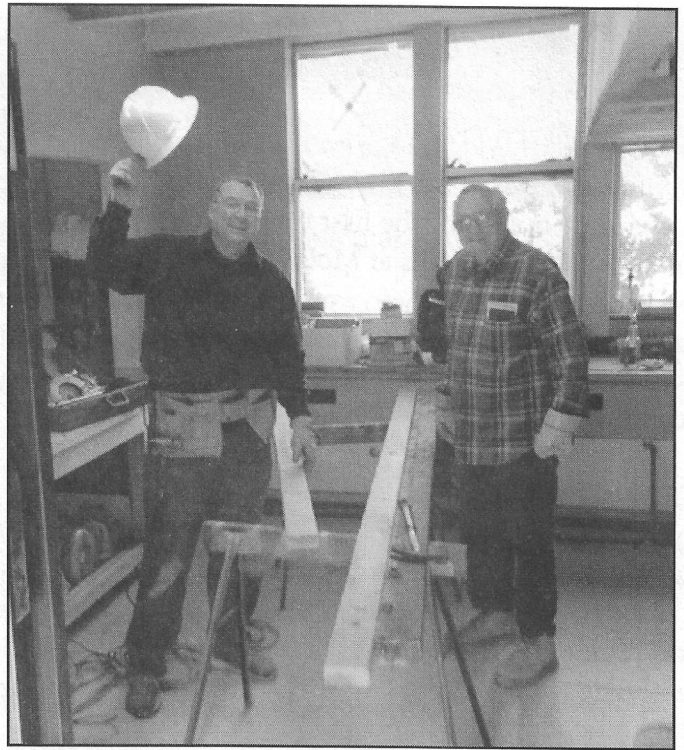
Barbara Tanner joined the NSHC board in 2014 and is already hard at work organizing our first ever fund raising event. Our area was "love at first sight" for Barbara, and in 1986 she became innkeeper of Nevada City's Piety Hill Inn B & B. Barbara was a founding member of the Nevada City Sister Cities Association, has chaired events for the Miners Foundry Cultural Center, and is a member of Child Advocates of Nevada County. She has been a board member of the Nevada County Literacy Council, Nevada County Land Trust, Foothill Theatre Company, Habitat for Humanity, Nevada County Friends of the Library and the Nevada County Land Trust. Currently, Barbara is a member of the Nevada City Chamber of Commerce (and past president), event coordinator for Victorian Christmas, Carnevale, and "Summer Nights in Nevada City." She is co-chair of Music in the Mountains Home Tour 2014.

With no staff, we are lucky to enjoy the considerable talents Ron and Barbara bring to the board of the North Star Historic Conservancy!

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corp (NCCC) crew helped clear brush and clean up a large area at the house during a work day May 5th. Their hard work not only improved safety for the area by the exit gate, but really opens up visibility. The North Star Historic Conservancy is grateful for this community support and help. Property site Manager Bo Kleger and Executive Director Peggy Levine worked with the volunteers and served them a BBQ lunch out of doors.

This is all part of the ongoing work on the beautiful grounds of the North Star House. We will continue removing blackberries from the perimeter and expanding the grassy areas to allow for better viewing of the trees and orchard.

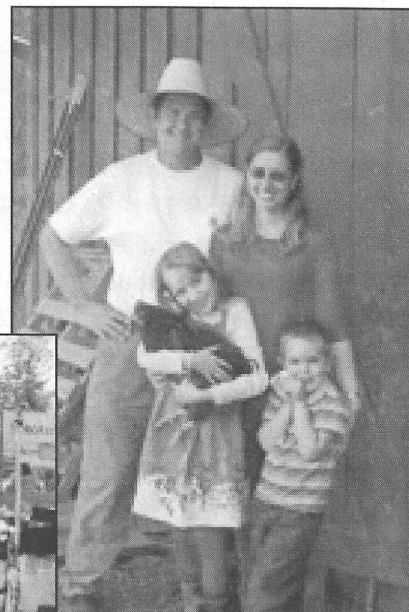
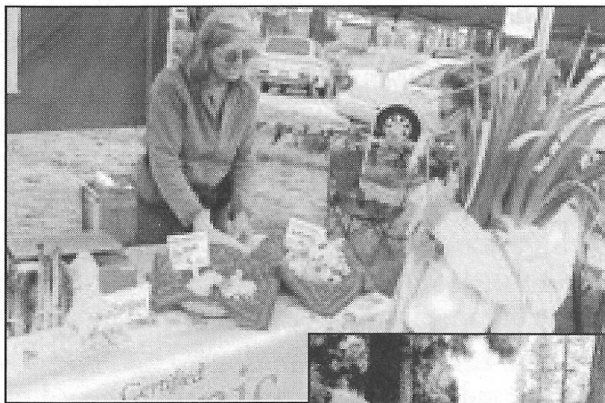
Many thanks to new volunteers **Craig and Mike Weaver**. This father and son team are making the signs for North Star that to improve traffic flow and parking. Also, thanks to **Doug Forster**, who is lending us an auger to aid us with signs installation.



*What's cooking at the North Star House?
Ron Breeden and Dick Basey are hard at work prepping the
kitchen for major renovation. Can those men cook or what?*

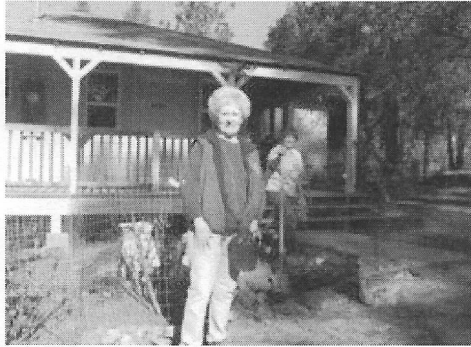
NEVADA COUNTY GROWERS' MARKET

The 2014 Nevada County Certified Growers' Market at the North Star House is off and running! The market is well underway with twenty-five certified growers and twenty-five community events vendors gathering every Saturday morning from 8 AM to 12:30 PM. There is live music every Saturday, children's art with Mim Meakin the first Saturday of the month and metalworking projects for the kids with Jerry the third Saturday of the month. There is always plenty of free parking and hot food and coffee to enjoy while you shop.



THREE HERITAGE ROSES RETURN TO THE NORTH STAR HOUSE

The grounds of the original North Star House included a rose garden in the patio area, which was a favorite of the original owner of the house, A.D. Foote. In 2005, three heritage roses were found in this garden, Baronne Provost, Dainty Bess, and an unidentified red rose. With the help of Lee Dempsey, our rose expert, these roses were cared for, propagated, and finally planted in March 2014 in the rose garden of the Gardener's Cottage, now the Bear Yuba Land Trust office.



Another heritage rose, Catherine Mermet, was planted in the garden in 2011. In her autobiography, Mary Hallock Foote mentions that this rose grew at the North Star Cottage in the 1890's.

Both the Catherine Mermet and the Baronne Provost roses were sold by Felix Gillet's Barren Hill Nursery in Nevada City (1880-1910), and indeed the North Star roses may have been purchased there.



BE A RISING STAR & DONATE TODAY!

It has been a long journey from the time we assumed management and operations of the Historic North Star House and Grounds to where we are today. We are very grateful for the volunteer hours and contributions that have helped move us towards our goal of making the North Star House a cultural hub of the community, and opening the use of the property to the public by offering and promoting tours, events, educational activities and performing arts.

Please help us reach our goal by renewing your annual membership by joining now. If you would like to designate your tax-deductible donation for a specific project or use, please let us know.



Detach this form and Mail with your Tax-deductible donation to:
North Star Historic Conservancy
12075 S Auburn Road
Grass Valley, CA 95949

☐ Rising Star \$35-\$99
☐ Supporter \$100-\$499
☐ Preservationist \$500-\$999

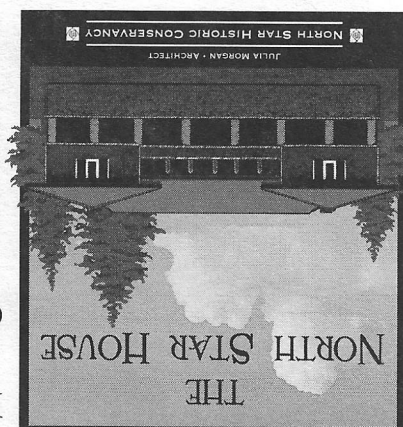
☐ Benefactor \$1,000 and above
☐ Lifetime Member \$2,000
☐ Other _____

Name _____ Phone(____)_____
Street/PO _____ City,State,zip _____
email _____

My Tax-deductible Check is enclosed, payable to North Star Historic Conservancy

"SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 16TH FOR A HOUSE PARTY WITH LORRAINE GERVAIS AND THE LOVE BOMBS"

North Star Historic Conservancy
12075 Auburn Road
Grass Valley, Ca. 95949



North Star House Wish List Please volunteer or donate if you can! Call Cheryl at: 530-205-8793 if you can help: If you can pick up a hammer, paint brush, broom or just fetch things WE NEED YOU! We also need help with demolition, finish carpentry, rough carpentry or grouting the foundation walls .

Volunteers Wanted:

- Experienced volunteer Kubota tractor operator/mechanic (we have the tractor).
- Volunteers with an interest in history to become docents at the house.
- Carpenters and Helpers
- Window and door makers
- Social Media experts to help us with Marketing
- Mailing Volunteers to help get newsletters out
- Re-grouting helpers to assist mason with foundation project

Wish List:

- Tools
- Three 7'x30"x36"high stainless steel tables with wheels for the kitchen.
- A mop sink, pedestal sink, one low flow (1.2 gallon per flush) toilet
- An accessible toilet and accessible wall sink.
- We could also use some circa 1900-1920's light fixtures (let there be more light)

For Sale:

Steve Bailey has donated a beautiful handmade stained glass door for us to sell to benefit our North Star work. It measures 32" x80". It is currently on view in the Library of the North Star House Saturday mornings between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Reasonable offers appreciated! Call Cheryl at 530-205-8793 if you are interested.



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