

NORTH STAR HISTORIC CONSERVANCY

THE STAR NEWSLETTER

Summer 2017



The Heritage Garden shed now has an array of solar panels that will provide power for irrigation and lighting.



The 49'er Rotarians assisted with building this pergola for the Heritage Garden.

VOLUNTEERS BEAUTIFY THE NORTH STAR HOUSE PROPERTY

For those of you who missed it, there was a whirlwind of activity at The North Star House on Saturday, April 29th. The 49er Breakfast Club Rotary brought in a team of volunteers to lend a hand for an entire day. For the Rotary Annual Day of Service, the 49er Breakfast Club chose to donate their time and energy to building, clearing, and rehabbing the Julia Morgan designed historic North Star House.

Thanks to the efforts of dozens of talented people, the grounds of The North Star House were transformed in just one day. Vegetation overgrowth was cleared, grass weed whacked, a screened patio enclosure built, a pathway built, and a beautiful shade pergola in the Heritage Garden was completed. Additionally, a solar electric system, donated by Gil Mathews of Sierra Solar, was installed to run the irrigation and lighting systems for the Heritage Garden.

Special thanks goes out to Dick Law, President of the 49er Breakfast Club Rotary, as well as coordinators Ann Hendricks and Jody Osceola. The pergola construction crew, headed by Rotarians Harry Auld, Doug Brannon, and Scott Spencer, did a fabulous job of fine craftsmanship. The North

Star project leads for the event were Ken Bales, Larry Dulmage, Henry Goodman, and David Wright.

“Our gratitude goes out to all of the participants from the Rotary for their hard work and support of The North Star House” said North Star Historic Conservancy President, Larry Dulmage.

We are sincerely appreciative of all of the community assistance to restore, rehabilitate, and operate The North Star House as a museum and cultural event center.”

Keep your eye on the North Star Heritage Garden. According to Betzi Hart, Garden Committee Chair, “We almost have the funding to build the reflecting pond and will be starting on the irrigation system early this summer. The Heritage Garden memorial benches will be installed this summer as well.”

NSHC is looking for volunteers to help with these projects. Please leave a message at The North Star House (530) 477-7126 for either Betzi Hart or Gary Emanuel, if you would like to lend a hand.

JULIA MORGAN: ARCHITECT AND ENGINEER

On May 21, Architectural Historian Karen McNeill, Ph.D, gave a presentation on Craftsman style architecture, with an emphasis on Julia Morgan-designed buildings. Karen McNeill is the leading expert on Julia Morgan and has published multiple articles on the subject, including, most recently, “Women Who Build’: Julia Morgan & Women’s Institutions,” in the Summer 2012 issue of California History. Her work focuses on women and gender in the architectural profession as well as how Progressive Era women used the built environment to expand their roles in society as consumers, reformers, educators, and professionals. North Star docents Jesse Emanuel and Karen McGuire conducted house tours throughout the day.



This event was attended by several Cal Alumni members and others interested in Julia Morgan and her contemporaries.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

By Maria Hetherton

The samurai has his sword, but Ken Bales has his tractor. When David Wright tapped Ken to help move the entry sign at the North Star House, recent retiree Ken had logged hundreds of hours’ experience on his faithful John Deere, trenching and prepping his Nevada City property for electricity, propane, water and drainage. Now, alongside Joe Heckel, he co-chairs the grounds committee for the House.

Ken’s career in oil refining as an electrical engineer informs his ability to plan, purchase for, and “get after” projects at The North Star House. Highlights of his North Star work include widening the entry corridor to create more spaces adjacent to the parking lot; demolishing the added-on patio cover attached to the house’s side; moving earth, creating drains and pathways for the Heritage Garden; patching the roadway with patchcrete; and happily helping to direct the recent volunteer group with Rotary.

Ken looks forward to applying his background with industrial instrumentation and control on a couple of possible projects: a chlorine injection system for the property’s well water system, and solar lighting for areas used at night.



Ken says that volunteering at North Star House is “fulfilling and fun—an opportunity to work with nice people.” He enjoys interacting with our groundskeeper, Bo Kleger, whom he’s helped by hauling the House’s own Kubota tractor for repair and maintenance in town. And of course, working at North Star offers Ken the chance to log many more hours on his own tractor—ensuring it will “pay for itself many times over” as he assured his wife when he first brought it home unannounced to their quiet, suburban Bay Area home. For Ken, being able to contribute to the North Star House project is an unforeseen bonus.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Larry Dulmage

Thinking back to our project work plans and aspirations for 2017, as envisioned last October, it seemed as though we could reach many of our goals by next winter. And then, for one day, a Saturday in April, more than fifty community members stepped forward to help. Everywhere you looked people were hammering, sawing, mowing, pulling weeds, and having a good time.

A big thanks to all of you who made it possible to accomplish a myriad of tasks. To name just a few: The 49er Breakfast Club, Rotary, our volunteers, a very generous anonymous donor, and

our very active Board of Directors. Because of you, the Heritage Garden, just a conceptual plan two years ago, is moving closer to completion. And, the pathway from the North parking lot is now easier to navigate. Re-shingling the front of the house is close to being finished.

Having said my thanks now, I'd like to ask for your help. Our regular volunteers are stretched thin and could use some assistance. We have lots of jobs, indoors and out, such as: grounds, events, construction, and gardening. So please come out and share the joy of "Preserving History and Building Community."



For those of you who have not visited The North Star House recently, make it a point to stop by. The house is open on Saturdays during the Growers Market, from 9 – noon. There are always docents on hand to answer your questions or show you around.

LESS IS MORE: MARY HALLOCK FOOTE'S VISION

By Maria Hetherton

While we know little about the Foote family's contact with architect Julia Morgan during the design and construction of the North Star House, we do have Mary Hallock Foote's words of pleasure that "The Company" had afforded them the "big cool lovely house."

"We rejoice in its spaciousness," she wrote, "and in the absence of things. We have put our things away, the so-called ornaments. We have adopted the Japanese idea of the 'go-down', and only the things we really care for are around" (1).

Here Mrs. Foote references the *kura*, a fireproof detached building used by Japanese gentry to store valuable treasures and family heirlooms. Only a few especially beautiful and meaningful items would be culled from that collection for placement in the home; less being more. That said, a fine Japanese dwelling of Mrs. Foote's era would provide no dearth of aesthetic pleasure in and of itself, with interior construction standards that even required keeping planks from a single tree together for visual consistency (2). As for the term 'go-down', it is an anglicized version of the Malay word for 'warehouse', *go dong* (3).

Perhaps it was in reading "Christmas Day in a Japanese Go-Down" in a December, 1895, edition of Godey's Magazine that Mrs. Foote became familiar with the term—not a long shot in that she herself is generously referenced in an earlier edition of Godey's from the same year: "Women Writers of the Day." That Japanese design aesthetics played

a role in Arts and Crafts architecture and interior design is known. In fact, an article, "Architecture in Japan," features in the first volume (1897) of the *Architectural Review*: for the *Artist & Craftsman* which even includes a piece by William Morris on architecture and tradition. Of course, it is to Morris we owe that Arts and Crafts credo: "Have nothing in your houses that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful."

Mrs. Foote's expressed hopes for her dream house place her within a cultural and aesthetic context that goes beyond her career in letters. She embraced a movement that decried personal surroundings entrenched in Victorian over-ornamentation and mass-produced goods. Combined with Julia Morgan's *Craftsman* vision, it is easy to see what makes the North Star House unique and historically important, and to appreciate more fully the value of this home we seek to refurbish and preserve.

1. Miller, Darlis A. 2002. *Mary Hallock Foote: Author-Illustrator of the American West*. University of Oklahoma Press, p. 233.
2. Strange, Edward F. 1897. "Architecture in Japan, with Illustrations by Native Architects and Painters." *The Architectural Review: For the Artist & Craftsman*, Vol 1, 135. London: Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand.
3. Junker von Langeegg, F. A. 1886. "Tea Culture and Tea Drinking in Japan." *The Library Magazine*, Vol 7, 272. J. B. Alden.



NORTH STAR HISTORIC CONSERVANCY
12075 AUBURN ROAD, GRASS VALLEY, CA 95949
thenorthstarhouse.org 530.477.7126

We need your **HELP** with the Ongoing Restoration and Transformation
of the **Historic North Star House**.

- Heritage Garden
- Ground floor and Courtyard windows and doors
- Library Rehabilitation
- East face shingle siding restoration
- Julia Morgan room restoration
- Mary Hallock Foote Study restoration
- Site improvements for parking, lighting, signs & access

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

- Rising Star \$35-\$99
- Supporter \$100-\$499
- Preservationist \$500-\$999
- Benefactor \$1,000 and above
- Lifetime Member \$2,000

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR. The Volunteer Coordinator works with the Board and Event Chairs to determine volunteer job needs. The coordinator would interview prospective volunteers and provide orientation. If you have great listening skills and a love of people, this position is for you! Knowledge of social media and/or our local forms of public outreach extremely helpful.

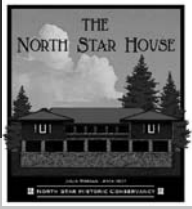
PUBLICITY / PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR. The Publicity / Public Relations Coordinator volunteer would work with the Board, Program and Event Chairs, along with various Committees of NSHC, to develop an annual publicity / outreach calendar to advertise and promote events, activities and the mission of the NSHC. The Publicity / Public Relations Coordinator would prepare the annual budget for promotion and advertising costs and present to the Board. The position would also write, or facilitate, press releases on projects, activities, accomplishments and special events for all media outlets including radio, newspapers, and social media as outreach sources.

NORTH STAR EVENTS COORDINATOR. The North Star Events Coordinator volunteer works on only events sponsored or held by NSHC, whether for fundraising or membership purposes (i.e. member appreciation meetings).

The person works with the Resource Development Committee to develop new concepts for events for each calendar year and facilitates their successful completion. The position will typically develop the budget and work plan for each event. Other tasks include working with other NSHC members to recruit helpers, secure publicity, plan supplies, and finalize any performers or presenters for the program. This volunteer position would need a creative person who likes to celebrate!

NORTH STAR HISTORY AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT. The North Star Educational Program Development volunteer position develops, plans and implements educational programs that will be held on the property. Under the guidance of the Resource Development Committee, this volunteer works to create educational programs that highlight the history and people who made the North Star so vital to our past and present community. The position seeks presenters with special knowledge on architecture, mining, gardening, Julia Morgan, or other topics relevant to the history of the North Star House and importance to Nevada County. The position would work to promote these smaller "living history presentations" by encouraging local groups, organizations and schools to attend and learn more about their history.

**AT THE
HISTORIC
NORTH STAR
HOUSE**



Country Hoedown

**CHRIS
CROCKETT
OPENING**



SUNDAY, JULY 30 • 5:30 - 9:30 PM

**THE NORTH STAR HOUSE
12075 AUBURN ROAD • GRASS VALLEY**

**FEATURING: JAMIE HOGAN,
NC DANCING WITH THE STARS CHAMPION**

**COUNTRY DANCING • RAFFLE • WINE • BEER • SOFT DRINKS • DESSERTS
\$35 MEMBERS / \$40 GENERAL PUBLIC • BBQ DINNER INCLUDED**



Doug, Chuck Fields & Bob Rhodes took on the restoration of the Storeroom floor at the North Star House this week. The room had a bathroom added to it some decades in the past and had many leaks which caused extensive water damage. The timbers were treated for bugs and new beams were "sistered" to the originals. Shims were custom cut to allow the new, temporary floor to be flush with the rest of the room.



The veranda area on the front of the house is being resingled.



New custom windows for the living room - Bo Kleiger, our multi-talented property manager, has custom built Craftsman style windows for the living room.

NSHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larry Dulmage, *President*
Betzi Hart, *Vice President*
Cheryl Belcher, *Treasurer*

Susan Kane, *Secretary*
Peggy Levine, *House Ambassador*
Joe Heckel

Carole Miller
David Wright

Thank You

Make Us Smile



If you shop at Amazon.com, go to first, and enter "North Star Historic Conservancy" as the organization you would like to support. Once you establish NSHC as your preferred charity, a percentage of eligible purchases will be designated.

It all adds up!

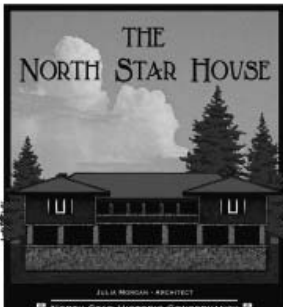
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Just go to the eScrip website,
www.escrip.com/signup.

Please consider designating the North Star Historic Conservancy as a recipient. It's a terrific way to support our efforts to refurbish The North Star House.



North Star House Conservancy
12075 Auburn Road
Grass Valley, CA 95949

www.thenorthstarhouse.org
www.facebook.com/TheNorthStarHouse

details inside

See what so many of us are doing for fun! Get involved! It's contagious!!