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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16, 2010

HERON FESTIVAL TO BE HELD APRIL 24 – 25, 2010
AT CLEAR LAKE STATE PARK IN KELSEYVILLE

KELSEYVILLE, CA – The 16th-annual Heron Festival and Wildflower Brunch, presented by the Redbud Audubon Society and the Clear Lake State Park Interpretive Association, will be held April 24 – 25, 2010, at Clear Lake State Park in Kelseyville. The event is a fun, family-oriented weekend that features pontoon boat tours, birding and nature walks, exhibits, nature talks, and children's activities.

The annual Wildflower Brunch, prepared by the Clear Lake State Park Interpretive Association, will be held on Saturday, April 24, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. It features a build-your-own omelet with choice of fillings, served with pastries, fruit and coffee. The cost for the brunch is \$15. Advance brunch reservations and payment are requested and may be made online by visiting www.heronfestival.org.

On Saturday and Sunday, pontoon boat excursions will take visitors along the shoreline of Clear Lake to view nesting herons, egrets, grebes, and other shorebirds. The 90-minute boat trips will be offered from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Experienced Audubon birding guides will accompany each boat to share information about the birds and wildlife seen on each trip.

The excursions will leave from the Clear Lake State Park marina and cost is \$15 per person for the pontoon boat trips. Advance reservations are required and may be made online by visiting www.heronfestival.org.

The Visitor Center at Clear Lake State Park will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Throughout the weekend, the Visitor Center Auditorium will feature speaker presentations, slide

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shows and videos on local birds and wildlife. Topics will range from the weekend's featured herons, wildflowers, and hummingbirds. The center features interpretive displays of Lake County's natural and cultural resources including an erupting volcano, a Pomo Indian village, a mountain lion cave, and dioramas of the woodland and riparian habitats in the park. The gift shop offers educational and entertaining nature items.

Nature and bird walks will be led by local park docents and Audubon guides who are specialists in the park's birds and wildlife. A nature fair with numerous outdoor exhibit booths will present conservation and nature displays, and educational materials. Nature-related arts and crafts also will be available.

Keynote Speaker Philip Greene, internationally known photographer of herons and egrets for over two decades, will lecture Saturday morning on the nesting cycles of herons, with special emphasis on mating behaviors, nest building and fledging.

Another highlight of the weekend, especially for children, is "Raptor Speak," where live owls and other birds of prey join Curator Jenny Papkas from Native Bird Connections to offer an opportunity to see raptor behavior up close. Learn about these lively non-releasable raptors in a fun and informative talk and bird demonstration which is offered twice on Sunday.

Dr. Harry Lyons, Professor of Biology and Ecology at the Clear Lake Campus of Yuba College, offers an entertaining program on Sunday that mixes biology, music, and humor to tell the story of Clear Lake. In "Myths and Music of Clear Lake," Dr. Lyons gives the history and biology of the lake's more than two million years of existence and the importance of its ecosystem to the birds, fish, and wildlife of Lake County.

During Heron Festival weekend, admission to Clear Lake State Park is free. Except for the boat rides and brunch, all other festival activities also are free. Camping sites are available through the State Park reservation system. Local resort, motel, and bed-and-breakfast reservations are available through www.lakecounty.com or by calling (800) 525-3743. For more information, call (800) 525-3743 or visit www.heronfestival.org.

Located in beautiful Northern California, Lake County is just two hours by car from the San Francisco Bay Area, the Sacramento Valley, and the Pacific Coast. Lake County is home to Clear Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake in California and possibly the oldest lake on the continent. Visitors to Lake County experience the state's cleanest air basin, spectacular scenic beauty, fine wines, and unsurpassed recreational opportunities — from hiking, biking, golf, and off-road adventures to boating, fishing, kayaking, birding, and even rockhounding. The local area code is 707. For visitor information, contact the Lake County Visitor Information Center at (800) 525-3743 or www.lakecounty.com

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