

Hundreds show up for Restore/Restory event at Cache Creek Nature

Preserve

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More than 200 people got to learn a little bit more about Cache Creek during Saturday's debut of the Restore/Restory project.

Attendees learned about Joe Farnham, a farmer who remembered swimming in the creek in the early 1900s and later brought students through 4-H to swim in the creek after cleaning up Gordon Cemetery.

Stories about the "gravel wars" in the 1990s were also shared, which eventually led to the creation of the Cache Creek Nature Preserve, where Saturday's event took place.

"Restore/Restory: A People's History of the Cache Creek Nature Preserve" is the result of about two years of research and interviews, a collaboration between jesikah maria ross of UC Davis Art of Regional Change and the Cache Creek Conservancy.

The Nature Preserve was created in 2000 from an area once used for gravel mining and processing. Fourteen miles of the creek were restored, ross said.

"There are few places in Yolo County where the layers of history can be so easily revealed," ross said.

More than 200 people were involved in the project, including 100 UCD students who interviewed the storytellers and processed the audio clips. "The project is about bringing different histories together in one place," ross said.

Throughout the past year, students talked with individuals who represent different parts of Yolo County's history, including tribal chairman Marshall McKay of Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, native Californian Wyatt Cline, farmer Pollock, miner Ben Adamo and ecologist Ann Brice.

"To go forward, you got to look back," ross said. "Who's here, how did they get here."

The storytellers give their histories as part of the Restore/Restory's audio tour, which was part of Saturday's event and can be accessed at future visits to the preserve.

ross called the audio tour "an amazing way to learn the history of the preserve." It can also be downloaded onto smartphones and other devices.

Also online, at <http://restorerestory.org>, those interested can see "digital murals" of archival and contemporary images, a story map of community memories and a timeline of images, maps and historical documents, which were all shared at the event.

"The intention of this project can be used for outreach and education," she said.

While Restore/Restory includes a variety of perspectives, ross said, "There's many more people's stories we didn't cover."

"This is a first step and a way to get started," she said.

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