

FOGR MONTHLY

News about the Gualala River and Watershed



Haupt Creek Bridge

Historic Railroad bridge

This bridge may not look like anything special when you first see it, but it's one of a few remaining and rare iron railroad bridges in the western United States. Only about 40 of the through pratt truss bridges are still standing. Many have been designated as Historical Landmarks.

Phoenix Bridge Company

Samuel Reeves, an engineer for the Phoenix Bridge Company, invented the Phoenix column made with sheets of iron held together by rivets that proved much lighter and stronger than cast iron.



Bridges like this opened the way for railroads to complete the transcontinental railroad in 1869. While lumber companies bought the first bridges to Mendonoma, subsidiaries of the Central Pacific RR bought bridges to connect central California to San Francisco and north to Oregon.



This month features Haupt Creek Bridge area

While the last few issues focused on parts of the Gualala River near to the ocean and town, in this issue we are traveling some distance away to the Wheatfield branch of the river where it meets the Haupt Creek tributary. Here you will find a lovely area to picnic, watch wildlife and find wildflowers along the creek. But the centerpiece of this area is the historic Haupt Creek Bridge.



Things to look for at Haupt Creek Bridge area



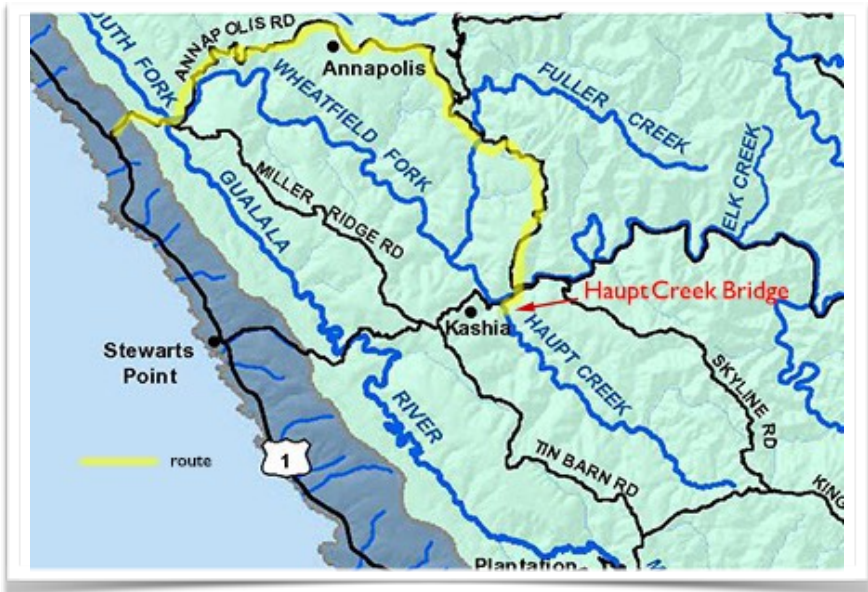
While visiting here you may see the Seep Monkeyflower shown above, but with a careful eye, perhaps you will find the exquisite Leopard Lily.



Besides the Black Phoebe above, you might see several species of birds, including the Spotted Sandpiper which has been known to nest along the creek.

Take a day off and visit this peaceful area. Share your photos and experiences with [FoGR Monthly](#).

Map and directions to Haupt Creek



Take Annapolis Road, 8 miles south of Gualala off Highway 1. Follow Annapolis Road for approximately 14 miles. Turn right on Stewarts Pt. Skagg Springs Road. In approximately .6 of a mile you will come to Haupt Creek Bridge. For more see [Google Maps](#).



Through the combined efforts of [FoGR](#) and the county of Sonoma, a new gate blocks the way of off-road vehicles that had been driving on the riverbed causing destruction to the habitat and the many species dwelling there.