



The CSPRA

Wave

Volume 24, Number 2

Newsletter of the CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2024

"State Park experts and professionals advocating for State Parks since 1964."

Aerial Gondola Project Moves Closer To Impacting LASHP

By Ron Krueper

The Los Angeles Aerial Rapid Transit (LA ART) is a privately funded aerial gondola system to connect Los Angeles Union Station and Dodger Stadium. The proposed project would transport 5,000 riders per hour for a seven-minute one-way ride to and from Dodger Stadium events.

Midway, a proposed Chinatown/State park Station will be located inside the southern portion of Los Angeles State Historic Park (LASHP). This station and the aerial right-of-ways for the gondola cables suspended 26-53 feet above the ground will permanently remove and alter an estimated 2 acres from the tiny 32 acre Park. The project will alter the character and experience of the park and its purpose as a State Historic Park.

In Oct. 2020 a Notice of Preparation was released followed by in Draft EIR (DEIR) in October 2022.



CSPRA has been monitoring and commenting on the CEQA process, centered on impacts to LASHP. LA Metro is required by the Public Utilities Code to review all public mass transit projects in Los Angeles County.

Project objectives include providing a zero emission, environmentally friendly high-capacity regional transit system to reduce vehicular congestion and pollution emissions in and around Dodger Stadium. CSPRA passed a resolution in 2021 opposing the project and joined the "Stop the

Gondola" Coalition and LA Parks Alliance in 2022 which includes over 29 organizations against the project. CSPRA President **Dave Carle** continued to meet regularly with these groups to discuss opposition strategy and coordinate DEIR comments.

In 2005, the California State Park and Recreation Commission (SPRC) approved and adopted the General Plan and EIR for LASHP. The park was created by a successful coalition of local, community and statewide organizations to provide a

Continues on page 6



CSPRA LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT

Dave Carle, Retired Ranger
dave@cspra.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Ann Meneguzzi, Retired, Sup. Rgr.
ann@cspra.com

SECRETARY

Joanne Kerbavaz, Environmental
Scientist, joanne@cspra.com

TREASURER

Ron Krueper, Retired Ranger/Supt.
ron@cspra.com

DIRECTORS

Sal Goshorn, Ret Lifeguard
sal@cspra.com

Jean Rhyne, Interpreter,
jean@cspra.com

Cindy Begbie, Maint. Chief, Ret.
cindy@cspra.com

Steve Ptomey, Interpreter,
steve@cspra.com

Jonathan Irwin, Ranger SPPO,
jon@cspra.com

Greg Kania, Park Maintenance Chief,
greg@cspra.com

Rich Rozzelle, Superintendent, Ret
rich@cspra.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Mike Lynch, Retired Ranger/Supt.
mike@cspra.com

MEMBER SERVICES

Betsy Anderson
betsy@cspra.com

INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS

Jeffery B. Price, Webmaster
jeff@cspra.com
www.cspra.com

The CSPRA Wave

ISSN 0087-9176
Brian Cahill, Editor
Brian@cspra.com

Published by CSPRA, PO Box 1667
Big Bear Lake CA 92315

**Deadline for next issue
June 15**

President's Message

Spring has arrived after a relatively easy winter in the Mono Basin compared to last year's monster snowstorms and avalanches. Yet enough water came out of the sky this winter to keep Mono Lake on the rise.

The lake is almost back to the elevation it was at when I retired here, almost 24 years ago. I hope the renewed progress continues, but dry years are very likely to return. The LA Department of Water and Power needs to pause all stream diversions to allow for the additional 8 feet of lake rise that was mandated in 1994, 30 years ago! For CSPRA, I have communicated support for a proposal made by the Mono Lake Committee to the State Water Resources Control Board, to pause diversions. A hearing should occur this year.

In this issue of the WAVE, you will read about actions our officers and Board took recently, including a Medal of Valor presentation (thank you V.P. **Ann Meneguzzi**), comments opposing the proposed gondola across LASHP addressed to the LA Metro Board (thank you Treasurer **Ron Krueper**) and State Parks Commission (thank you Secretary **Joanne Kerbavaz**).

Looking ahead, this issue also announces the annual State Parks Rendezvous, to be September 16-19 in the North Coast Redwoods District. Save the dates and make your lodging



reservations right now to ensure the special room rate in Crescent City. We are grateful for the enthusiastic planning and support from District Superintendent **Victor Bejelajac** and Deputy District Supt. **Shelana deSilva**. **Jeff Price** is posting the Rendezvous information and registration form at www.cspra.com.

World Ranger Day is celebrated every year on July 31st. The East Bay Regional Parks District is hosting this time, and plan to invite the country of Luxembourg's only ranger (they have 3 natural parks) to mark the occasion. This is always a special and poignant gathering of park professionals from many California agencies to recognize those who have fallen in the line of duty. Mark the date on your calendar. More details will be provided soon.

As always, many thanks to all CSPRA members and supporters.

2023 Medal of Valor Presented

CSPRA in cooperation with PRAC annually recognizes Medal of Valor recipients. Awarded to park professionals employed by any county, state, regional or federal park agency open space or park district; the awards were presented at PRAC's recent annual conference in Oxnard.

On Wednesday, December 28, 2023, **Ben Sweet**, a California State Park Lifeguard II (seasonal) executed an extremely dangerous rescue at San Buenaventura State Beach.

According to State Park Lifeguard Lieutenant **James Bray**, "Due to Lifeguard Sweet's swift and courageous actions, a surfer was able to return home



CSPRA Vice-President Ann Meneguzzi congratulates Lifeguard Ben Sweet.



Lifeguard Ben Sweet poses with his proud parents at the PRAC awards gala in Oxnard.

unharm ed.” The decision to enter the debris-filled water, navigate extremely large surf, face a rescue equipment failure, and endure the physically demanding conditions for an extended period is extraordinarily commendable. Thanks to CSPRA and PRAC member **Jeff Price** for preparing the nomination.



State Parks Rendezvous North Coast Redwoods

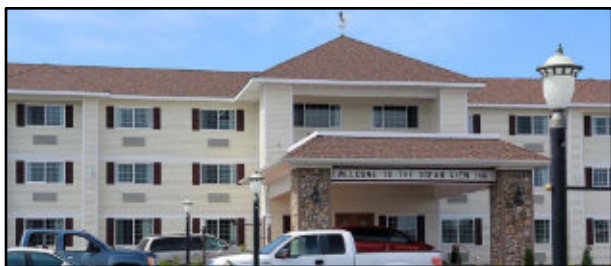
Save the Date! CSPRA's 2024 State Parks Rendezvous will be September 16-19 in the North Coast Redwoods. Please mark your calendar and plan on experiencing a very special gathering. North Coast Redwoods

District Superintendent **Victor Bjelajac** (a former CSPRA President) is promising great things, and helping us organize tours and speakers.

Registration is now open. Site visit/tour details will be featured in our next newsletter (Monday 16, and Tuesday, the 17th).

Wednesday, the 18th, is for speakers and award presentations, our luncheon, and the traditional evening barbecue. Our meeting hall and lodging will be centered on Crescent City. Wednesday speakers and sessions are being finalized. Would you like to be a presenter? Please let us know (dave@cspira.com).

Reservations for hotel lodging should be made right away, to be sure of a room at the OceanView Inn



in Crescent City. We have a Special Room Rate \$90 (+tax) for King (1) or Queen (2) rooms, including a continental breakfast. Call the hotel to get the special rate: 707 465-1111; say you are with the California State

Park Rangers Association Group. Room cancellation without any charge if done 24 hours prior to arrival day.

CAMPING: Free camping will be available at Del Norte Coast Redwoods SP. Park campgrounds have limited space for large vehicles or hookups,

but other options are available nearby. More information will follow about those options.

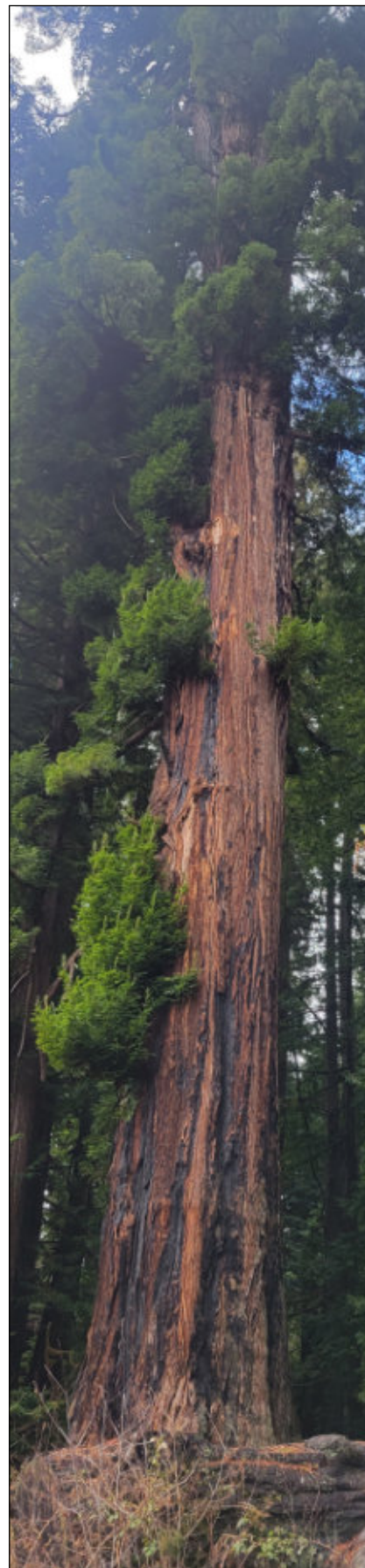
This will be an historic CSPRA gathering, our first ever Rendezvous in the far north. Join us in September! More information will be coming soon. Save the dates!

More Rendezvous details and the agenda/schedule will be provided in the program as you check-in, and sent after you register. Also available online at cspira.com.

Contact **David Carle** at dave@cspira.com with questions.

Rendezvous [Details](#)

Local [Information](#)



Rendezvous Registration Now Open

Name: _____

Additional Guest/Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mobile Phone: _____ Home or Work Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____



Payment Options: Pay by check (mail) or online by credit card (www.cspra.com)

\$45 per person: Includes hospitality, tours, speakers, awards, lunch and BBQ dinner Wednesday.

\$25 per person: Lunch only on Wednesday September 18.

Number of **full registrations** _____ x \$45 each = \$ _____
(lunch & dinner included in full registration)

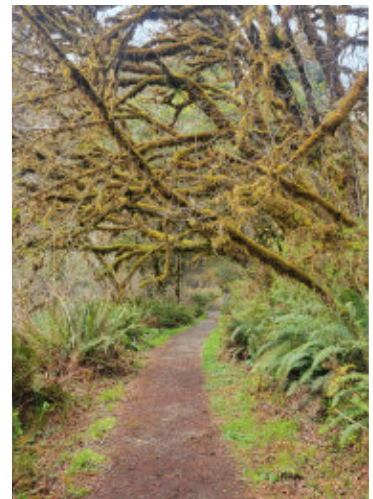
Number of lunch **only** registrations _____ x \$25 each = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

1. _____ **Payment by Mail with check** payable to CSPRA
Complete this form, print, and mail with your check to:
Ron Krueper, Treasurer, PO Box 1667, Big Bear Lake CA 92315

OR

2. _____ **Payment by Credit Card** online Fillable form [HERE](#)
Complete payment on CSPRA website
Then save this form and e-mail it to ron@cspra.com



Gondola

unique historic park in the urban core of Los Angeles. The land was set aside to save it from development, to address a critical lack of open space and to preserve an area that played important historic roles in the development of the city. The DEIR did identify a “Significant Impact” on LASHP and the project is in conflict with the current LASHP General Plan. The DEIR simply suggested that the only “mitigation measure” needed to reduce the project’s impact to the park would be to obtain a General Plan Amendment (GPA) for a “Transportation Corridor” from the SPRC, thus reducing impact from significant to less than significant as mitigation.

In October 2022, CSPRA submitted a 4-page comment letter stating the DEIR unfairly pushes CEQA analysis of the impacts to the park and visitors onto the SPRC for a GPA, along with other insufficient analysis of visual impacts to the rest of the park and insufficient analysis of other types of transportation alternatives between Union Station and Dodger Stadium. Also in October 2022, CSPRA provided public comment alerting the SPRC of the potential impacts to LASHP and potential future request of a GPA if the Final EIR is approved and adopted. State Parks also provided a comment letter on the DEIR.

In December 2023, the FEIR was released and no significant changes to the DEIR were made as a result

of many comment letters. The FEIR did state the environmentally superior alternative is a no gondola project. CSPRA responded with another comment letter reiterating “fatal flaws” in the deficient analysis of impacts to LASHP. January 2024, CSPRA submitted additional written comments and I spoke at a LA Metro Planning Committee hearing considering FEIR recommendations to the LA Metro Board identifying impacts to LASHP and that it would be an abuse of public land designated to be preserved for historic and open space values. The hearing resulted in a “no recommendation” of the FEIR to the full LA Metro Board.

In February 2024 the FEIR came before the full LA Metro Board for consideration and approval. After 3 hours of public and often emotional comments with about 2/3rds of the participants against the project, LA Metro approved the FEIR. I provided comments on behalf of CSPRA along with many

other organizations such as LA Parks Alliance, Latino Outdoors, The California Endowment and Friends of the LA River. LA Metro adopted the FEIR with the condition that this is not a final approval of the project to move forward. Other approvals are necessary before LA Metro can proceed from the City of Los Angeles, California State Parks SPRC, Caltrans and State Historic Preservation Office.

Last month, CSPRA Secretary **Joanne Kerbavaz** provided FEIR update comments before the SPRC Cupertino Calif. meeting, restating our opposition of the project and recommending the denial of any future GPA brought before them. Also, LA Parks Alliance filed a lawsuit under the CEQA act to ask a court to throw out LA ART’s fatally flawed FEIR. CSPRA will continue to participate in the “Stop the Gondola” effort and monitor if and when a GPA may be presented to the SPRC. Taking parts of any park for private purposes is wrong and the removal of just 2 acres from a 32 acre park is a major impact.



Helping Ansenzuza National Park

The Ranger Foundation recently provided an equipment grant to our partners at Ansenzuza National Park. Mono Lake's phalaropes are also seasonal residents of Mar Chiquita in Ansenzuza National Park. We ended up providing 4 binoculars, 3 GPS and one spotting scope and tripod. We received the following acknowledgment.

Dear Mike, good morning.

We want to tell you that we have received all the equipment purchased with the funding you approved for Ansenzuza National Park.

We want to extend our great gratitude to the Foundation and to all the people who have collaborated so that the equipment finally arrived to our hands.

It will be very useful for our field work. We also want to tell you that today it is already being used for some bird watching trips (including phalaropes) in the framework of the workshop on this species that is taking place in Mar Chiquita this week.

We congratulate you for this task of support for the conservation of natural and cultural resources outside the borders of your country.

Once again thank you very much, and we are at your disposal for anything we can do to help. You are welcome to visit us whenever you wish.

I share with you some photos.

Best regards,

Gpque. Matías F. CARPINETTO
Técnico Universitario en Administración de Áreas Protegidas



Book Review

Papa's Message in a Bottle: (For Coming-Of-Age Grandchildren And Their Parents)

By J.R. Quirk
\$7.99 paperback
on Amazon

Can science and spirituality co-exist? Retired Superintendent **John Quirk** explores this question about searching for truths in his new book. Written for his grandchildren (and curious teens and young adults everywhere,) *Papa's Message in a Bottle* provides advice, wisdom, comfort, and encouragement for inquisitive young minds.

Some of the questions Quirk explores:

If space went on forever, how could it have had a beginning?

Why is there something instead of nothing?

Why do I exist?

What if I'm not sure there is a God?

Although Quirk doesn't have all the answers, he does share some of the conclusions he's arrived at as a long-time wonderer himself, and offers encouragement to young people to keep asking the questions.

One conclusion he shares is that "Science cannot prove that love or spirituality exists, but . . . it is not in the business of denying such



existence." That is, keep exploring, keep asking, and don't be afraid to live with contradictions. Humans are evolving and learning new ways to interpret the world all the time, so what we are stymied by today may be common knowledge one day in the future.

Quirk's best bit of advice to today's youth is to "choose love". He details the many things in your life that will be rewarding if you make decisions with love in mind.

Although there are a lot of deep concepts, the book is written with a light touch and accessible for any smart teen. Quirk's hope is to get it into as many young hands as possible so that they may benefit from his life-long experience. It's a great way to start some serious conversation with the young people in your life.

Review by Joanie S. Cahill

Pink Bear Patch

California State Parks first approved the Pink Bear patch and pin program in 2018, to highlight National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, celebrated in October each year. As part of the program, park staff were officially authorized to wear the pink bear patches and pins on uniforms for the month of October. The Pink Patch Project is a nationwide program where public agencies produce pink versions of their patches for National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, to further breast cancer prevention, treatment, and research.

The partners on the pink patch program are the Ranger Foundation, California State Park Rangers Association, and the California State Park Anniversary Committee.

These groups promote the program, process the orders, and

provide funding to pay for the pink patches and pins used as fund raisers.



For 2023, \$4,167 was raised in Pink Bear sales & donations. This total was donated to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Wave Goodbye

Jim Caldwell

Jim Caldwell, passed away on Jan 17, 2024 at 87 after a long bout with Covid.



He was born in Cleveland Ohio but moved to California at an early age with his parents and brother Jack. He went to Santa Monica high school and junior college where he met his wife Hope and married in Santa Monica before going off to college at Humboldt state. Jim was pretty athletic and loved basketball and boxing. He liked guns and loved to target practice but was not much into hunting.

Jim was a California state park ranger for 32 years. He started his career after graduating from Humboldt State working for Fish and Game for a number of years (counting pheasants and such) when he got a job with the state parks working at Salton Sea state park for six years. He moved on to Big Basin state park for 5 years and then over to Butano state park for 2 years. After that, he moved over to Richardson Grove state park for 4 years and then to North San Diego beach parks (mostly Carlsbad) where he ended his career.

Bobbie Olson

Barbara Lee (Bobbie) Nettles Olson passed away on December 31, 2023.



Bobbie was born on November 15, 1937 in Suisun. She was the third of five children of **Ernest and Mildred Nettles**. She grew up in Birds Landing and Rio Vista, California. Soon after graduating from Rio Vista High School, Bobbie married **Lester Olson** and they settled in Rio Vista.

Bobbie enjoyed working many years for the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation. Bobbie was a loyal and active member of the First Congregational Church of Rio Vista. Bobbie loved her family dearly and spent her life protecting and caring for them. She was predeceased by her parents, her siblings **Ruben Nettles, Ernestine Williams, LuVerna Galindo** and **Patsy Hardwick**, her husband of 42 years **Lester**, and her daughter **Leslie Atterbury**. Bobbie is survived by her daughter **Marie Rizzo**, five grandchildren **Heather Correia, Kristen Bahr-Miguel, Chantalle, Seth** and **Jonathon Rizzo** and six great grandchildren.

Les McCargo

Jacob Leslie McCargo "Les", 94, husband of the late **Alice (Albertini) McCargo**, passed away peacefully in his home



surrounded by family and loved ones on January 5, 2024. Born on December 18, 1929 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, he was the son of the late **John and Bessie McCargo**.

Les graduated from Roseville High School in 1947 and then attended Heald's Engineering College in San Francisco, graduating in 1949. He then served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during the Korean Conflict. Following his service he worked for the State of California as a civil engineer for 41 years, retiring in 1992 as Chief Deputy Director of State Parks. Les was influential in bringing the California Railroad Museum to Sacramento and sat on the board of the California State Parks Foundation for many years. In his spare time Les was an active volunteer at Senior Gleaners and participated in numerous local square dance groups with his wife of 62 years. Les was a member of several RV clubs and loved gardening, traveling, and projects around the house.

Wave Goodbye Homer Townsend

After serving in the Air Force and graduating from Fresno State Univ, and while pursuing his Master's degree, Homer joined Training Group C. He began his career in 1971 at Pismo Beach, where he wrecked at least one Jeep, maybe two. He later transferred to Will Rogers SHP, then Malibu Creek SP, where he was one of the first rangers stationed at Reagan Ranch. In 1977 he was promoted to Supervising Ranger at Lake Perris SRA, and in 1983 he became the first Superintendent at Ocotillo Wells SVRA. From there, he promoted again to Chief Ranger (SPR IV) at Montane District and then transferred to Colorado Desert District, where he retired in 1996. Following retirement, he continued as an RA doing background investigations for peace officer applicants for nine more years.

Homer was equally skilled in law enforcement and interpretation, leading flower walks was a favorite activity. He was a firearms instructor and inspector, and a scenario evaluator for many BVST classes over the years. He passed away at the age of 83 on January 17 after a long war with Alzheimer's.



Theresa Zilke

Terese Zilke of Paso Robles, California passed on Jan. 18, at the age of 65 after a courageous battle with cancer.



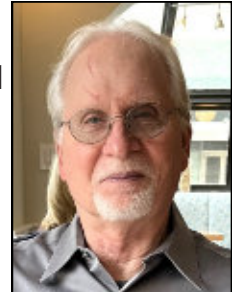
Born **Teresa Ann Nifong** in Topeka Kansas, the family moved to Oxnard, California in 1960 where Terese attended Ventura College and then San Diego State University. Terese returned to the Central Coast to begin her Parks career in 1986.

Assigned to Hearst Castle as a State Park Peace Officer, and later serving in the Channel Coast District. She promoted back to Hearst Castle and then to the Capitol District in Sacramento and finally retiring in 2014 from the Law Enforcement Emergency Services Division as a Superintendent III.

Terese was instrumental in expanding and supporting the State Park Canine program. This passion continued into their retirement as they have provided K-9 care for so many over the years. To continue this passion donations may be sent to the California State Parks Canine Foundation.

Rob Wood

Robert "Rob" McCoy Wood passed away February 18. He was born on July 23rd, 1948, to Milton McCoy "Mickey" Wood and Leah (Bibby) Wood in Visalia, CA.



Rob spent much of his childhood in Davis, where he attended Davis Senior High School. He joined the Army in 1967, serving in Ismir, Turkey. Shortly after returning to the U.S., he moved to Sacramento to attend Sacramento State, where he received a BA in History in 1975.

He joined the State Parks as an intern and worked his way up to become a pivotal member of the California State Capitol Restoration Project, responsible for researching, planning, and completing nine historical house museum rooms that you can still see in the capitol's west wing today.

After serving as the Director of the California State Capitol Museum from 1992-1993, Rob moved on to become a curator at the California State Railroad Museum, then a program analyst at the State Indian Museum, and subsequently held the same position at the Native American Heritage Commission. He officially retired in 2016.

Terry Pearson

Terrance Lee Pearson, of Burney, CA, passed away peacefully December 24, 2023, at Sierra



Oaks Assisted Living & Memory Care in Redding, CA after a long and fulfilling life.

Terry was a beloved husband, father, Papa, and friend, well-known for a long career with the California State Parks which he retired from in 2004. He spent many years working at Castle Crags State Park, McArthur-Burney Falls State Park and Old Shasta. After retiring, he could be found working on a variety of projects around his home in Burney.

Terry is preceded in death by his daughter, Kelly.

Terry is survived by his wife **Mary Anne Pearson** of 32 years, four daughters Tracy, Robin (John), Becky, and Katy (Shawn), and son Ryan (Chelsea). His grandchildren Joshua, Justin, Brianna, Neil, David, Caleb, and Madison. Great-grandchildren Gabriela, Aedan, Rylen, and Charlie. And many other family members and friends.

He will be greatly missed by many.

Book Review

Fraser the Forest Ranger
By Matthew Schufman
Hardcover, \$18.99
Published by
Random House Studio

This beautifully illustrated book would make a great gift for your favorite 4 to 8 year-old. Clearly written by a teacher who knows the power of short words, in short sentences and short paragraphs, Schufman weaves a simple storyline that is fun to follow.

I particularly liked the artwork – every page is beautiful, but don’t linger because you’ll want to see the next page. The art has a very authentic feel to it, using traditional paint and paper textures with minimal digital embellishment, each page moves the story along.

“Fraser is a Forest Ranger and he loves his job. He checks on the trees, he checks on the animals, and he always ends his day with a stack of pancakes by the fire.” (Pancakes, sure, but what about preparing a Report of Collections or handling off-leash dog contacts?)

“But being a forest ranger can get lonely. Fraser spends his nights, weekends, and even birthdays alone. So, Fraser sets out to find a friend. He travels far. But the beach is too hot, the zoo makes him miss his own animal friends back home, and everyone in the city is too busy. All hope seems lost, but could it be that Fraser is just one wrong turn



away from a true friend after all?”

Author and illustrator **Matthew Schufman's** joyful and expressive illustrations make *Fraser the Forest Ranger* a book that young readers may ask to read again and again. It is a book that children will enjoy and that parents will like too. Schufman is a graphic designer and a K-4 art teacher who loves to daydream and works creatively with hundreds of students every week. When he is not teaching or working in his studio, he enjoys camping and taking long hikes through the Minnesota forest.

Now, we don’t want to give away the whole plot, but the conclusion is a bit reminiscent of the story Dave VanCleve loves to tell about Park Aid Mike Hamilton and a cross-mountain relationship in Mount San Jacinto State Wilderness.

When Someone Special Touches Our Lives

By Richard Rojas

I was going through some of my old DPR files and came across this short story I wrote about Ron McCall. I think I wrote it in 1988 or 1989, right after Ron suffered a heart attack and was in the hospital in Monterey, CA. At the time, I believe Ron had recently retired from his position as Deputy Director for the Central Coast Region HQ. I think Ron passed away a few days later.

The notice on the office wall caught my attention again today as it has each day I pass it in the district office. I can't believe that he is really going to retire. It seems too soon. While at my desk my mind wanders off to a time over fourteen years ago when he and I first met...

I was a college student interviewing for a State Park Technician position and he was the District Superintendent. I was pursuing a childhood dream of becoming a "Forest Ranger" and he would become my boss. He greeted me with a firm handshake and the ever present smile that today are trademarks of his sincerity. Even while I worked my rotation through housekeeping in the district office he could be found on Saturdays working on projects—always having time to stop his work and chat with his staff in a genuine way. I thought to myself, if I

could be just a little like him, my life would be full.

The years passed and so did the assignments. I returned to the beaches and he moved north and up the corporate ladder. All along the way I was reminded by grateful visitors of how I, like so many other rangers and lifeguards, somehow touched peoples' lives by what I did and how I cared. Simple acts like returning a lost child to a worried parent or counseling a teenager on the dangers of drinking alcoholic beverages while under age, all seem to have a place in our small roles as public servants.

Again I moved, and the dream became a reality. Not only did the Sierras bring fullness to my life, but the lives I touched in the visitors I assisted seemed to give me a purpose with a drive to do more. The support that I received from my fellow workers — from district staff to headquarters, all seemed to grow as well.

One winter day while working at Donner I received a request to meet a group of young boxers who were in a tournament match down in Reno. It was like going home to a reunion to see these tough guys in the ring meet the challenge of amateur competition. They too, like myself, were from East Los Angeles.

After the match I invited the boys and their coaches up to



the park for a cross-country ski tour of the unit and nearby lake. These tough guys from the city along with their coaches had a wonderful time—spending most of it on their backsides looking up at the trees. Now and again I hear from the boys' coach, Mr. Rivera, who still relays messages from the boys back home. To those boys the stories of their day on skis at Donner will be told a hundred times, at least.

I am now approaching the mid-point of my career. Like an unopened present, the future ahead offers some certainty and many more surprises. One certainty is that Ron will step down from his leadership role and will be missed by many. Most things in life have reason or purpose. Our purpose as park professionals is to hold on to tradition in values and presentation, while also preparing parks for the next generation.

If in my years already passed or yet to come I can touch a person's life like **Ron McCall** has touched mine, I will consider myself a lucky person. Thanks, Ron, for that first handshake and my chance to fulfill a dream.
Rich Rojas, Gavilan District

New Department Strategic Plan

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) has developed a five-year strategic plan to help shape the future direction of the state park system and the many recreational and conservation programs that serve California's communities.

Named Path Forward, the strategic plan aligns with Governor Gavin Newsom's Equity Executive Order N-16-22, 30X30 and Outdoor Access for All initiatives and will guide State Parks in strengthening operations to focus on key priorities and directing energy and resources toward meeting the goals and objectives. The themes, goals, and objectives in the plan are based on the foundational elements of access, inclusivity, and equity to provide optimal public service, strengthen partnership development, and empower the department's workforce.

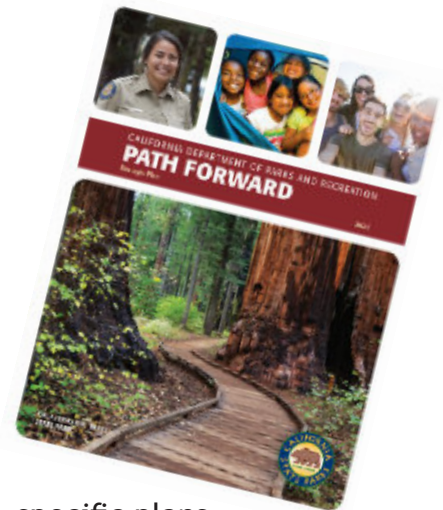
"The Path Forward strategic plan is about resilience and focusing on how we prepare the department for the century ahead," stated State Parks Director **Armando Quintero**. "California needs these natural and cultural resources for everyone's wellbeing. State Parks leadership, employees, and partners are committed to caring for your California. This is where you live."

An employee workgroup

composed of more than 100 frontline staff, managers, and supervisors representing all field regions, headquarters, and all program areas, was assembled to develop the Path Forward Plan. The vision, themes, goals, objectives, and core values were created and refined over several virtual meetings and reviewed by a partner and stakeholder advisory committee, employees, commissions, and executive staff along the way.

The input and perspective of stakeholders and partners helped to inform the final version of the plan and to ensure that the future of State Parks reflects the diverse experiences and priorities represented in the State of California.

Two factors set Path Forward apart from previous change efforts. Department staff from all levels developed the plan with input from partners, rather than an executive team taking a top-down approach. The second factor will begin in winter 2024 and involves an actionable implementation plan led by a committee made up of key leaders representing all program areas. The implementation plan includes interdisciplinary teams to carry out and manage projects tied to the goals and objectives of the plan. These teams will use a designated project management tool to develop



specific plans, timelines, and evaluation metrics to achieve each goal. The teams will provide regular progress updates.

By using this strategic plan as a guide, a course of action has been developed to support State Parks in meeting challenges. The plan will also create new strategies for institutional growth and optimization.

With 280 park units, California's State Park System is a world-class network of incomparable lands, waters, and features vitally important to the well-being of the state's environment, economy, and people. State Parks manages these precious natural and cultural resources while providing hundreds of recreational and conservation programs and services for millions of Californians and visitors from all over the world.

The Path Forward Plan is available in English and is translatable to several other languages at parks.ca.gov/PathForward.

Mixed Metaphors & Malaprops

By Jeff Price, *Seriously Retired*

Malaprop: derived from French “mal a propos” meaning something out of place. A mixed metaphor is a combination of incompatible metaphors, which produces a ridiculous effect.



Less room for arrows?

Just another tool in the quiver.

Naked justice.

The Judge should be disrobed for the way he handled that civil fraud trial.

Rebirth shortfall.

I'll never vote for him again because of the violent resurrection he caused at the Capitol.

A bite of irony.

He seemed scary, but he was all bark with no place to go.

This one is on my “life list.”

When the going gets tough, the early bird gets the worm.

Was there a reddish powder in the ocean or maybe a Red Tide?



I bet Dorothy Hamil could make it!



CSPRA is affiliated with several other non-profit organizations that share our goals.

The Park Rangers Association of California is a professional organization for park Rangers and other employees of municipal, county, special district, state and federal agencies.



The International Ranger Federation supporting the critical work that the world's park rangers do in conserving our natural and cultural heritage.



Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs Promotion of the Proper Use, Enjoyment and Protection of America's Scenic Wilderness and Outdoor Resources.



Association of National Park Rangers communicating for, about and with National Park Service employees of all disciplines and providing a forum for professional enrichment



California Park Hospitality Association representing companies and individuals who provide hospitality services under contract with the California State Parks.



California League of Park Associations supporting the Non-profits that are partners with State Parks.



Ranger Foundation — Rangers Helping Rangers. Our 501(c)3 charitable organization just raised funds for a study of Mono Lake's migrating phalaropes in Argentina. More information about how you can help [HERE](#).





www.CSPRA.com



twitter.com/@_CSPRA_



facebook.com/CSPRA

Are you Moving?
Please let us know.
Betsy@CSPRA.com



Member List Server

Sign-up for timely CSPRA news right in your inbox.

Just send your email address (no State emails please) to webmaster@cspra.com with the subject line "add me to CSPRAnet"



Retiring Soon?

If you or a co-worker will be retiring soon, please contact Membership Services Coordinator Betsy Anderson at (707) 884-3949.

betsy@cspra.com.



Already Retired?

Want to keep in touch after you leave DPR? Join Gray-Bears email ListServ - FREE and EASY

graybears@cspra.com

Join CSPRA Or join us online at cspra.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Job Classification: _____

District / Park: _____

Social Security # _____ (req'd for pay deduction)

Phone(W) _____ Phone (H) _____

Email: _____

Membership Type (Check one)

- Active \$10/month
- Active Retired \$60/year (\$5/mo.)
- Supporting \$36/year*
- Organization \$50/year*
- Benefactor \$1,000/life*

* Please include check for 1 year's dues for these membership levels.

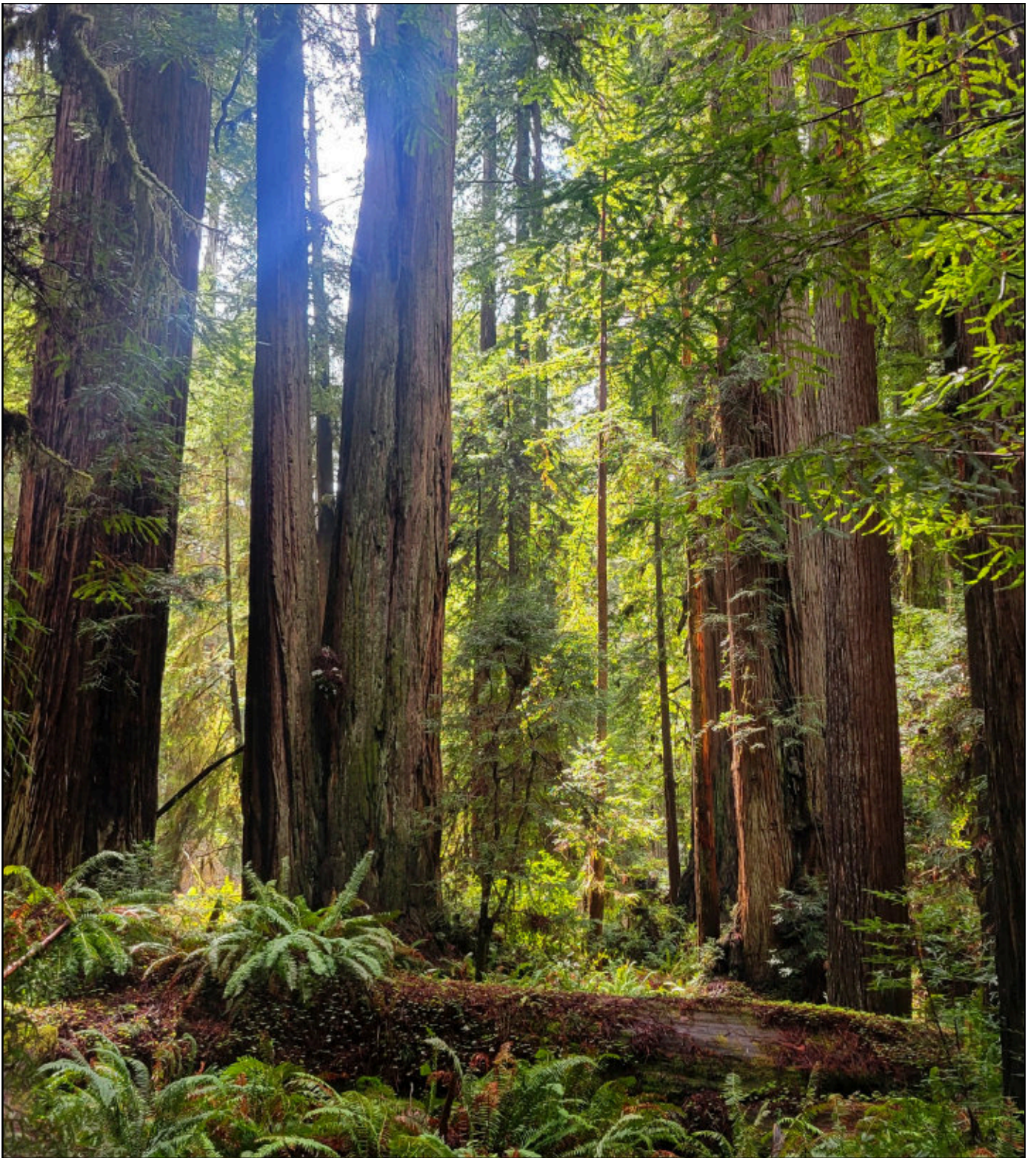
I hereby authorize the State Controller to deduct from my salary and transmit as designated an amount for membership dues in the California State Park Rangers Association. This authorization will remain in effect until canceled by myself or by the organization. I certify I am a member of the above organization and understand that termination of my membership will cancel all deductions made under this organization.

Signature _____

Date _____

Membership by Mail:

CSPRA — Betsy Anderson
PO Box 618 Gualala, CA 95445



CSPRA's 2024 State Parks Rendezvous will be September 16-19 in the North Coast Redwoods. See page 4 or [click](#)

California State Park Rangers Association



CSPRA is an organization of State Park professionals dedicated to advancement of the highest principles of public service, established to support and preserve California State Parks for present and future generations

Founded 1964