California Parks Conference

Presented by the Park Rangers Association of California
and the California State Park Rangers Association

Bridging People Through Parks

Come enjoy beautiful San Francisco and the South Bay while attending interesting and educational sessions and field trips. Active and retired park professionals from throughout California will once again gather to learn new skills, exchange ideas, catch up with old friends and make new ones.

The conference will feature sessions including the disciplines of interpretation, resource management, park operations, and public safety.

Exhibitors and vendors will be on site to showcase new and exciting products and opportunities. Monday night will include the always popular conference reception .

Tuesday night, you will have the opportunity for a dinner and tour experience aboard the USS Hornet, a ship with a rich history from WWII through its role as a recovery ship for the Apollo space missions.

Hike the San Bruno Mountains, tour the Guadalupe Gardens, talk to the animals at the Happy Hollow Zoo, or just enjoy the wonderful company of fellow park professionals improving their stewardship skills in these challenging times.

We hope to see you in San Francisco.

Dave Updyke and Don Schmidt, co-chairs

March 15-17, 2010
Embassy Suites
So. San Francisco

Call 800-966-6490 for reservations

- Close proximity to all conference events.
- Nightly Manager's Reception in the lounge.
- Breakfast included in room rate.
- High speed internet access available.
- Easy access to major freeways, airport, and public transportation.

California Parks Conference 2010

Conference Information

Conference Check-In

Attendees will need to check in at the registration and information desk located beyond the lounge of the Embassy Suites Hotel. Ask at the front desk for directions. You will receive your information packets, meal tickets and any pre-ordered items. Check in will be open from 10:00 am until 8:00 pm on Monday and 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Conference Apparel

Conference T-Shirts are available to purchase and will feature the colorful logo as a reminder of this year's conference. Stop by the registration desk.

Silent Auction

There will be a wide array of interesting items for this year's silent auction. Proceeds will support the start-up of next year's conference. The auction will open at 9:00 am on Tuesday and will close promptly at 6:30 pm on Wednesday. If you have a donated item to bring to the Silent Auction, please include a description with your registration. Please bring the item with you to the registration desk so that it can be included in the auction.

Exhibitors and Vendors

A variety of vendors, agencies and other organizations will be set up at the hotel. Please be sure to visit these exhibitors in the conference lobby on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Public Transportation / Carpool

Due to the urban environment of the San Francisco Bay Area, participants are highly advised to utilize local public transportation or carpools to access the off-site activities in San Jose and Alameda (USS Hornet). Timetables for BART and CalTrain will be available in limited numbers at the registration area, or can be found by checking online.

Conference sessions are subject to change.

Monday, March 15 Activities

Meet at 9:00 am at the hotel lobby and join us for these events:

San Bruno Mountain State and County Park Tour
Join a tour of this unique open space island in the midst of the peninsula's urbanization at the northern end of the Santa Cruz Mountain Ranger.. The 2,326 acres of rugged landscape offer excellent hiking opportunities, outstanding views of the San Francisco Bay, and is the home of a number of rare and endangered species. Tour size is limited to 30 people - sign up early!

Guadalupe River Park and Gardens, San Jose
See how public and private partnerships worked to create a 200 acre park through downtown San Jose. Enjoy a day in an urban park complex and see the issues involved in managing a balance of recreation and preservation. The workshop will combine an overview of the project, a van and walking tour of the project, and time for questions and answers. Space is limited to 12. Public transportation or car pool is encouraged to and from the hotel and San Jose.

Happy Hollow Park Zoo / Lake Cunningham Skate Park Tour
This van and walking tour will take participants on a tour of two unique facilities in the San Jose Regional Park System. The newly renovated, LEEDS certified Happy Hollow Park Zoo is the first stop, and will include a tour of the zoo and a behind the scenes tour. We'll then travel to Lake Cunningham Skate Park, the largest skate park in California, to see how San Jose City Parks has designed and managed this urban recreation facility. Tour topics will include construction, operations, rescue techniques, and special uses. Space is limited to 12. Public transportation or car pool is encouraged to and from the hotel and San Jose.

California Academy of Sciences Tour
This tour is still being finalized as of this printing. If you are interested, please e-mail Pat Clark-Gray at *pgray@parks.ca.gov* and she will contact you about this potentially exciting offering.

Pistol Competition
Test your shooting skills at the pistol competition to see who can claim the prize for their firearms skills.

Welcome Reception
Meet from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm conference area. Join fellow attendees for hors d'oeuvres, beverages and a chance to catch up with old and new friends. This will be a great way to kick off your attendance at the conference! Free with full registration.

California Parks Conference 2010

Conference Overview

Resource & Operations

Lichen Ecology and Conservation on the Coast

Lisa Andreano of CA State Parks will provide an overview of lichen and their importance to land management goals.

Spread the word, Not the Mussel!

This session, presented by Catharine Mandella of CA DFG will cover the current issues and status of the quagga and zebra mussel in California.

Integrated Resident Goose Management

Erick Wolf of Innolytics will discuss contraception as part of a multi-faceted long term program to control non-migratory Canada Geese populations .

Volunteer Stewardship

Dave "Doc Quack" Reinsche of EBRPD will present ideas on how to effectively utilize volunteers in research and restoration projects.

Fire Use in Resource Management

Lisa Andreano of CA State Parks gives and overview of the use of fire as a tool for weed control and the restoration of unique plant communities.

Professional Development

Pam Armas and Karyn Lombard of CA State Parks will show the value of developing a personal vision statement for career and personal development. This class will be presented in two parts—be sure to check the schedule for timing of the classes.

Public Safety

Tactical Communications

Kim Coast of NPS will present a detailed look at the use of tactical communications in your daily patrol.

Basic Wildland Fire Orientation

Dave Updyke of MRCA provides essential information for individuals interested in wildland fire management .

Look Up, Look Down, Look Around

Dave Updyke of MRCA will teach participants to identify indicators of hazardous fire conditions, and how to use these when implementing the Risk Management Process.

Weapons Recognition

Steve Ingalls of Sacramento County Parks will give students an overview of weapons park professionals are likely to come across during their daily patrols.

Legal Update

Andrea Tavenier, Deputy DA for Contra Costa County, will present an overview of new and park relevant criminal laws, as well as changes in case law.

Game Wardens and K-9's

Roxanne Bowers of the CA DFG will discuss the role of the warden's K-9 partners in the protection of California's valuable resources.

Drug Detection

Jenny Donovan of CA State Parks presents an overview of drug enforcement efforts and techniques in the context of parks and recreation areas.

Conference Overview continued

Interpretation and Education

Environmental Living Program
Robin Joy of CA State Parks will discuss their successful ELP, along with the bicentennial celebration plans at Fort Ross SHP.

Military Living History Program
Sean Malis of CA State Parks presents an overview of the long-running Ft. Tejon SHP military living history programs, their successful ELP, and the use of historic weapons during special events.

Climate Change
Aaron Pope of the CA Academy of Sciences will discuss the potential effects of climate change on our parks and the impacts to our visitors.

Climate Change for the Novice
Pat Clark-Gray of CA State Parks will help students learn about the Earth's climate and the issue of global warming by having students do hands-on experiments that can be used in your own parks.

Ocean Literacy Principles and Concepts
Jim Covel of the Monterey Bay Aquarium will discuss ocean literacy and implementing the basic concepts in our parks.

National Marine Sanctuary Program
Dawn Hayes of MBNMS will involve participants in a discussion of the issues affecting the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Social Media in Interpretation and Education
Carol Tang of the CA Academy of Sciences will lead a discussion of the use and potential impacts of social media.

Tuesday, March 16

Opening Keynote - Ed Begley, Jr.

We are excited to announce that Ed Begley, Jr., accomplished actor, environmental activist, and parks promoter will provide the keynote address for the conference!

USS Hornet Dinner & Tour

Enjoy a catered dinner aboard the famous USS Hornet in Alameda, CA. The evening program includes dinner on the hanger deck, with an extended tour provided by the volunteer staff and former shipmates of the Hornet. This unique experience will give participants an overview of the long history of the ship from WWII through her role in the Apollo space missions, and a chance to experience life aboard this once proud member of the US Naval Fleet.

Wednesday, March 17

General Membership Lunch Meetings

Following the buffet lunch, PRAC and CSPRA members will meet for their respective general membership meetings.

Closing Banquet & Honorary Rangers

The last hurrah for the conference allows you to have one last time to meet up with friends, honor those who have contributed to the profession we all love and make plans for the upcoming new year. Join together with fellow park professionals for the final time, and leave re-energized for the year ahead.