

## **Paul Rogers Background and Bio**

*Paul Rogers Nomination details as submitted by member and Past President Dr. Denzil Verardo and selected by unanimous CSPRA Board vote.*

# **2022 Honorary California State Park Ranger Paul Rogers Nomination**

1. The nominee is Paul Rogers

2. Current and past occupation and key interests:

- Environmental Reporter for the San Jose Mercury News and the Bay Area News Group (1995-present) covering parks, water, wildlife, climate change, and a wide range of environmental issues.
- 1990-1995, Reporter, Santa Cruz Bureau, covering Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties.
- 2005-2020, Managing Editor, KQED Science, environmental coverage at San Francisco NPR and PBS stations.
- Taught environmental journalism at UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism (2 years).
- Taught science writing at UC Santa Cruz (8 years).



3. Awards:

- Scripps Howard, Edward J. Meeman Award for environmental articles
- John B. Oaks Award, Columbia University for environmental articles
- David Brower Award, Sierra Club for excellence in environmental reporting on public lands
- 2014 Journalist of the Year, Society of Professional Journalists
- Pulitzer Prize, 1990
- 2008-2016 Northern California Emmy Award winner, National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for  
KQED TV productions related to science and environment TV series "QUEST"

4. Statewide Contributions to Merit Honorary Ranger Designation

I have known Paul Rogers for almost 30 years, interacting with him on numerous occasions involving State Parks and environmental issues which concerned, and still concern, California State Parks. Paul has been a tireless supporter of not only parks, but of honest reporting on environmental issues which effect parks and public lands. As part of the Bay Area News Group his reporting has been published in newspapers across Northern California. While his primary employment is with the San Jose Mercury News,

his coverage is picked up by major newspapers and environmental websites throughout California.

He has always been pro-acquisition and pro-environment influencing millions of readers to the value of parks and protecting the environment. A recent example is an article in the Sacramento Bee which was published as I write this nomination (Dec. 12, 2021). The six column (half a newspaper page) article entitled, "Stunning coastline preserved in landmark redwoods deal," details the recent purchase by the Save the Redwoods League of the five miles of oceanfront land on the Mendocino Coast, with its plans to restore its redwood forests. But typical of Paul Rogers, in the article he took the opportunity to promote State Parks and open space illustrating the Coast Dairies acquisition which resulted in State Parks' ownership of the ocean front and BLM's management of inland areas near Año Nuevo State Reserve and Big Basin Redwoods State Park. The positive nature of the article leads any reader to believe that parks and protected areas are a good deal. Even quotes in the article attributed to others show his environmental outlook. "This is an amazing moment in conservation history," said Caryl Hart, former Chair of the State Park Commission, former Director of Sonoma County Regional Parks and a CSPRA Honorary Ranger herself.

Paul covered the Big Basin fire with sadness and humanity at the loss for a generation of park visitors, but also saw the beginnings of the revival of the forest. And yes, he will be outspoken as always, on the planning efforts to reconstruct the park's infrastructure.

These are just a couple of examples of Paul's most recent writing and influence; it would be much too long to chronicle his 26 years of these! His awards to date speak for themselves.

I do have to mention a bit about my interactions with Paul while I was a Superintendent in the former Central Coast Region and a Deputy Director in headquarters. Paul is an honest reporter, and while his articles are pro-parks, that does not mean he is not at times critical of the decisions made by the managers who make policy for those parks. There was no "off the record" with Paul unless it was something personal. "The public has a right to know," I was intoned on more than one occasion. I always told him the truth in what State Parks was doing and he in turn represented that point of view fairly. He has no patience with a "stall." That said, I have never interacted with a more professional reporter, or media supporter of State Parks and the environment, than is Paul Rogers.

It is my honor to nominate Paul Rogers for the 2022 CSPRA Honorary Ranger.