



The CSPRA

Wave

Newsletter

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CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

MAY-JUNE 2005

HEAVEN IN THE BAY



Angel Island State Park, pages 3-8

California Parks Conference, pages 9-12



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COVER PHOTO: Quarry Beach
by **David Carle**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



RON BREAN
CSPRA President

Yogi Berra is credited with advising: "When you come to a fork in the road...**take it!**" Like much of what is attributed to Mr. Berra, you know it must be good advice, if you could only figure out what it means. Which fork do we take? With a newly composed CSPRA Board of Directors, we are at a figurative fork in the road. We're prepared, even anxious, to take that fork, but where do we go from here? What direction should CSPRA be taking in these early years of the 21st century?

In the past, big issues surfaced and the CSPRA leadership made choices about the appropriate courses to take. Many long and hard fought battles were undertaken to protect the integrity of the State Park System, to insure professionalism in the ranks, and to safeguard against decisions in political realms that would sacrifice the permanent benefits of all of California's parks on the altar of short term expediency. Probably the most memorable of those battles was against the mining industry's plans to extract ore at the expense of Bodie State Historic Park. What are we fighting for...or against today?

Well, we're still at it. We're in the fray in an effort to keep short sighted politicians from taking the lands of the El Morro trailer park and its marvelous beaches at Crystal Cove away from the public. We're mixing it up with some big money and

powerful development interests to keep a toll road from being built through the middle of the campground at San Onofre. We're chim-ing in on the side of park protection against formidable interests that would like to see a high speed rail line built that would have huge potential impacts on Henry Coe and a half dozen other parks. It is my belief that there will never be an end to the need for park and recreation professionals to mount well thought out defenses for otherwise vulnerable park facilities.

That's CSPRA's past and present, but what about the future? CSPRA is the only organization that is the voice of park professionals in situations that threaten parks, and we will continue to make that voice heard. But what are the issues we will face? How can CSPRA help to improve the professionalism of its membership to meet future challenges? What are the future challenges? How can we play an active role in helping mentor future leaders? And, probably most importantly, what do you – the real professional of this professional organization – want to do to support the California State Park Rangers Association in fighting the battles, protecting and enhancing the respect our profession has earned, and pursuing organizational goals?

Unlike many you'll find in presidents' messages, these questions are not rhetorical. We would very much like to hear your thoughts. With the help of the directors, it is my desire to work hard to make CSPRA an even more professional... professional organization. To do that, we need to hear from the professionals. Contact us through CSPRA.com and let us know your ideas.

While awaiting your input, we're busy working on fiscal issues, recruitment, professional development opportunities, partnerships in common causes, and many other things. If you want your organization to truly be yours, get involved. Speak up. Guide us as we attempt to serve you.

HEAVEN IN THE BAY

by *Roy McNamee, Superintendent* >

Christened “Isla de Los Angeles” in 1775, Spanish navigator Lt. Juan Manuel de Ayala and pilot, José de Cañizares sailed the San Carlos into San Francisco Bay and anchored in what is now Ayala Cove. Today, Angel Island is the destination for 200,000 visitors annually. As State Parks go, Angel Island is small, but this 740 acre island is the largest in San Francisco Bay. If you are a history buff, especially military history, you won’t be sorry for your visit. With nearly 100 years of continuous U.S. Military activity, Angel Island has lots of stories to tell. For thousands of years, the Coast Miwok used Angel Island as a seasonal hunting and fishing site. As part of a Mexican land grant, it hosted cattle. Beginning in 1863, the U.S. Government was active with operations for the defense of the San Francisco gold reserves during the Civil War and continued with training during the “Indian Wars”. A quarantine station for inspection of boats entering San Francisco Bay for diseases, location of three large artillery Endicotte Batteries for coastal defense, host to Fort McDowell as a discharge, recruitment, and replacement depot, an immigration station, and finally a Nike Missile Base--the Island has seen them all.

With closure of the Nike base in 1962, the military departed and Angel Island is now the destination for history seekers, past occupants, hikers, bikers, picnickers, and a few lucky environmental campers. Although mostly a day use park, staying overnight on the Island is a common activity. The 9 environmental sites are booked well in advance, as is the service camp. The Environmental Living Program hosts 2500



children, parents, and teachers annually.

Once on Angel Island, the mode of transportation is foot, bicycle, or a concession operated tram tour available April through November. It’s a 5 mile trek around the perimeter road which takes you to all historic sites.

To get to the Island, you either have to have your own boat or check the schedules for a public ferry. For those of us who work and or live here, the park daily operates a 48 foot crew boat, the “Ayala”, and a landing craft, the “Clam”, to move vehicles, supplies, waste, contractors, and

utility providers as needed. Living here also means that as you move on or move off, you watch all your personal belongings splash across San Francisco Bay in a moving van on the deck of the Clam. It’s an insecure feeling. And learning to live by a boat schedule teaches you the origin of the phrase “missing the boat”.

It can be paradise yet a challenging place to live and work. During the winter it is quiet and lonely with only a few off season boaters using the overnight moorings in Ayala Cove. But spring and summer bring crowds with non-stop activity. With over 100 historic buildings, it’s a photographer’s delight but decay is wining over maintenance and old infrastructure failures often result in the feeling of “three steps back”. But walk to the top of the Island and you will have an unforgettable 360 degree view of the entire San Francisco Bay Area. And the view of the City on a clear night is spectacular.

If you have never visited, do so. You will never forget what you see.



East Garrison

A TYPICAL DAY

by *Rebecca Schenone-Chase*
Supervising Ranger

I awake to the call of the Pt. Blunt foghorn warning all sea traveler's of peril unforeseen!! It is still dark ,as it is 5am and time for some alone time before the beginning of a typical day I look out my window as daybreak seeps in and I peer at the bridges, Bay and Golden Gate, connecting one of the most beautiful cities in the world, San Francisco. The urge to continue to sleep is considered and then it's off to my workout room next door for a thirty minute adrenaline rush and then a shower and my reward, home-brewed coffee. It's time to wake my two beautiful children, ages 14 and 11. Then breakfast making and lunch making, a double for we won't be back until 9pm. . The children are ready ,so we board the van and start our trek to the other side of the island. We pick up island residents along the way and arrive at our State Park ferry for the 7 am run . I get all the systems running on our fifty foot ferry and then head off to Tiburon, only a mile away BUT that depends on the weather because this is definitely NOT a lake. We arrive and dock and then I walk or run , depending on the weather, to our truck parked in a lot and then we are off to the elementary school for a drop off and the next drop off, fifteen miles to the high school. I turn around and then I'm scurrying to make it back to park my truck and then board our ferry back to Angel Island.

I then get in my van and trek across the island to my residence, which is a turn of the century three story , six bedroom five bath mansion that was once an officer's quarters!!!!!!!!!! I get ready for work and then back across the island to my office at the park visitor center. My day begins as far as work goes.



<<Rebecca and her kids head off for school on the ferry



Longtime Boat Operator Allyn Schafer

At the end of the day I drive the state ferry back to Tiburon and pick up the younger child from the library and drop him off at a baseball game and continue to the high school to pick the other child up from swim team practice and then take her to choir practice. I pick up the younger child from baseball and then take him to Boy Scouts. I then pick up the older child from choir, pick up younger child from Scouts and then we are off back to the parking lot to park the truck and then to the ferry dock to drive the boat back to the island and then finally HOME at nine at night!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

That is a typical day for a single MOM, Ranger on an Island!!!!!! WOW, I'm tired just writing about it!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

What we do for our children... We do live on an Island in the middle of San Francisco Bay and my, is it beautiful! There are beaches and trails to get lost on and then if you get tired of that a run or hike to the top puts it all into perspective, a 360 degree view, especially at NIGHT!!!!!!



^^ Casey Lee, volunteer coordinator



^^ Ranger Chuy Salinas



<< Docent Ursula Pollack. The Angel Island Association supports many park activities

WALLS THAT TALK

by **Roy McNamee**, Superintendent

A most interesting site on Angel Island is the U.S. Immigration Station. During the last half of the 19th century, San Francisco was the main port of entry for immigrants from China in search of the riches in California. Fear of too many Chinese immigrants entering the U.S. resulted in Congress passing the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, a law excluding some Chinese from immigrating to the U.S. Because the law allowed for the immigration of Chinese who already had family in the U.S., a record check would usually determine immigration status, but as a result of record destruction from the 1906 earthquake, an intense and detailed interrogation process was employed to compare information collected from both the applicant and the family members who had already immigrated. As a result of that lengthy process, the Angel Island Immigration Station became all too well known for its



detention and interrogation activities. During their detention, frustrated immigrants began to write messages on the interior walls of the barracks. These messages and stories expressed the feelings and attitudes of the disillusioned immigrants trying to enter America.

Prior to a planned destruction of the barracks in the 1970's, it was determined these Chinese writings were an irreplaceable artifact and provided first person insight to the immigrants' story. In the early 1980's, the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation was formed and great efforts and successes have been made in funding and planning restoration. \$15 million from the 2000 Park Bond plus additional monies from private donors, as well as a Save America's Treasures Grant, has brought us to Phase I, beginning mid summer 2005. But that's not all. This politically sensitive project has, through the efforts of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, achieved the commitment of Federal Department of Interior funding support for on-going restoration. Through the continued efforts of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation and a national fundraising campaign, the Angel Island Immigration Station Restoration is on the

move and will see more work accomplished in years to come.

< *Signing immigration papers*

OH DEER!

by **Mike Whitehead**, retired ranger

Some of my first experiences on Angel Island were waking up in the morning at Pt. Blunt, not only to various ship and buoy sounds, but also to the sound of deer antlers scraping the sides of the state duplex, looking for the thicker grass next to the planter, or at night, staring down a 6 point buck. I spent about 15 years on Angel Island State Park as a Ranger 1, the longest Ranger 1 assignment in the units history, I have been told. I enjoyed it tremendously, working with great staff (as they came and went), partially raising my kids there and meeting my lovely wife, Cindi. This article is about the deer problem that existed at one time.

I think the point that brought it home to me was a newspaper photo in the files, from the late 1970s, showing three people sitting at a picnic table at Ayala Cove eating lunch, and passing food among themselves. Three heads in perfect proportion, except one has antlers. The species in question, is the Colombian Black-Tailed Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*). The main conflict was one of deer versus the capacity of the environment to sustain a limited number of animals. Angel Island is a little over a mile square. Research indicates that the carrying capacity for a central coastal area with good to excellent deer browse is 30-45 deer per square mile. The island was classified as an area with less than good browse resources. The island's vegetation has changed drastically over time, from the pre-Spanish days to later when many exotic species were introduced, most with little or no benefits to the deer. Old reports indicate that at one time the deer population reached about 300.

You can imagine the problems that ensued. All shrubbery was eaten off to

See *DEER*, page 12

MAINTAINING HISTORY

by *Joe Rodgers*
Former Maintenance Chief

There are over 100 historic structures located on Angel Island SP, dating from the 1860's. The vast majority of the buildings existing today were built prior to 1915 and most were constructed for the U.S. military. These historic structures range in size from small wooden structures to massive multi-story concrete buildings.

These buildings represent many of the different eras of the island's history. A person can take the 5-mile hike around Angel Island and experience U.S. military history from the Civil War to the Cold War. They can learn about the short-term POW facility located on the island. They will learn that a Quarantine Station was located in Ayala Cove where ships were fumigated and people given physicals prior to going to shore. They will learn that the Miwok Indians utilized the island. These are just a few examples of Angel Island's very eventful past.

There is currently a sizeable restoration project underway at the Immigration Station (also known as the Ellis Island of the West). This project will preserve the remaining structures of this National Historic Landmark and provide our visitors with a much-improved experience. The work will be accomplished in phases over the course of several years. This project is a good example of how private organizations and governmental agencies can work together to accomplish common goals.

I was fortunate to spend nearly five years on Angel Island supervising the maintenance activities and overseeing the completion of projects. It was a real learning experience, to say the least. We have over 220 identified

Civil war era buildings at Fort Reynolds >>



Maintenance Worker Al Vasquez at the dock



deferred maintenance projects and the cost estimate to complete these projects is well over 100 million dollars. The maintenance staff responsible for caring for these structures, maintaining the water and wastewater systems, housekeeping duties, vehicle maintenance, landscaping, etc. consists of four permanent maintenance employees and two seasonal employees. Working on Angel Island is very challenging. It is also extremely rewarding to be a caretaker for such a wonderful park.

All personnel, equipment, and supplies are transported to and from the island by boat. There are two licensed Boat Operators on staff and when the boats are being operated they also require a deckhand to be aboard. We have a personnel carrying vessel "the Ayala"

that makes three scheduled trips to and from Tiburon each day and additional trips are scheduled as required. We have a Landing Craft to transport equipment and large supply

orders to and from the island. There is a boat ramp on the island and the one we utilize on the mainland is located at Fort Baker located near the north tower of the Golden Gate Bridge. The travel time is approximately 30 minutes each way and tides are always a factor when scheduling the LCM. There are size limitations on what can

See **BUILDINGS**, page 7



^^Joe Rodgers and Water Sewage Supervisor Fernando Guzman

NORTH BAY DISTRICT

BUILDINGS, from page 6

be transported on the LCM; the cargo cannot be over 14' wide, 36' long, and weigh no more than 30 tons. There is always consideration made for the weight distribution of the load, for example concrete can only be hauled 5 yards at a time and the drum on the truck cannot be rotating while underway.

Due to the isolation of the island and the logistics challenges faced by contractors working on the island, we normally must pay an additional 35% - 50%+ more than what comparable projects would cost in the East Bay. In addition, most of the buildings have lead base paint and asbestos issues, which must be addressed. If the contractor relies on the State vessel for daily transportation, their workday is limited. Generally, the State owned LCM is not used to transport private contractors, but there is only one other LCM located on the San Francisco Bay for hire, so that can impact the progress of projects as well. We do not get many contractors bidding on projects a second time because of the challenges they face.

Angel Island is a unique park unit that requires a tremendous amount of work to preserve and protect the many valuable cultural and natural resources located here. With each passing day, the condition of many of these resources deteriorates a bit more, while at the same time these valuable resources become more significant and important for future generations. Due to the hard work and dedication of many people, we are now making good progress at the Immigration Station; it is my hope that we can find a way to preserve the rest of the island as well. If you are ever in the San Francisco Bay area, I highly recommend you take the time to visit Angel Island. You will not be disappointed, it truly is "the Jewel of the San Francisco Bay".

THE ISLAND'S FIRST FIRE TRUCK

by **Jim Davis**,
Chief Ranger (retired)
Mojave River District



Photo courtesy California State Parks, 1961

The title is a bit of a misnomer in that there was a Fire Department on the Island during the days of the Army's control. A better title might be "Angel Island State Park's First Fire Truck."

The Army released control of the Island in 1946 with the federal government declaring it surplus in 1947. The National Park Service professionals started an extensive study of the Island, probably in the 1950s. It was in that period that the fire truck known to many of you from your tour on the Rock arrived. Why? The National Park Service does not know, but when they left, the truck stayed. Was it a gift, a loan, a transfer or a purchase? No information has yet been found. Maybe some of you early Rangers can recall something from the Park's PARs.

The truck was built on a 1935 open cab chassis by Studebaker. The fire truck body, pump installation and the equipping was done by Boyer Fire Apparatus Company. While the truck was fairly typical of the period, it was unusual in one way. In addition to its 4-speed transmission it had an auxiliary 3-speed transmission something common in large diesel powered trucks. The truck went new to Sequoia National Park where the many miles of steep mountain roads needed the extra gears to get better road speeds. The Studebaker Museum says that while this transmission configuration was not unknown in their product line, it was

not common. The truck had a front bumper mounted Barton centrifugal pump driven off the crankshaft pulley and capable of producing 250 gallons a minute at probably 120 psi. This type of pump installation was common in those years because of ease of installation and simplicity of operation. Typical of trucks of that era it probably carried 300 gallons of water in its tank, possibly a thousand feet of various sizes of fire hose, ladders and the tools and equipment common to today's fire trucks.

A look at the picture taken in 1961 by then District 2 Superintendent **Gordon Kishbaugh** and supplied by **Wil Jarac** of the Headquarters Photo Archives Shop will bring back memories to many of you. It would be pleasing to know the truck survives, as you knew it. Sadly, this is not so. It survives in Calaveras Big Trees in open storage and partially disassembled due to a cracked engine block.

While not one of a kind or the last of the breed, it is rare. It would be a good thing if it could be restored and returned to Angel Island there to reclaim its place as Angel Island's first State Park fire truck and possibly the then Division of Beaches and Parks first fire truck.

If you know of people or groups who might be interested in such a project or you have some ideas toward that end, contact Wayne Harrison at wharr@parks.ca.gov who has interests in the truck.

RESTORING A MOUNTAIN TOP

by David Boyd

Senior Resource Ecologist

In 1954 the Army established a Nike Missile Base on Angel Island. Underground silos were built above Pt. Blunt and three large cuts were made in an adjacent ridge to allow direct line of site access to the top of Mt. Livermore for missile tracking purposes. The excavated spoils from this construction now form the steep slope to the west of Pt. Blunt. For years, until the surrounding eucalyptus forest was removed, the cuts in the ridge were lost from view with little awareness that they were there.

The impact of the missile base was dramatic on Mt. Livermore. The peak of the mountain was flattened by 18 feet with spoils simply pushed off site to the northeast. A road was built up its south facing slope. Three concrete platforms were built as pads for missile tracking equipment. These pads and a small concrete block communications building, along with lots of paving, remained after the Nike Missile Base became obsolete in 1962 and was abandoned.

The first groves of eucalyptus that were logged in 1992 by State Parks were ones that grew near the mountaintop. Views of the Golden Gate Bridge were obscured by these trees. Without the trees, the road to the top was much more visible, even from San Francisco. The flattened top was also more apparent. About this time the idea of restoring the original contour of the mountain top and removing the road was hatched.

Since Angel Island became a state park, the top of Mt. Livermore has always been a major focal point of visitor use, providing great views of both an urban and natural setting. The original mountain top elevation was approximately 790 feet and the plan was to retrieve the soil that the army shaved off and reshape the



mountain back to its original contour and elevation. The last 1,100 linear feet of access road was also to be erased by pulling the sidecast road fill back up onto the road bench. A new trail was to be constructed, accessing the mountaintop from the north. Budgets were prepared and the site was surveyed. It was estimated that 15,200 cubic yards of material would need to be moved at a cost of about \$200,000.

There were the usual false starts on



getting the project funded but finally in 2002 the project was completed. During project construction the fate of the concrete pads and the concrete block building became an issue. The project plan called for their removal but last minute concerns about their significance as historic cultural resources were raised. For a while, work was suspended and the fate of the entire project was in question. There was opinion that all of the impacts of the Army on Mt. Livermore should be preserved as part of the island's history. A compromise was reached and the work was

resumed with the pads and building remaining undisturbed. The pads now serve as platforms for picnic tables, at an elevation well below the peak of the mountain.

The contractor who did the work, Barth Campbell, is an artist. Without his vision and skill the project could have been in big trouble. It turned out that the amount of material to be moved was grossly underestimated. In all, 82,000 cubic yards of side cast material were retrieved as the road was removed and the original contours of the mountain restored. The shapes of the peak and the ridgeline to the east were expertly reconstructed. Dump trucks moved the material back up from where it was left by the Army and the entire site was tractor walked for compaction. For erosion prevention, weed free straw was applied and straw waddles were placed on the most erosion susceptible locations. The site was fertilized and seeded with grasses. Five thousand native shrubs, grown from seed collected on the island, were planted. The Natural Heritage Stewardship program was used to finance the project. In the end the cost was \$230,000.

As of this spring the planted shrubs have grown tall enough to form a nice cover. The site is very stable, with only minor soil erosion during the first winter after the project was completed. The new trail to the top on the north side of the mountain makes the views of the bay and San Francisco to the south all the more dramatic once the summit is reached. It's now a 360° panorama, the best to be found anywhere, with views of the entire bay, including the Golden Gate, San Francisco, all the cities to the east and Mt. Tamalpais and Marin. In all, about eight acres have been returned to their unspoiled state, a nice improvement to the quality of Angel Island's natural environment.

GROWING FOR THE FUTURE...

by *Janet Carle*, WAVE editor

Emerald green hills. Warm, sunny weather. A glass of vintage wine. Sonoma County was a great place to be during the second week of March. Park professionals gathered from all over the state to attend the 2005 California Parks Conference, hosted by CSPRA and PRAC, March 7-10.

Activities started on Sunday, with a trip to Angel Island. The official trip was cancelled, but Dave and I went anyway, and had a great time touring the island on a breathtakingly beautiful day. Superintendent **Roy McNamee**, Ranger **Chuy Salinas** and Interpretive Specialist **Casey Lee** made us feel right at home. Our visit inspired this issue, which features this amazingly diverse State Park.

Monday's events included wine tasting in the Sonoma Valley, a pistol shoot, and a behind-the-scenes tour of Alcatraz Island. We attended the sea kayak trip on San Francisco Bay, leaving from Sausalito and having lunch on a beach near the Golden Gate. The bay was calm, and the warm, sunny weather made it a pleasure to be out in the water with the seals.

The California State Parks Foundation hosted an opening night reception on Monday, after everyone was back from their adventures. The food was wonderful, as usual. State Parks Director **Ruth Coleman** welcomed everyone, mentioning that encouraging park concessionaires to serve healthy food is one of her goals. She also discussed increasing threats to State Park integrity, such as toll roads and the El Morro Trailer Park. It was nice to see past CSPRA President **Bud Getty**, retired Resource Ecologist **Gary Fregien** and Angel Island Superintendent **Roy McNamee** in attendance. They all live near enough to drop in for the evening.

Educational sessions began on Tuesday morning. The keynote



Past CSPRA Presidents **Dana Jones** and **Val Bradshaw**, new President **Ron Brean**, and President-Elect **Angy Nowicki**



^ PRAC's **Lee Hickinbotham** sold **Jeff Price** sized strings of raffle tickets << **GrayBears Jackie Ball, Carl Chavez** and **Paula Peterson**

address was presented by **Mary Burns**, Director of Sonoma County Parks. State Parks Director **Ruth Coleman** introduced Mary, and spoke of the "power of parks" and encouraged us to, "Reflect, risk, and leave something behind bigger than yourself". Mary emphasized that the next generation of park stewards must be fostered by park professionals everywhere. "Nature is a place where miracles happen every day" and we, as park people, are there to see them. Mary explained that Sonoma County has a 3 cent sales tax that supports parks to the tune of \$17 million a year.

Tuesday morning sessions included Auto Theft Investigation, Alternative Camping, and Amphibians. Lunch was highlighted by a presentation on PORTS (Parks Online Resource for Teachers and Students). This is the technology we have covered before in the *Wave*, where park staff can speak with students in the classroom from out in the field, and even while SCUBA diving in the ocean. We were treated to visits from Regional Interpretive Specialist **Brian Cahill** amongst the wildflowers at Anza

Borrego, the State Capitol Museum Guides and the Ano Nuevo elephant seals. The most compelling part for me, however, was having a class of students from Southern California ask us, the park conference attendees, questions about what it is like to work in a park via the satellite hookup. We could see the kids, they could see us, and we could all interact in real time. Thanks to **Joe Von Herrmann** and **Alan Friedman** for making it possible.

Sessions on Tuesday afternoon included Sudden Oak Death and the Overdue Park Visitor. GrayBears sponsored a trip to Jack London State Historic Park.. Retired Supervising Ranger **Greg Hayes** is now a volunteer guide and gave the group a delightful tour, along with Superintendent **John Crossman**. GrayBears also held sessions on retirement issues and travel, attended by about 15 retirees at the conference, and coordinated by **Jeff Price** and **Paula Peterson**.

Those with energy left finished off
See *CONFERENCE*, page 10

MARCH 7-10, ROHNERT PARK

...CELEBRATING FRUITS OF OUR LABORS



^^ Gary Fregien, Bud Getty & Paula Peterson



^^ DPR Director Ruth Coleman with Ron Brean



^^ Ranger Mark Langner Interpreters Pat Clark Gray and Debbie Wyatt

CONFERENCE, from page 9 the day at the Murder Mystery Dinner Theater, testing their powers of deduction.

Wednesday continued bright and sunny. Sessions included Wild Turkey Research, Volunteer Management and Community Collaborations. The dramatic highlight had to be the Helicopter Operations session, where a conference attendee was plucked off the roof of the hotel by a chopper from the Sonoma County Sheriff Search and Rescue Helicopter Unit.

CSPRA and PRAC held their annual membership meetings and officer installation at lunchtime. **Ron Brean** took over the CSPRA presidency from **Val Bradshaw**. **Pam Armas** (Monterey District) is the new Secretary/Treasurer, and new Board members are **Jill Dampier** (Auburn SRA), **Joe Rodgers** (HQ), **Gail Sevrens** (Northern Service Center) and **Joe Mette** (retired). **Angy Nowicki** was installed as President-Elect. CSPRA Lobbyist **Monica Miller** gave a report on the El Morro Trailer Park, Crystal Cove cottages and other legislative matters. Outgoing Executive Manager **Gar Salzgeber** was bid a fond farewell. **Laura Svendsgaard**, formerly of the California State Parks Foundation, is the new Executive Manager. The 2006 Conference will be in Laughlin, NV.

Wednesday activities continued with Basic Chainsaw Safety, Care &

10 CSPRA Wave, May-Jun, 2005

Maintenance of Archeological Sites and a visit to the Sonoma Juvenile Probation Work Camp. The evening banquet featured presentation of the CSPRA Honorary Ranger award to **George Cardinet, Jr.** (see page 12). Keynote speaker **Jordan Fisher Smith**, a retired State Park Ranger from Auburn SRA, discussed his new book, *Nature Noir*, about his experiences as a ranger in the "condemned landscape" of the American River Canyons. Jordan described the writing process, his motivations for writing the book, and his battle with Lyme disease. The evening concluded with a lively dance and a final raffle conducted by "Raffle King" **Lee Hickinbotham, Jr.**

Many of us left Thursday to head home, after a wonderful few days spent reuniting with old friends,

making a few new ones, getting inspired and hopefully, offering a little inspiration here and there. Those who stayed enjoyed another day of workshops on Park Advocacy Day, Adobe Restoration, Explosive Device Awareness, and Exhibit Creation at the Copia Center for Wine, Food and the Arts.

A big thank you toast is in order (with a fine Sonoma vintage) to conference co-chairs **Angy Nowicki** from CSPRA and PRAC's **Lee Hickinbotham Jr.**

See you next year in Laughlin!



^^ Retired ranger and author, **Jordan Fisher Smith** signing his new book, *NATURE NOIR*.



^^ **BACK**, L to R: Past-Pres **Dana Jones**, Webmaster **Jeff Price**, Sec/Treas. **Pam Armas**, Lobbyist **Monica Miller**, Pres-Elect **Angy Nowicki**, Board mem. **Joe Rodgers**, Pres. **Ron Brean**; **FRONT**: Board mem. **Jill Dampier**, Exec Mgr. **Laura Svendsgaard**, Past-Pres **Val Bradshaw**, WAVE editor **Janet Carle**, Board members **Gail Sevrens**, **Karen Barrett**. **MORE PHOTOS**, page 11



**MORE
CONFERENCE
PHOTOS!**

*Field trips
included a
winery tour and
a tour of Jack
London SHP*

*DPR Dir. Ruth
Coleman &
Sonoma Co.
Parks Dir. Mary
Burns >>*



*<Planners, Bk:
Aniko Millan,
Mike Chiesa,
Tiffany Wolf,
Dave Updike,
Rebecca Farr,
John Havicon,
CeeCee Cole;
Frnt: Angy
Nowicki, Lee
Hickenbotham*



*^^ Authors Carl Chavez &
David Carle signed books*

*<< GrayBear John Melvin
at the Mystery Dinner*

*Rangers Adrian
Itaya, Susan Grove,
Lori Martin, Kim
Baker, Ann
Meneguzzi >>*



Margo Cowan & Eileen Hook (HQ) taught Volunteer. Mgt.



*^^ Kim Baker, Dave Carle, John Melvin, Peggy Price,
Jill Dampier, Jeff Price, Dana Jones, Susan Grove,
Becky Schenone-Chase posed for one of the WAVE
editor's many photos...few escaped!*

*Joyce
Moldovan
& Sheryl
Lawton
(Diablo
Vista) and
Kim Baker
(Columbia
SHP) >>*



Photos by Janet Carle and Jeff Price

Grandfather of Trails



2005 Honorary Ranger **George H. Cardinet, Jr.**, with his son, **George** (left) and grandson (right), Ranger **Matt Cardinet**

This year's Honorary Ranger is **George H. Cardinet, Jr.** of Concord, an avid horseman, native Californian, and descendent of 49er immigrants from France. George, who just turned 95, has advocated and developed riding and hiking trails for over 65 years. He was instrumental in the creation of the 21 mile Martinez-to-Mt. Diablo trail in the 1940s, and continued to map and route more than 200 miles of trails in the greater East Bay Area.

The Juan Bautista de Anza Trail has been George's special labor of love. This 1500 mile trail follows the route of Capt. Juan Bautista de Anza in 1775-76 on his first colonizing expedition into Alta California. It became a National Historic Trail by an act of Congress in 1990, and one of 16 trails designated a "Millenium Trail" in 2000.

George has been a champion of preserving our heritage and anticipating the recreational needs of the future.

George's grandson, **Matt Cardinet**, is a State Park Ranger at Brannan Island SRA.

DEER, from page 5

a level that the deer couldn't reach, with some pictures showing the deer up on two legs attempting to eat higher brush and shrubs. Eventually, they would gather in the main picnic area on Ayala Cove with a willing public wanting to feed "Bambi". The begging for food became more aggressive creating many problems and some injuries to visitors. Deer carcass autopsies reported by Fish and Game showed stomach contents with balloons, plastic bags, cellophane wrappers, styrofoam cups, and other indigestible materials, eventually blocking native food ingestion. This seemingly visitor friendly experience was actually adding to the herd's mortality.

There is little recorded about the origin or historical tenure of deer on Angel Island. Various reports from the mid to late 1880's made mention of deer on the island. There were an unspecified number of black-tailed deer introduced from a ranch in Sonoma County by the U.S. Army in 1915. Another smaller group was reported to have been brought into the Quarantine Station area about 1930. In the late 1970's, local kayakers reported having seen deer swimming Raccoon Strait between Tiburon and Angel Island, about half a mile at its closest point. So what do you do when faced with this over population in a state park? One can imagine the public outcry or just read the following headlines from articles in the parks files: *Too Many Deer Spoil a Park; Angel Islands Starving Deer Spurn Free Food, Angel Island Park Deer to be Moved; Angel Island Deer to be Sterilized; Angel Island Deer Kill Nears; Killing with Kindness.*

Those of you who have faced similar, unpopular events in parks will know the malady I came to call, "Interpretive Stress", defined as meeting a concerned visitor, taking time to explain the problem and solutions and possibly getting some understanding (or not) and then, being confronted immedi-

ately, by the next person, equally worried, and pleading your case all over again.

Several ideas were tried to reduce the deer. The San Francisco SPCA attempted feeding the deer with alfalfa and compressed food pellets. The deer didn't fair well under this new diet and carcasses continued to be found. The raccoons, however did develop a taste for the catered food. Sterilization efforts were undertaken, some successful, some not. Ear tags would indicate which deer and in what program they had "participated." During my tenure, it wasn't uncommon to see a doe with multiple colored ear tags standing next to a fawn or two, indicating a less than successful endeavor. The introduction of natural predators, from coyotes to mountain lions, was considered. Worries of "public feeding" along with habitat size, canceled the effort rather quickly. Later efforts were undertaken to relocate some deer to rural public lands in Mendocino County with costs being reported in the \$500 plus range, per deer. However, tracking studies revealed that the majority of the deer moved to the mainland were killed by cars, dogs, coyotes and hunters within 60 days. Which brings us to the idea of "culling," as we used to put it to the public.

A carrying capacity formula had been established by a local university researcher, and staff would go out several nights a year driving a specific route, to record numbers and activities of the population. A fun park family activity at times. When the calculations were found to exceed capacity, a cull was scheduled. I participated in about two or three of these efforts. Island Rangers were chosen for this somewhat distasteful duty, as we knew the territory and backdrops. None of us were hunters, but we understood the resource management point of view. We would obtain depredation

See *DEER*, page 13

DEER, from page 12

permits from Department of Fish and Game, advise the local Police Department on the mainland regarding sound effects, and shut down public camping for several days. Park residents were advised that outdoor activities between 0200 and 0600 hours were discouraged (to say the least). Rangers would gather about 0230 or so, nervously chatting and joking among ourselves to relieve the pressure of “the hunt”. Was this sport hunting: no way! You are living your worst nightmare in parks: a bunch of guys, riding around in the back of a pickup with high powered rifles with scopes, spotlighting deer. The first six deer we saw, we took. No regard to sex, age or size. Enough said. The carcasses weren’t wasted, however. We’d butcher the meat (a new career field for most of us) and send it to the local charity dining halls, and the hides would go to anyone or agency for interpretive purposes. The remainder would go to a local tallow plant. At times, Fish and Game or other scientific researchers would request fresh carcasses for various herd studies of deer in a controlled environment.

Population counts and various research continues to this day, but “culling” has not recently occurred. The herd is currently in the 60-90 count range. Although they still frequent the park and can be seen on the main lawn in Ayala Cove each evening after the last ferry, they present much less of a problem for the public and the health of the herd.

One last quote from the EIR: “The story of Angel Island illustrates a basic ecological principle: a population’s growth is dependent on the resources of its environment. Human intervention could only postpone, not prevent the inevitable...”

AN UNCOMMON WAY OF INTERPRETING

by Ranger **Chuck Edgemon**, Año Nuevo SR, and **Linda Kekelis**, Chabot Space & Science Center

“Let’s stop here and listen.” The message invites visitors to leave behind their fast-paced schedule as they hike a trail to the sandy beaches where a group of elephant seals are resting. Año Nuevo State Reserve is the site of one of the largest mainland-breeding colonies in the world for the northern elephant seal, and our interpretive program attracts many visitors each year. Today’s high school group stops to take notice of a flock of birds passing overhead. Later the group breaks from its brisk hike to learn about the flora and fauna of the area. As plants and shells are passed around, each student feels the artifacts that their docent describes. A docent that helps visitors experience the park in a new way leads this tour. **Kim Pomatto** is one of the Reserve’s newest docents. Kim has had a lifelong interest in marine biology like many of our docents but she never imagined she would have the opportunity to share her passion and educate others at a California State Park. What makes her story unusual is that Kim is blind.

As part of our Park’s outreach program, I visited the California School for the Blind in Fremont and talked to students about Año Nuevo State Reserve. While everyone in this group enjoyed learning about the northern elephant seals, Kim made a lasting impression with her perceptive comments and questions. I saw in Kim the potential to become a valuable member of our park’s team of docents. Her interest, passion, and unique perspective give Kim the ability to inspire and inform our visitors in a special way.

Kim spent several months as a docent-in-training, learning about the migratory patterns of northern elephant



Kim Pomatto (L) & Marcia Vickroy

seals at Año Nuevo. She also had the opportunity to visit and learn about the tide pools at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and the research and rehabilitation programs at Seymour Marine Discovery Center. At each of these sites, Kim received hours of specialized training from staff and volunteers and proved to be a quick study on subjects that hold special interest.

Kim put the months of training into practice, and has lead tours for other students with visual impairments from the California School for the Blind in Fremont and the Living Skills Center in San Pablo. Along the trails of our Reserve, Kim stops at various points of interest and brings out her collection of shells, fur, and fossils for visitors to study. Kim encourages the groups to take a close look at each item while she describes its importance. As Kim has developed her interpretive style, I have encouraged her to value her perspective. Kim draws the attention of our visitors—sighted and visually impaired—to aspects of Año Nuevo that reflect her unique experiences and encourages them to experience

See Ano Nuevo, page 14

The 5th World Ranger Congress

is to take place in the historic city of Sterling, Scotland. Famed as "the Gateway to the Highlands", Sterling is also an ideal base for discovering the gentle rolling Scottish lowlands.

The congress will take place from the 14th to the 21st of June 2006. The 5th World Congress Will Focus on Four Main Themes:

- Access - Managing access from doorstep to wilderness
- Benefits - Sharing environmental values and perceptions
- Connections - Benefiting people and places
- Delivery - Making the connections work

For more details visit the Congress website:

www.ranger-irfc.com/scotcover2006

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ANO NUEVO, from page 13

the wildlife and environment utilizing all their senses.

The administration at the California School for the Blind fully supported Kim's participation in this project. Teacher **Marcia Vickroy** noted, "Opportunities like this one help expand the options for students at the California School for the Blind." Superintendent of the California School for the Blind, **Stuart Wittenstein** notes, "We're very proud of Kim but not surprised by her success. Kim's accomplishments reflect our school's philosophy of believing in the abilities and potential of blind students. We find that the more we expect of our kids, the more they achieve."

This partnership between Año Nuevo State Reserve and the California School for the Blind is serving as a case study for the Techbridge program, which encourages students with visual impairments to expand their career options in technical and scientific fields. Techbridge at the California School for the Blind is hosted by Chabot Space & Science Center and supported with funding from the Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation and the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation. **Etta Heber**, Director of Programs at Chabot Space & Science

Center shares, "One of Chabot's primary objectives is to open new doors and opportunities related to science and technology for youth from underrepresented populations, including students with impairments. Kim's achievement is a wonderful success story, thanks in large part to the efforts of Ranger **Chuck Edgemon**. There are limitless opportunities for impacting many more lives, and we encourage other California park rangers to join us in this exciting and worthwhile endeavor."

For Kim, "My experience at Año Nuevo is a dream come true." Kim has appreciated the generosity of the staff and volunteers at the Reserve and the California School for the Blind who helped her expand her options for the future. We also recognize the value of this opportunity for visitors to Año Nuevo State Reserve and encourage other parks to offer internships to students with impairments. The experience is beneficial to these students and to staff and visitors to our State Parks. If you are interested in exploring how your park might involve persons with impairments in your docent program and outreach efforts, we would be pleased to share our experience and lessons learned.



Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops

by Jeff Price, retired

Not a problem from the Chief's perspective.

The problem is we have too many Indians and not enough chickens.

Deed, I don't need no stinking deed!
Just because he's our landlord doesn't mean he owns the place!

Dictionary time.
We want this to be effective — effective with a capital A!

A most excellent adventure.
I probably need to endeavor out more.

Better to use digits.
Keep your figures crossed that we get those positions back.

Early warning?
Sorry about the time, we got a late head start.

Subconscious mind at work.
It was a slip of the tongue, I never made a conscientious decision to hurt her feelings.

GET CONNECTED

CSPRA Online: Catch up on CSPRA activities, contact your District Reps, Board or Officers, get latest information www.cspra.com

EXECUTIVE MANAGER



by Laura Svensgaard
CSPRA Executive Manager

It is always a little awkward filling the shoes of someone as beloved and familiar to CSPRA as **Gar Salzgeber**. But as he's chosen to make space in his life for travel adventures, I really do view it an honor to be assisting CSPRA, its board and members as the new Executive Manager. We may need a little patience here and there during this transition, but we're all doing our best to make it smooth. The toll free 800# now rings to the CSPRA line at my home, but the rest of the contact information has changed and is noted with the information provided on page 2 of this issue of *The Wave*.

We're struggling a bit to keep up with the growing need for retirement plaques. Please know that at least 2 weeks notice of a need for a plaque would be helpful. Also,

when advising us of a retirement, I'll need to know the years of service and the specific name that should appear on the plaque. We'll do our best to have a CSPRA Board Member present the plaque, but obviously that's not always possible. In which case, we may ask for assistance from a CSPRA member already planning to attend the event. In that circumstance we'll also need a mailing address.

Enrollment in the PERS automatic deduction program for the payment of CSPRA dues is gaining in popularity. It's proven to be an easy and painless way to continue membership with just \$3.00 coming out of each month's check. If you haven't done so already, simply contact me and I'll get a copy of the short enrollment form to you.

In the next month I'll be working with the Board of Directors to develop a set of Financial Policies for the day-to-day and long-term management and accountability of CSPRA's funds. I'll also be working with the Board to develop a set of job descriptions for each of the Board positions.

In the meantime, please know that I'm eager to hear of any suggestions or needs you may have, and am TRULY looking forward to serving this great group.

GRAYBEARS



Attention retired members! Want to keep in touch after you leave DPR? Join the GrayBears list server. It is FREE and EASY to use. Just send your name and email address to: graybears@cspra.com

Do you know someone who is retiring?

CSPRA provides a plaque for each member when they retire. Contact us at (800) 749-8749, or email executivemanager@CSPRA.com, or write to CSPRA, P.O. Box 2132, Newport, OR 97365





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Mission Statement



The California State Park Rangers Association is an organization of park professionals dedicated to advancement of the highest principles of public service, and established to support, protect, and defend the integrity of State Parks for present and future generations.



Founded 1964