

NEWSLETTER

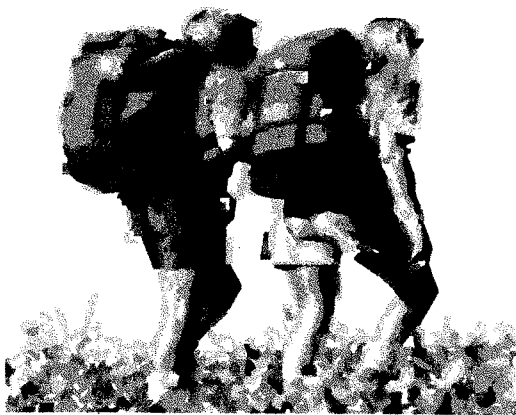
California State Park Rangers Association

Volume VI Number 75

August 1996

1997 Parks Conference—Concord March 13th to 16th by Jeff Price, 1997 Planning Committee

Next year's Parks Conference will be held Thursday, March 13, 1997 through Sunday, March 16, 1997 at the Sheraton Concord Hotel and Conference Center on John Glenn Drive in Concord, California.



The conference theme will be, Parks — Renewing The Human Spirit, and will reflect the need humanity has for refreshing the spirit through the park experience. The importance of experiencing parks and nature is recognized as a basic requirement for maintaining a healthy social culture in California.

(Continued on page 3)

The Spider, The Fly, And The Wasp

by David Carle, Ranger I
Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve

To squish, or not to squish — that is the question —

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer

The Slings and Arrows of outrageous insects,

Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,

And by opposing end them?

I apologize to Mr. Shakespeare for altering Hamlet's words, but "slings and arrows of outrageous insects" perfectly describes my feelings when wasps went into attack mode recently.

In fact, recent wasp, fly and spider encounters each presented this question. What reaction would be "nobler in the mind?" To tolerate? Or take arms?

A school field trip to Mono Lake. A mix of ages, 5th through 9th graders. We're all kneeling on the sand by the lakeshore as I try to explain something or other . . . but the explanation is not being heard because

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Presidents Message

by David A. Nelson

I worked the opening of the State Fair yesterday.

It is always a boost to the ego to work events like the state fair. If you can get people past the reservation system, they are generally pleased with the park system and it's employees. They talk about their favorite State Park (Yosemite) and usually have a park experience to relate. Most importantly, they tell you how lucky you are to be a ranger, and what a great job it must be.

Because I spent too much time last week watching the events in San Diego, this was exactly what I needed to hear. It gets old listening to speaker after speaker bash government and public employees. They talk about the failure of the system as if they are not part of it. Now that recovery is in place, is it necessary to downsize, privatize, and commercialize? Or is it political whim or a personal agenda. And don't mistake my questions for a political stand; I don't think the events in Chicago next week will make me feel any better! They all talk about values being more important than money, but the only growth they talk about in government is prisons and military. Shouldn't parks be a growth industry, too? Finally, what is wrong with managing public land for the public good and not for the individual gain?

But, back to the fair, and a more positive message. The highlight of my shift was meeting the daughter of a park ranger. She is studying to be a teacher, working seasonally for the parks, and definitely has parks in her heart. The reason that this conversation was so important to me was that it could have been with my oldest daughter. She also fits the description above. But different from my conversations with my own daughter, I was very positive and encouraging. And why shouldn't I be! Being a park ranger is the best job I can imagine, working for the State Park System is a privilege that I have never regretted, and truly serving the public can be the most rewarding benefit of all. These words are not just meant for someone else's daughter; they will be part of my conversation with my daughter as well. We need the best, and that starts with having parks in the heart. And caring about their future.

My wife warned me about getting Direct TV, and I'm starting to believe her!

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Parks Conference (Continued from page 1)

Your 1997 Conference Planning Committee is excited about the four tracks of unique workshops and worthwhile training, off-site tours (currently in the works: Alcatraz, Angel Island, SF Presidio, Mt. Diablo, Ardenwood, Black Diamond Mine, Muir's Home, Lindsay Museum and Borges Ranch), CSPRA General Executive Council meeting, new officer installations, silent auction, special social events, a picnic and other festivities that will be a part of your total quality experience.

The core planning team is ably chaired by Larry Ferri, with assistance from many others, such as Dave Nelson (Delta), Sandy Ferreira (City of Fremont), Carol Nelson (Bay Area) and Jeff Price (Marin). Please feel free to contact any of those listed or Larry at Mt. Diablo State Park, (510) 673-2891, if you are interested in providing your professional assistance in making this an outstanding conference. Your help, participation and personal attendance are needed and will be valued greatly. Give a little back. Get involved in your profession!

Begin thinking now about setting aside the time to attend and remember to submit that Out-Service Training Request (up to 50% reimbursement for your time and registration costs) next Spring.

We look forward to seeing you in March 1997 - Concord!

The Spider, The Fly, and The Wasp

(Continued from page 1)

a spider has appeared in our midst.

Several kids who spot it first pull back. I stop talking and look to see what's the matter. They point to the critter crawling near my knee.

"Oh, hi there," I say to the spider. I try to shoo it out of the circle with a hand. But the spider, not surprisingly, doesn't trust

my good intentions. It flees toward some of the other kids—all are focused on this little drama by now. And a boy's thumb comes forward, poised to mash.

"Whoa," I say, reaching out, stopping the hand. The spider pauses, sensing danger. "No need for that. You know, I'd like this trip to teach you things about Mono Lake, but if there's one thing you go away with today, maybe understanding why this little bitty spider should be safe here matters the most."

"When I find a spider in my bedroom at my house," I continue, trying to show a shared instinct in these matters, "I admit, I usually squish it. That's my territory. But here, in this special park, this is the spider's place to be. Her home. And we are the visitors."

I reach again to try to scoop the spider up with a handful of sand, to transfer it to safety, but it makes a dash in among the legs. Some feet dance away. One comes unerringly down.

Eons of evolutionary programming win again. But maybe, just maybe, some of the students got the message.

On that same hike we took a close look at Mono Lake's alkali flies. I told the group to stop and watch as I moved into the buzzing mass, showing them how thousands of shore-hugging flies do their best to avoid ME. They never bite; just seem to consider humans too yucky to tolerate.

We sought out fly larvae and pupae on the rocks in the shallow water. Found adult flies walking in their bubbles of air under water. Even tried eating a few pupae cases, because fly pupae were a major part of the local Kuedika Paiutes' diets in the old days. And we watched Mono Lake's birds feasting on the abundant flies.

Alkali fly experiences break insect stereotypes. They make us see a little fly (of all the seemingly insignificant things) in new ways: Not pests, and critical parts of the Mono Lake food chain.

Some wasps built a nest on the front porch of our house this summer. I wouldn't have
Continued on page 4)

HUMOR IN UNICORN

by Jeff Price

Director Murphy sends this one along, collected from a May 14th Assembly budget hearing, where Rep. Bill Morrow, (R) Oceanside, criticized the Department's presentation:

"You're just shovelling a lot of smoke."

['Just wing it and sail into the sunset.

"She's always been the wind beneath my sheets."

... and a bad pitch too.

"I don't trust him worse than I could throw him."

Easy to say, but difficult to do.

"Don't say anything, just bite your lips."

Speedy revolution.

"I should have checked my tachometer to see how far I drove."

Fine crust.

"Whoa! You are treading on thin ground there."

Hirsute narrative?

"A story like that puts hair on the back of my neck."

Explosive epidermis.

"That really blows my hide!"

15 yard penalty, misquote.

"No, it's not exactly what she said, but that was the interference."

The Spider, The Fly, & . . .

(Continued from page 1)

cared that they were there, until I walked out the front door one day and was immediately dive-bombed and stung. The next day, my son was stung—again, just for being there.

Not good neighbors, these nasty wasps. Their sting is no small thing to experience; a painful burn that lasts and lasts. But the unprovoked outrageousness of the attack makes it seem even worse.

A nest of angry wasps at my front door was not acceptable. I lined a baseball catcher's mask with window screen, sealed sleeves and collar with duct tape, and "took arms against [my] troubles."

That was at my house. But then, a few days later, wasps revealed another nest beside a State Reserve boardwalk trail. They stung me twice when I, unwittingly, came close to their nest hidden in the ground. I was just trying to pick up some litter in the willows.

Unfortunately, when the wasps swarmed, they also went after a family group coming down the boardwalk trail. Three were stung, including two children. Not a pleasant experience for any of us. Fortunately none were allergic to insect stings, but the kids were hurt and scared . . . and offended by the outrageous attack.

At my house, I had zero tolerance for the front-porch "invaders." In the park, however, beside a boardwalk trail meant to serve visitors (a key word) . . .

. . . to squish (metaphorically speaking, in this case) or not to squish, that is the question.

Eradicate, relocate (the wasps or the trail), or practice simple avoidance. We have options to consider.

But we are resolved to solve this problem in a fashion "nobler in the mind." Because pragmatism and realism need to accommodate idealism.

And because I believe what I told those kids about that spider.

But we are resolved to solve this problem in a fashion "nobler in the mind." Because pragmatism and realism need to accommodate idealism.

What is Celebrate Parks 96?

by David M. Collins
Ranger I, American River

It is a great opportunity for the State Parks professional to join with other park professionals, park advocacy groups, and park users in a mass showing of support for California State Parks.

Celebrate Parks 96
Date: October 20 1996
Time: 10:00 A.M.

Place: Meet @ the west steps of the State Capitol or park at Discovery Park—shuttle to Capitol provided by R.T.
Become involved, support your profession

The rally / march will begin at the State Capitol and travel 1.5 miles to Discovery Park. At Discovery Park you will find entertainment, information booths, demonstrations, food, speakers . . . and the list goes on.

California State Parks employees from the Gold Rush and American River Districts and the Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division with/be participating in this event.

CSPRA is looking for Park Professionals/State Park Supporters to join in the activities and staff State Park information booths, provide mini interpretive programs and exhibit the wide variety of recreational activities that occur at the California State Park and Recreation areas.

This is your opportunity to stand and be counted as a State Park supporter.

Become involved with this Great Celebration, get off the sidelines and bring your family and friends. Come and rally for your California State Parks, Your Profession, Its Future. For more information contact:

David Collins (916) 885-5821
Jill Dampier (916) 885-4528

Pacheco State Park

by Adrian Itaya

One of the newest additions to the California State Park system is a 6,890 acre parcel spanning two counties. Pacheco State Park, classified by the State Park Commission on May 20, is a gift from Paula Fatjo to the people of California.

Pacheco State Park is located on the south side of Pacheco Pass, one of the major links between the Central Valley and the coast. Ninety percent of the new park is in Merced county with San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area as part of its border, and the rest in Santa Clara county. The park will open on a limited basis later this year.

The gift of El Rancho San Luis Gonzaga by Paula Fatjo is a unique piece of California history. Paula was the last, direct descendent (seventh generation) of an original land grantee, Francisco Perez Pacheco. Continuing in the ranching heritage, Paula raised Arabian horses and Hereford cattle on her property. She had restored the house that had been built in 1846 and lived in it until the 1960's. In 1967, she lost a majority of her 16,000 acre property when the state condemned it to build San Luis Reservoir. In an effort to retain the original house, she had it moved to the top of Pacheco Pass. Unfortunately, on the trip the house collapsed. The remains of her adobe still stand behind the house she built after she moved.

Paula Fatjo, despite fights with state bureaucrats over her property in the 1960's, left in her will the entire property that she loved to the California Department of Parks and Recreation. There were several stipulations that she included in the gift. The first was that income that is generated from the property (there are 167 electricity-generating windmills at the top of Pacheco Pass) is to stay at the property and not go into the general fund. The important second point was that the property was to stay intact and not be broken up.

With these items the Department of Parks and Recreation is now preparing to allow the public to visit the legacy of the Pacheco family and generosity of Paula Fatjo.

**Coming soon
to CSPRA
News "Did You
Know?"**

District Reps

Name	District	Work Phone	Home Phone
Muetz, M	American River	916 988-0205	916 622-9133
Padilla, F	Angeles-Coast	805 986-8484	818 880-4510
Crossman, J	Angeles Inland	805 945-1323	
Edgemon, C	Bay Area-Coast	415 726-8800	415 879-2025
Nielson, C.	Bay Area-Inland	510 673-2891	
Harrison, W	Calaveras	209 795-3488	209 795-5342
Vacant	Channel Coast		
Zemon, J	Colorado	619 767-5311	
Stokes, M	Four Rivers	209 826-1196	209 632-1627
Simmons, K.	Gold Rush Dist	916 445-7387	
Redoble, J	Los Lagos	909 657-0676	909 943-5119
Whitehead, M	Marin	415 435-5390	415 435-3082
Rath, L	Monterey	408 623-4526	408 623-4398
Vacant	Northern Buttes		
Jones, R	North Coast	707 946-2409	707 725-4920
Vacant	OHV		
Serpa, J	Orange Coast	714 496-6172	714 493-0773
Vacant	Pismo Dunes	805 473-7230	
Joe, K	Russ-Mendocino	707 937-5804	707 877-3592
Broderick, K.	Russ-Mendocino	707 847-3286	707 785-3432
Kerbavaz, J	S.D. Coast		619 575-3613
Vacant	San Joaquin		
Knapp, E	San Luis Obispo	805 772-7434	805 927-3516
Van Schmus, J	San Simeon	805 927-2020	805 772-9648
Vacant	Santa Cruz	408 338-8860	408 336-0822
Lindsey, T	Sierra	916 525-7232	
Nixon, V.	Silverado	707 279-4293	707 277-7713

If your District doesn't have a Rep, nominate someone before they nominate you.

The District Reps are your best connection with the board. Give them your ideas, suggestions, questions and complaints.

CSPRA Finances

California State Park Rangers Association

Who we are . . .

*Support quality Department efforts

The California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) has been dedicated to protecting and preserving features of the California State Park System for more than three decades.

*Comment on proposed park uses

The Professional organization that cares about protecting and preserving the values of the State Park System.

CSPRA actively promotes advancement of the ideals and philosophy for which state parks were founded.

For more information about CSPRA and how you can become a member write:

What we do . . .

*Provide professional exchange of thought

*Defend State Park System integrity

CSPRA

P.O. Box 292010

Sacramento, CA 95829-2010

(800) 994-2530

(916) 558-3734

Checking
Balance

\$2,739.42

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Balance

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SAVE

BODIE!

Savings

\$3,268.20

Total Assets

\$15,575.27

Honorary Membership Nominations

Who?

"An Honorary Member may be any person who, for distinguished service devoted to the objectives of the Association, is nominated by a member of any membership class and approved by a two thirds vote of the board." Section 6, Article 4 of the Constitution of CSPRA.

How?

By placing in nomination a person whose service meets the following criteria:

1. The individual shall have contributed in an outstanding or extraordinary manner, or to an unusual degree, to the advancement of the State Park concept, the profession of State Park Ranger, public service within the State Parks, or in the field of ecology as it affects the park system or the public use of parks.

2. This service or action is to be beyond that in which the individual would normally have accomplished as part of his job or responsibility.

3. The service may not necessarily be of state or national importance, but it is to be judged on its own merit.

4. Normally, the recommendation would be made during the person's lifetime.

What?

Compose a letter, including the name, address and telephone number of the person, the date and place of birth, the educational and/or service background and listing the specific accomplishments which you believe qualifies him/her for the Honorary Membership.

When?

Now, complete and sign, along with other participating members, the letter, or letters, of nomination and mail to:

Mary Wright

Monterey District

2211 Garden Rd

Monterey, CA 93940

Nominations received later than 12/1 will not be considered for next years award.

Retirees' Ramblings

Bob Perkins

Dave Stratton, his wife Elizabeth and I traveled to England and Europe during the month of October, 1995. I am currently building a condo/hanger at Illinois Valley Airport, Cave Junction, Oregon, of steel and glass sunrooms for sale. Disabled (?) guests may temporarily occupy. I am flying my plane to Sedona, Arizona soon.

Ted Wilson

Thought for the day: Beware of half truths — you may have hold of the wrong half.

Floyd Lemley

We keep active by hiking our beaches, riding our mountain bikes, and we play golf once a week. In April and May we took a cruise from Orlando, Florida through the Panama Canal and back to San Diego. Stopped off in Costa Rica and took a hike through the rain forest. Saw monkeys, birds, and a lot of green stuff! Great Trip.

Don Hoyle

Since retiring in April 1995, Nancy and I have been living in our home in Arnold, and enjoying waking up every morning in The Sierra Nevada! We like the quiteness of the area, lunch on the deck, hiking, walking, hot tubbing, and enjoying family and friends.

Beware of half truths — you may have hold of the wrong half.

"We would not want anyone to think that we have any desire to hurt professors who study Archaeology, history, literature or harmless stuff like that." The Unabomber

Retirees' Rendezvous

Don't forget to register for the
Retirees' Rendezvous
to be held 10/3 - 10/8
at McConnell SRA.

August



1996

California State Park Rangers Assoc
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(916) 777-7701

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(805) 248-6447

Secretary/Treasurer
Adrian Itaya
State Park Ranger I
Four Rivers District
(209) 826-1196

Directors
Susan Grove
State Park Ranger II
Colorado Desert — Palomar
(619) 742-3462

CSPRA
Calendar

Retirees
Rendezvous
10/3 - 8/96

California
Parks
Conference
Concord
3/12 - 16/97

Directors (Continued)

Steve Hill
Assoc Pk & Rec Spec
Four Rivers District
(209) 826-1196

Jill Dampier
State Park Ranger II
American River — Auburn
(916) 885-4527

Dave Collins
State Park Ranger I
American River District — Auburn
(916) 885-5821

All committees use CSPRA address.

For additional information on the
association, write to

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