

NEWSLETTER

california state park rangers association

Volume VI Number 69

January 1996

New Office Manager

The New Year ushered in some organizational changes for CSPRA. As of January 1, Doug Bryce resigned as Office Manager, although he will continue as the Newsletter editor. Needless to say, after being the heart of CSPRA almost since it's beginning, Doug will be missed. I have a feeling we will continue to draw upon his knowledge, and having him continue as editor will keep him in the loop.

We didn't have to go far to find a new office manager. John Bryce, Doug's son, has agreed to take over the responsibilities. John is part of the "Park Family" and has been seen at various CSPRA functions in years past. A graduate of California State University, Sacramento, he spent the next 7.5 years teaching english in Taiwan. John is currently employed by the Secretary of States Office. He and his wife Chung Hwa, have two children (Benjamin & Petrina) and are expecting their third.

The CSPRA P.O. Box, FAX line, 800 number and voice mail service will remain the same.

Ballot Results

President Elect

(No candidates — See page 3)

Director

Susan Grove	151*
Dave Collins	112*
Linda Rath	75
Dana Jones	56
Brad Keitzman	55

*Elected

Ballots mailed	558
Ballots returned	233 (41%)

Thanks to all who ran.

Sincerely

Bud Getty, President

National Interpreter's Workshop

You may have heard about this year's National Interpreter's Workshop in the media, but don't believe everything you hear! The Associated Press, CNN and other media biggies painted a dark picture of federal employees taking an extravagant junket (Continued on page 3)

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President's Message

Well, we dodged the budget bullet for another year, or at least part of another year. The governor didn't cut us \$20 million; we only have to make about \$4 million of new money or take corresponding cuts for any amount short of the \$4 million. And then we have to do the same thing for the next four years after 96/97. We are getting so used to the annual \$20 million scare that we are relieved when it's only a few million deficit that we have to make up.

So now the task is finding ways to make \$4 million in new revenue next year. The new fee schedule will take care of a little of that, but the bulk of it will have to be new concessions or special event charges.

And we have to make certain that the deal we got from the governor is approved by the legislature. That may be a tough task with the emphasis on cutting government, privatization, and dismantling most things environmental that the current legislature is promoting. You can bet there will be a renewed push for commercial grazing, surplus of "unused land," and even hunting within parks. To counter this we will need to be creative and come up with more concessions and special events that will make money, that we can live with, and that won't do irreparable damage to the parks.

... that would change the Coyote Canyon area of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park into an off-road vehicle park.

This sort of thing has already started. An Orange County Assemblyman (Morrow) has a spot bill in that would change the Coyote Canyon area of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park into an off-road vehicle park. In normal times this would be ludicrous, but now we have to take this sort of thing as a serious threat.

CSPRA has for years been an affiliate of the Planning and Conservation League, which gives us two seats on their board of directors. We haven't been as active as we should have been, but we have done a lot of work with PCI's staff on various issues. They are now under serious attack for some of their recent policies and decisions. Major among these is the promotion of AB-1280, a bill that would give tax credits for large landowners when they donate their holdings to agencies and land trusts. We have opposed this bill as we believe it would have disastrous impact on the general fund which we are in competition for (maybe in another five years we won't have this concern). So while we disagree on this issue, it is important that all of the organizations that are in the fight for parks and other environmental issues remain active and credible. We cannot afford to lose friends in these tough times.

Bud Getty, President

President Elect

Since there wasn't anyone nominated to the office of President Elect, the board appointed Scott Nakaji as the next President Elect.

He will take office at the annual meeting in Ventura. He will serve as President Elect for one year and become President at the 1997 annual meeting.

The board took this action in accordance with the Constitution's provision for the filling of board vacancies. This action was taken at the December board meeting.

Interpreters Workshop (Continued from page 1)

to Disney World in the midst of a budget crisis, but alas that was far from the truth.

Yes, indeed, Disney World in Orlando Florida was the site but a National Association of Interpretation annual workshop is always worth the trip. The workshop theme "Interpretation: The Real Magic" gave each of us a bit of magic to bring home in our own interpretive bag-of-tricks. There were in-depth sessions with folks in the forefront of interpretation including instructors from the Disney University, (world renowned for excellence in visitor services).

Highlights included inspirational messages from Charles Kuralt and Stuart Udall along with a close look at Shamu and the polar bears of Sea World. We also had the chance to study the Disney magic up-close including a behind-the-scenes tour of the Magic Kingdom where I toured the underground utility tunnel and learned how many bricks are in Tinkerbell's castle. Our everyday work may be far removed from what Disney offers but where better to study; the latest in exhibitry and audio visual techniques?

I learned a wealth of clever ideas and useful tricks in the concurrent sessions. Faced with a choice of a dozen or more sessions each hour, it was difficult to decide which to attend. The Disney folks were in good company which included outstanding presenters from Michigan Parks and the Corps of Engineers, along with some of Florida's finest living history interpreters and many, many others. There was truly something for everyone!

There were familiar faces from out west including a contingent of nine DPR folks, and many colleagues from NPS and BLM. We swapped ideas with everyone from front-line field rangers with Florida State Parks to Superintendents from Alaska's National Parks, and just about everyone in between.

(Continued on page 4)

C S P R A

... the board appointed Scott Nakaji as the next President Elect.

Welcome! **New Members**

We are happy to introduce these new members to our organization. CSPRA offers a forum for sharing ideas and concerns and a means for making an impact in the field of the park professional. There is a place for each of you here, and your commitment to CSPRA requires a commitment to you from this organization. Each of us by getting involved can help the other. Again, welcome to CSPRA.

Christina Mihalyi-Maruna
Lisa Lay
Lisa Mulz
Mike Martino
Danita Linse
Lynn Rhodes
Roy Flatt
Kim Selleck
Les McCargo

Interpreters Workshop **(Continued from page 1)**

Don't miss the year's finest interpretive training. Next November it's off to "Big Sky Country." I hope I'll see YOU in Billings Montana! (Oh, by the way, there are zero bricks in Tinkerbelle's castle — its all fiberglass!)

By Brian Cahill
District Interpretive Specialist
Colorado Desert District

Wait Till Next Year!

The following is excerpted from the November-December 1995 California Today a publication of the Planning & Conservation League.

How will environmental legislation fare next year? In Congress, some moderate republicans are clearly resisting the drive by GOP leadership to repeal or greatly weaken fundamental environmental laws. Sadly, in California the number of moderate republicans is smaller, and their influence is weaker.

California Environmental Quality Act. Abolition of this fundamental law, requiring government to consider and mitigate the environmental damage it does, is high on the wish list of polluting industry and developers. A 1995 frontal assault by the governor and Senator Calderon (D, Los Angeles) was barely turned back in the Assembly. The best hope for preserving CEQA is probably in the Senate, where Senator Lockyer has made certain that much of the jurisdiction over CEQA will be in the favorable Natural Resources Committee, as well as in the Government Organization Committee.

Safe Drinking Water Act. Local governments are seeking to cut costs by allowing more pollution in drinking water. In the name of deregulation many legislators
(Continued on page 5)

Next Year!
(Continued from page 4)

are going along. SB 1307 by Senator Calderon is the greatest threat in the Legislature to the purity of our drinking water.

Phase-out of Methyl Bromide. Since the manufacturers of this highly toxic and ozone-depleting chemical failed to demonstrate that its continued use is safe, its use as a soil fumigant (to kill nematodes and other organisms harmful to agriculture) must be ended by March of 1996. SB808 by Senator Monteith (R, Stanislaus) would allow the continued use of Methyl bromide. Only a last ditch stand by Senator Diane Watson (D, Los Angeles) prevented this bill from passing in 1995, and it is not clear that she can prevail in 1996. There is even a rumor that the governor would call a special session of the Legislature to revive Methyl Bromide.

Removal of strict liability from criminal prosecution from oil and chemical spills. SB 649 (Costa, D, Fresno) would wipe out this standard, which has been in place since 1876! This bill passed the Senate in 1995, but stalled in the Assembly when then-Speaker Doris Allen appointed herself to the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee and voted against the bill. It's supported by the oil companies, water agencies (frequently polluters themselves), industries and

the Chamber of Commerce. We'll see if we can stop them in 1996, now that Allen is no longer speaker.

Not every threat is from the Legislature. Although legislators wisely rejected the concept as requiring a two-thirds vote by the public to tax themselves for park, wildlife, and open space acquisition and development, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Organization is sponsoring this idea as an initiative for the November, 1996 ballot.

PCL's Jim Knox is helping to organize opposition to this measure, assuming that it reaches the ballot.

Not everything is doom and gloom, however. Some good bills are still alive, and PCL will be trying to move them forward.

SB 1280, which would provide a tax credit to those donating wildlife habitat and park land to state or local agencies, . . . (CSPRA continues to oppose this bill because of its effect on the general fund, the likelihood of receiving some very poor lands, and the lack of guaranteed public access to the lands that are acquired.)

C S P R A

Members & Friends Die

Jim Tryner

Jim Tryner, a charter member of CSPRA passed away just before Christmas. He had been a field employee before spending many years in headquarters. His last assignment, before retirement over a decade ago, was that of Chief of the Resource Management and Protection Division.

Clyde Ray

Clyde Ray passed away on December 9 at age 75. (His wife just died in November.) During his 35 years with the Department, Clyde served the Department as a Ranger at Point Lobos State Reserve, McArthur Burney Falls State Park, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Bothe-Napa State Park and completed his career as the Superintendent of the Monterey Area. The family suggests contributions be sent to the Hospice House of the Central Coast, 100 Barnet Segal Lane, Monterey, CA 93940.

Harry "Chuck" Shook Jr.

Chuck Shook died November 17, 1995 at the age of 72. He past away at Eisenhower Hospital in Rancho Mirage. He was a ranger for 29 years and made his home during those years at Silver Strand, Palomar, Hendy Woods,

Salton Sea, Big Basin and retired from Portola State Park. After retirement he made his home in La Quinta.



Unusual DPR Badge

by Mike Lynch

I recently acquired an unusual State Park badge (See photo above). This badge reportedly belonged to a Commissioner Gonzales, appointed in the 1970's, by Governor Reagan to the El Pueblo De Los Angeles State Park Commission (an advisory group). Although, at one time the department did issue badges to Commissioners, this wallet badge was undoubtedly privately purchased.

If any of you knows of any unusual California State Park badges, I would be interested in hearing from you.

Call To Action

The following is a letter generated by Bud Getty as part of last months request for membership involvement.

December 20, 1995

Governor Pete Wilson
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Wilson:

Sonoma County is truly blessed. Her natural beauty ranges from towering redwoods to the cliffs of North Pacific coast, from sheltered beaches to the rugged back-country of Sugarloaf. The County has an equally rich human heritage: Native American burial grounds, the northernmost of the Franciscan Missions and the southernmost Russian outpost. All are units of the California State Parks system, integral components of the attractions and ambiance that make Sonoma County a world class visitor destination.

The mission of our organization is to continually improve the agricultural, commercial and industrial vitality of our beautiful Valley, and according to State Tourism Director John Poimiroo, tourism is a major contributor to that vitality. In March, 1994 he told our members that the visitor industry directly adds \$584 million a year to the Sonoma County economy and generates \$119 million in payroll.

We thank you for your support of the State Park system in the past, and we hope that you will continue to give our Parks a high priority in your budget considerations. On a personal note, Merry Christmas to you and Gayle and best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

Hal Beck
Executive Director

Lockyer Named Environment's Legislator of the Year

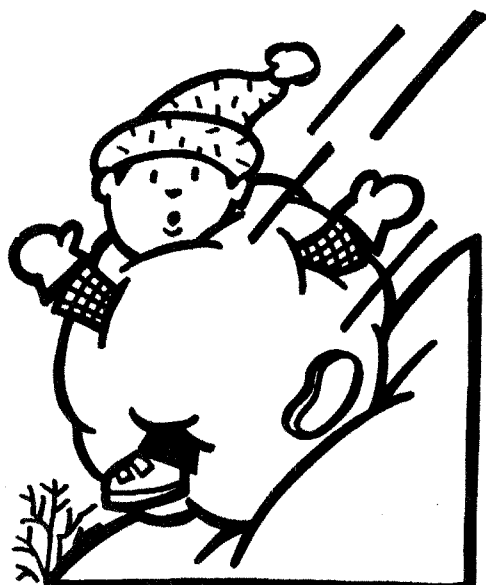
Senate President pro Tem Bill Lockyer, D-Hayward, has been named the Planning and Conservation League's "Legislator of the Year" for 1995 for his work in fending off right-wing attacks on environmental protection laws, PCL executive director Jerry Meral announced.

"At this time it's more important than ever that the leader of the state Senate be committed to the protection and restoration of California's environment. Bill Lockyer is," Meral said. "We're confident that he will continue to use his position as leader of the state Senate to protect and restore the environment which is so precious to Californians, and upon which our personal health and safety, and our economic success ultimately depends."

Lockyer noted that anti-environment Republicans now control every branch of California government except the Senate. "Our view is that if we can make it easier for people and businesses to comply with the law, while still taking care of our environment, we should," Lockyer said. "But the right-wing extremists want to take all our laws that protect our land, air, and water, and just throw them in the trash. We can't allow that."

C S P R A

January



1996

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Assoc Pk & Rec Spec
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Scott Nakaji
State Park Ranger I
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(805) 248-6447

**CSPRA
Calendar**

**California
Parks
Conference
Ventura
3/11-14/96**

Directors (Continued)

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

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

Save Bodie! and all other
committees use CSPRA address.

For additional information on the
association, write

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