



The CSPRA

# Wave

Newsletter

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 5

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2002

## Sojourn in Santa Cruz

Portola Redwoods  
Castle Rock  
Big Basin Redwoods  
Henry Cowell



Rancho del Oso  
Fall Creek  
Wilder Ranch  
Lighthouse Field  
Forest of Nicene Marks  
Santa Cruz Mission

New Brighton  
Seacliff  
Rio del Mar  
Manresa  
Sunset/Palm  
Natural Bridges  
Twin Lakes/Seabright



See pages 3 through 9





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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



KEVIN W. BUCHANAN  
CSPRA President

*Time just seems to fly by*  
at a blistering pace. It seemed like we just wrapped up a successful Park Conference in San Diego, now CSPRA and PRAC members will soon be registering for the 2003 Park Conference at Lake Tahoe.

During the October 5<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, Gar Salzgeber informed the Board that approximately 100 registration packets had already been requested for Park Conference at Lake Tahoe. Things are beginning to come together for the Lake Tahoe Park Conference. This year's Park Conference will have additional assistance from Nevada State Parks and the State Park Peace Officers Association of California. The Conference Planning Committee reports that the career tracks are in the final phases of being completed, the banquet is planned and some additional field trips are in the process of being scheduled. I am excited about seeing the Embassy Suites at State Line filled with park professionals from the many different park departments that will be in attendance.

In October, the CSPRA Board had the distinct pleasure of holding our Board meeting at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual CSPRA Retiree's Rendezvous at McConnell State Recreation Area, in the Four Rivers District. This year's Rendezvous had over 80 retirees

registered for the three-day event.

It became apparent to me what a family DPR really is, as I visited with former coworkers and supervisors, who were there to spend a relaxing weekend with friends they may only see once a year at the annual event. I really enjoyed getting a chance to see Dick Sly, whom I had not seen since he retired as the Maintenance Chief of Hungry Valley SVRA. Dick, with digital camera in hand, was quick to assist us in providing photographs of the event for this issue of the Wave.

Jim Peat, whom I still have the pleasure of working with as a Retired Annuitant, kept himself busy preparing Saturday evening's dinner for everyone while the Board was there. Jim was gracious enough to provide the article on this year's event.

Gar Salzgeber, our Office Manager, and Bud Getty, Board Member, were also in attendance for the three-day event. I found that as the people I knew introduced me around during the day, that even for a current DPR employee there was a certain sense of connectivity, even if the person I was talking to was twenty years retired. I found that I immediately had something in common with someone who had worked for the department; worked at the same parks that I have, or who may have hired someone I had worked with during my career.

I would highly recommend attending the Retiree Rendezvous to all of those who are planning to retire, or who have, but have never attended. In the next few years DPR will continue to see retirements in unprecedented numbers. Many of us may move on, start a second career, but we will always share a common bond with those who had the opportunity to be part of the DPR parks family. The CSPRA Retirees Rendezvous is a good place to spend some time with an extended family.

Cover photos, clockwise from left: Amber, a Ranger Explorer; the cement ship at Seacliff SB; PIS Bethany Facendini at Big Basin Centennial kids activities booth



## Santa Cruz District, From Mountains to the Sea

By David Vincent  
Superintendent, Santa Cruz District >

Several impressions probably come to mind when you think of Santa Cruz. Redwoods, beautiful beaches, quirky politics, a university town, and the like. You name it and we probably have some element of it somewhere. This makes for a very interesting environment to carry out the business of stewardship and public service. Santa Cruz is actually a fascinating place to work and live.

One of the things that makes Santa Cruz what it is, is the level of involvement and commitment the community puts into most issues. Whether it's a general plan, a trail issue, or a proposed project we can rely on receiving a wide variety of input...usually in vast quantities! The feedback we receive ranges anywhere from self-interest to very constructive input. Generally, interest groups are very sophisticated in communicating with one another and us via web sites, e-mail, and all other conventional methods.

Coast Dairies is a good example of this. The district has been involved for many years in the possible acquisition of a portion of the Coast



Dairies property that surrounds the town on Davenport on the county's "North Coast." This is a beautiful 7,000-acre parcel that includes about 7 miles of beaches and goes inland approximately 2 miles. At the first public meeting conducted by the Trust for Public Lands (current owners), about 200 - 300 people showed up. One of the county supervisors started the meeting by empowering those present with the task of developing a management plan for the entire property. The sentiment was that this property deserved a plan befitting its resources whether or not there was

someone actually capable of carrying out such a plan! While attendance of the Coast Dairies meetings has dwindled during this lengthy process, the level of community involvement has not. There is one university-based group that has put a tremendous amount of time into developing a "model plan" for the property. Every decision point in the process of conveying this property to the public agencies has been scrutinized and often challenged. With general plans also taking place for Big Basin and Nisene Marks, we have a lot of input to consider.

While District staff did an incredible job, we could not have done it without the support of the Mountain Parks Foundation. From the initial stages, MPF helped plan and execute this lengthy celebration. Their help with marketing, developing community and volunteer support, and the like was invaluable. Similarly, the Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks



< Wilder Ranch State Park  
on the 4th of July

Dancers at Santa Cruz  
Mission State Historic  
Park >

District photos in this  
article by Tim Sukovaty



Continued on page 4



## SANTA CRUZ DISTRICT

recently helped the District develop its web site. I invite you to visit [www.santacruzstateparks.org](http://www.santacruzstateparks.org) to see the quality of their work. Without FRIENDS constant support we would not be able to staff many of the visitor centers that they helped develop! In fact, you should stop by the Wilder Ranch visitor center to see our newest visitor center funded largely by FRIENDS.

Our cooperating associations are not the only ones passionate about helping us. The Santa Cruz District, for example, has approximately 250 miles of trail. Even though we recently created a very effective Roads, Trails and Equipment team, they cannot possibly maintain all of our trails throughout the District. Fortunately, a group of dedicated volunteers recently stepped forward and created an organization to assist. Visit [www.Trailworkers.com](http://www.Trailworkers.com) to get an idea of what these wonderful people do for us. You will see that nearly 1,500 hours has already been contributed to trail work this year. The organization not only maintains a volunteer base, but they are very active in educating others about trail etiquette and in building community support for the Santa Cruz District. Trailworkers is an excellent complement to our other volunteer trail crews at Big Basin, and Castle Rock.

It is interesting that the District was born out of community passion when citizens became concerned about the preservation of our ancient redwood forests. This passion has not diminished over time. While this level of involvement can be daunting at times, it speaks well for State Parks. We are obviously relevant to many folks in our community and it brings a level of diversity in thinking and participation that only strengthens our efforts. Julia Butterfly Hill concluded the Big Basin 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an eloquent talk on being passionate about things you



*Ranger Explorers is a summer day camp where children learn environmental stewardship and explore Santa Cruz District State Parks. Two week sessions are offered at Henry Cowell State Park, Seacliff State Beach, Wilder Ranch and Natural Bridges State Beach. <Program Director Amber Cantisano with a young Explorer at Seacliff's tidepools.*

feel strongly about and about becoming involved in issues to which you are committed. In this case, I believe she was speaking to the choir with a message that resonated well.

On a personal note, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with such dedicated and passionate staff, volunteers and community members. While this can make life interesting at times, I would not want it any other way.



*Docent Bob Montague and fossils at Seacliff State Beach.*

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## Bob Kirsch, Trailblazer

by Sylvia Lang  
Newsletter editor for Santa Cruz  
Mountains Trail Association

A trail at Big Basin Redwoods State Park has been named after Bob Kirsch, longtime trail-maintenance crew leader at California's oldest state park. The trail, which was built by Bob and his trusty crew over one-and-a-half years, leads to a bridge over Sempervirens Creek near park headquarters, off the Sequoia Trail.

At a recent volunteer awards picnic at Big Basin, Bob was recognized for more than 35 years of volunteer service. He also received a special plaque with "Bob Kirsch Trail" printed on it. Remarkably, this hard-working, rugged man will turn 80 on Oct. 21.

A born leader and motivator, Bob - a former geologist who has sold life insurance for the past 41 years - enlists several hundred people a year to help him with trail building and trail maintenance at Big Basin.

A nucleus group of about 30 people show up regularly to help out. In fact, for a time, one volunteer commuted from San Diego to Big Basin for monthly trail projects. Another worker commutes from near Yosemite National Park.

"Most of the people that stay with us a long time are Silicon Valley types," says Bob, of his crew of volunteers. "I get presidents of companies, engineers - a lot of engineers."

During the week, most of them are sitting behind a computer, Bob explains, and they jump at the chance to do physical work in the redwoods.

Bob and his crew have built



many miles of trail, including the Eagle Rock Trail, the Eastman Trail, the Basin Rim Trail and the Basin Easement Trail (which connects Big Basin to Portola Redwoods State Park). The volunteers also have built vital trail structures, such as the Eagle Rock Bridge, which required toting 72 sacks of cement and numerous gallons of water up hill to the construction site.

Bob's outdoor leadership skills became legendary in 1969 when he coordinated the construction - in one weekend - of the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail through Castle Rock State Park and Big Basin. He says he got the idea from Dr. R. Maurice Tripp, a national scout committee member.

Bob acknowledges that he thought the idea was crazy at the time. But he ended up coming up with a workable plan and then recruiting about 2,700 scouts and other volunteers to complete the trail over one weekend in April.

Bob had a lot of practice prior to the event, having worked as a

Sector Superintendent Bob Culbertson, Bob Kirsch and his grandchildren at the dedication of the new Bob Kirsch Trail at Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

Photo by Mike Peasland

scout leader and organizing long hikes/trail projects involving hundreds of scouts starting in 1963. In essence, Bob and his scouts built trails as they hiked through the woods, often with the permission of private landowners.

Bob's family got into the act, too. His son was in the scouts, and his daughter also took an interest in trail building. Construction of the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail in 1969 was a milestone in volunteerism on behalf of public trails. It led to the formation of the

**"...he coordinated the construction - in one weekend - of the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail...recruiting 2,700...volunteers...."**

Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Association, which is the umbrella organization for Bob's trail crew as well as other crews that maintain the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail, the Basin Easement Trail and trails at Castle Rock State Park.

It also spurred the establishment of Trail Days, a weekend devoted to trail maintenance and building each April. In fact, Trail Days has expanded to become a statewide event.



# Big Basin Centennial Celebration

by Kim Baker, Ranger, and  
Chris Spiller, Seasonal Interpreter  
Big Basin Redwoods SP

**Visionaries, volunteers and valued workers** came together on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> to celebrate 100 years of preservation and stewardship of Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

The weekend-long event was a culmination of 100 days of celebration which began on June 9<sup>th</sup> with the inauguration of **Clint Eastwood** as park commissioner.

Special events continued throughout the summer and included diverse activities and venues. A speakers series, various art and history exhibits in Santa Cruz and the Silicon Valley, a community quilt and weekly concerts in the amphitheatre were just a few of the many offerings.

The September event was enjoyed by many past and present valued workers. Friday morning was filled with proclamations from local, state and federal officials, and a play performed by local schoolchildren. Then later, the Friday night campfire was led by Big Basin Alumni **Dick Troy, Denzil Verardo and Steve Treanor**. Other former Big Basin staffers and DPR family attending during the weekend included **Ruth Coleman, Paula Peterson, Dennis Carriere, Nina Gordon, Mimi Guiney, Ken Morris, Mel Whittaker, Nick Franco, Jerry Waggoner, Cris Sanguino, Kirby Fosgate, John Mott, Dana Jones, Charlie Cline, Kirk Wallace, Bill Beat, Roger Miller, Bud Getty, Doreen Clement, Joanne Ciccone, Brooks Collom, Tina Williams, Pam Armas** and many, many others. The current cadet class from Asilomar camped at Big Basin and worked the event with park staff. The informal



Melodrama performers Steve Radosevich, Charley Spiller, and Julie Sidel of the Santa Cruz District.

Photos by Chris Spiller.

homecoming was a highlight of the event for many.

The absence of auto traffic in the core area provided for a relaxed and leisurely pace. Event planners designed the weekend's activities to encourage visitors to meander through the forest, giving an uncrowded feeling to the event. An estimated 6,000 people attended the events.

Visitors enjoyed viewing historic camping exhibits, made contributions to the "memory wall" and visualized the events of the past century on the Centennial Timeline. Great food, beer and wine were available. The by-now-classic Melodrama was presented to enthusiastic crowds by Big Basin's dedicated docents and staff members. The USPS reopened the Big Basin post office for the weekend and a

commemorative envelope was available.

A variety of music was presented each day on two stages, including performances by the Banana Slug String Band and Zun Zun. The event culminated with an inspirational speech by **Julia Butterfly Hill**, urging a record audience of over 1,000 to go out and do one thing to help protect the forests for the future. District Superintendent **Dave Vincent** said "If you weren't inspired by that, you shouldn't be in this career!"

The event was an amazing example of multi-agency, multi-association cooperation. Sponsors included Mountain Parks Foundation, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks, California Parks Foundation, DPR and many other groups. The weekend was an inspiration to many, and a great example of park professionals at work.

If you missed it, don't worry, we plan on doing it again in 2102!



Julia Butterfly Hill, inspirational speaker and old-growth forest advocate



Historic photography exhibit at the Mother Tree at Big Basin State Park



## BIG BASIN CENTENNIAL



*An overflow crowd filled the historic Big Basin campfire center for Julia Butterfly Hill.*

*Photos by Cris Sanguino and Chris Spiller.*



*< The hardworking Big Basin staff gather around Sector Superintendent Bob Culbertson and Julia.*



*The cadets at the Training Center got out of the classroom to assist at the event*



*Campfire Program Presenters, front, L to R: Bob Culbertson, Sector Supt., Julie Sidel, Interpreter, Kim Baker, Ranger, all of Santa Cruz Mtns., Deniz Verardo, Chief Admin. Services; Back: Dick Troy, retired Deputy Director, Park Operations, Steve Treanor, Southern Division Chief*

*Volunteers Bernice and Sal Piazza shared a laugh with statewide volunteer coordinator John Mott. >*





# Monarch Butterflies Management at Natural Bridges State Beach

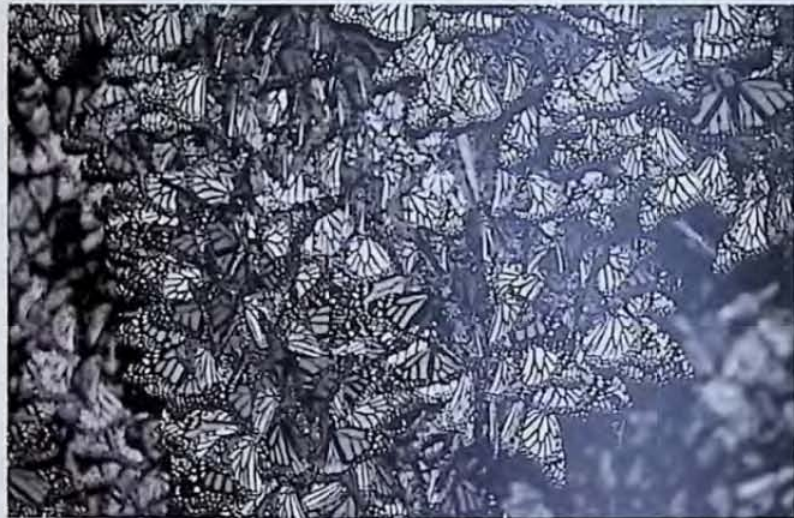
*By Tim Hyland*

*Asst. State Parks Resource Ecologist  
Santa Cruz District*

Natural Bridges State Beach has long been thought of as the premier site for viewing overwintering monarch butterflies in Santa Cruz County. Because of the popularity of butterflies as symbols of transformation and the attractiveness of the story of migration, thousands of visitors come to the park each year to view these insects. In recognition of the uniqueness of the mass aggregation of Monarch Butterflies at this park, a 16-acre Natural Preserve was created in 1988. The Preserve contains a boardwalk and viewing platform located in the center of the eucalyptus grove most commonly used by the butterflies.

The management of butterfly populations often presents conflicts for resource managers. Although many butterflies rely on a few select native plants as their larval food source, the adults may feed on the nectar of plants that invade native plant communities and degrade the habitat found there. This is the case with monarchs. The female monarch lays eggs on plants in the genus *Asclepias*, commonly referred to as milkweed, because of a milky sap found throughout the plant. This sap contains compounds toxic to most animals, and so imparts at least some level of toxicity to the caterpillars that eat it. When they pupate and emerge as adults they retain some of this toxicity that acts as a deterrent to predation.

As the weather cools in the fall, monarchs drift towards the coast and concentrate in areas protected



from the wind, typically in drainages. In some of these drainages they find thick stands of eucalyptus that provide not only protection from the wind but also a winter-time nectar source. It is in some of these groves of non-native trees where they form the large clusters so attractive to visitors. In addition to both red and blue gum eucalyptus trees, Natural Bridges has large patches of English and cape ivy, fall and winter blooming species which attract monarchs and are used by them to refuel on sunny winter days. Like both species of eucalyptus, they are aggressive wildland weeds.

In all of our other park units we are actively eradicating all of these species, and restoring the native plant communities that they have been degrading. However restoring the community at this park would, without a doubt, eliminate the phenomenon for which it is best known and loved. Because the phenomenon of large clusters of monarchs is so

*photo by John L. Goldberg (c)*

closely tied to the introduction and propagation of non-native plants by Euro-americans, the eucalyptus grove at Natural Bridges is best viewed as a "historic garden" whose most attractive feature are these clusters of butterflies. Because the threats posed by the plants composing this garden are manageable, the decision has been made to leave them in place and manage this particular grove for the monarchs.

This management decision presents challenges of its own. In the last ten years, Monterey pines planted on the edge of the grove have died due to pitch canker. The red gum lerp psyllid, a sucking insect that feeds on the phloem of this tree, has infested the grove resulting in an overall thinning of the canopy. Several large trees in key areas have fallen, leaving holes in the grove. In addition, the grove is maturing, resulting in an overall thinning of the understory and its ability to block

*See MONARCHS, page 9*



# Sudden Oak Death

By George Gray  
Senior State Park Resource Ecologist  
Santa Cruz District

In 1985, tanoaks in Marin County were found to be dying, but it was not until 2000 that plant pathologists from UC Davis and UC Berkeley identified the cause as a previously undescribed *Phytophthora*, a fungus-like species. This species was a known pathogen of rhododendrons in Europe and was called *Phytophthora ramorum*. Sudden Oak Death is presently found in a 'Zone of Infestation' in 12 coastal California counties from Humboldt County south to San Simeon.

Throughout the years, humans have not had a successful record in controlling *Phytophthora* pathogens. Species of *Phytophthora* have caused the potato famine, seriously attacked Port-Orford-cedar, decimated oaks around the Mediterranean Sea, devastated eucalyptus forests in Australia, and are common agricultural pests worldwide. Because spores are easily transported by anything that moves around in the forest (including wildlife), the likelihood of containing Sudden Oak Death is bleak. Regardless, one control technique which has acceptance is to avoid moving firewood around in Zones of Infestation.

'Sudden Oak Death' is a misnomer because death is not 'sudden', and oaks are not the only plants impacted. Once you know what to look for, the onset of symptoms is really quite gradual; someone tried to change the name to 'gradual' oak death a while back but it did not catch on. Rhododendron, California huckleberry, manzanita, madrone, California buckeye, big-leaf maple, California bay laurel, and California coffeeberry are also known to be infected by the disease. Recently, *Phytophthora* was found in coast redwood and Douglas

fir, a development that could have serious economic impacts if the health of these trees is affected. To date, only oaks (tanoak, coast live oak, California black oak, and Shreve oak) appear to be dying in significant numbers. Redwood and douglas fir mortality due to *Phytophthora* has yet to be documented.

We can continue to expect 'globalization' to provide challenges to managing our wildlands. The 'pitch canker' fungus which arrived in California in the 1980's is still having its way with Monterey pines and other conifers in the Santa Cruz District. We all remember astronauts returning



Wilted tanoak branch

from the moon and being placed in quarantine in case they carried a pathogen back to earth. Unfortunately, we cannot expect that to occur to the planetloads of visitors from throughout the world who land daily in California. We need to buckle up and 'wait and see'.

Some of the best plant pathologists in the world are working on the management of these diseases. In our parks, some researchers are washing hiking shoes and bicycle tires to determine the extent to which humans spread *Phytophthora*. Others are mist netting birds to find how they carry the *Phytophthora* spores. At this point, we are trying to learn as much about the pathogen as possible. The next few years will be the test as to the extent and severity of this disease.

MONARCHS, continued from page 8

winter storms. As a result, Natural Bridges State Beach no longer attracts the largest number of monarchs in the county and they don't stay as long as they have in past years.

In response to this degradation of monarch habitat we have created a management plan and begun taking steps to improve the situation for the monarchs. The first step is to implement a planting program using Monterey cypress. Although this species is not native to the site, it is fast growing, provides good wind protection, and is less aggressive than some eucalyptus species. A parasitic wasp that attacks red gum lerp psyllids was released in the grove this year. However considering the reduction in the numbers of the psyllid this year, those in charge of the release program believe it may have found its way there on its own.

Finally, we have initiated a monitoring program to assess the efficiency of our efforts. This program combines observations made by volunteer docents with weather data collected using a series of data loggers and a weather station mounted in the trees at the level where monarchs cluster. We hope to use the information gained from this program to assure that Natural Bridges State Beach continues to be a favorite place for monarchs to spend the winter, and for visitors to enjoy them.





## 2002 Retirees Rendezvous McConnell SRA

*Jim Peat  
Retired Former Superintendent  
San Joaquin District*

On Monday October 7, Kathy & I said our last good-byes of another "storied" weekend at the 10th annual CSPRA Retirees Rendezvous at McConnell State Recreation Area. As always, it was a weekend of renewing friendships within our extended park family, catching up on everyone's activities over the past year (this is a busy group), eating a great variety of food and recalling and sharing stories of our experiences in this park life we all chose and loved.

The weekend kicked off with Wes Cater and Chuck Lyden's Friday morning golf tournament and was followed with Clyde Strickler and crew's road kill barbecue on Friday night which featured boar, salmon, albacore and great potluck dishes. Saturday kicked off with Wes Cater and crew's pancake breakfast and ended with Bob Allen, Herman Schlerf, Jim Neal and Rosemary Stricklers tri-tip and chicken barbecue dinner. Following the Saturday night dinner, the raffle of gifts donated and often made by participants was held with the winners leaving smiling and the losers good-naturedly grumbling, "wait 'til next year".



**10** The CSPRA Wave, Nov. - Dec., 2002



In between and during all these events there are the stories. Stories of experiences before, during and after park careers. The stories range from Clyde Strickler's recounting of an early Santee family's unique flying firecrackers on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to Bud Getty and Doreen Clement's recounting of drinking fermented mare's milk with a family in a yurt in Mongolia this past August. There are stories of Anza-Borrego, Big Sur, Calaveras Big Trees, Pismo, North Coast Redwoods, etc. by rangers, lifeguards, maintenance workers, resources staff, administrative staff, headquarters staff and spouses. The stories are enriched with each annual retelling by the addition of ever larger dollops of humor. Laughter punctuated every gathering of people throughout the weekend.

One of the most enjoyable features of each rendezvous is the willingness of all attendees to pitch in and help whenever and wherever help is needed.

This year's event was again fully supported by the CSPRA Board of Directors and graciously hosted by the

Four Rivers District and especially by the McConnell SRA staff. Thank you all. A special thank you goes to Kirk & Marie Wallace who work tirelessly throughout the year to make the rendezvous possible. This year Kirk and Marie were unable to attend due



*Ranger Anne Meneguzzi got a lift in Mike Muetz's restored 1930s Model A Ford.*

to a last minute health problem. Get well soon, Kirk! Jim and Bev Neal ably filled in for the Wallaces. Thanks, Jim & Bev.

All State Park retirees and retiree wanna-be's are urged to mark October 4 & 5, 2003 on their calendars and join us for a weekend of handshakes, hugs, stories, food, fun and renewing park friendships. These weekends are an annual reminder of the value, importance and downright fun of the park life and lifestyle we all share.

*The CSPRA Board met at the Rendezvous; L to R: Office Manager Gar Salzgeber, Board Member Valerie Bradshaw, President-elect Dana Jones, Board Member Bud Getty, and President Kevin Buchanan.*

*Photos on this page are by Dick Sly.*



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Packets are automatically mailed directly to all PRAC and CSPRA Members

**GOOD NEWS!** Conference Chair Dana Jones reports that DPR will pay half-time and half of the conference fee. Submit a training request! State Park Peace Officers Association of California (SPPOAC) will also be participating.

*The CSPRA Wave, Nov.-Dec., 2002* **11**



## BOARD MEETING

October 5, 2002, at Retirees Rendezvous, McConnell SRA

Present: President Kevin Buchanan, Dana Jones, Val Bradshaw, Bud Getty, and Executive Manager Gar Salzgeber.

Absent Hailee Zaldivar and Angie Nowicki

The board authorized Board President to fill the current vacancy on the board.

June minutes were approved.

**Financial report and investment report** was given by the Executive Manager. Our regular savings stands at \$5754 at the end of August. Investment (Domini Bonds) are at \$10,647 for the same period. Gar indicated that he had deposited \$1,000 since he prepared the report.

Gar suggested that we look for advertisers for *The Wave*. Some of the exhibitors at last years conference may be likely prospects.

Dana is looking into hats and shirts for resale at next year's conference.

Val reported that there isn't any change in the affiliation with the Maintenance Supervisors Association. Gar indicated that he and Chuck Combs are working out repayment of monies owed by their association to be guaranteed by CSPRA after the merger.

The board agreed to an appeal to the cooperating associations to join CSPRA as organizational members. Suggested that a pitch be made to their conference.

**Lobbying** will continue to be an important element of CSPRA. Linda McDonald and Bud Getty will continue to work with Cliff and Monica to further their efforts. An upcoming activity will be to walk with Monica at the capitol to meet legislators, particularly the new ones. The board authorized gifts of our coffee cups to the legislators. We will let Kevin know the schedule so that he, or other board members can join us when we contact their legislators.

No big news on the Department's budget. We seem to have a favorable reputation as we are accountable for the funds that are allocated to us.

A discussion was held about having an Organization Grant Committee. This led to a discussion of various candidates that might apply for the vacancies on the board. Two terms are expiring and the resignation of Adam Stahnke will mean three positions on the board will be filled

*See Board Minutes, page 13*

## "What's on Tonight?"

By Harriett "Petey" Weaver

Excerpt from *Me and the Mother Tree*

Thanks to the Sempervirens Fund.

"Your campfires are too good," I was told at the end of my second Big Basin tour, and my nineteenth year, in the service of the California State Parks. "We've got to tone them down. Keep everyone's mind on conservation. That's what's important for them while they're here." Another expression was that fun campfires were attracting too many people into the park, some just for the evenings more than the ecology could stand, more than the crew might some day be able to handle. We would have to pull back.

I saw many unforgettable summers before entertaining ourselves became something verboten. Rarely did we have real difficulty finding volunteers in camp. Although now and then a professional turned up, almost all the talent was the homespun variety, given in good spirit and received the same way. Some of it came forward timidly, even fearfully at first, until the participant felt the appreciative response of the crowd; until he sensed that they were with him. Then to watch his nerves and self-consciousness disappear was a joy everyone shared; and whoever had given went home with fresh confidence and sense of achievement.

For thousands upon thousands of people of that time in our century, before television and jet planes and travel trailers and motor homes turned thought and mobility into a national restlessness, such outings and activities highlighted the family year.

Amassing far flung lands had not yet become a status thing. Campers liked to go to a favorite spot and stay. Between vacations they kept in touch with one another and arranged



*Petey was the first woman ranger in the field. Seen here at Big Sur in 1950, she also worked in Big Basin, Seacliff and Richardsons Grove between 1930 and 1950.*

to be in the park the same weeks or months. Those who chose to help at campfires checked the strings of their guitars and banjos, wrote more skits, assembled more funny stories and stirring adventures and experiences to tell; learned more readings and tap steps, bought more sheet music, and offered new songs for community singing. Happily they reminisced about summers past, their vacation neighbors, both human and wild. No mountaintop lodge or rocky point aerie beside the sea could ever have been more cherished than their campsite among the giant redwoods.

Tourists who pass through the groves often view the trees with awe bordering on worship. But for those who returned season after season, the impact was much more than that. It added up to the comfortable warmth of looking forward to the same trees and bushes, the same creeks and hiking trails -another rendezvous with beloved friends; a continuation of a way of life that had long been special and deeply satisfying.

At campfire, one could count on plenty of bobbles, none ever leading to disaster, but lending extra spice to the evenings -a handcrafted touch akin to a potter's fingerprints in his clay.



## PARKS IN THE NEWS

A story headlined **"Retirement trimming state park ranger corps: shortages are expected for several years until hiring catches up,"** appeared in the *Sacramento Bee* on Wednesday, July 31. Ranger Greg Wells and Supervising Ranger Mike Lynch at the Auburn State Recreation Area were described as long-time rangers with years of special local knowledge that would soon be lost, when both retired.

"Retirement is hitting the park hard," the article read. "In the span of 12 months, the Auburn recreation area will have lost four of its six rangers to retirement."

"California's entire park system is facing a dramatic ranger shortage due to retirements -- and, officials say, even with greatly accelerated hiring the problem is expected to persist for several years."

The *Bee* story explained that, In the next year, 97 out of 650 rangers -- nearly 15 percent of the rangers in the state -- will be eligible to retire.

On August 1, the *Sacramento Bee* told its readers that a **"Stretch of Big River is Saved: More than 7,300 acres, including the 8.3 mile Mendocino estuary, are acquired for a state park."**

Earlier that week 7,334 acres along 50 miles of the Big River and its tributaries, including 1,500 acres of coastal wetlands, were acquired from the Hawthorne Timber Company. The purchase was made possible by private donations gathered by the Mendocino Land Trust combined with state and federal funds.

Also, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, on Friday, September 13, published **"Acorn Advocates,"** describing a project to replace dead and dying trees using healthy acorns in China

Camp State Park, where volunteers are monitoring more than 100 wild, 30-year-old oaks. They plan "to harvest acorns from symptom-free Coast Live Oaks within a 5-mile radius of the planting site, a 21-acre portion of the ridge that separates China Camp Village from the Glenwood and Peacock Gap developments of San Rafael. The ridge is as bare as a boar's backbone since a eucalyptus forest was removed last year because of those trees' non-native, invasive nature."

\*\*\*\*\*

### *Board Minutes, from page 12:*

by the next election.

Some of the legislative items that we will work with are lobbyists are: **Toll Road proposal** through San Onofre State Beach Crystal Cove return of property to the public;

**Salton Sea** - plans for saving the sea and its wildlife and recreational resources;

**DPR Budget;**

**Water quality** - sedimentation mandates In general, mandates that have no funding for staff and related costs.

The new website was discussed. Jeff Price has done an outstanding job. Links were discussed and the possibility of charging for the links to offset some of our costs.

A file cabinet was authorized for the organization's historian, Kim Baker.

Bud Getty reported that he would attend the 4th International Ranger Conference in Victoria in March of 2003. There may still be a chance for other CSPRA members to attend but time is extremely short to apply.

The board expressed regret for Adam Stahnke's resignation and hopes that his new career with the City of Orange will be fruitful. We hope also that he will maintain his association with CSPRA as an associate member.

**Want a CSPRA scholarship? Contact Fred Jee at (760) 767-3674.**

## PROMOTING PROFESSIONALISM IN CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS Membership

To join CSPRA, mail this application to: P.O. Box 247, Carpinteria, CA 93014-0247

For all except "Active" member payroll deduction, please include check for 1 year's dues.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Job Classification

Social Security #

Phone: Work

Phone: Home

District, Section, or Park:

Membership type (Circle one):

Active \$8/month

Active Retired \$18/year

Supporting \$36/year

Organization \$50/year

Benefactor \$1,000/life

I hereby authorize the State Controller to deduct from my salary and transmit as designated an amount for membership dues in the California State Park Rangers Association. This authorization will remain in effect until cancelled by myself or by the organization. I certify I am a member of the above organization and understand that termination of my membership will cancel all deductions made under this organization. Send to: CSPRA, P.O. Box 247, Carpinteria, CA 93014-0247

Signature

Date





## THE OFFICE MANAGER'S MAILBAG



*Gar Salzgeber, Office Manager*

We have 3 new regular members, **Shaelyn Raab Strattan** of Acampo, CA, who is an Associate Park and Recreation Specialist at the Northern Services Center in Sacramento; **Anthony Perez**, a Superintendent III in Sacramento; and **Herbert White**, ranger at Los Osos. **Al Oliver** of Pinedale, Arizona, joined as a retired member. And new supporting member **Michael Juricich** of Sacramento, is currently working at a Stockton Wal-Mart.

One retirement plaque was presented to **Jim Burke**. The President's gavel was updated and sent to Kevin.

As of this date we have 786 members. Of these members 2 are Benefactors, 17 Honorary, 6 Supporting, and 133 Retired.

We have received \$498 from **Bud Getty's** retirement party that are contributions to the International Rangers Federation.

**Roma Philbrook Rentz** donated \$100 to us.

I'm beginning to get requests on our 800 line for California Parks Conference registration packets.

### Correspondence

Getting personnel notes from our retired members about what they're doing with their lives warms the cockles of my heart and sends chills of joy up my spine. I hope everybody

else enjoys them as much.

**Clark Dooley** writes: Just got back from 3 weeks in Alaska, playing lots of golf and having lots of Fun!

**Harvey Lively** writes: I hope to make the Retirees Rendezvous in October. I also have a reunion with two separate war time squadrons around that time – would be nice to make all three, but there has to be a decision. I am senior Naval Aviator in both the Squadrons.

**Jim Davis** writes from Hawaii:..I published my second book the end of last year and am working on 3 more and a second website.

**Wes Cater** writes: Just returned from a 9,483 mile trip across the Southern States including Florida and the Keys, up the Atlantic to N. Carolina, then west through Tenn., VA., KY, MO, ARK, OK, CO, NM, 18 states in all. Have a now RVd in all 50 states, most of Canada and a large portion of Mexico. Visited **Tom and Sheila Miller** in Colorado. Stopped by **Al & Mickie Olivers** in Arizona. See ya in October.

**Keith & Carol Caldwell** write: Sorry to decline the Retirees Rendezvous again, but October is a full month or month for us. We're gagging on trips. After retiring we started a chapter of Retired Public Employees Association here in our area. It grew to over 300 members covering El Dorado County and parts of Placer and Amador. Now, the General Assembly will be held in Los Vegas the same weekend as the Rendezvous 2002. Hopefully, we'll do some good for state retirees, thou I'd enjoy the Rendezvous more. We miss all the good park people.

We're trying to get more trips in this year and still we enjoy our home lodge work and all the community activities.

Please extend our "Best Wishes to All" and we'll plan early for 2003.

**Joe McCall** writes from Florida: Here is my check for dues. A little run down on retirement living. Started off with a visit with my brother and his wife in Live Oak, Fl. Wound up taking

care of five cats & four dogs while they attended a wedding in Tampa Area. Ugh, August, to Biloxi for a spin at slots. No luck. September, 10 day Caribbean Cruise. At Grand Cayman on 9/11. Needless to say security was tight getting back aboard ship. Same at Cozemel, Can Cun, New Orleans and Tampa. Got back to Jacksonville in time to do laundry and off to San Antonio & Fredricksburg for six days. Nimitz Museum in Fredricksburg excellent for South Pacific during WW II. November off to Branson, Mo. Big Christmas celebrations so all the bands were playing Christmas music, the country groups, also Andy Williams & Yakimof Smirnoff. Good show.

In February gall bladder surgery. My wife to be TMarie, spent every night at the hospital with me. In March TMarie & I to New Orleans for USS RALEIGH Reunion for a week. April 25<sup>th</sup> TMarie and I got married. O Happy Day. In May, TMarie and I off to Sacto for the Jazz Festival. It was my 23<sup>rd</sup> year of volunteering. We spent 12 days, visited Railroad Museum, Folsom Lake, Gold Discovery Sight. The only Ranger I ran into that I knew was **Shirley Mraz**. Spent on day around Tahoe and one day in San Francisco. Left off wine country for next Jazz Festival. We both will be volunteers. Hope to attend Retirees Rendezvous in October.

### Do you know someone who is retiring?

CSPRA provides a plaque for each member when they retire. Contact CSPRA at (800) 749-8749, or make a request at [www.cspira.com](http://www.cspira.com), or write to CSPRA, P.O. Box 247, Carpinteria, CA 93004-0247, or email: [OfficeManager@CSPRA.com](mailto:OfficeManager@CSPRA.com)



## humor in unicorn



### Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops

by Jeff Price, Retired

*Medical advice costly!*

He was really sick, but after seeing  
the doctor, he got a clean bill of sale.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Can't read you.*

10-4, but please repeat, you were  
illegible.

\*\*\*\*\*

*A bribe or what?*

It's OK with me, but you'll have to  
buy off your supervisor, as well

\*\*\*\*\*

*Swinging time*

I know how you feel, I have been at  
both ends of the pendulum too.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Deceased slurs.*

I couldn't believe the racial epitaphs  
that man used

\*\*\*\*\*

*...and don't we all*

I believe this country's policies should  
be heavily biased in favor of non-  
discrimination.

## DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

<u>District</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone /email</u>
Angeles, Coast	Padilla, Frank	310 457-4358 trailpro@aol.com
Bay Area, Coast	Edgemon, Chuck	650 879-2025 chuckedgemon@earthlink.net
Bay Area, Diablo Calaveras	Nielson, Carl Harrison, Wayne	925 837-6129 209 795-3488 rxfire@goldrush.com
Channel Coast	Robinson, Rondalyn	805 654-5301
Colorado Desert	Zemon, Jeri	760 767-4399
Four Rivers	Martin, Greg	209 827-1525 gmartin@thegrid.net
Gold Fields	Van Etten-Collins, Laura	916 988-0206
Gold Rush	Simmons, Ken	916 445-7387 colomaken@ips.net
Park Services	Maris, Vic	916 653-9315 maris@parks.ca.gov
Marin	Whitehead, Mike	415 435-5390 tamangel@earthlink.net
Monterey	Gray, Pat Clark	831 649-2855 pgray@parks.ca.gov
Northern Buttes	Grove, Susan	530 235-0956 susangrove@snowcrest.net
North Coast	Sermon, Rick	707 464-6101 x5100 richard-sermon@nps.gov/richard
Orange Coast	Serpa, Jim	949 496-5290 serpa@fea.net
Oceano Dunes	Monge, Rey	805 473-7225 rmonge@parks.ca.gov
Mendocino	Joe, Kevin	707 937-5804 kjoe@mcn.org
Russian River	Broderick, Karen	707 847-3286 karen@mcn.org
San Joaquin	Faull, Mark	mfault@starband.net
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Santa Cruz	Hitchcock, Linda	831 429-2851 lindi3@juno.com
Sierra	Lindsey, Tom	530 525-7232 tomlindsey@ips.net
Silverado	Nixon, Valerie	707 279-4293
So. Service Center	Webb, Paul	619 220-5311



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The CSPRA Wave, Nov.-Dec., 2002 **15**





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## **CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION**

### **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*