



The CSPRA

Wave

Newsletter

Volume 3, number 4

California State Park Rangers Association

JULY - AUGUST 2003

Inside Interpretation



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Junior Rangers...



Publications...



Volunteers...

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Paula"

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...AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

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CSPRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dana Jones, San Joaquin District
(925)447-0426
dmjon@parks.ca.gov

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(916) 653-8542
vbrad@parks.ca.gov

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(831)336-2205

Joe Rodgers
Marin District
jrodg@parks.ca.gov

Ron Brean
Headquarters
(916)445-7373, 2rbrean@cwo.com

The CSPRA Wave EDITOR

Janet Carle, Sierra District
(760)647-6431, wave@cspira.com

WEB GURU

Jeff Price, retired
(805)278-9201
JefferyPrice@aol.com
www.cspira.com

EXECUTIVE MANAGER

Gar Salzgeber, retired
(800)749-8749
OfficeManager@cspira.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



DANA JONES
CSPRA President

What better time to be involved with parks and CSPRA then during a reorganization and budget shortfall. These trying times give us the unique opportunity to look at what we do and how to do it better to protect the parks and serve the visitors that have visited the parks over the past 100 years. After having served on the CSPRA board for several terms I was somehow convinced to run for (and have subsequently been voted in and assumed the office of) President of the organization.

For over four decades CSPRA has been the professional organization that truly cares about protecting and preserving the values of California's State Park System and the dedicated employees that administer the parks. As Park professionals it has been said that we have the best job in the country. We get to work in the state's best real estate, protecting the marvelous resources that make up the state's 274 State Parks. And, we get to interact with families who are there to enjoy those resources and learn more about everything from giant redwoods to the desert environment.

In the past five years, park attendance has jumped by more than 30%, to nearly 85 million visitors per year. Clearly, our State Park System is one of the favorite destinations for

Californians and people from across the nation and around the world. We remain the thin green line in protecting, caring for and maintaining our parks, and we will continue to do our part to get through this together to protect and manage the most loved and visited park systems in the world.

More now than ever we can all find humor in the history associated with our 100 year old park system, in a quote from the October 3, 1947 parks field manual:

It is the intent of this division to build a field organization that not only is efficient but also happy and contented. This means each employee must be a lover of the outdoors, and receive a part of his compensation for services rendered by being privileged to live in such beautiful surroundings.

If the individual is interested only in his pay envelope and in minimum hours of work, the State Park Service is not likely to appeal to him as a career.

Teamwork is the essence of a successful organization.....At no time is anyone in an organization more important than anyone else....True importance is determined by the performance of the individual in the duty assigned to him.

So let's work together as a team representing an organization that supports the future of Parks and the dedicated employees that work each and every day to keep them safe and protected for future generations. Please contact your CSPRA representative if you have any questions or issues that we should address. I look forward to a productive year as your President.

COVER PHOTO CAPTIONS, see pages 7 and 10

INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION DIVISION



by Donna Pozzi
Chief of Interpretation
and Education

The Interpretation and Education Division is thrilled to be the first division featured in

The Wave since the initiation of the new format focusing on a different district in each issue. We think this is a great opportunity to let the members of CSPRA know what we do and how we can support you in your work. And, for all the retirees who receive *The Wave*, we hope you'll enjoy hearing about the status of some long-standing programs as well as some of our new efforts.

Currently 22 people work in our division, including two PIs, two retired annuitants, and three students who are part of a contract with the California State University system. (We are losing 1.5 PY in the re-organization.) To a person, our staff is made up of very talented, highly motivated, and dedicated professionals. I am extremely proud of the high quality work that we do and the passion with which we do it. The following articles will introduce you to some of our staff and the exciting things they're doing.

We have also been working to develop the "Adventures in Learning" part of the department's web site. (From www.parks.ca.gov click on our link in the upper left corner of the homepage.) Here you will find information about interpretive programs and facilities, kids and

school programs, volunteer and nonprofit opportunities, and interpretive resources and tools. We are continually adding to and improving this site and encourage you to give us your feedback.

Whatever your job in State Parks, I hope this issue of *The Wave* will give you a better understanding of the vital work all our interpreters do to help make our parks relevant and meaningful for our visitors.

TECHNOLOGY AND STATE PARKS DISTANCE INTERPRETATION

by Joe von Herrmann, Interp. II

An ever-increasing percentage of California's school children are living in urban areas. Often, distance or economic and social barriers prevent these children from having the opportunity to experience our parks first hand. In response to these circumstances, California State Parks, in conjunction with school districts around the state, has initiated a "distance interpretation" program.

The three key components of the distance interpretation program are the "Video Streaming," "Building Bridges," and "Parks On-line Resources for Teachers and Students" (PORTS) projects. Each of these program components is delivered across the Digital California Project (DCP), a high-speed network connecting all of California's K-12 schools.

The **Video Streaming** project sends a live video feed (SealCam) from the middle of an elephant seal colony at Año Nuevo State Reserve into classrooms. A ranger at Año Nuevo is filmed at the same time and superimposed on the picture, much like a weatherperson standing in front of a weather map. The ranger presents programs aligned with California Academic Content Standards.

The **Building Bridges** project

creates a partnership between two classrooms from different areas of the state. With the aid of an interpreter, each classroom studies a state park near them. The interpreter and teacher work together throughout the school year to address academic content standards and park themes. The classrooms then videoconference via the DCP and teach each other about "their park" and themselves.

The **PORTS** project is actually a group of projects that are developed at different locations throughout the state. Local state parks, county offices of education and schools collaborate to create units of study. Parks and schools prepare materials (lesson plans, digital photos, digital videos, PowerPoint presentations, etc.) concerning specific content standards and park themes. These materials are made available to all California students and teachers via the DCP. The unit of study also incorporates videoconferences between the classroom and parks.



PORTS divers at Crystal Cove State Park

Currently, schools in San Diego, Orange, Sacramento, and Marin counties are participating in the development of this program, as are parks in the Colorado Desert, Orange Coast, Capital, Angeles, and Marin Districts. We would like to add more parks and schools to this and the other distance interpretation projects. If you are interested in participating, or just want more information, please contact me at (916) 947-8073 or at jvonh@parks.ca.gov.

INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION DIVISION

Got Pictures?

By Wil Jorae, Museum Curator I
and Jane Bertke, Museum Tech.

"One picture is worth a thousand words." - Fred R. Barnard (1921)

Do you find you need slides for your campfire program, maybe historic photos for an interpretive panel, or images to illustrate how an area has changed? You may be ready to retire and have a collection of images you don't know what to do with. In situations like this, the Photographic Archives can be a valuable resource!

The core of the Photographic Archives collections consists of historic and contemporary images gathered and created since the early days of the department. The collection has grown over the years as a result of donations made by retiring parks staff and the work of departmental photographers. We continue to add contemporary images with the help of our new photographer, **Jennifer Heichel**, and retired annuitant **Bob Young**, our former Senior Photographer.

The Photographic Archives can provide images in traditional formats (photographic prints, 35mm color slides, etc.) as well as in digital image formats. We can duplicate materials and slides, provided the department owns the images or the requestor has



<<
Cunningham Family at the Redwood Inn, Big Basin Redwoods SP; photo by Andrew P. Hill, circa 1915. File P29553

written permission from the copyright owner. Our collections are also available for research purposes. We encourage researchers to visit our facility to view the collections, as our staffing limitations prevent us from performing extensive research ourselves. We are currently revising the finding aid to the Photographic Archives. The revisions should be completed by the end of June 2003, and an electronic copy will be available on our website in PDF format.

The Photographic Archives collections consist of approximately 200,000 images depicting both the natural and cultural resources of California State Parks. There are about 100,000 prints and negatives in black and white and color, about 35,000 contemporary color slides in 35mm format, approximately

60,000 images awaiting processing and a small number of lantern slides and glass plates. Although the collection for the most part spans the period from 1900 to the present, the bulk of the images were captured between 1950 and 1985. We also have a large collection of copy photography of images from as early as 1839.

To assist researchers in reviewing our collections, the Photographic Archives is in the process of cataloging and scanning the images into the department's Statewide Museum Database System (46,000 have been cataloged to date). Once the software conversion of this system, which is currently taking place, is complete, all the Photographic Archives' cataloged images will be searchable and viewable from any location, providing one has an active TMS user ID and an

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



<< *Aerial view of Folsom Lake SRA. Photo by Gene Russell, 1977. File S2286*

Ranger >>
Terri Jensen and K-9 partner Bear. Photo by Jennifer Heichel, 2003. File S28004



PHOTO ARCHIVES, cont. from page 4

Internet connection.

As people retire and as organizational changes occur, California State Parks faces the danger of losing a precious commodity—our institutional memory. In addition to residing in our staff themselves, institutional memory is stored in the slides, photos, reports, correspondence, etc. that people collect in the course of their careers. The Photographic Archives serves as a repository for the department's images. So, whether you've got pictures or want them, the Photographic Archives is the place to go. If you have any questions regarding the care of these materials or where to send such materials when you retire, please feel free to contact us directly by phone at (916) 375-5930, by fax at (916) 371-0301 or by e-mail at photoarc@parks.ca.gov.



Student Renee Espinoza, ELP Program at Petaluma Adobe SHP. Photo by Bob Young, 1997. File S24635



Partner or Perish

by John D. Mott, Cooperating Associations Program Manager

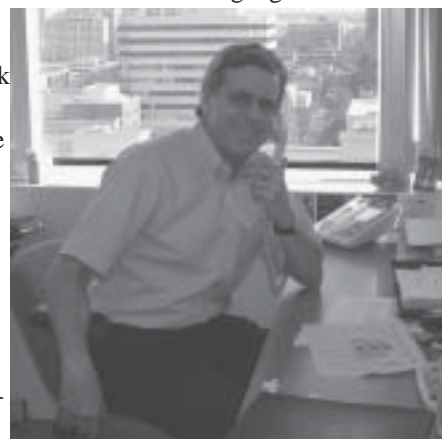
As dollars get tighter and the spending and hiring freezes march on, the need for cooperating associations and like-minded groups to help bridge some gaps is critical. Park professionals and nonprofit organizations are finding creative ways to help keep park interpretation functioning with different funding strategies. Some strategies involve cooperating associations. That's where I come in. My name's Mott. I manage the Program.

Statewide the Cooperating Associations Program is growing. Fortunately, association incomes and the resulting donations to the State have been steadily increasing for the past several years, despite economic downturns. In 2001 gross income for the program was more than \$14 million, and net income was more than \$10 million. The value of goods, services, and donations received by the state was nearly \$5 million. The administrative costs (i.e. "overhead") of the program were only \$1.6 million, about 16% of net income, which is excellent!

Part of my responsibility is administrative – processing contracts, reviewing annual reports, and keeping the records shipshape and retrievable. Another part includes developing the "Cooperating Associations" section of the DPR website (go to www.parks.ca.gov and click on "Adventures in Learning" then "How You Can Help"). I invite you to go there and explore. I am continually upgrading the web pages, and your suggestions are welcome. I also oversee a Nonprofit Partners user group that provides an electronic forum for posting and receiving questions about cooperating associa-

tion issues. To join this user group, contact me for an invitation.

The Cooperating Associations Program is changing. A new standard contract is being field tested with several "pilot" associations. Both association and department representatives are learning a great deal



through this process, and the contract has greatly improved. Meanwhile, review and upgrading of the current (1992) Cooperating Associations Program manual continues. The new contract will play a big role in what will be in the new guidelines and when they will be published.

Other responsibilities are more creative—I support the field (department staff and associations) in accomplishing mutual goals. This includes offering advice and resources when people contact me with questions or concerns and includes visiting field units and meeting with association or department representatives to explain what is black-and-white and what is gray. I recently participated in a training session with the all the cooperating association liaisons (CALs) and volunteer coordinators in one district to help sort out roles and responsibilities. I spend considerable time working with (sometimes pestering) the department's Legal Office.

A major part of my job is training. I work closely with the California

See COOP ASSOC, page 11

INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION DIVISION

All Visitors Really are Welcome

by Jenan Saunders
Interpreter III

For a number of years now, the Interpretation and Education Division has been a resource for issues related to accessibility in our interpretive programming. Both state and federal accessibility laws require that we make our parks not only physically accessible but programmatically accessible as well. Making sure our interpretive programs are accessible isn't just a benefit for our visitors with disabilities, it's a service that can assist all those who come to our parks.

The latest edition of *All Visitors Welcome: Accessibility in State Park Interpretive Programs and Facilities* has a new addition that drives home that point. *All Visitors Welcome*, first published in 1994, provides a wealth of information on the characteristics of the predominant disability types, tips and techniques for making interpretive programs more accessible, and information on ensuring interpretive facilities are accessible. The updated appendices section now includes a chapter on publications issues, an expanded resources list (complete with websites and email addresses), and the latest version of Access to Parks Guidelines. The appendices also include a lengthy Tips and Techniques Table. Anyone looking over this table will readily see that many of the techniques we use to make our programs more accessible to visitors with disabilities really do help all our visitors gain more from our programs.

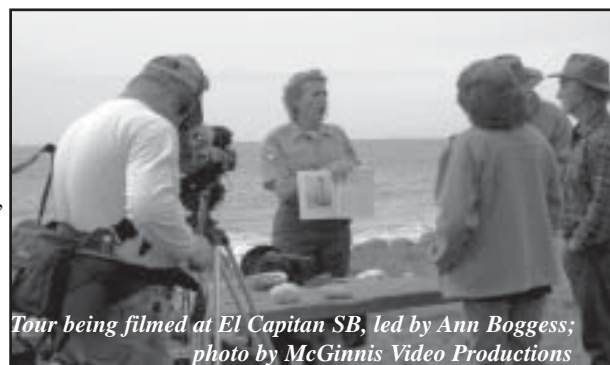
The new edition of *All Visitors Welcome* is currently being assembled by division staff (it's now in binder form). Orders received from the districts late last year total more than 275 copies, and we're making extras, so it's a big job. The binders should

be ready for distribution to District Interpretive Coordinators by the end of June. If you'd like to receive a copy, contact your District Interpretive Coordinator. An Adobe Acrobat (PDF) version of *All Visitors Welcome* is also available on our website (from the homepage click on "Adventures in Learning," then on "Resources and Tools" to find it).

In addition to providing accessibility resources, the Interpretation and Education Division also manages some statewide accessibility projects. From the last round of deferred-maintenance funds, we have been able to tackle two projects related to videos and tours.

Last year we had captions added to 35 videos currently shown in our parks. This involved transcribing each program, thoroughly checking each transcription to be sure it was accurate, and then doing the actual captioning. We'll also be placing the transcripts of all 35 programs on the website (from the

homepage click on "Adventures in Learning," then on "For Schools"). After the completion of the captioning project, we had a number of park staff contact us about additional videos in need of captioning. As it turns out, the agency that did the captioning for us has agreed to caption more videos for us at no cost as long as we provide the blank videotape or DVD stock (which is relatively cheap) and a transcript in electronic format. We're currently captioning three more videos as a result of this offer. So, if you've got a video in need of captioning, please contact me and we can work on



Tour being filmed at El Capitan SB, led by Ann Boggess; photo by McGinnis Video Productions



Cameraman getting a close-up shot of a California poppy at Great Valley Grasslands SP while tour guide, Becky O'Rourke, looks on; photo by McGinnis Video Productions

getting that done.

The second deferred-maintenance accessibility project is an ambitious venture to create videos of 81 different tours given in 71 of our parks. These videos will provide an interim accommodation for interpretive activities that are not accessible to all visitors. The tours were selected by a committee made up of representatives of our division and the Accessibility Section, after reviewing nominations submitted by each district. Three contractors started filming the programs last fall and will continue through Spring 2004. Hundreds of park staff and volunteers are helping with this effort, coordinating scheduling, presenting tours, and acting as visitors on camera.

The videos will of course be shown

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in the parks where the tours take place. And extra copies could also be used for viewing in nearby parks and parks with similar themes and resources, for internal training purposes, and for off-site school presentations or to teachers in advance of a school group visit. Additionally, because each video is being open-captioned, transcripts will be developed for each, and those will also be placed on the website as they become available.

If you have any questions about the above-mentioned accessibility projects and resources, please feel free to contact me at (916) 653-0768 or jsaunders@parks.ca.gov.

Open- and Closed-Captioning

Some folks wonder what we mean when we discuss open-captioning versus closed-captioning. With open-captioning, the captions always appear on the screen and cannot be turned off. Closed-captioning involves coding the captions onto a video in a manner that allows them to be decoded by the monitor or projector showing the program (such as when you put your television on mute and the captions pop up). All the videos captioned by our division have been open-captioned because in order to use closed-captioned videos, our park facilities must give visitors the ability to turn on the captions by themselves, and the vast majority of our parks do not have this capability.

ON THE WAVE COVER:

upper left image: **Jenan Saunders** holds a creature up for the camera during the mudflat exploration at Candlestick Point SRA; photo by McGinnis Video Productions

Upper right image: **John Werminski, Mandy Whelan, and Pamela Rocksvold** display some of this year's junior ranger supplies.

Children's Programs For Our Parks

by **John Werminski**
Regional Interpretive Specialist

One function of the Interpretation and Education Division is to administer two programs especially designed for our younger park visitors: "Junior Rangers" and "Litter-Getters."

Since its inception in the early 1970s, "Junior Rangers" has become a tradition in many of our state parks, with more than 25,000 children participating annually. The great majority of Junior Ranger programs take place in Northern and Central California, typically in "camping" parks where families often stay for several days and may return year after year. The bulk of the state's population is located "south of the Tehachapis," however, where day-use visitation is the norm and park staff is often unavailable for conducting programs. Clearly, a new approach is required to increase Junior Ranger offerings in that region.

The new *Junior Ranger Adventure Guide* is designed to meet that need. The 16-page self-guided activity booklet is ideal—both for budget-strapped park units that want to provide a valuable interpretive service and for families wanting to enhance their park experience by helping children enjoy and appreciate their heritage. Many parks with staff-led Junior Ranger programs will be distributing the Adventure Guide, too, as a



way of broadening their offerings.

Kids can pick up copies of the *Adventure Guide* at participating parks or can download it from our website.

Once the guide is completed, the child is entitled to a prize—either

one of the new metal Junior Ranger badges or a color-in poster. In parks with presented Junior Ranger programs, the child is also entitled to a log book and credit for one activity toward other Junior Ranger awards.

The look of the conventional Junior Ranger program has changed as well. Awards are now given for the first, fifth, and tenth activities completed. The first award to be earned is the metal badge; the second is a new eye-catching color poster featuring wildlife; and the last is a Junior Ranger certificate and a Junior Ranger patch.

The Interpretation and Education Division is hopeful that these renovations will generate a heightened level of interest in our Junior Ranger Program—among park staff as well as the public.

At the same time, our *other* statewide environmental education program for children—Litter-Getters—continues to be a popular interpretive offering. Children wishing to participate in Litter-Getters are given an informative and fun brochure about recycling along with a trash bag. Each bag of trash returned earns the child a colorful sticker featuring one of our state's official animals or plants. Kids who collect all six stickers are rewarded with a Litter-Getter pencil made of recycled denim or U.S. currency. Field reports indicate that nearly 20,000 children take part in this program every year. That's a lot of young minds developing an environmental ethic—not to mention a lot of trash collected from our state parks!



INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION - Publications

Brochures and Flyers and Maps, Oh My!

by Jenan Saunders, Interp. III

The Interpretive Publications Section of the Interpretation and Education Division is just a hive of activity these days, and has been for quite a while now. The expertise of the staff in the section is a great resource, one which more and more of our field staff have been choosing to utilize as they work on publications projects.

Publications can be a powerful tool in serving our visitors and in meeting our mission. They communicate with visitors before, during, and after they come to our parks. And, in these days of budget woes, they may, unfortunately, be our only opportunity to provide the important and educational information our visitors need and want.

So, what exactly does the Interpretive Publications Section do? Well, the bulk of our time is spent on the Park Brochure and Map Program. This program's goal is to have a brochure, with a complete map, for every park in the State Park System. Due to funding constraints, this is obviously a long-term goal, but it is an obtainable one. The brochures produced through this program have a consistent design, with cover and back colors that reflect the type of park being discussed (green for SPs and SRs, red for SHPs, blue for SBs and SRAs, and orange for SVRAs). The maps included in each brochure are also consistent in their design and use of symbols, so visitors can easily figure out their way around from one park to another. Section writers, editors, and designers work very closely with field staff in drafting text that meets their needs, getting good photographs, and ensuring maps are accurate and reflect the resources



*Staff of the publications section:
Laurena Cabañero,
Jenan Saunders,
Gail Dudding, Ron
Warr, Pat
McLatchey, and
Carol Cullens
(Sherri Vargas not
pictured)*

available at each park. Our goal is to produce at least 10 new brochures per year until all our parks are covered. The brochures and maps are also converted to PDF format and placed on our website.

Another service the section provides is to produce special brochures and flyers on specific topics. Last year a flyer on yellowjackets was developed through a cooperative effort with the Natural Resources Division. In the past few months, we also developed a brochure on Native American Resources for the Cultural Resources Division. Forthcoming are flyers on why visitors shouldn't feed the wildlife and why we have regulations in place regarding dogs in our parks. We're also working with the Natural Resources Division on a brochure discussing the urban-park interface and the responsibilities of people who live near parks and open spaces.

The publications section also offers a campground map program. Section staff work with park staff to create two-sided campground map flyers that can be easily photocopied and freely distributed at our parks, and posted on the internet. The flyers usually consist of a map, or maps if the park has multiple campground locations, on one side and rules and program and contact information on the other. The campground map program can greatly assist you in getting needed information to your camping visitors and at minimal cost

to you (just the cost of photocopying). Unlike the Park Brochure and Map Program, however, you need to contact us to request a campground map. So please do so if you're interested in taking advantage of this worthwhile resource.

In addition to creating brochures and maps, we also serve those in the field who want advice and assistance with publications projects. If you're working on a publication and would like help, whether it be someone to assist you in editing the text or finessing the design, or to offer guidance on technical issues related to printing, give us a call or send us an email. We're happy to help in any way we can.

Our next big venture will be into the area of teacher packets/guides. We're currently working with the State Capitol Museum, assisting with design issues related to their School Packet. And we'd love to work with other parks out there who'd like to update or create a guide for school groups. We also plan to develop a publication or packet geared toward teachers' needs that discusses California State Parks as a whole.

If you have any questions about the Interpretive Publications Section, please don't hesitate to contact me at (916) 653-0768 or jsaunders@parks.ca.gov. We look forward to helping you provide high-quality informative and educational publications to your visitors.

INTERP. AND EDUCATION - Picturing Mexican California

Picturing Mexican California

by Mary Helmich
Interpretive Programs Manager

Vaqueros roping cattle, Mexican street vendors and stores, market scenes, and detailed close-ups of spurs, saddles, clothing, cups, and plates are among the more than 400 images represented in *Picturing Mexican California: 1821-1846*. The three-volume reference set was produced in 2001 to aid field staff interpreting the Mexican Republic years of California. Ten original binder sets were compiled and distributed to districts for staff use. What's new this year? An easy-to-use, three-CD set of *Picturing Mexican California* with yet more images!

While scholarly and popular works about California's Mexican Republic years have grown in number, most address focused aspects of that era—Native Americans, missions, ranchos, or the Mexican-American War. They are sparingly illustrated and usually produced in black-and-white to reduce costs. The “color” of the era and of its people has been lost. Visualizing the period environments, objects, and clothing of everyday life is key to authentically representing them in California State Parks.

Picturing Mexican California originated in the Interpretation and Education Division when I realized there was a real need for a reference on the Mexican era that could be distributed to field staff for their use. I began gathering and organizing the images as part of my work on the “Old Towns Initiative.” Division Chief **Donna Pozzi** envisioned turning the volumes into CDs. With her support and that of Office Tech. **John Underwood** and **John Peterson**, a web consultant to the



department, the project came to fruition.

One hundred of the three-CD sets have been reproduced and are being distributed throughout the department. The CDs include historical pictures



Vaqueros in a Horse Corral by James Walker, 1877; Painting at the Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art, Tulsa Oklahoma; reprinted from Pacific Arcadia: Images of California, 1600-1915 by Claire Perry

and first-hand accounts, along with more recent research that captures the texture, color, and energy of life from 1821 to 1846. A vast majority of the pictures and objects are mid-nineteenth century in origin, although later era illustrations have been included, where artists are known to have carefully researched the subject. Material culture examples from the Index of American Design (compiled in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration) and California State Parks' own archeological excavations add dimension and substance to the compilation. Together, these images often challenge our expectations, based upon earlier monochromatic views.

Picturing Mexican California is a great resource to refer to when

creating interpretive projects: for research, house museum and exhibit development, living history planning, training, lectures, campfire programs, etc. The three volumes are organized thematically: Volume I deals with men's work, agriculture, transportation, trade and commerce; Volume II with women's work, the home, and pictures of pueblos and villages; Volume III highlights clothing, social and religious occasions, and religion. Staff, docents, volunteers, concessionaires, and others involved with interpreting the Mexican Republic years will find the volumes very useful.



A plate from the Cooper-Molera Adobe collection

Volunteers – A Resource Worth Protecting

by Michelle Edward
Volunteer Programs Coordinator

Can you imagine State Parks without volunteers? That would be like having a sundae without the nuts, whipped cream, and hot fudge! Ice cream alone is good as are our state parks, but volunteers can add flavor and variety, with no added fat. Without careful handling, however, your sundae may either melt or take over the whole kitchen. Ask any volunteer coordinator who has lived to tell about it—it is extremely rewarding, and very demanding, work.

“Managing volunteers” is rarely the only job assigned to a volunteer coordinator. Yet volunteer programs must be managed effectively if they are to provide the greatest benefit with the least risk. One part of my job as the new Volunteer Programs Coordinator is to work with field and headquarters staff to develop, implement, and adapt training, policies, and procedures to meet evolving needs and manage risks. Currently, the primary tool for disseminating policies and procedures is the *Volunteers in Parks Program Guidelines*. There are hundreds of copies of this handbook floating around out there, and I am in the process of posting it on the Department website. It is a great resource.

Many of you worked with my predecessors, Heather Fargo and Jessica Watrous. They left four very large shoes to fill. I am working hard to implement some programs that were already in progress, including administering Volunteer Enhancement Program funds and developing statewide handbooks for Camp Hosts and (eventually) host program administrators. I am the person to contact when you need special

volunteer awards and passes or when you need to update your camp host “ad” on our website. I will also be searching for grant money to support volunteers and coordinators in their efforts. I welcome your suggestions for improving any of these programs.

Volunteers have been an integral part of California’s state park system since its inception, and they bring tremendous benefits to State Parks. The estimated monetary value of volunteer time contributed in state parks each year now exceeds \$14 million! It is no wonder that, when budgets and staffing are reduced, the suggestion inevitably comes up—“Why don’t you just bring on more volunteers?” The advantages of using volunteers are many. In addition to the community and moral support they bring, volunteers assist employees in nearly every program area, from patrolling trails to coordinating events. Did you know that volunteers log more hours of interpretation/interpretive programs than do our paid employees?

Our volunteer numbers are impressive, but records show a slow and steady decline over the past several years (hence, the importance of recording volunteer hours accurately). The highest number of volunteers served in 1998—over 15,000—and 1997 boasted the highest number of hours—over 1 million! We have not scientifically examined the reasons for the decline, but I suspect that staff reductions account for some of it (see graphs, page 11). In a study conducted in 2000, State Parks volunteers ranked “more time to work with staff” second only to “chance to learn more new things” on the list of factors that would make volunteering more enjoyable. Another reason for the decline in numbers may be the increasing variety of opportunities for volunteers in other organizations and agencies.

State Parks volunteers, like staff, continually give of themselves for the improvement of our parks and

communities. Although we are unable to offer significant tangible rewards, we can show our appreciation by involving them in meaningful work, providing opportunities to learn new things, and interacting with them on an ongoing basis. Now let’s go eat some ice cream!

New Volunteer Recruitment Panels Coming

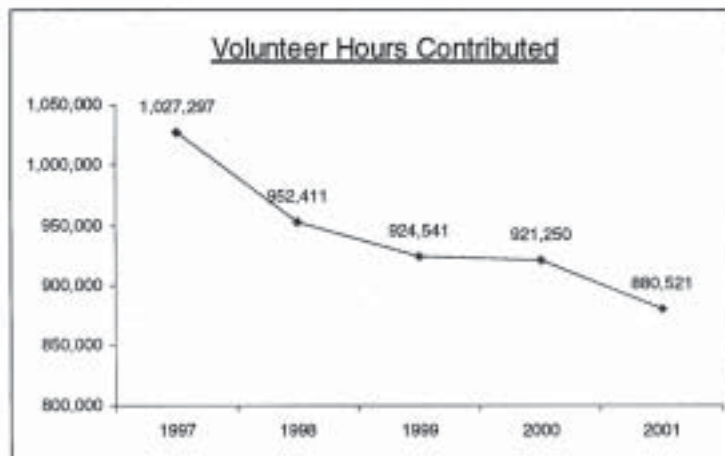
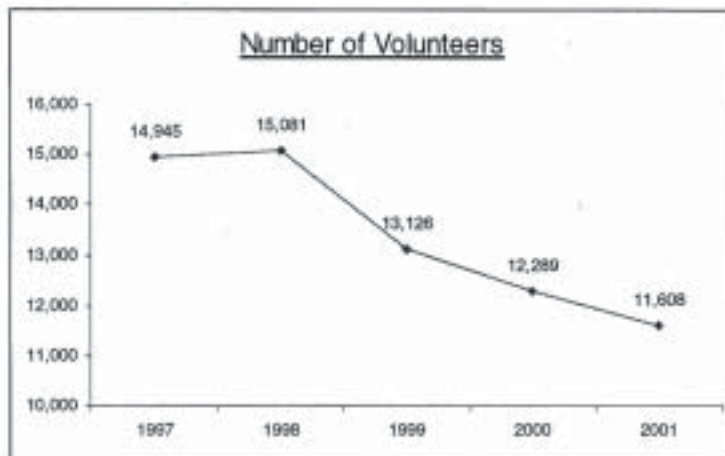
To assist parks in recruiting volunteers, the Interpretation and Education Division has created three exhibit panels directed toward would-be volunteers. The panels are full of exciting and active photos of our park volunteers doing what they do best, from living history demonstrations to trail maintenance, beach clean-up to school group programs. Each of the three panels has a different focus—one is directed toward volunteers in general, another toward those individuals interested in natural resources, and the third toward those with a cultural history bent. The panels are currently being printed per orders received from each district. They will also be available on CD so parks and districts can print them out themselves and even substitute different text and photographs. Check with your District Volunteer Coordinator if you’re interested in the panels, as the CDs and panels will be shipped to those individuals in the next few weeks.



A volunteer fence mending project at Olompali SP

ON THE COVER: *Alan Hardy and volunteers put the C. P. Huntington locomotive in place for Admission Day 2000, at the State Railroad Museum*

VOLUNTEERS



COOP ASSOC, continued from p. 5

League of Park Associations (CALPA) to provide leadership and training for associations. The next CALPA annual conference, "Harvesting New Ideas" will take place October 25-28, 2003, in Sonoma. The conference promises to be an exciting blend of learning combined with fun, food, and drink in the heart of the wine country. Details for this out-service training will be distributed in June. Other training opportunities include the acclaimed Cooperating Associations Partnership Workshop at the Asilomar conference grounds, January 30 to February 2, 2004. Details for this department-sponsored training will be available soon.

As you are aware, associations and related partnerships are helping parks survive in a variety of ways. For instance, Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park recently recreated and commemorated the historic 1903 visit of President Theodore Roosevelt to the "Big Trees Grove." The Mountain Parks Foundation, the Santa Cruz District, Roaring Camp Railroad, and other partners worked together to recreate the epic event with a train ride, presidential lunch, and speech. At Governor's Mansion State Historic Park, park staff, the Sacramento Historic Sites Association, and the Sacramento County Historical Society held a successful fundraiser "Mansion Sings the Blues" filled with music, fun and food to raise funds for restoration projects. There are many other outstanding examples of cooperation between California State Parks and the 80 cooperating associations in the program. The relationships developed through these partnerships are the envy of many other parks systems.

A park professional once said, "A park without friends cannot survive, it has no soul, no first line of defense." Don't let your defenses down- Partner or Perish!

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PIONEERING PAULA PETERSON

RETIRES

by Janet Carle with Paula Peterson

"No one told us a girl was in the group!" These were the words that greeted Paula Peterson at the Mott Training Center when she reported for Ranger Trainee Group E in March of 1972. After 3 hiring interviews, the 1st permanent, full-time, civil service, soon-to-be-badged female ranger was finally hired.

Though women had worked in State Parks for years as seasonals, most notably Petey Weaver in the 1930s and 40s, since WWII the job description for State Park Ranger had read "male only". Governor Ronald Reagan and DPR Director Bill Mott, in an era of change with affirmative action in the air, changed the language and omitted the male only clause. Coincidentally, another Paula, **Paula Pennington**, got things started for women when she was hired as an unbadged PI Ranger at Prairie Creek in 1968. ("I think it helped that I was big" she said.) Several other women were PI Rangers between 1968 and 1971. Other changes happened also. The professional training program for rangers at Asilomar was begun, and dogs were allowed into parks. "I always thought it was interesting that dogs and women were allowed in at the same time" said Paula Peterson with a laugh.

The media had a field day when Paula was hired. "Paula's Pretty—and a Park Ranger", "The Ranger is a Lady", "First Girl Ranger at Big Basin" and "Perils of Paula, the Park Ranger" are a few of the headlines of 1972. Paula's hiring started a deluge, not a trickle, with 11 women being hired as ranger trainees the next few years, among them **Mike Bartou-Fike, Joanne Karlton, Pat Wiese, Kay Schmidt Robinson, Kate Foley, Linda Leyva, Sherrin Grout** and **Mary Stokes**.

The women's uniform in those early years was a work in progress. Green

cotton A-line skirt, blazer with a small patch and heels and nylons were de rigeur at Asilomar training. For a while, the women's jacket was borrowed from the Santa Clara County Jail Matrons uniform line. Kate Foley recalls the white nurse's shoes that had to be dyed marine cordovan for use as uniform shoes. When wet, the dye turned the shoes purple. In the field, job requirements prevailed and skirts gradually gave way to coulottes and then the more practical slacks. Small patches on women's uniform shirts lasted into the early 1980's. All the women of those early years remember the "gap in the back" in the waistband of the field jeans designed for men, before there was such a thing as "women's sizes."

Paula grew up in Sonoma and attended Chico State, majoring in Recreation and Park Administration. Her seasonal work with municipalities included stints as a Playground Director/Lifeguard at South Lake Tahoe, and an Aqua Maid at the Wildwood Boardwalk in New Jersey, where she performed in an Aqua Circus complete with trampolines, flame divers, performance divers and world high diving champions. "I think being an Aqua Maid helped me get hired," Paula said, "I could swim, so they figured I must be athletic".

Paula Peterson was a pioneer in many ways. She and her ex-husband, Harry Morse, were the first married ranger couple and worked together when they operated the Park Experience Exhibit Trailer for 10 months in 1974. Paula worked in a wide range of parks: Santa Cruz Mountains, Mt. Diablo, Pajaro



Coast, Lake Oroville, the Mott Training Center and the Napa Valley. But she left her heart in Monterey, serving as a Supervising Ranger from 1979-83 and Chief Ranger from 1985 in successively higher ranks until her retirement in May 2003.

On a beautiful spring day at Point Lobos, 200 people gathered to wish Paula well in her retirement. Twenty women rangers and supervisors were there (see photo), a small percentage of the several hundred that now work in State Parks. A flock of Canada Geese did the State Park version of a "fly over".

Many of the first generation of women rangers have retired recently, among them **Paula Pennington, Kate Foley, Kay Schmidt Robinson, Sherrin Grout**, and **Carol Nelson**. They have all been trailblazers, working with park staff and visitors, breaking down stereotypes every day simply by being out there doing their jobs. Thank you, Paula, from all of us women rangers. Someone had to be the first. It was you, and you did it well.

A WAVE GOODBYE



Women rangers, past and present, gathered at Point Lobos for Paula's retirement party: L to R, back: **Carrie Thompson, Kira Sorenson, Lois Harter, Janelle Miller, Nancy Reid, Nancy Fuller, Steffani Jarrett, Joanne Karlton, Janet Carle**; kneeling: **Pat Clark-Gray, Ronilee Clark, Stephanie Price, Tina Williams, Kate Foley, Kay Robinson, Shana Avalos, Jackie Ball, Lynn Rhodes, Mary Wright**; front: **Paula Peterson**. Photo by **Ken Gray**.

Paula was in Trainee Group E with, L to R: **Glen McGowan, Ted Reinhardt, John Knott, Don Hoyle, and Miles Standish**.



Tina Williams, of the Monterey District, presented Paula's CSPRA retirement plaque. Photo by **Pat Clark-Gray**



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.cspra.com, or write to CSPRA, P.O. Box 247, Carpinteria, CA 93004-0247, or email: Officemanager@CSPRA.com

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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

Correspondence

Getting personal 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.

Harry Batlin writes: Great to see your name on the CSPRA letter. Congratulations! I have been pretty much out of touch with park news since I retired a few years ago. How is your family, especially your dad? He was one of the people I really looked up to as a young ranger. Not everyone I ran into early on had his sense of humor and dedication. I hope that the news is good.

I raise Siberian Huskies and help a friend show them. I have traveled across the country a couple of times and to Canada to dog shows. The dog show sub-culture is a certain kind of strange! Traveling with six or more singing huskies in a thirty foot motor home that wants to come apart or just stop is way too much fun! I was running the dogs with other sledders in the Sierra for awhile, but I had to slow down a bit after a bypass a few years ago. The fact is I am just getting old and lazy.

I live in Soledad just south of Salinas and I keep busy on historic preservation issues here, the advisory board for San Antonio de Padua and

the Los Coches Adobe. I do a little consulting and I volunteer at the Monterey Bay Aquarium once a week just so I know when it is Friday.

I am sorry that I have been so lax in sending in my dues. Check enclosed. Fond regards.

Bob Grace writes: We're doing well and enjoying life. ...we have been in a remodeling mode since last October and moving mode since mid-November. We moved in as soon as the inside was habitable, but the garage, outside walls and painting took quite a while to complete. We still have some things in boxes and storage, but the remodel is complete and now it is up to us to complete the process as time allows around our work schedules.

We are enjoying being in a nice home in a nice environment. The house is located in Red Bluff on 1.25 acres at the end of a quiet cul de sac.

Bev is still enjoying her job as Kindergarten teacher at Antelope School in Red Bluff. She is also Vice-President of her CTA unit and a Mentor Teacher for beginning teachers at her school.

Bob launched Bob Grace Enterprises in October 2001. The "enterprises" are Digital Photography, History of Life and Business Services. It has been going very well so far, and he has more work than he needs to stay busy in "retirement." Some of his projects are: pictures for a Guidebook for Bidwell Mansion in Chico; pictures and graphic design for Naure's Nursery, a Guide to the Beneficial Plants of Tehama County, produces, photographer and graphic designer for Mining is a Hard Kind of Labor, a CD of Gold Rush music by the Ide Adobe Players (available online at Amazon.com.); design of the Environmental Studies Program (living history for schools) for Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park in Southern California; and a Conservation Easement program design to help conserve wetlands on tracts of privately owned land.

This year will be another busy one for our family. We celebrate our 25th anniversary in March; we travel to Missouri in early April; Ben's mother turns 90 in April; Tyler graduates in May; Laura is going to El Salvador for a month this summer for her community service requirement for USF. Hopefully we will be able to get our home together and enjoy some great camping trips also.

You are all in our thoughts and prayers. We hope for peace in these troubled times. (Sorry Bob, hope I didn't condense your letter too much, Gar)

REPORT TO THE BOARD:

We have 1 new Organizational Member, Town of Shasta Interpretive Association; 1 new Supporting Member, **Chris Cruz**, a West Valley Park Management Instructor; 3 new Active Retirees, **Denzel Verardo**, **Paula Peterson** and **Manfred Knaak**; and 21 new Active Members (16 of them sponsored by **Kim Baker**). The Ranger Cadets are **Henry Berry**, **John Deluca**, **John Stephens**, **Matt Yarbrough**, **Todd Farcau**, **Joe Marino**, **Christopher Stelz**, **Rose Blackburn**, **Lisa Urbach**, **Tom Randall**, **Tracy Weisberg**, **Tim Quandt**, **Jonathan Brandt**, and **Scott Poole**. Lifeguard Cadets are **Geoffrey Whisner** and **Lawrence Fulmer**. Full time lifeguard **Sal Goshorn**, Associate Resource Ecologist **Sally Walters**, **Karyn Lombard** from the Training Office, and two Rangers, **Ray Monson** and **Richard Bergstresser** also joined.

Retirement plaques were presented to **Denzel Verardo**, **Paula Peterson**, **William Wisheart** and **Carol Nelson**. We have received a total of \$545 for the scholarship fund established by **Denzel Verardo**.

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

humor in unicorn



Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops by Jeff Price, retired

There is nothing like being in a foxhole
12 time zones from home, dodging rounds
from an AK-47, and then having a micro-
phone shoved in your face for a spontaneous
comment, to help feed this column:

Array of armament or an arms strategy?
The Kurds now have weapon types that run
the gambit.

Dull ache?
The Marines took the blunt of today's
casualties.

. . . and into nice, neat rows?
Our boys are raking havoc over there in Iraq.

Arms up!
Good generals are always ready to hand
wrestle over troop deployments.

Some of these I can't explain . . .
The Iraqi people are now under the ball
because Saddam sold them down the pike.

Back to the future, says GW.
It will take several months to restore the
chaos in Iraq.

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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 Colorado Desert Four Rivers	Robinson, Rondalyn Zemon, Jeri Martin, Greg	805 654-5301 760 767-4399 209 827-1525 gmartin@thegrid.net
Gold Fields Gold Rush	Van Etten-Collins, Laura Simmons, Ken	916 988-0206 916 445-7387 colomaken@ips.net
Inland Empire	Neary, Sue	909 940-5647
Marin	Whitehead, Mike	415 435-5390 tamangel@earthlink.net
Mendocino	Joe, Kevin	707 937-5804 kjo@mcn.org
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
Park Services	Maris, Vic	916 653-9315 maris@parks.ca.gov
Russian River	Broderick, Karen	707 847-3286 karen@mcn.org
San Joaquin San Simeon	Faull, Mark Van Schmus, James	mfau@starband.net 805 927-2020 ivans@parks.ca.gov
Santa Cruz	Hitchcock, Linda	831 429-2851 lindi3@juno.com
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The CSPRA Wave, July-Aug, 2003 **15**



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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