



The CSPRA

Wave

Newsletter

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CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

JULY-AUG 2005

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COVER PHOTO: Reading a transect
at the Sutter Buttes. L to R: **Jim Suero**
(NRD), **Jim Dempsey & Woody**
Elliott (No. Buttes), **Ayzik**
Somolomesch (UCD)

Photo by **Roy Woodward**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



RON BREAN
CSPRA President

One of the things I have observed over the years is that when retired park people get together the conversation will inevitably turn to California's parks and the issues facing them. Being people with some history and experience, plus a great deal of interest, ideas begin to germinate about how to solve the problems or prepare for a better future for parks and park users. Without fail some one will say something like "You know what *we* ought to do is....", and then they will proffer a potential strategy.

There are two reasons why I marvel at this phenomenon. The first is that no one ever says "You know what *they* ought to do...". It's always "*we*". Park people are park people all their lives. They retain interest and even some degree of responsibility for problem solving long after they've ceased to get a paycheck for doing so. I've mentioned this observation to many people in the past, and now I find that after my recent retirement from the Department, I too continue to find myself saying "we" when I mean the Department or those that are still grinding it out everyday. Once you're part of the parks family, if you want to be, you will always be a part of the family. There is a kinship of spirit that grows out of a kinship of purpose.

The second reason I marvel is the continuing dedication to professional-

ism that resides in the old guard. It is noteworthy, perhaps even remarkable, that new employees come to this field with high expectations, significant energy, and real commitment to the ideals that are embodied in parks. I think an early spark of enthusiasm, at least to some degree, exists in any new career venture. The fact that it does not diminish, that it grows in time and drives dedicated rangers, maintenance workers, lifeguards, ecologists, interpreters, cultural specialists and administrative personnel to continually seek ways of improving and enhancing the parks and park experiences is beyond the norm in government work. Many hardworking State employees strive to do their job professionally, but can't wait to leave it behind at the end of the day, the end of the week, or to retire. Parks people, by contrast, become infected with parks and with professionalism and they happily endure the infection. We seem incapable of ever leaving it behind. It is a part of who we are.

I've asked myself why it is that dedication and the pursuit of professionalism are so prevalent in Parks when they are sometimes difficult to find in other arenas. I believe I know the answer, and I believe, if we do our part, it will continue. Looking back to my early years with the Department there was always someone to guide me toward better ways to take care of park facilities, more sensitivity toward park resources, a more effective approach to sharing the values of a park to the visitors, or a better way to provide service to the public. Through that guidance, newcomers like me were constantly striving to truly be park professionals, perhaps evening daring to hope that we would exceed the professionalism demonstrated by our mentors. Though we sometimes lament the slowness of our advance due to budget constraints or political realities, the fact remains that we have continuously improved in all of those

RICH IN RESOURCES

by **Rick Rayburn**, Division Chief >>

Life is *soo sweet* in the Natural Resources Division. Our twenty staff members seem to be pulling together well, making significant strides for natural resource management in the State Park System (SPS). Over the last few years, highlighted accomplishments include:

- Develop and implement an unprecedented effort to systematically inventory and assess natural resource values and conditions for 94% of the SPS. Information on a wide variety of subjects, such as occurrence of endangered species and extent of infestations of exotic species, was gathered by field staff and entered into a master database for unit and systemwide assessment of health trends;

- Development and implementation of the Natural Resource Maintenance Program, including the computerization of natural resource needs by management unit;

- Publication of the Natural Resources Chapter of the Departments Operations Manual, providing extensive policy guidance for natural resource management in SPS, and its companion, the Natural Resources Handbook;

- Developed and distributed to a hundred nonprofits and other interested groups, a thorough acquisition planning strategy to advance preservation of California's natural resources;

- Launched a formal monitoring program to assess long-term health in selected areas;

- Production of quality natural resource interpretive materials through long-term collaboration with the highly energetic Interpretation and Education Division staff; and

- Continue to hunt the liger – it's pretty much our very favorite animal;



it's like a lion and a tiger mixed, bred for its skills in magic.

The above accomplishments could not have been carried out without significant contributions from field ecologists and support from our superintendents.

Currently, many in NRD and field staff are engaged in identifying key natural resource areas in the SPS. Parks, watersheds, habitat polygons, and geologic features/processes are the present priority. This effort focuses on natural resource areas that represent the biological and physical values in all ecological regions of the state. When funding and staff time is limited, establishing the above areas help identify priorities within many different programs.

I hope you enjoy the articles within this issue of the *Wave*. The connectivity project is important to setting acquisition and defensive planning priorities while ensuring our wildlands are sustainable in the long run. As you can see, we are attempting to increase our reliance on sound science and research especially in the areas where our professional experience is limited, including invertebrates and genetics. We have increased our commitment to natural resource interpretation, which has

been a joyous adventure with the staff from Interpretation and Education Division. I hope you find these articles informative, the news regarding the DOM Chapter – as dry as it can be – is exceptionally important.

Finally, to get to know us a little better, I pass on the following hallway exchange, demonstrating our continual commitment to total quality management and customer service:

Ted Jackson: "What would you say ya do here?"

Staffer Smykowski: "Well look, I already told you! I deal with the customers so the ecologists don't have to! I have people skills! I am good at dealing with people! Can't you understand that?! What the hell is wrong with you?!"

Other than Smykowski (of Office Space fame), the NRD staff is a hardworking, very committed crew. We are committed to providing top service to the field staff, others in headquarters and the overall mission of California State Parks. Please investigate our internet and intranet web sites to get a full picture of natural resource management in the SPS, the Division itself, and the wide variety of staff efforts to make SPS natural resources the best managed and interpreted in California.

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY THROUGH CONNECTIVITY

by **Heidi West**

Associate Park & Rec. Specialist

California's population is projected to grow from 36.5 million to 48 million people by 2030. Development is putting increased pressure on wildlands, and many parks may become isolated islands of natural resources within vast tracts of development. Recently, the Natural Resources Division embarked on a phased statewide connectivity assessment for state parks at high risk of isolation through fragmentation. The goal is strategic identification and mapping of natural areas that will bridge gaps between state parks or between parks and other protected public lands. These linkages facilitate wildlife movement and botanical transfer among large core natural areas and result in combining acreage large enough to sustain healthy plant and animal populations into the future.

To develop a preliminary connectivity map, NRD staff use district survey results from the 2001 State Parks Condition Assessment and tools such as existing ArcGIS data, habitat information, aerial photography, and Real Estate Assessment Documents (READs).

Success criteria used in the NRD analysis for linkages to sustain viable plant and animal populations include:

- identification of existing natural habitat and species in protected core habitat areas,

- potential target species whose populations will benefit from movement or gene flow among core habitat areas,

- topography and land use,

- proposed corridor configuration including length and width, and

- adequacy of the corridor to enhance natural ecological and evolutionary processes.

Some target species may pass



Rick Rayburn (NRD Chief), **Claire Schlotterbeck** (2002 CSPRA Hon. Rgr.), **Geary Hund** (Dist. Resource Ecologist) & **Warren Westrup** (Acquisitions), celebrate the sale of Coal Canyon to CA State Parks.

through a corridor in less than an hour while others may take part of their lives or multiple generations. So, consideration is given to how the corridor reflects the modus operandi of target species and perpetuates ecosystem function to ensure successful connectivity.

In light of fast-paced development and lack of state funds for acquisition, accomplishing regional linkages for our state parks and sustaining native plant and animal populations seems daunting. However, successful examples and works-in-progress exist in our State Park System. Chino Hills State Park could have become a completely isolated urban park if not for recent acquisitions in the Prado Basin and the purchase of Coal Canyon by the Department a few years ago. Scientific monitoring and data analysis at the district level show that these acquisitions preserve connectivity for park wildlife with the Prado Basin and Santa Ana Mountains. Other large

scale acquisition projects have succeeded in linking Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, improving the chances of maintaining a sustainable population of mountain lions and presumably many other plant and animal species. Several North Coast state parks are managed cooperatively with Redwood National Park to form the Redwood National and State Parks and are together named as a World Heritage Site and International Biosphere Reserve that preserve ancient coast redwood forests. Equally important are linkages for species with less notoriety such as Morro manzanita, a rare plant native to coastal dunes and chaparral in Morro Strand State Beach and Montaña de Oro State Park. These two parks are nearly adjacent, but development compromises the connectivity of habitat for Morro manzanita, as well as for other locally occurring maritime species.

Ultimately, protection of vulnerable linkages is one tool used to preserve the biological diversity concentrated in core habitats on our public lands.

INVASION!

by **Cynthia Roye**, Assoc. Res Ecol. &
David Schaub, Sup. SP Res Ecologist

The diversity within California's natural flora and fauna is seriously threatened from invasive nonnative plants. Over 1,000 species of plants have been introduced into California's wildlands within the last 250 years. The number of exotic or nonnative plants has grown exponentially since the first Europeans made contact with the region. During the first 100 years of euro-settlement about 80 exotic species were introduced to California. During the last 100 years, over 900 new species came on the scene. Some of these species have the ability to alter native environmental complexes and compete aggressively and successfully with the native species, eventually supplanting them.

California is recognized as one of the world's 25 biological hot spots, places of greatest biological diversity and of greatest threat. Although direct loss of natural habitats through conversion of wildlands to other land uses represents the greatest threat, the spread and the introduction of exotic species are huge factors. After direct habitat loss, most conservation biologists consider exotic species and habitat fragmentation to be the greatest threats to sustaining the State's natural biodiversity.

How bad is the problem in State Parks? Most State Park units had some kind of land use disturbance prior to acquisition, most commonly livestock grazing, and thus had some level of exotic plant infestation. Even some of our largest and longest protected parks are significantly impacted by exotic plants. In 2001, DPR conducted a survey to inventory and assess the general health of the natural resources in State Parks. The survey gathered information on the presence of exotic plants and the level of infestation.



Maintenance Aid **John Heredia** using the drill injection control method at Anderson Marsh SHP

Photo by **Jim Dempsey**, Res. Ecolog., N. Buttes District

The physical and biological impact of these weeds on State Park resources was evaluated. The twelve worst weeds included tamarisk, giant reed, European beach grass, pepperweed, yellow star thistle, Veldt grass, French broom, Italian thistle, ice plant, wild fennel, Cape ivy, and tree of heaven. Of the 200 units surveyed, at least one of the "dirty dozen" was reported in 75 % of the units. Forty percent of the units

established its first major natural resource funding program, the bond funded Natural Heritage Stewardship Program. Since then, subsequent bond acts have supported between \$1-3 million annually toward natural resource restoration, with about half going toward projects involving the removal of exotic plants. Last year about \$500,000 of the total \$1.4 million Stewardship allocation was for projects to control or eliminate invasive exotic plants in critical areas within State Parks.

In 2001, the Department established its Natural Resources Ongoing Maintenance Program. This program is critical to maintaining the successes gained in restoring natural resources values in the State Park System, including control of exotic plants. The program is a state-of-the-art general fund program that identifies all recurring natural resource maintenance needs and assigns work orders to each task. Natural resource maintenance activities are generally described as those activities that must be conducted annually or on a 2 to 5 year cycle to maintain the status quo. In the case of exotic plants, this means to do what's necessary to keep invasives from invading new areas or from recolonizing areas previously

Exotic Plants "dirty dozen"

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Cape ivy | Veldt grass |
| Tamarisk | Wild fennel |
| Ice Plant | French broom |
| Italian thistle | European beachgrass |
| Tree of heaven | perennial pepperweed |
| Arundo | yellow starthistle |

contained three or more of the "dirty dozen." Invasive exotic plants are widespread throughout the State Park System. In fact, the control of invasive exotic plants is the single biggest resource problem facing the State Parks today.

What is State Parks doing to Control Exotic Plants and Reduce their Impact on Ecosystems?

California State Parks has had aggressive programs in place for over 20 years to control or eliminate the most invasive and damaging exotic plants. In 1984, the Department

See INVASION on page 12

INVERTEBRATES--MONITOR OR NOT?

by ***Janet Didion***

Associate Resource Ecologist

On March 3, 2005 the Natural Resources Division hosted the Terrestrial Insect and Invertebrate Workshop at UC Davis to investigate native, sensitive, and exotic species, and the possibility of monitoring and/or management of the invertebrate resource in parks. Experts on some of the most visible invertebrate/insect groups met with DPR staff, including researchers from UC Davis, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, and the Bohart Museum of Entomology, as well as representatives from the USGS, USFWS, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), The Nature Conservancy, and CDFG. Presentations were made on beetles, ants, bees, and butterflies and moths.

Each researcher discussed why they felt their study group would be a good candidate for monitoring, and the potential problems with each group, and a picture of the immense complexity of the invertebrate world emerged. Beetles are incredibly diverse (8,000+ species in California), with species that are unique to each habitat and season performing many roles, some very specialized. However, a large part of that diversity is still unidentified, and as they are easy to misidentify, taxonomic expertise is needed. There are four federally listed beetles and over 50 species of concern, but beetle knowledge is still in the inventory stage. The web-based California Beetle Project is collecting basic natural history, distributional data, and images.



***Jim Suero and
Craig Swolgaard
(of NRD) sample
invertebrates at
McArthur-
Burney Falls SP***

Ants have fewer species (281), California being relatively ant depauperate, with higher endemism (40 species), and more exotics (26 species). Ants are more open to invasion by non-native species. They are the most successful social insect with many relationships with other organisms (e.g. Mission blue butterfly larvae), and as generalist omnivores they process a lot of material through their nests. Most species have a moderate/high level of habitat specificity, so could serve as indicator species, and most ants in an area can be found within a week by an expert. Ant information is also at the baseline stage. Further information can be found on AntWeb at www.antweb.org and www.myrmeecos.net. NOTE: Any irrigation (even drip) on restoration projects, particularly in chaparral and oak woodland, will encourage the spread of the exotic Argentine ant because they are dependent upon dry season moisture. The Argentine ant is capable of eliminating most native ants and creating other negative impacts on natural communities.

Bees have over 1500 species in California (about a dozen are introduced), occur in most ecosystems, and most are solitary and ground nesting, though some species

use cavities and some are social. Being widespread and in close synchrony with plants make bees good subjects for monitoring and good indicators of ecosystem health. National efforts are in place to monitor bees, so monitoring in parks would add to the information collection.



Butterflies and moths are less useful for monitoring due to seasonal migration and other aspects of their life histories. The 400 or so butterfly species in California may need to be in hand for identification, and the over 3000 moth species are very poorly known. There are problems with the butterfly information available on-line, and despite occasional antagonism between butterfly enthusiasts and resource management agencies, there is potentially a large free monitoring resource in the numerous butterfly collectors. A statewide 4th of July count is sponsored by various butterfly societies.

NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

A MEETING OF THE MINDS

by **Janet Didion**

Associate Resource Ecologist

An hour and a half lunch in a windowless conference room to discuss add-on work? You gotta be kidding! However, for over three years the Natural Resources and the Interpretation and Education Divisions have held monthly lunchtime meetings to discuss cooperative efforts, and the collaboration has proven to be a productive one. The group discusses ways to interpret natural resource issues to a variety of audiences, both within the Department to DPR field staff and Administration, and outreach to the visiting public, park neighbors and the surrounding communities, our peers in natural resource management, and to local governments, legislators, and other decision makers.

The range of products and projects includes producing brochures and smaller informational brochure inserts, reviewing interpretive panel text, planning staff training, and representing DPR in larger natural resource interpretation efforts. Future endeavors include producing interpretive materials on exotic species, feral cats, prescribed burning, watershed restoration, and the outstanding geologic resources to be found in California's state parks.

Materials published to date are designed to educate the public, encourage support for Department management actions, increase public compliance with park rules and regulations, address public safety issues, or introduce DPR's policies and resource management program to other resource professionals. Topics covered include DPR's natural resource management program, urban edge issues, feeding wildlife, dogs in parks, mountain lions, yellowjackets, West Nile Virus, sudden oak death,



*L to R: **Cyndi Roye** (NRD), **Sherry Vargas** and **Jenan Saunders** (I&E), **Noah Tilghman** (NRD), **Dave Schaub** (NRD), **Rick Rayburn** (NRD Chief), **John Werminski** (I&E).*

campfire management, and the western snowy plover- its natural history and the rules visitors must follow to protect its habitat. An order form (in both an annotated hard copy and illustrated electronic forms) is being developed to facilitate requests from the field for these new interpretive tools.

The brochure "Natural Resource Management in California State Parks" is intended to foster public understanding and support of our programs, and explains why the Department engages in conservation, protection, and restoration of California's natural habitats and the native species that inhabit them, giving examples of typical management actions. Primarily intended to be distributed at the units and during outreach efforts, this brochure may be accompanied by more detailed information on specific resource management techniques and tools as the need arises in the units. "Urban Effects on Our Wildlands" illustrates the impacts of adjacent urban land uses on the natural resource values of wildlands. Besides covering the

threats posed by encroaching development and the host of problems people bring with them including loss of habitat, invasive exotic plants, and uncontrolled pets, the brochure includes a check-off list of things the reader can do, a list that was designed to help park visitors and neighbors recognize the part they can play in protecting wildlands. Field offices were provided with a list of suggestions for how/where the brochure can be used/distributed, and were encouraged to create a list of opportunities for their area to guide potential future volunteers to resource management organizations or projects where their energy will do the most good.

In addition to helping the public to understand natural resource issues and management actions, and providing the field with useful, needed interpretive tools that address current problems, other benefits of this partnership include accomplishing tasks with greater efficiency, fostering a close working relationship, and camaraderie...these meetings are actually a lot of fun!

GENETIC MONITORING

by **Dr. Roy Woodward**
Senior Environmental Specialist

On February 16, 2005 the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) sponsored and co-organized with the Genetic Resources Conservation Program of the University of California, a workshop on genetic monitoring attended mainly by UC Davis researchers who conduct genetic studies on California native plants and animals, together with individuals from agencies and organizations that manage or contribute to the conservation of these taxa. The objective was to discuss the inclusion of genetic monitoring as part of the Inventory, Monitoring & Assessment Program (IMAP). Presentations illustrated the various kinds of information that can be gained from genetic monitoring and what they reflect, how monitoring methods and time frames vary according to general taxonomic groups, and how contextual information (species characteristics, spatial and temporal environmental data) is critical for interpreting genetic information. Although formal recommendations were not put forward by the group, several points emerged as informal recommendations:

1. It is neither reasonable nor feasible to collect biological samples towards a goal of genetically monitoring all taxa—or even all plant and animal taxa—in State Parks. However, in some situations, genetic monitoring is recommended for the information that it can provide toward identifying potential problems or more effective conservation. Priorities could include: listed species; species that have recently undergone severe habitat reduction, habitat fragmentation, or loss of population size; populations suspected of possible hybridization with intro-



<< Inhalation collector with bugs. Photo by **Roy Woodward**

Valerie Yepp, UCD volunteer & **Jim Suero**, GIS Specialist, at State Scientists Day. >>



duced conspecific populations or sexually compatible species; and species that may reflect environmental quality or contamination.

2. Prior to collecting samples for genetic monitoring, contact a researcher who conducts (or has conducted) genetic studies on this, or a related species. This can serve three purposes: a) Provide information on sampling protocol, including season, time frame, and methods for sampling. b) Ensure there is an interested researcher to receive, store, analyze, and interpret the samples. c) Ensure the information (research results, DNA sequence information, etc.) is shared and stored appropriately (e.g., Genbank, Natural Diversity Database, USGS's Biological Information Observation System [BIOS], etc.).

3. For genetic monitoring, the collection of environmental information (e.g., sample location, site description) is just as essential as the biological sample itself. This is critical for meaningful interpretation of the genetic data.

4. Insects are a special case: There are major black holes in our knowledge of California insects and yet they play critical ecological (and agricultural) roles. Considerable

taxonomic expertise is required for monitoring insect species. This expertise should be incorporated, where possible, into training for IMAP so that the diversity and health of insect populations (as well as potential threats from invasives) can be better monitored.

5. There is a need for coordinated efforts for seed collections, inventories, and biological collections to support effective genetic monitoring. A directed workshop (and suitable actions following from that) is recommended.

6. In addition to determining more information about the populations and species of interest, genetic monitoring can be used, in specific cases, to indicate changes in environmental condition or quality. For this reason, priorities for genetic monitoring should also consider environmental areas of concern or interest, in addition to the species themselves.

Workshop participants included representatives from the USFWS, CDFG, California Native Plant Society, USGS, and UC Davis including the Wildlife and Ecology Unit, Veterinary Genetics Laboratory, and Genetic Resources Conservation Program, and DPR staff.

DOM DE DOM DOM

by **Noah Tilghman**
Sr. Parks & Rec. Specialist

Your park has been invaded by exotic species! Dolphins are stranding themselves on your beach! Cattle have taken to grazing your meadows! You don't know if you can take your mechanized trail machine into your wilderness to fix that trail washout. Who ya gonna call to deal with these issues and answer other questions that may impact natural resources?

Obviously, it isn't the Ghostbusters® so you might want to start by looking in the recently completed Natural Resources Chapter 0300 of the Department's Operations Manual, before you pick up your phone.

After many years of effort, the revision of the Natural Resources Chapter has been completed and issued. This chapter contains guidance and direction for the various programs of the Department that affect the acquisition, recognition, protection, restoration, and maintenance of natural resources so that their heritage values may be effectively perpetuated and enjoyed by present and future generations of State Park System visitors. Experienced park staff and the Natural Resources Division contributed to this lengthy but important effort by drafting sections of the chapter and by reviewing the final product. With a detailed nine page table of contents this chapter will serve as the basic natural resource policy document for the State Park System. Hard copies of the revised DOM Natural Resources Chapter 0300 are being distributed throughout the Department. The electronic version of the chapter can be found on the Department's LAN/WAN shared space and on the Department's Natural Resource Intranet site.

The chapter has seen many changes



both in format and content from old DOM Chapter 1600 and the 1979 "Departmental Directives on Resource Management for the California State Park System" which it supersedes. It now focuses solely on natural resources whereas, previously, it covered both cultural and natural resources. Cultural resources will now be covered in a separate DOM Chapter, 0400.

Another important change is that while the chapter sets forth the Department's policies, information about processes and procedures for carrying out those policies are

supplemented within the Natural Resources Handbook. This Handbook can be updated as new information becomes available on topics such as techniques for exotic species control, development of vegetation management plans or monitoring of geologic resources. The first version of the Handbook has been completed and posted on the Department's Natural Resources Intranet page. Updates will take place periodically with the first addition scheduled for September of this year. For more info on DPR's Intranet system, contact webmaster@parks.ca.gov.

MONITORING from page 6

Although many important invertebrate groups were not covered (e.g. worms, mollusks, flies, spiders, etc.), the workshop opened a valuable exchange of ideas on the nature and extent of monitoring in the State Park System. Invertebrate data could supply information on not just insects and biodiversity, but also ecosystem health and changes in the environment. Monitoring could also provide feedback on DPR's management actions, show the effects of burning on invertebrate life, and explore the connection between public access/human use areas and exotic invertebrate invasions. Designing a monitoring plan would include defining what

we want to know, locating available resources (including taxonomy and capture expertise, and existing reference information), determining the taxa that would provide meaningful information, planning the timing and other logistics, and considering the threat to sensitive species created by the sampling design. Establishing a link to academia, partnering with agricultural agencies and other private/commercial entities, and using student and volunteer labor could make some level of invertebrate monitoring possible in State Parks. Resource staff are working to define the management questions that might be best addressed by terrestrial invertebrate monitoring.

GEOCACHING... WHAT IS IT?

by **Janet Didion**

Associate Resource Ecologist

Orienteering, letterboxing, and now geocaching- what are these, and how do they affect parks? Offering participants good physical and mental exercise, opportunities to experience the great outdoors, and a chance to build valuable skills, as well as being fun and exciting, these pursuits all involve cross-country access to wildlands, and that's where parks come in.

Originally part of military training, orienteering was developed in Sweden in 1919. After a technical boost in the 1930's by the invention of a more precise compass, it was brought to the U.S. in 1946 and several state parks host events. Orienteering turns navigation with a map and compass into an organized competitive sport. Some versions of orienteering have international championships, and orienteering on foot has been a recognized Olympic sport since 1977. More casual, letterboxing was born in 1854 when a Victorian gentleman walker left his calling card in a bottle in a bank in the moors of southwestern England. In 1998, SMITHSONIAN magazine published an article on letterboxing, introducing the sport to the United States. Over 13,600 letterboxes are said to be hidden in North America, with over 1000 in California, many of which are undoubtedly on State Park property. Additional information is at www.us.orienteering.org and www.letterboxing.org.

Now our increasingly affordable high tech gadgetry has spawned new outdoor pursuits and geocaching is one of them, a treasure hunt adventure game for users of personal GPS units which was made possible by the Clinton administration's removal of the GPS signal degradation called

Select Availability in May 2000, freeing up GPS capabilities for other uses. The first geocache "treasure" was hidden soon thereafter near Portland, Oregon, a system and rules were devised, and today geocaching is so popular that enthusiasts may find caches in over 200 countries. A website at <http://www.geocaching.com/> coordinates the game, providing the rules, lists of caches, maps and coordinates, and hints for finding them.

The caches are hidden by participants in an area that is unique in some way. Big or small, caches must



contain a logbook which records each time it is found, and usually some kind of 'reward' is supplied by the players. The locations of the often cleverly named caches and the simple rules are shared on the Internet: Take something from the cache and leave something in the cache, and write about it in the logbook. Variations are encouraged and many spin-offs have developed. Caches are supposed to be maintained by their 'owners' who should ensure that their impact is minimal, the location and impact on the surrounding environment determining how long each cache will exist. Players are reminded that if caches are too easy to find they may be plundered, and the location of a cache demonstrates the owner's skill and daring- some may require difficult hiking, orienteering, and/or

specialized equipment to get to. Although the cache can be covered, burying it is not recommended, and players are requested to avoid sensitive archaeological or historical sites when hiding caches. Participants are advised to contact the managing agency of any public lands, being cautioned that placing a cache in any area administered by the National Park Service is a violation of federal/ NPS regulations intended to protect the fragile environment, and historical and cultural areas found in the parks.

Resource damage caused by this new activity includes unwanted 'volunteer' trails, soil erosion, damage to rock faces from uncontrolled rock climbing, damage to resources/ wildlife habitat while hiding the cache, and disruption of wildlife and habitat by hiders and seekers which, in habitat of sensitive/ listed species, could be considered habitat "take". Cultural resources may also be threatened with negative impacts by this activity. In addition, Department staff at state parks such as Mount Diablo, Henry Coe, and Mount Tamalpais note other impacts, including increased littering and improper disposal of human waste. There may be added cost to DPR for law enforcement in trying to control access to parks, particularly in sensitive areas, and ditto for search and rescue efforts if/when participants get themselves in trouble. Although these activities do encourage people to get outdoors, attract new users to California's parks, and possibly create new appreciation for the environment, do geocaching and other new, sometimes extreme forms of recreation have negative impacts which outweigh their benefits? Certainly we need to be aware of these activities, and be ready to educate the users and apply existing law, regulation, and policy to minimize impacts.

FORT ROSS RENDEZVOUS

by **Patricia Clark-Gray**

Dst. Interp. Spec., Monterey Dist.

Imagine a time just before sunset at Fort Ross, with women and men in colorful Russian clothing dancing while the Russian women sing traditional songs. The more than 80 participants of the National Association of Interpretation (NAI) Region 9 Spring Workshop on April 29 to May 1 were treated to this magical and spiritual moment. The sky was a darkening blue, the fort's wooden fences were variations of brown, and the nearby hillsides in the distance were a brilliant green. I especially enjoyed watching the excited faces of the participants as the women curtsied and asked them to join the circle dance and clasp hands with the end dancer.

This activity was just one of the excellent offerings at the spring workshop hosted by California State Parks and coordinated by **Robin Joy**, Park Interpretive Specialist at Fort Ross, and **Larry Ames**, Interpretive Specialist with BLM. The participants also had the rare opportunity to sleep in the Russian Fort and enjoy the excellent food. In addition, master storyteller, **Georgia Churchill**, enchanted all of us with her delightful stories around the campfire.

I will highlight the many excellent presentations that I attended. The first session was a roundtable about educational programs in parks. Each of the participants first shared their educational programs. We then talked about reservations systems, fees, training, teacher materials, and evaluations. We also talked about problems and positive ideas about each program.

The next session that I participated in was "Interpretation and Technology – PowerPoint and Web Site Use in Interpretation." **Larry Ames** began by showing us how he devel-



oped a "How to Identify Bird Calls" PowerPoint presentation. He demonstrated the easy steps, and I felt that after his presentation, I could develop a PowerPoint program using his detailed hand-out. Since everyone has PowerPoint, we all can create inexpensive, interactive computer presentations that we can take to outreach events or use in our Visitor Centers. **Robin Joy** also shared her easy secrets for creating her award winning Fort Ross SHP web site.

Two of the sessions that I attended were very educational, "Kashaya Pomo Culture History" presented by Professor **Otis Parrish**, a local Kashaya Pomo, and "An Introduction to the Kashaya Pomo Interpretive Trail Project" by students of Dr. Kent Lightfoot. Otis presented the Pomo perspective of the Fort Ross experience and the proposed trail will detail the cultural history of Kashaya Pomo tribe and their encounters with European and American colonists. When this trail is finished, I think the visitors to the park will get a more well-rounded perspective of the history of the Fort. I look forward to taking my family to the trail when it is completed.

An interesting session that I attended was a roundtable discussion "To Wear or Not to Wear" costumes in interpretation. The session was facilitated by

Sarah Skinner, Guide from Petaluma Adobe and **Robin Joy**. We covered many topics in a very active discussion including "age and ethnicity." Sara wrote in her hand-out "At most park units, the majority of the staff and volunteers would not have been present during these time periods due to age and ethnicity. How do we continue to have Living History Programs

when the majority of the people who dedicate their time and volunteer may misrepresent the facts to the public in terms of age, ethnicity, and more?" Even though we did not come up with a solution, I think this is an important point to discuss for all park units that have Living History Programs. Another important point was that some park units, such as Sutter's Fort, have a Clothing Manual and Standards, but that there are no state-wide standards for State Parks. This would be a great resource to all staff and volunteers who are involved in living history.

I would highly recommend that you attend the next spring NAI workshop. Besides learning new information, you have the opportunity to interact with staff and volunteers from many different agencies. I will always have fond memories of the colorful Russian dancers, Georgia's changing voices as she told her stories around the blazing campfire, and talking to the youthful and enthusiastic Humboldt State interpretation students. It was just the other day that I was one of those students! (Class of 1976 – Sacramento State)

Ed. note: Pat received a CSPRA scholarship to help her attend this training.

BOARD MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting
May 17, 2005

One Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA

Roll Call: Present: Ron Brean, President; Angy Nowicki, President Elect; Pam Armas, Secretary/Treasurer; Val Bradshaw, Past President; Board Members Gail Sevens, Jill Dampier, Joe Mette, Joe Rodgers; and Laura Svendsgaard, Executive Manager. Absent: None

Reports of Officers, Directors & Executive Manager

President: Ron Brean reports he's been busy reading by-laws, gaining an understanding of his role as President, and discussing the types of activities and improvements members would like to see CSPRA undertake.

Secretary/Treasurer: The Executive Manager and Secretary/Treasurer are working to formalize the financial policies and day-to-day financial management procedures.

Executive Manager: Retirement plaques have been presented to the following new retirees: **Terrell Ramos, Joe McCummins, Steve Wagy, Linda Tornello, Rondalyn Robinson, Floyd Lemley and Kathie Kinzie.** Laura distributed draft Duty Statements for board members and officers based on information obtained from the Constitution/By-Laws and other file materials to assist in understanding the various roles within CSPRA. Laura asked the Board to consider making it policy that when a CSPRA member passes, the remaining spouse receive member privileges for life. The Board approved the request.

Reports on Committees

Ron suggested seven committees be established by this Board: Finance/Ways and Means, chaired by Secretary/Treasurer Pam Armas; Membership Recruitment, chaired by President Elect Angy Nowicki; Advocacy, chaired by Ron Brean; Conference, chaired by Pam Armas; Awards & Recognition, chaired by Gail Sevens;

Historical, chaired by Kim Baker; and Nominating, chaired by Past President Val Bradshaw. The Board unanimously approved the creation of these committees.

Advocacy: Monica Miller with Governmental Advocates discussed advocacy activities undertaken on behalf of CSPRA. At the Board's direction they have been working extensively on the El Morro issue. Two legislators have introduced legislative proposals regarding state parks which would negatively impact the Department's ability to provide beach access to the beaches of Crystal Cove. While the Assembly bills have been withdrawn (at least in part due to CSPRA lobbying efforts), a request for an audit of housing in State Parks is the direct result of Crystal Cove issues. This continues to be of concern and Governmental Advocates will stay involved on our behalf. Other issues being worked on by our lobbyist include the budget, a bill to allow off-leash dogs at Dockweiler State Beach, and a number of other items that could affect parks and our membership.

Conference: Pam reported on the progress of the CSPRA/PRAC Conference Committee. Two meetings of the Committee were held in the last month. Though it's still early in the planning stage, things seem to be progressing well, though clearly active participation from the CSPRA Board and its members in all aspects of the Conference will help ensure success. The next meeting of the Conference Committee will be June 20th in Laughlin. At this point, Ron, Pam and Laura will attend on behalf of CSPRA.

Nominating: Val will put together a team as described in the by-laws and move towards getting nominees for two new board members and new officers with the aim of meeting constitutional deadlines. She would like to attract rank and file members and newer employees to the board.

District Representatives: The draft Duty Statement distributed by Laura earlier, provided a list of tasks handled by district representatives. A discussion among the entire Board ensued. Board members will be verifying the

continuation of previous District Reps and will seek new reps as appropriate.

New Business: GrayBears asked that any balance remaining in the Retiree Rendezvous account go into the scholarship fund. Angy made a Motion that the money go into the scholarship fund. Gail seconded it. Ron called for the vote and the motion passed.

Liability Insurance: Gail asked about obtaining liability insurance for CSPRA and its Board. Laura will look into it.

Next meeting: a retreat in Monterey, August 20-22.

INVASION from page 5

treated. Last year, nearly \$900,000, or 60% of the total allocation for natural resource maintenance, was spent on holding the line on the most invasive exotic plants. About 6% of the maintenance budget was used to control new smaller infestations, the most effective, least expensive control method. Just over half of the exotics funding was used to control infestations of the 12 worst exotics. We spend about \$ 1.5 million each year to control exotics.

Is enough being done? Frankly, no. However, successes have been achieved in parks. In some parks the extent of infestations have been significantly reduced, and in a few parks some of the 'dirty dozen' species have been totally eliminated. We are confident that our approach of aggressively attacking the most damaging exotics, with persistent multi-year follow-up maintenance can be successful.

Additional funding is needed, especially for maintenance-level activities. Current funding for maintenance of exotic plants is about 30 % of the documented need. One way to help bridge this gap is more reliance on volunteer programs and partnerships between federal, state and local governments .

Ted Jackson, DPR Dep. Dir. of Ops, presented this at Weed Awareness Day at the State Capitol in March.

UPDATE FROM SACRAMENTO

by **Monica Miller**, CSPRA lobbyist

The summer is just beginning and the legislature is in full blown work mode. While most of the media is focused on a potential special election this November, the state budget is the main focus of the legislature right now. There were no "big five" meetings to discuss big picture issues such as education funding and social service programs. The "big five" consists of the Governor, the President Pro-tem of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly and the minority party leaders. They are convened on the big ticket items in an effort to resolve disputes and keep the budget moving forward. The budget conference committee began meeting on June 1 and completed their work on June 10, just as they had predicted when they began the process. This process takes place just prior to the budget bill being voted on the Assembly and Senate Floors. The committee consists of three members from each house, four Democrats and two Republicans. Their charge is to reconcile the budgets from each house to make sure that the numbers match. This budget bears a striking resemblance to the May Revise, which the Governor released on May 13, 2005.

June 15 is the official deadline for the legislature to get the budget to the Governor. He then has 15 days in which to sign or veto it; however the Governor does have "blue pencil" authority over dollar amounts listed in the budget. The Democrats pushed hard to work with Republicans to craft a measure that was significantly scaled back in terms of dollars and programs. This was a political effort to show that the democrats can work to get an on-time budget. The budget is expected to be taken up on the floors in each house some time during the week of

June 13.

Provided that there is an on-time budget the Legislature will go on summer recess July 15 and return on August 15, 2005. This is the first year of the two-year session, so when the legislature adjourns in September anything that is not acted on this year can potentially move next January. Two bills that were of importance to CSPRA came from Assembly Member

Chuck DeVore from the Irvine area, AB 328 and AB 329. These bills would have allowed El Morro Canyon residents in Crystal Cove SP to stay at the beach for several years while paying the state a larger portion of rental payments which would have been used for deferred maintenance on state parks. These bills were never heard in committee and are "dead" for now. We will keep you posted with any new information as the Legislative session wraps up for this year.

DIRECTOR'S AWARDS

CSPRA Co-Sponsors Awards

CSPRA is a proud cosponsor of the 2004 Director's Recognition Program Awards. Presentation of these awards took place on Wednesday, April 27, 2005 to a standing-room-only crowd in the Resource Agency's Auditorium in Sacramento, with a reception following. Many Parks employees throughout the state were also able to watch the ceremony on live streaming video.

State Parks Director Ruth Coleman thanked CSPRA for their sponsorship, proclaiming it "Especially fitting, as CSPRA is honoring their own" by recognizing professionalism and outstanding achievements in service to State Parks.

In addition to the Department, the event was also cosponsored by California State Parks Foundation. The sponsorship supported the printing of programs for the ceremony and a reception following the awards. CSPRA's contribution was recognized both by the Director's remarks, as well as in the programs.

The following individuals and teams were presented with awards:

Olmsted Award – Leadership and Vision

Trails Training Team, Northern Division

Hill Award – Inspiration

Leo Carpenter, Jr., Student Assist., CSUS Hornet Found., Cultural Res. Division

Drury Award – Professional Integrity

Clayton Phillips, Sector Superintendent, San Diego Coast Dist/Tijuana Estuary

Mott Award – Innovation

Employee Training Mngt. Sys. Dev. Team, Mott Training Center/Admin. Serv.

Dewitt Award – Partnership

The Wildlands Conservancy, Inland Empire District

Ingenuity Award

Miguel Barajas, Park Maintenance Chief I, Northern Buttes/Clear Lake Sector

Maintenance of Way Team, Capital District/Railroad Sector

Special Commendations

Joanne Danielson, State Park Superintendent I, Santa Cruz Dist/Public Safety

Katrina Hoover, State Park Interpreter I, Capital District/Historic Sites Sector

Special Act or Special Service


Niall Gow, State Park Ranger, Santa Cruz District/Henry Cowell Redwoods

Brit Horn, Lifeguard, Northern Division/North Bay District

Lisa Remington, State Park Ranger, Oceano Dunes District

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PRESIDENT from page 2

areas for as long as there have been parks and park people.

That is what CSPRA is all about. CSPRA exists because park people will always be park people. They will always want to see a growth in professionalism, a dedication to park protection, an enthusiasm for interpretation that cultivates positive public opinion resulting in support for parks, and a sense of public service. Our job as CSPRA members is to harness the enthusiasm of the new contributors, tap the reservoir of knowledge retained by the “experienced”, and to fan the flames of creativity wherever we find them. We must always remember that “*we*” can make an immense difference.

THIS CUP COULD BE YOURS!

All contributors to the *WAVE* receive a stain-less steel CSPRA travel mug in appreciation. Send articles to wave@cspira.com



A WAVE GOODBYE



Mel Whittaker

JUNE, 1912 - MAY 31, 2005

Founding CSPRA Board Member **Mel Whittaker** died recently, just 3 weeks before his 93rd birthday.

Mel was a ranger at Big Basin Redwoods SP from 1941-1947, Chief Ranger at Mt. Tamalpais State Park from 1947 - 1952, Chief Ranger at Columbia SHP from 1952 - 1955, and Assistant District Superintendent of District 3, in Stockton, until his retirement in 1973.

Mel was involved with shepherding the 1960 Olympic Games at Squaw Valley, and in the acquisition of Malakoff Diggings and Empire Mine. This picture was taken in 1965.

PROMOTING PROFESSIONALISM IN CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS Membership

To join CSPRA, mail this application to: P.O. Box 2132
Newport, OR 97365
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 \$36/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.

Signature

Date

humor in unicorn



Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops

by Jeff Price, retired

So, no film at 11?

*As the crew was advancing on the fire
they lost their footage on a steep slope.*

Patronizing comment.

*I heard she goes to ballet; a real patriot
of the arts.*

I just write 'em down — can't explain
'em all!

*There is enough water here to sink a
fish!*

Miniature, shrinking timepiece?

Hurry up, the clock is getting short.

Canine conundrum.

Stands out like a dog's sore thumb.

Examining the problem, maybe?

*We have to go back and look at each
other in the mirror.*

Think it's the wrong urinal.

He doesn't have half a brain to piss in!

GET CONNECTED

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

EXECUTIVE MANAGER



by **Laura Svensgaard**
CSPRA Executive Manager

It's always energizing to be
around enthusiastic people who
share a common dedication. That
perception was certainly validated
when I attended my first CSPRA
Board Meeting in mid-March.
Focused and intense, the hours we
spent together discussing and
occasionally debating issues, was
very productive and speaks volumes
about how and why CSPRA is so
well respected — especially among
the Legislature and with other State
Park advocates.

Three months into my position as
Executive Manager, a rhythm is
beginning to take hold. Progress is
being made with our efforts to
formalize financial policies and day-
to-day operating procedures. I
anticipate we'll have something for
our members' review following the
next Board meeting in August.

I've started looking closely at the
database and have some concerns
that, with all the moves that can
transpire in the course of a life-long
career with State Parks, we've lost
track of your current whereabouts.
So please, if you or someone you
know to be a member is not receiv-
ing The Wave directly, simply email
the current contact information to me
at executivemanager@cspra.com and
we'll update our records.

And certainly, if you have any
questions, comments or concerns at
all about your membership or the
Association, feel free to either email
me or call 800.749.8749.

Want a CSPRA scholarship?

Contact **Fred Jee** at
(760) 767-4651
jeeology@yahoo.com

GRAYBEARS



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

Do you know someone who is retiring?

CSPRA provides a plaque for each
member when they retire. Contact us
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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