



The CSPRA

Wave

Newsletter

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 4

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

JULY-AUG 2006

ALL ABOUT

ANGELES



Angeles District, pages 3-11

The Last Season, pages 12, 13



CSPRA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Angy Nowicki, Silverado
(707) 538-8734, angy@cspra.com

PRESIDENT ELECT

Gail Sevens, No. Service Center
(916) 445-8827, gail@cspra.com

SECRETARY

Rebecca Schenone, Plumas-Eureka
(530) 836-2380, rebecca@cspra.com

TREASURER

Natalie Lohi, Mendocino
(707) 964-7462, natalie@cspra.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Ron Brean, Retired
(541) 547-3640, ron@cspra.com

DIRECTORS

Brett Mizeur, Castle Crags
(530) 235-2684, brett@cspra.com

Sal Goshorn, Orange Coast
(714) 377-5691, sal@cspra.com

Joe Mette, Retired
(707) 875-9492, joemette@cspra.com

ADMINISTRATION

Laura Svendsgaard, Executive Manager
P.O. Box 2132, Newport, OR 97365
(800) 749-8749 or (541) 547-3641
executivemanager@cspra.com

INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS

Jeff Price, Webmaster
(805) 278-9201, webmaster@cspra.com
www.cspra.com

The CSPRA Wave

Janet Carle, Editor
(760) 647-6431, wave@cspra.com

The CSPRA Wave

(ISSN0087-9176)
is published by CSPRA, P.O. Box 2132,
Newport, OR 97365
Articles and letters are always welcome.
All submissions become the property of
CSPRA and may be edited without notice.

COVER PHOTO:

Girls at Leo Carillo SP by Janet Carle

PRESIDENT



ANGY NOWICKI
CSPRA President

*Angy is attending the International
Rangers Federation Congress in
Scotland this month. She will tell us
about it in the next issue!*



Bob Dunn, 1932-2006

A.V. Spec., Interp. Serv. Div. (ret. '93)

Exec. Manager



Laura Svendsgaard
CSPRA Executive Manager

14th ANNUAL RETIREE
RENDEVOUS, Oct. 6 - 8, 2006
McConnell SRA, Save the date!

Welcome New CSPRA Members!

Deanne Adams Duke Heberling
Charles Bancroft Loren Rex
Blake Bonham Michael Story
John Conroy
Derek Davis

Want a CSPRA scholarship?

Go to www.cspra.com
or email
scholarship@cspra.com

ACTIVITY BOOKS ♦ TRACK REPLICAS & MOLDS

COME VISIT OUR NEW CENTER FOR SCIENCE
AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Acom Naturalists
155 El Camino Real, Tustin, CA 92780
Phone (800) 422-8886 / Fax (800) 452-2802
www.acomnaturalists.com

Free catalog of resources for rangers, interpreters & naturalists

FIELD EQUIPMENT ♦ FISH PRINTING **OUTDOOR EDUCATION ♦ VIDEOS**

RESOURCES FOR INTERPRETERS ♦ FIELD GUIDES

ALL ABOUT ANGELES

by **Ron Schafer** >>
Angeles District Superintendent

Welcome to the Angeles District edition of WAVE. These features are the tip of the iceberg for our very busy district with incredible resources, dedicated staff and some real opportunities to carry our mission to a new frontier.

General Plans have been prepared for **Dockweiler SB, Malibu Creek SP, Los Angeles SHP (Cornfield), and Rio de Los Angeles SRA (Taylor Yard)**. Currently we are working on a General Plan for **Santa Susana SHP**, a General Plan amendment for the **King Gillette Ranch** addition to **Malibu Creek SP**, an Interpretive Plan for LASHP and an Equestrian Plan for **Will Rogers SHP**. Also, in partnership with the California State Park Foundation and with funding from the Annenberg Foundation, we are embarking on a competition to select a design firm for LASHP. This new project has attracted design firms across the country, and internationally as well.

Interim Public Use projects are underway at Los Angeles SHP and Rio de Los Angeles. Los Angeles SHP is going to be our signature park in the urban core, preserving open space and interpreting the rich history of Los Angeles. Very soon, construction will begin on park facilities at the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, an area within **Kenneth Hahn SRA**. With funding from local partners we are restoring **Malibu Lagoon** and are poised to begin restoring the **Lower Topanga lagoon**. We are also working with the National Park Service in studying mountain lion movement and behavior in the Santa Monica Mountains.

We have a very close alliance with the National Park Service and the Santa Monica Mountains Conser-



vancy. An exciting alliance project is the ParkLINK Shuttle that provides transportation between park units of all three agencies and some LA County Beaches. The mountain bike and equestrian patrol programs are fully integrated with joint training and overlapping patrols.

There are also the day to day challenges of working in an urban area where law enforcement and public safety are part of a ranger's

everyday life. The maintenance staff does a fabulous job keeping our day-use areas and campgrounds looking great with a fraction of the resources it would take anyone else. Our lifeguards keep the visitors safe in the aquatic environment; one of the district's most popular recreational resources. We are also a popular location for the film and television



*Supervising Ranger **Darrell Readyhoff** and **Xirr** at the Adamson House at Malibu Lagoon*



Parasails at Leo Carillo SP

industry, and process and manage over 500 events a year.

One of the more exciting parts of this district is working with parks in the urban core, on what I consider to be the cutting edge of protecting some of the finest natural and cultural resources around. That combination provides each and every park unit in the Angeles District with a real and relevant urban connection. Our choice at this interface is to either bring the city into State Parks or bring State Parks into the city. There are forces at work pushing for the former. Thankfully, we have held to our mission and done the latter.

LIGHTS...CAMERA...ACTION!

by **Lynette Hernandez**

, Supt. I, Film & Spec. Events

The one thing you can undoubtedly proclaim about the Angeles District, is that on any given week day you might walk into some type of commercial film project in the parks. We'd like to think that our popularity generates from the amazing views of our beautiful beaches, back country

creeks, rolling hills dappled with oaks, igneous rock formations or historic homes, but let's be realistic - Angeles District's attractiveness for filming?the price is right and we're in the "filming zone."

Production companies are driven by cost. Their goal? To secure properties at the best rate, employ reliable crews from nearby studios and keep travel penalty charges low. Period.

Where else can you get great locations for nearly free? Well, go to your nearby state-owned properties such as State Parks, State Beaches, Historic Properties, Cal-Trans, Prisons, State Universities and other proper-

ties owned and operated by the State of California. We are mandated to support filming, and we only collect

salary costs and property maintenance fees. That can amount to savings of \$1,500 to \$10,000 *per day* to a production company. That alone is enough to make any producer drool!

Travel costs

for productions can also be waived if the companies stay within the 30 mile "filming zone." This "zone" was negotiated with the unions during the early days of movie-making, to keep

industry people from being "over-used." The "zone" is measured from the corner of La Cienega and Beverly Boulevard near Century City, and as long as the companies stay within this 30 mile radius, out-of-town travel charges do not apply. Most Angeles parks are well inside the Zone.

In Angeles, the prime spots for filming are Malibu Creek State Park, (the old 20th Century Fox back lot), miles of coastal beach property which can be set-dressed to resemble anything from Bali to Mexico, and acres of rolling hills which look exactly like Korea one week (the *MASH* filming site is a popular hike destination) and the *Planet of the Apes* the next!

Overseeing all this movie magic doesn't come easy, so we have a designated full-time film coordinator (yours truly) on call 5 days a week to sort out all kinds of picky details like: "HOW many trucks /lights/cranes/

See FILMING, page 5



^^ *M*A*S*H*, the TV series filmed 251 episodes at Century Ranch from 1972-1983.



^^ Reese Witherspoon and Tobey Maguire, just starting their careers, with Superintendent **Dan Preece**, now retired



^^ **John Falk**, Sup. Ranger (retired) holding a 3-week old grizzly bear during the filming of *Return to Grizzly Mountain*

A HISTORIC OBSTRUCTION

by *Suzanne Goode*

Senior Environmental Scientist

The Angeles District is host to a controversial issue that pits natural resources against cultural resources; in this case a historic dam versus an endangered fish.

Rindge Dam, located two miles inland from the Pacific ocean in rugged Malibu Canyon, was built in 1926 by May K. Rindge, once owner of all Malibu, to hold water for the family's farming and cattle enterprises. The one hundred foot concrete constant radius arch dam exists in a wild and dramatically beautiful setting that few could believe is only 35 miles west of downtown Los Angeles.

The large size of the Malibu Creek watershed and the heavy sediment load carried by the creek in years of high rainfall contributed to the loss of storage capacity in the dam's reservoir. By the 1950s, the reservoir, originally capable of storing 574 acre feet of water, was completely filled in with 800,000 cubic yards of rocks and sediment. The dam was decommissioned in the late 1960s and is now owned by the State of California as part of Malibu Creek State Park.

Malibu Creek is also home to the southern steelhead trout, a federally endangered species of anadromous fish that is uniquely able to tolerate the warmer waters of southern California, unlike its counterparts from the north. The southern steelhead is genetically distinct from the northern populations and is now known to be ancestral to them. Until recently, Malibu Creek was thought to be the southernmost stream to have southern steelhead, but later studies discovered remnant populations in Orange County and elsewhere. California State Parks owns significant portions of all three steelhead



streams in the Santa Monicas.

The Angeles District is in a partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers to complete a \$2.2 million feasibility study that may result in the removal of Rindge Dam. The study, due to be complete in one year, aims to determine the best way to allow steelhead trout to reach their historic spawning grounds above the dam. If removal is the preferred alternative, a method will have to be selected that preserves existing habitat, protects downstream property and efficiently delivers the sandy sediment to the local beaches that need replenishment. Malibu Canyon Road, which carries thousands of local commuters daily, will also have to remain fully functional. The Angeles District will then seek funding to carry out the restoration project.

In the meantime, local history buffs express concern over the potential loss of an icon from Malibu's past, mingled with the impatience of steelhead enthusiasts who long to see the two foot silvery sided creature return home. Both will need to blend with the long-range plans of people

who see this fish as the potential hope of survival for the species in the event of global warming.

FILMING, from page 4

props/caterers? And, "Yes, he is allowed to BBQ lobsters for lunch – believe me the ranger won't mind!" Plus animals of all types and sizes, plants, propane fire or explosion effects, sets, and a special request from Clint Eastwood: "The sand on your beach is the wrong color—I'd like to build a 20' by 60' sandbox, and cart MY sand in to film on, OK?" OK! As I walked away from the filming set for *Letters from Iwo Jima*, Mr. Eastwood shook my hand and said, "Don't worry Lynette, we'll take out every grain of black sand and return the beach to looking better then ever."

"Angeles District Filming Office, Lynette speaking. Filming a plane crash at night? With multiple cranes for storm and lightning effects? Crew of 100 plus spending the night working? We can do that!" And for *Six Days, Seven Nights* and many others, we have and will again.

REDISCOVERING TAYLOR YARDS

by **Craig Sap**, Acting Supt. II

THE HISTORY

It's plunked right in the middle of the cement jungle that's called Los Angeles—Taylor Yards—244 acres of railway tracks and maintenance buildings, a definite eyesore among eyesores. Yet somehow, over the course of the next 511 days, 40 of these acres will be transformed into a bio-diverse California State Park that could become a model for inner-city parks throughout the nation.

The plan, like all things Californian, is simplistic in its complexity: 511 days to bring together the City of Los Angeles, California State Parks, local community leaders and politicians to create a recreation park for the poorest of the poor while also restoring the area to its former wetlands glory.

Taylor Yards (now renamed Rio de Los Angeles State Park) was—let's be frank—a mess when the idea of it becoming a State Park was first suggested. Not only was the property covered in railway tracks and old buildings, its grounds were contaminated by pollutants connected to rail maintenance.

It was so polluted, in fact, that it was declared a “brown field” under the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The clean-up was a long and tedious process, supervised by the DTSC, which included soil-vapor extraction and chemical fixation. The result—still brown, still ugly—but ready for the next step.

6 CSPRA *Wave*, July-Aug, 2006

511 DAYS AND COUNTING

You can see the locals watching, showing up at the work site at odd hours, curious about what is happening to this ugly piece of land, perhaps even hopeful. Will there really be a State Park here, a place of natural beauty that's actually being built for them?

There are two parts to the Taylor Yards development:

Active Local Recreation (photo below): These are the twenty acres



that will include local softball and soccer fields, basketball and tennis courts, as well as playgrounds and splash areas for the littlest citizens.

Passive or Environmental Recreation (photo below): Perhaps the most exciting element of the Taylor Yards project, these twenty acres will



be entirely devoted to the reconstruction of the Los Angeles Basin area wetlands.

HOW IT'S HAPPENING

The creation of Rio de Los Angeles State Park is being funded through grants acquired through California State bond funds. By collaborating, Los Angeles City and California State Parks have created a unique situation where the two agencies will share protection and management of this new park.

While the property is entirely owned by California State Parks, the City of Los Angeles has leased roughly half of the property that is being allocated to

the Active Local Recreation portion. The other half—the Passive Reaction area—will be California State Parks' responsibility.

Its projected completion date is March 21st, 2007.

REDISCOVERED

If you've never lived in an inner-city it may be hard for you to imagine children who have never walked on grass, children who have never

listened to birds that actually warble to the glory of the rising sun instead of cawing for leftovers, children who have never had a place they could go with their parents that was “safe”. The rediscovering of Taylor Yards is for them.

If all goes as planned, in 511 days, the gates will open and the families of one of the poorest areas of Los Angeles will enter their new park. They will play basketball and softball, they will race through the splash area, and they will witness the return of egrets and herons to the wetlands. Yes grandson, when I was little, this was a brown, dead field with cracked cement parking lots and trash and abandoned railroad tracks...

(Live webcam at <http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/22277/files/riola.aspx>)

TOPANGA, ESCAPE FROM L.A.

by **Bill Verdery**, Superintendent II,

Escape from the “Rat Race”; enter the “Tough Topanga 10k” race. (See sidebar). This is an example of the active use of Topanga State Park. Located entirely within the Los Angeles city limits, Topanga SP is considered the world’s largest wildland within the boundaries of a major city. Management of Topanga is as varied as the city that surrounds us. Routinely, we deal with visitors, encroachments, acquisitions, volunteers, urban impacts, exotic plant and animals, major projects to improve, major projects to repair, looking to the future and preserving the past. Here are a few of the key issues facing us today.

LOWER TOPANGA

ACQUISITION In August, 2001, the Department acquired 1,659 acres along 2 ½ miles of Topanga Creek. Along with this ecologically valuable open space, we acquired over 60 residences and 10 commercial structures, mostly near Pacific Coast Highway. It took until this February, 4 ½ years, to move all of the residential tenants out, and their settlement is not final yet. There are only four remaining businesses operating on leases. While over 70 structures have been removed, we now need to continue restoration of natural ecosystems and move from an interim plan to a new General Plan for Topanga SP.

URBAN EDGE

On almost every border of the park, the City of Los Angeles wants to creep in. Actually, the park is often trampled by encroachments: from horse ranches to tennis courts to water tanks. The boundary of over 12,500 acres is often hard to find. It is nice to live next to the State Park, especially when you can get an extra 100’ of

park lands cleared next to your back yard for fire protection – at taxpayer expense, of course. The thick brush and expensive surrounding neighborhood make some locations a great place for homeless.

ACTIVE SUPPORT – There are many groups that actively support the same mission and goals of State Parks. The “Tough 10k” mentioned above raises money to support youth fitness activities in the Santa Monica Mountains. The Temescal Canyon

Docents have been committed to preserving, protection and enhancing the natural resources of Topanga State Park, and they sponsor an annual Docent Training program for volunteers and Park staff. Without the support, interest and love of the park given by everyone, this could become an urban jungle.

At the end of the day, when the commute home is looking like a 2-hour parking lot, a few steps into Topanga State Park gives you an escape from the “Rat Race”. This is why taxpayers spend millions on obtaining 1,659 acres, why staff members guard the “Urban Edge”, and why we appreciate the support of those who care.



^^Snake Pit, before (top) and after picnic area construction

Association is an activist group that keeps an eye on developments, but also conducts hikes into the park. For over 20 years the Topanga Canyon

Topanga 10K

The 10K course through the fire roads of Trippett Ranch is arguably the toughest 10K in California. It is the opening event of Topanga Days, held on the Saturday morning of Memorial Day weekend every year.

As a race, the Topanga 10K manifests everything that is wonderful about the community of Topanga — a beautifully brutal course through rugged mountains, a phalanx of willing volunteers, a constant financial commitment from Topanga businesses, a cordial relationship with Parks and Reserves, an age range of competitors from seven to eighty-six and no shortage of local heroes. This year, among over 400 others, Superintendent **Bill Verdery** completed the course in a respectable 1hr 5min.

RESTORATION, A FRESH START AT WILL ROGERS SHP

by **Jennifer Ruffolo, Sr. P&R Spec.**
Div. of Arch., History, & Museums

The last five years have witnessed an extraordinary change at Will Rogers State Historic Park. Gone is the maze of pipe corrals, replaced by newly graded and seeded pastures. Will Rogers' famous ranch house has new air conditioning, heating, and seismic support. Overgrown trees and vegetation have been cut back to reveal panoramic views. Jim Rogers' mule barn has been rebuilt, complete with a corral for horses. The polo field and lawn are lush and green and the Oklahoma long-horn steer head is back in its place over the mantle.

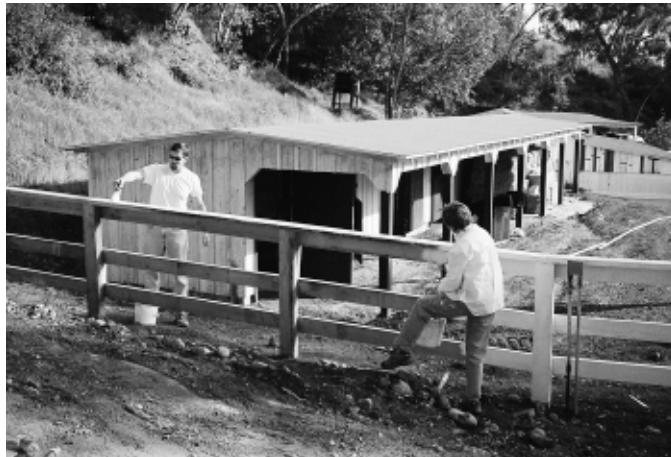
Beginning in the early 1960s, State Parks used polo concessions, eventually adding horseback riding and boarding concessions, to interpret the life of Will Rogers and his love of horses. From the outset, the concessions were popular, controversial, and difficult to manage. Demand for riding lessons and boarding almost always exceeded supply. The needs of a horse boarding facility often clashed with historic preservation. The general public did not always feel welcome at the Park because of the presence of private boarders and their grooms and trainers, as well as the legitimate concerns for the safety of the horses and visitors. It was proving almost impossible to satisfy the terms of the grant deed. State Parks had received title to Will Rogers' ranch in 1944, when his widow Betty deeded the property to the state. The Grant Deed specified that the Park should serve as a memorial and historic monument to Will Rogers and as a public park and place of public recreation.

8 CSPRA *Wave*, July-Aug, 2006

Should the state fail to comply with these terms, the family could reclaim the property.

Personalities and conditions at the park conspired to create a "perfect

the Park. These concerns, combined with the threat that the Rogers family would sue State Parks over its failure to comply with the Grant Deed, led Director Rusty Areias to evict some 45 boarded horses in October 2001.



Preparing for grand re-opening

storm" of controversy in mid - 2001. There were allegations that the Park was being managed for the private benefit of the horse boarders. The Rogers family publicly expressed their concerns about prolonged deferred maintenance of the ranch house, hay barn, and other features of

Parks, but the Los Angeles Superior Court judge upheld the eviction.

In 2001 and 2002, the State Parks took stock of the situation, conducting environmental assessments, financial audits and historic structures reports. It convened an Equestrian Advisory Committee and prepared the Historic Landscape Management Plan.

And now, with \$5.2 million invested in restoration, the park has a new look – much closer to its appearance in 1935 when Will Rogers lived there. There are new programs for riding lessons, with plans in the works for a trail riding program, clinics and other equestrian events. The community is once again visiting the park,



*Ranger **Brian Carroll** shows Leo Carillo's saddles*

*See **WILL ROGERS**, page 9*

KING GILLETTE RANCH

NEW ACQUISITION

By **Kathleen Franklin**, Supt. IV,
Santa Monica Mtns. Sector, Retired.

King Gillette Ranch is at the geographic heart of the parklands of the Santa Monica Mountains. It is within the most rare and threatened Biome in the world, the Mediterranean Biome. It represents an unparalleled convergence of coastal, mountain and valley habitats and contains the largest watershed in the SM Mountains. 33 million persons per year visit the public lands in the Mountains, three times that of Yosemite.

The acquisition, with its natural systems, varied species, and outstand-



ing biological diversity, supports intra-mountain habitat and public land linkages between Malibu Creek & Topanga State Parks as well as NPS's Diamond X Ranch, Cold Creek Preserve, Mountains Conservancy lands and other public lands to the north, all an easy drive from the most populous urban area in California.

The grounds include facilities developed by razor baron, King Gillette, in 1926. Gillette commissioned architect Wallace Neff to build him a "paradise on Earth, California style;" and certainly Neff succeeded. The grounds were used as a working ranch (and occasional film set) from 1925 to 1954, when the owner, Clarence Brown, sold the property to the first of a series of religious groups. Several additional buildings were added by various owners before the property was bought in 1986 by Soka University. The University will remain in posses-

sion under lease until December 2007 while their current class matriculates.

The cultural heritage of this site is quite robust. The Chumash Native Americans originally inhabited the area, and the first official U.S. Census of this area in 1850 recorded over one hundred Chumash Indians living here. The Chumash village of Talopop is situated here and in Malibu Creek SP, adjoining. Also adjoining is the Sepulveda Adobe, due to be developed as a State Historic Park and living history site. Aspects of the heritage of this site include the Mission era, Spanish Rancho connections and early filming industry history. All of this is accessed via Mulholland Drive, one of the most famous roads in California.

What's next? A series of meetings will determine what, if any, changes need to be made to the site and who will be responsible. With State Parks owning 102 acres, National Parks owning 76 acres and the remaining 400+ under the direction of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, there's going to be some very productive collaboration going on.

The grand dream for the facility is a

WILL ROGERS, from page 8

drawn by the Ranch Jubilee in 2005, and the "Welcome Back to the Ranch" rededication event held on



*With polo practice in the background, Ranger **Brian Carroll** and Park Aid **Anthony Hromadka***

March 25 of this year. (See www.parks.ca.gov/willrogers for pictures from these events). A new foundation is being created specifically to raise money to continue the restoration process, and to help support more interpretive programming. In short, the place has come a long way since the controversy over horse boarding made the front page of the Wall Street Journal in 2001.



jointly operated education and recreation site that serves the needs of a myriad of groups, public and private. With Los Angeles next door, there will be no lack of potential users. Drop by in a few years and see what this unique site has become.

From Rock Hopper to Park Ranger, Hiker to Historian: A Los Angeles Odyssey

by **Robert Pavlik**

My family moved from Cleveland, Ohio to Chatsworth, California in 1962. Uncle Art introduced us to Chatsworth Park, where we scrambled on the sandstone boulders and picnicked under the shade of magnificent oaks.

As a member of Boy Scout troop 365, I camped and hiked in several locations in the Santa Monica mountains: Camp Slausen (now Red Rock Canyon Park), Tapia Park, and Pt. Mugu. These experiences created a sense of exploration and discovery that fostered a love for the outdoors that continued throughout high school, college, and beyond.

My brother, friends and I were regulars at Stoney Point, a local climbing mecca, and we often hiked in the adjacent Santa Susana Mountains, which continue to be threatened by residential development. Our health teacher, Mrs. Ditlow, invited my buddies and me to participate in a weekend outing to familiarize the public about the many historical features of the nearby Simi Hills. We had never been in the area that she described, and willingly agreed to show up on a foggy Saturday morning in the spring of 1972.

We were introduced to Mrs. Janice Hinkston, a kindergarten teacher at nearby Chatsworth Park Elementary School, who was organizing a nascent group called the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association. We were entranced by what we saw and learned. Here, among the beautiful sandstone cliffs and rocky outcrops that formed our western skyline, were Indian pictographs and kitchen middens, hundreds (if not thousands) of years old. We clambered over the remnants of a stone quarry, where the



^^Bob on Thornton Beach, 1980

soft rock was hauled away to build a short-lived breakwater at San Pedro. Mrs. Hinkston showed us cisterns where water was collected and stored in these bone-dry hills, and the building foundation of a station house. And, the best part: we hiked up the very steep sandstone path of the stagecoach road that is known as "Devil's Slide," and we heard stories of how the drivers would chain the wheels together for a controlled descent. You can still see the grooves in the rock formed by the steel rims of those long-gone wheels.

We were given typewritten notes on 5 x 7 cards and used those to give brief presentations to the public as they visited throughout the day. We volunteered on several weekends, and even appeared one late evening on the 11:00 news (I had already gone to sleep and never saw the story). It was the start of my career as an interpreter and historian.

Over the years we would drive through Topanga Canyon or Malibu Canyon to reach the beaches on sweltering summer days or blustery

winter weekends. The chaparral covered hills, rocky knobs, and sycamore shaded canyons were an integral part of the experience, as they changed appearance and mood according to the time of day and the season.

In 1979, my senior year at CSUN, I was fortunate enough to land a park aide job at Will Rogers State Historic Park, in Pacific Palisades. **Wes Howard** interviewed me and offered me the job, which I gratefully accepted. I bought my first uniform shirt from Area Manager **Ron Elkins**. **Mark Eikenberry** was the administrative ranger. Ranger I **Gary McLaughlin** had a great sense of humor. Ranger I **Chuck Bancroft** was living and working at nearby Topanga State Park and was an accomplished roper. **David Dosch** was the Ranger II. **John Falk** was a newly christened PI Ranger and a skilled magician, joining PI Ranger **Debbie Brodrick**. **Nelda Lockwood** was a long time park aide, along with **Dan Jaffe** and **Christina Koegel**. **Willard Cruse** had been the groundskeeper for many years. **Jim Peat** was Maintenance Supervisor and **Claude Howard** was a SAM who lived at the old gatehouse on Sunset Blvd. The staff would buzz with activity when **Kirk Wallace** and **Al Oliver** would visit the park.

Our duties were varied throughout the day. We would collect fees at the gate, operate the visitor center, give informative talks and tours of the house and grounds, direct traffic, and in the summer, lead nature hikes to Inspiration Point, where we enjoyed sweeping views of the Los Angeles Basin. I learned how to twirl a length of rope, while talking – it's not as easy as it sounds!

BACK IN THE DAY, from page 10

It was a terrific year to work at Will Rogers. The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area had been established in 1978. 1979 was the centennial of the humorist's birth, the cooperating association had published a very popular cookbook, and we had a large celebration at the park in November. Several Rogers family members, including Will Rogers Jr. and Jimmy Rogers attended, as did Emil Sandmeier, Rogers' longtime valet, and trick roper Monte Montana and Park and Recreation Commissioner **Victoria Araujo**. On another occasion Ziegfeld Follies showgirl Fifi D'Orsay visited the park.

At the end of my season, in November 1979 I hiked the Backbone Trail from Topanga to Will Rogers with fellow park aide **Lisa Quarre** before moving to San Francisco, where I earned a teaching credential and worked as a park aide at Thornton State Beach before transferring to Big Sur as a PI Ranger. In the ensuing years, whenever I would return to the Southland to visit family, I would hike in the nearby hills, now known as Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. For me, the Angeles District parks and beaches remain a touchstone, a place of refuge, and a repository of history, the best of Los Angeles California – forever.

Robert Pavlik is an environmental planner and historian with the California Department of Transportation. From 1979 to 1993 he worked for the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Yosemite Institute, and the National Park Service. Pavlik lives in San Luis Obispo with his wife Rayena, a former Hearst Castle guide. He is a life member of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association.

Angeles 1977 to 1984

by **Kirk Wallace**, retired

My introduction to the Angeles District began with an appointment as "Area Manager" for the Point Mugu Area on June 1, 1977.

At the time, the "Area's" along the Malibu Coast consisted of; Point Mugu Area; Malibu Area, with **Dennis Doberneck**; as Manager and Will Rogers Area, with **Pat Watkins** as Manager. When Pat Watkins left Will Rogers, **Carl Wilson** was appointed as Manager. This configuration remained in effect until 1979.

In the spring of 1979, the National Park Service made its entry into the Ventura / Los Angeles vicinity to provide an urban presence and outreach program to this metropolitan population. The establishment of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area as an entity without a land base created logistical needs for them, in order to provide their outreach programs. With the cooperation of all of the Area Managers, the NPS was able to add a new set of public use programs that we could never have funded, by utilizing State Park lands.

July 1, 1979 the three State Park Areas were combined into the Santa Monica Mountains Area. The Area assumed Lifeguard responsibility for Leo Carrillo from L.A. County, so our Aquatic Services program was expanded and Lifeguard Supervisor **Norm Chapman** took on a greater share of responsibility for the Area Aquatic Program and an increased staff.

During my tenure, June 1, 1977 to October 1984, the Santa Monica Mountains Area took on many challenges and opened the doors to programs that are commonplace today.

The best example is the first official State Park Camp Host, an idea of the



field personnel under Supervising Ranger **Matt Sugarman**. They proposed having a Volunteer provide Host duties at La

Jolla Canyon parking area in Point Mugu State Park. **Ray Miller** assumed that Volunteer position and added so much to the Park Visitor experience that the area was officially dedicated to Ray and is now known as the "Ray Miller Trailhead".

Some of the most controversial and / or innovative programs that the District took on were the relocation of the Little League fields and the construction of the Estuarial Sanctuary at Malibu Lagoon State Park; the establishment, with the Malibu Lagoon Interpretive Association, of a museum at the Adamson Home; providing public access to the "Pocket Beaches", now known as, the "Robert H. Meyer State Beaches"; dealing with the concessions operations at Will Rogers State Historic Park, and taking over the responsibility of Malibu Pier and working to re-establish public access in time for the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

The assignment as Area Manager to the Santa Monica Mountains Area was certainly a challenge and I know the dedication of the park personnel, who have and will follow, will step up to every new challenge.

THIS CUP COULD BE YOURS!

All contributors
to the **WAVE**
receive a stain-
less steel CSPRA
travel mug



THE LAST SEASON

by Eric Blehm

Harper Collins Publishers., 2006
Review by **Janet Carle**, WAVE editor

In the summer of 1996, veteran backcountry ranger **Randy Morgenson** left his cabin in Kings Canyon National Park, heading out on a 3-4 day patrol. He never returned.

Eric Blehm's new book, *The Last Season*, is Randy Morgenson's story. Why did he disappear? Did he leave his beloved mountains to start a new life? When the search was called off, the mystery of what happened to Randy became an emotional, if not heated debate among co-workers and friends. The book ultimately reveals the

mystery, but we won't spoil it here for those of you who don't already know, or "think" you know... It is a fascinating

tale, but the search is only a part of it.

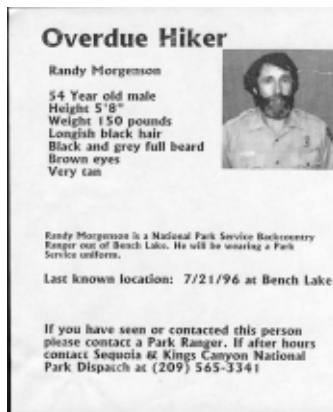
Randy was a backcountry ranger in Yosemite and Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks for 28 seasons. Blehm delves into what drives rangers, especially seasonals, to do what we do. Using entries from the backcountry logbooks of several rangers, Blehm offers fascinating insight into what the job is really like—the solitude, the hard physical labor, the frustration with management and the "getting paid in sunsets".

Randy was a "park brat". His

father, Dana Morgenson, worked for the Curry Company for 35 years and is best known for his camera walks in Yosemite Valley. Randy grew up in the shadow of Half Dome. He loved the mountains and fiercely defended them. Blehm brings Randy to life



^^Randy in 1988, photo by Gene Rose



through a variety of sources, including Randy's own journals and logbooks as well as interviews with the important people in his life.

Blehm seems to have a knack for getting people to talk to him. Randy's wife, friends, co-workers and supervisors are all part of the story. The anguish of the week-long, fruitless search jumps off the page. There is also an element of the mystery

novel— what really happened out there anyway?

This is a fascinating read for any park professional. Why do we do what we do? Why do we care so much? When do we compromise our ideals to "get along"? Anyone who loves the mountains and the wild will enjoy this book.

"All of your life, someone is pointing the way, directing you this way and that, determining for you which road is best traveled," Randy wrote in the McClure Meadow logbook in 1973. "Here is your chance to find your own way. Don't ask me how to get to McGee Canyon Go,



on your own. Be adventure-some. Don't forever seek the easiest way. Take the way you find. Don't demand trail signs and sturdy bridges. Don't demand we show you the mountains. Seek them and find them yourself . . . This is your birthright as an animal, most commonly denied you. Be free enough from intentions to find

goodness wherever you are and in whatever is happening. Here for once in your life you needn't do anything, be anywhere at a determined time, walk in a certain direction. You can now live by whim. Here's your one chance to get lost, fall in a creek, find a beautiful place."

Interview:

What got you interested in telling Randy's story?

I hiked the John Muir Trail solo in my early twenties and was taken in by one ranger named Terry Gustofson. He offered me hot tea while waiting out an afternoon thunder storm and we talked for a good hour. His lifestyle intrigued me. It was romantic in a Walden sense—but they were also medics, climbers, naturalists and so at ease in the wilderness. There was just this calming that occurred every time I've met a backcountry ranger. But as far as Randy, in particular? Well, Alden Nash had told me that Randy was an amazing ranger, and that walking with him would be like taking a stroll in the high Sierra with John Muir Himself... Years later, when I heard that Randy went missing

See INTERVIEW, page 13

The Last Season

INTERVIEW, from page 12

himself, I was immediately concerned, without even knowing him personally, because I knew, by reputation, he just wasn't the type to get "lost" in the woods. I then learned via his co-workers and friends, about his inspiring life. How he had assisted Ansel Adams. Was mentored as a writer by Wallace Stegner. Grew up in Yosemite. It showed me how these quiet heroes also have amazing histories beyond their ranger careers. Randy really was the epitome of the selfless wilderness steward, and it struck me that there really weren't any non-fiction books out there, other than memoirs about these rangers who lead legendary lives.

But there's so much more to *The Last Season*, for anybody to enjoy and learn from. Not just rangers.

Absolutely. Randy was very human—despite his ethics in the wilderness. Had flaws. As a writer his story seemed, at first like a tragedy, but as one of his friends put it, Randy's life in wilderness was a celebration. I felt Randy needed to be honored, and through his story, rangers as a whole might get some more support. Seasonals in particular, but all rangers. The National and State Parks are the ultimate gift the USA has introduced to the world. Setting aside wild places. It doesn't matter what administration is in DC, none have given what is truly required to protect and manage these national treasures. And from what I've heard, there is mismanagement as well. As a whole, I thought this story would bring focus to some of these greater issues. Issues that are bigger than Randy Morgenson or any of us. It was a dream when I started writing this book that it would stir up a little mud and when the silt settled, maybe the world would have a clearer picture of what it is rangers do, and how they deserve, perhaps, a little more recognition.



Author Eric Blehm & son Merrick

What was the most enjoyable part of writing the book?

Well, I have to say my "research" in the High Sierra was the best part of the book. Getting to know Randy by standing on the shore of a pocket lake, far off trail, and reading an excerpt he'd written on these same shores, maybe twenty years earlier. It was a gift getting to know Randy through his writings and by visiting places I may have never visited. Seeing the mountains through his philosophical gaze was truly a gift.

What was the hardest part?

Editing. There were so many amazing stories, but many of Randy's writings and stories conveyed similar points. I had to pick and choose the right anecdotes to portray his character—all aspects of his character. When you're dealing with a person's life story, it's hard to condense fifty plus years into a book, and still keep a reader's interest. It was VERY difficult to let go of some of Randy's writings. If the book sparked enough interest, perhaps I'll do a companion book that focuses more on Randy's "wilderness gospel."

What did you learn about the ranger profession in the process of writing the book?

I learned so much. And was privy to so many attitudes and opinions. First of all, I learned that the ranger profession is like any profession. There are conflicting personalities, egos and

attitudes, and points of view that swirl around to form a nice little quagmire... I also learned that most of the rangers and park personnel are very much in love with the wilds and have the land's best interest at heart. The opinions on how best to serve the land seemed to be where all hell broke loose.... I learned that Rangers are for the most part very selfless individuals who aren't in this for the money.... I feel that all the rangers I spoke with wished there was more budget for their cause, and at least some more recognition. One of the more surprising things I learned was how there is no national program that honors length of service for seasonals—even though seasonals are often touted as the backbone of the park service. In the backcountry especially, it takes many years for a ranger to understand the impact of humanity on a wild place, and so we need to, as a society, nurture those few individuals like Randy who are willing to spend that much time in the wilds to truly understand how we impact them. In some cases, this might mean giving these types of people some latitude as their seniority increases over time. I have always respected rangers, but that respect has only been elevated and cemented in my mind. I now consider the ranger profession as honorable as any public service in our country. Rangers save lives, they look after our national treasure places, and are, without a doubt, our country's most quiet, understated, heroes... That's my opinion anyway.

What do you want people to remember after they read the book?

I hope people will remember to walk slowly and take their time. Follow their hearts, but look after the hearts that surround them. In a wild place, when faced with a decision that might hurt the land, I hope they ask themselves, "What would Randy do?"

**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

Email:

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

LOBBYIST REPORT

Sacramento Heats Up Legislature in Full Swing

by **Monica Miller**, CSPRA Lobbyist

Sacramento is busier than ever with all of the excitement of the primary elections, the possibility of a nearly on-time budget and the reality that we have two resource/parks bonds on the November ballot. We are in the heat of summer in Sacramento with only a few months to go until the legislators break for the year to go home to their districts to campaign and spend time with their constituents. The primary elections took place on Tuesday, June 6. A few of the races have yet to be called, but for most the election is behind them. Additionally, the budget was due on Thursday, June 15. While they did not meet that deadline, we do expect the budget to be finalized by June 30 and signed by the Governor. While there is money in the current version of the budget for State Parks operations, it was significantly reduced from what the Governor proposed — \$10 million down to \$5 million.

The elections have come and gone and now we are faced with one-third new members in the California Legislature. These legislators will be sworn into office in December of this year and expect to hit the ground running in January. This reminds CSPRA members that we must be ever vigilant in maintaining and building relationships with these new members in an effort to educate them on State Parks' issues. This election cycle we will see many of our friends leave but we have the opportunity to make new ones that will be here for a minimum of six years and at a maximum eight years. Once they are sworn in, we encourage you to get to know them. Invite them to your park so you can share the park experience with them and their staff.

are faced with many bond issues on the ballot. Some were placed on the ballot by the legislature and some through signature gathering. The Legislature passed a series of bonds related to infrastructure and resources earlier this year. There is some money for parks but it just isn't sufficient. Therefore, many proponents of State Parks and other natural resources were successful at placing a \$5.4 billion bond on the November ballot. This bond includes money for safe drinking water, water quality and supply, flood control, waterway and natural resource protection, water pollution and contamination control, state and local park improvements, public access to natural resources, and conservation efforts.

As we begin to wrap up this legislative session we look forward to a successful November election for parks and want to remind you to stay involved locally on behalf of your State Parks!



humor in unicorn



Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops

by Jeff Price, retired

Split decision.

It seems like we are cutting hairs here.

Leafing out.

I have turned over a clean slate.

A cinch of condiment.

He's starting out OK, but I think he needs some more seasoning under his belt.

Nonconsumptive.

It is still a doggy dog world out there!

Worse than pigeon?

Be objective, we don't want to cubbyhole people just because of their clothing.

GET CONNECTED

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

District Reps

District	Name	Email Address
Angeles	Frank Padilla	fpadilla@parks.ca.gov
Capitol	Mark Hada	mhada@parks.ca.gov
Central Valley	Wayne Harrison	wharr@parks.ca.gov
Channel Coast	Tyson Butzke	tbutzke@parks.ca.gov
Colorado	Jeri Zemon	jzemon@parks.ca.gov
Diablo Vista	Carl Nielson	junctionrangers@earthlink.net
	Ann Meneguzzi	amene@parks.ca.gov
Four Rivers	Greg Martin	gmart@parks.ca.gov
Gold Fields	Matt Cardinet	mcardinet@parks.ca.gov
	Kevin Pearce	kpearce@parks.ca.gov
Inland Empire	Sue Neary	sneary@parks.ca.gov
Monterey	Pat Clark Gray	pgray@parks.ca.gov
North Coast Redwoods	Rick Sermon	sermon@wave.net
North Bay	Karen Broderick	karen@mcn.org
Northern Buttes	Val Nixon	nixons@mchsi.com
Orange	Jenny Donovan	roadkill151@aol.com
	Robert Simoneaux	bob4q@cox.net
San Diego	Fred Jee	jeeology@yahoo.com
San Joaquin	Sean Malis	sean.malis@us.army.mil
San Luis Obispo	Nick Franco	nfranco@hearstcastle.com
	Robert Latson	rrlatson@aol.com
Santa Cruz	Charles Edgemon	charlesedgemon@earthlink.net
	Linda Hitchcock	lhitchcock@parks.ca.gov
Sierra	Susan Grove	susan@gbis.com
Administration	Jann Bullock	jbull@parks.ca.gov
OHV	John Pelonio	jpelonio@parks.ca.gov

Representatives are needed for:

Mendocino District, Grants, Historic Preservation, Northern Service Ctr, Southern Service Ctr, Interpretation Div., Cultural Resources Div., Natural Resources Div., Planning Div., and Tech Services Div.

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 at (800) 749-8749, or email executivemanager@CSPRA.com, or write to CSPRA, P.O. Box 2132, Newport, OR 97365



California State Park Rangers Association
P.O. Box 2132,
Newport, OR 97365
www.cspra.com

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.
163, PASO
ROBLES, CA

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Mission Statement



The California State Park Rangers Association is an organization of park professionals dedicated to advancement of the highest principles of public service, and established to support, protect, and defend the integrity of State Parks for present and future generations.



Founded 1964