



The CSPRA

Wave

Newsletter

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CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

JAN-FEB 2006

SOUTH TO SAN DIEGO





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COVER PHOTO: Broken Hill in
Torrey Pines SR

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



RON BREAN
CSPRA President

I vividly remember the first California State Park Rangers Association conference I attended. In many ways, that experience characterizes what CSPRA is all about. I was a young ranger, fresh out of training. There were a bunch of people there that were the experienced, the polished, the brass of the California Department of Parks and Recreation and I was just a minnow in the deep blue sea. I was impressed. I was intimidated. I was in awe.

In short order, I began to understand what CSPRA was really about and a little bit more about what the parks profession was all about. I had barely arrived at the conference facility and was sitting in the hotel restaurant having a meal when a rather large man from across the room made his way to my table. "You look like a ranger" he said to me. He then introduced himself as **Tiny Philbrook**. Tiny (who wasn't) was in charge of what was then known as District 1, roughly one sixth of the system. From where I was at that time, his was a very lofty position, professionally and physically. I shook his hand and exchanged introductions and (even after standing up) he was still lofty, professionally and physically.

Although I heard about Tiny many times after that, I never had the

opportunity to meet him again or to work with him. Many of the tales I heard were more...well, colorful than mine. Nevertheless, he set a tone for me of professional courtesy, camaraderie, and acceptance in the family that have stayed with me since that first conference.

At that conference I learned techniques of interpretation, photography, public safety, recreational opportunities, and much more. I met people that I respected from the first and came to admire more over time. I was occasionally still intimidated, amazed, enthralled, and excited. I was frequently impressed, inspired, instructed, amused and entertained.

Over the years, the conferences have evolved. We've joined forces with our colleagues in the Park Rangers Association of California, those park professionals that work at local and regional parks, and sought to make the professional and personal experience even better. This year, because of a new PRAC affiliation with parks in Nevada, we have a new opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences at the 2006 conference in Laughlin, Nevada. Yes, friends, I said Nevada. For the first time the California Parks Conference is going out of state.

We are planning good things for you which will include professional development, great outings on the river and into the desert, the new and improved golf tournament, the usual competitions, and a chance to mingle and laugh with some of the best people in the world. We even have a separate track for the retirees, the Gray Bears Track (we don't want to lose the talent, knowledge, and familial connection with the old guard).

CSPRA is all about the parks community and the parks profession. The conference is all about building and strengthening both. Make a point of joining us in Laughlin in March.



SAN DIEGO COAST DISTRICT

SOUTH TO SAN DIEGO

by **Ronilee Clark**, District Supt.
and **Richard Dennison**, Supt. I

The San Diego Coast has long been called the “Riveria of the West”. This stretch of California contains some of the State’s most interesting and rare examples of natural and cultural heritage.

San Diego’s early history comes alive at **Old Town San Diego State Historic Park**, located near the heart of the city, and at **San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park**, near San Diego’s famed Wild Animal Park in the north county.

Torrey Pines State Reserve, the home of rare and endangered plants, including the Torrey pine, and the four mile long **Torrey Pines State Beach** lies along the busy I-5 corridor, and within a few miles of major suburban areas.

The **Tijuana River National Estuarine Reserve**, a federal – state partnership, as part of the South Sector, is adjacent to the Mexican border. The Research Reserve provides protection for fragile resources and offers an educational facility for students and visitors.

Border Field State Park is in the very southwest corner of the United States, and visitors can enjoy fishing, horseback riding, and birdwatching.

San Diego Coast District parks also provide visitors with areas along the beach for camping and day-use. Between **South Carlsbad State Beach** and **San Elijo State Beach**, there are 393 campsites that are very busy throughout the year, due to great facilities, and tourist destinations nearby. **Silver Strand State Beach** in the south county also provides overnight camping, with limited facilities, and recently was added to the reservation system, making recreational opportunities more readily available to travelers outside San Diego.

Carlsbad State Beach, close to two miles long within the city of Carlsbad, is one of north county’s most popular beaches. The Tamarack Avenue area is a favorite surf spot. From a walkway along the beach, visitors may be able to catch a look at shorebirds and marine mammals.

Cardiff State Beach, in the city of Encinitas, is known as a major surfing attraction worldwide.

Being in a highly urban area, with very mild weather, a beautiful coastline, and major tourist destinations, San Diego Coast district has various challenges and opportunities for meeting the Department’s Strate-



gic Initiatives. District visitation reached nearly 12 million this past year. Such high visitation brings diverse needs of our users. Our recruitment of employees and volunteers, outreach efforts, interpretive programming, and retrofitting of facilities all reflect the importance of meeting our users needs.

Our cultural resource program continues to be aggressive in pursuing various avenues for funding the protection and research of archeological resources and restoration of historic buildings. As mentioned in the following articles, natural resources are being restored at Torrey Pines State Reserve with the support of volunteers, cooperating associations, and other agencies.

Recognizing that State Parks are not an island, we are strengthening our relationships within the San Diego area. Collaborative management teams have been developed with the cities of Carlsbad and Encinitas, greatly improving the working relationships that, in the past, were often at odds. Partnerships have also been developed with commercial ventures such as “The Lodge at Torrey Pines” resort and Loews Hotels. These have transpired into both sources of funding for park improvements and sources of labor in terms of their employees donating time.

The Junior Lifeguard Program is very popular and is able to be self-sustaining at no additional cost to the District. This provides great opportunities for outreach to youth, exposing them to the values of the Department, as well as a recruiting base.

Interpretation continues to be a large focus of the District. The draft “Strategic Plan for Interpretation” at Old Town San Diego

State Historic Park is a roadmap for some of the improvements. Interpretive Action Plans are also being developed for other park units to provide accountability in goals.

Costs of doing business continue to climb in San Diego, with utility, gasoline, and construction costs. The District’s budget process is taken seriously, with each program’s costs evaluated closely.

I am proud of our staff, our park supporters, and the public we serve on a daily basis. Without the partnerships, inside and outside our San Diego Coast District park family, we could not accomplish great things along this “Riveria of the West”.

THANKS for your support!

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AN ISLAND IN A SEA OF URBANITY

by **Darren Scott Smith**
Environmental Scientist

Through the foresight of Ellen Browning Scripps, Guy Fleming, Ralph Cornell, and several other concerned citizens and Conservation Groups, Torrey Pines State Reserve was preserved largely to protect the Torrey Pine Tree (*Pinus torreyana*). In addition to supporting the Nations Rarest Pine Tree, the Reserve (TPSR) also supports an unusually high density of rare plant and animal species. This large number of rare species in a small amount of space (about 1,500 acres in area) is due in part to TPSR's unusual soils, geology, and microclimate. The larger cause of TPSR's high rare species density is that most of the formerly common habitats of southern California's coastline have been converted to homes, businesses, and other urban facilities and infrastructure.

Because the Reserve is completely surrounded by urban development the challenges in managing its natural resources are significant. Since Torrey Pines became an "Island", conditions have changed and the processes that support many plant and animal species and habitats are now different. Because of excessive urban runoff, the saltwater and brackish water habitats have been reduced in favor of freshwater habitats. Urban runoff has also resulted in poor water quality. Due to excessive sedimentation from adjacent

developments, drainage patterns have changed, tidal flows have been more restricted, and water quality has been reduced. Exotic species from landscaping, erosion control, and offsite disturbance are introduced to TPSR at a high rate. Because of its lack of connectivity to other native habitats (habitat linkages), there is limited opportunity



nity for species that are lost from the Reserve to become reintroduced.

The primary tasks in managing natural resources at TPSR are exotic species control, habitat restoration, reduction of sedimentation and fresh water. Because of limited staff and budget, we are limited to only the largest and most potentially destructive problems.

Currently, we are attempting to reduce the abundance of annual veldt grass (*Ehrharta longiflora*). Annual veldt grass has effectively colonized most of the sandy soil upland habitats at TPSR. This very persistent annual species produces large numbers of seeds and grows well in coastal bluff scrub, flower

fields, Torrey pine woodland, coastal sage scrub, and other habitats that support high species diversity. We have been most successful in controlling this species where we apply a grass-specific herbicide and hand pull individuals prior to their producing seed.

We received a grant from the California State Parks Natural Heritage Stewardship Program to implement a more widespread treatment program for 2006. Hopefully, we will reduce the annual veldt grass population to a population size that can be controlled with less effort in the coming years.

To begin to control sediment in the TPSR lagoon (the Los Peñasquitos Natural Preserve) we have begun to construct desilting basins. The Flintkote sediment basin was completed in 2005 and as of this November it has prevented over 2000 cubic yard of fine-textured soils from entering the lagoon. The Los Peñasquitos lagoon foundation is currently constructing a larger basin offsite in the Sorrento Creek watershed to further reduce sedimentation of wetlands at TPSR.

With Natural Heritage Stewardship Funds and lots of effort from volunteer groups (the La Jolla Village Garden Club, Torrey Pines Docents, Torrey Pines Association, Scripps assist and others) we have begun a project to restore a former agricultural field to six-acre acres of coastal sage scrub habitat. The goal is to permanently reduce the abundance of non-native invasive weeds [mainly black mustard (*Brassica nigra*) and Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*)] and restore a sparse native shrubland that supports coastal California gnatcatcher and a variety of small mammals, and native

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herb species. It is also hoped that this restoration site will enhance the Sorrento Creek native habitat linkage and begin to promote greater movement for birds between Peñasquitos Canyon and TPSR.

Although these projects are limited in scale and scope, they are the types of activities that will hopefully lead to the long-term sustainability of Torrey Pines State Reserve as a repository for rare coastal plant and animal species.



^Phase I area planting, February 2005



Above, area treated with herbicide and hand pulling; 5% cover of veldt grass

Below, untreated area, >35% cover of veldt grass



JUNIOR LIFEGUARDS

by **Richard Dennison**
Public Safety Coordinator

San Diego Coast's Junior Lifeguard program continues to be a success. From June through August, five three-week sessions were offered between Silver Strand and South Carlsbad State Beaches, for an overall participation of close to 750 kids. Many staff hours are dedicated to making the program successful.

The Junior Lifeguard (JG) Program at South Carlsbad State Beach is the longest running JG program in State Parks.

These programs are valued by and supported in the local communities,



and are fully supported by fees paid by the participants, at no cost to the department.

The program contributes significantly to interpretation by acquainting participants with the coastal environment, and provides children ages 9 –

16 education and experience in ocean safety, first aid, rescue techniques, beach activities, and physical fitness, while exposing participants to an environment that emphasizes courtesy, respect, discipline and good sportsmanship.

These life changing programs are heralded in ongoing unsolicited letters from parents thanking State Parks for changing their children's lives for the better.

Walking the Beach at Torrey Pines

by **Ed Vodrazka**, Lifeguard

The spirit of volunteerism is alive and well in the California State Parks. There are more than 260 State Parks in California, and volunteers are credited with carrying a substantial work load in many of them.

If one was inclined to visit those parks in search of overt displays of the spirit of volunteerism, Torrey Pines State Reserve would be a good place to start since we rank among the highest in numbers of volunteers utilized.

Torrey lies like an oasis of beauty and peace among a continually growing urban landscape in San Diego. The value of the park has long been etched into the surrounding population of locals and they have, for many years come out in numbers to support the parks' programs.

As such, volunteer organizations within the park have become instrumental in its management and ongoing health. The Torrey Pines Association and the Docent Society have, over the years logged literally thousands of volunteer hours toward the benefit of the park. Their time and efforts, along with their financial support, have helped maintain the parks health and well-being for all.

Although this article is about volunteerism at Torrey, it is not about either of those associations of people. This is about one single person.

If you have spent even just a day or two on the beach at Torrey Pines, you have likely seen **Tom Coppage**. You probably didn't notice him, but chances are he walked right past you. He may have stopped for a moment to pick up a cigarette butt or a fast food wrapper before walking on.

The reason you most likely have seen Tom is that he is on the beach at Torrey 320 days a year. In the sunny days of summer, the windy days of winter, and the gloomiest days of June Gloom...Tom is there. He walks over half the length of Torrey Pines State Beach almost every day picking up the trash that people leave behind.

His daily routine is to walk a four-mile stretch of the beach gathering up the trash...then hauling it back four miles to the main parking lot where he deposits it into the dumpster. His average haul in a day of work is a diverse collection of every conceivable

makes it even more impressive to us is that Tom asks for absolutely nothing in return. In fact, he insists on paying for his own trash bags and gloves.

In his previous life, Tom was an auditor. As such, he has a natural facility with numbers. Part of the motivation that keeps him going is the ongoing tally of the bags he collects. On average, in a single day he fills five large bags...in a month he fills 150. In a year, that amounts to 1800. In his trash hauling "career" that equates to an astonishing 45,000 bags of debris....

Just for a visual appraisal of his work, I did some calculating myself. If one was to take just one of his bags...tear it open, and distribute the trash back on the ground (incidentally, this would be Tom's worst nightmare)...it would cover the ground with a layer of garbage approximately 5 feet by 5 feet. If you then multiply that by the total number of bags Tom has collected from the Torrey Pines Beaches in his lifetime, you end up with a total area

coverage of roughly 800,000 square feet of trash. That amount of trash would completely cover 26 football fields and weigh in the neighborhood of 500,000 pounds.

When asked why Tom has devoted so much of his time and effort to the cause of maintaining the beauty of the State Beach of Torrey Pines, he states that his role was self-created by circumstance as an "unintended consequence of state budget cuts". While beach attendance has dramatically increased over the years (and with it, increases in the trash on the beaches), the state's maintenance



type of trash that fills roughly five "full sized" trash bags. As one would imagine, this is strenuous work, and it takes many hours to complete even one day's haul. Tom's body has actually been honed by the years of time he has spent on the beach. His body is lean and taunt, and his skin bears the marks of age from the working in the elements for so many years.

To perform that service for a single day would be appreciated....to do it for a year would be remarkable. **Tom Coppage** has performed his "routine" for some 25 years. That level of selfless service to the parks (and to the people we serve) is quite frankly, beyond comprehension... and what

A SAN DIEGO-TIJUANA PARTNERSHIP

by **Therese Adams Muranaka**
Associate State Archaeologist

The extreme southwestern corner of the continental United States is a state park known as Border Field (State Park Unit #669). Dedicated in 1974,



it has the unique reputation of being the only state park located on the U.S.-Mexico border, a truly international park. Controversy has arisen with Homeland Security's plans to build a second and third international fence across the park's boundaries, potentially impacting State Parks' holdings of valuable natural and cultural resources. The California Coastal Commission, Coastal Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, California Fish and Game, and Audubon Society among others have opposed the fence, based on the potential damage that could result to the nearby estuary.

Border Field State Park is just part of the 2500 acre Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, a system of 26 Research Reserves overseen by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In

2005, it was recognized as a "wetland of international importance" by the United Nations Ramsar Convention, one of only 22 wetlands in the United States so designated. It is the only

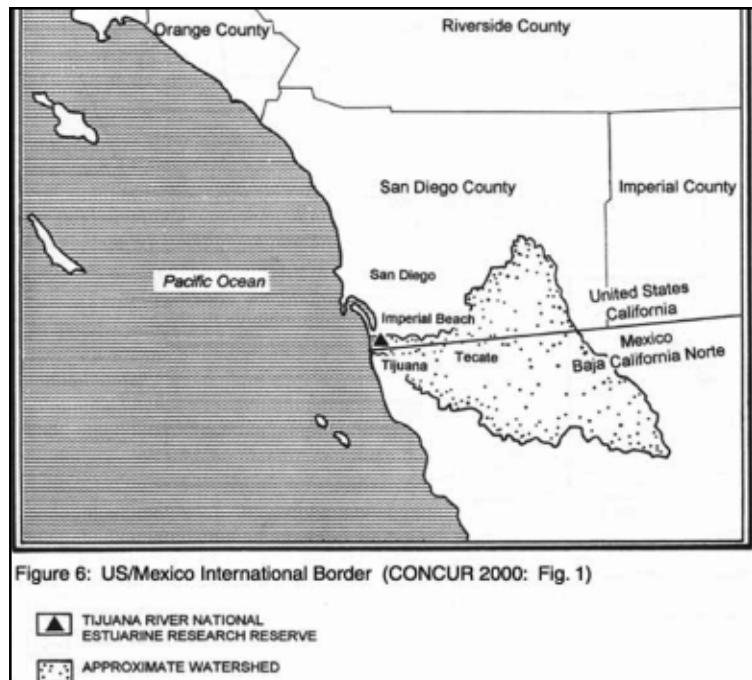
coastal lagoon in Southern California which is not bisected by roads and railroads. Its habitats include sand dunes and beaches, coastal sage scrub and other communities. The park is home to more than 30 endangered and listed plants and animals, such as the

threatened western snowy plover

(*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*), saltmarsh bird's beak (*Cordylanthus maritimus*), Belding's savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*), coastal California gnat-catcher (*Polilptila californica californica*), and the species of special concern black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*).

As for cultural resources, the existing fence on the border already cuts across two famous archaeological sites, known as CA-SDI-222 (Monument Mesa) and CA-SDI-4281 (Lichty Mesa). SDI-222 is a 7300 year old Indian village, one of the last two village sites left on this southern edge of the Tijuana River. Easternmost SDI-4281 is a 4400 year old midden from the time before pottery or the

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bow and arrow were known. Monument Mesa is also the location of an 1851 marker placed by the U.S. Boundary Commission denoting the first official point of the U.S.-Mexico dividing line, a location also known to contain a buried 1851 time capsule. The mesa is known to have held extensive WWII gun emplacements, and is capped by a state park picnic ground created in the 1970's.

This year the U.S. Congress, both House and Senate, passed legislation that waives any existing laws that

might otherwise impede progress on the project. While this legislation may restrict the ability of opponents to prevent the secondary fence, the Director of Homeland Security has made a commitment to protect environmental resources in the implementation of the fence. Towards that end, South Sector Superintendent Clay Phillips and his staff are working with Homeland Security designers in review of the 60% drawings for the proposed fence. The final alignment and specifications of the fence and slope stabilization will

be critical in minimizing the effects of this \$57 million project.

All of the State Parks family hopes for a successful mitigation of the proposed fence's impacts, and the San Diego Coast District staff will continue to work diligently with our Mexican environmental colleagues towards a solution which will protect these precious wetlands. For more information on the cultural resources of the region, go to http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=23632

Steps to Success in Old Town

by **Gregg Giacomuzzi**
State Park Interpreter I

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park presents seven major interpretive events throughout the year along with Living History activities on a weekly basis. In order to deliver this type of programming, park staff is truly dependent on state park volunteers in presenting quality interpretive presentations that will (1) engage the public, (2) create understanding, and (3) and promote a stewardship for the park. As a result, it is essential that the park recruits and trains new volunteers on an annual basis.

In the urban areas, volunteers have many worthy organizations to choose from. Individuals choose causes based on a variety of reasons, yet they all want to feel that they are making a difference and contributing in some way. It is my job, as the volunteer coordinator, to identify the specific park causes and to elicit help from the community to meet these challenges.

Volunteer training is composed of five to six consecutive Saturdays. Each volunteer is given a clear understanding of the expectations in the park along with a Volunteer

Manual. Training topics include: American and Mexican History, Archeology, Interpretation, Safety, Accessibility, RAPPORT, Period Attire, and The Role of Concessions and the park's Non Profit Cooperating Associations. Training is conducted by unit staff and augmented with district specialists.

Once the volunteers have successfully finished the training classes, they complete a State Park Volunteer Service Agreement and are assigned volunteer mentors. The new volunteers are also required to work in the park museums alongside staff and in the park Bookstore. Park staff feels the time spent in the museums and bookstore will help familiarize the new volunteers to park facilities and gain some

insight into the park's daily visitation.

While working with mentors and state park staff, volunteers usually generate a specific interest in a certain area. They are encouraged to do independent research on all aspects related to that area, gaining the necessary knowledge to present a cohesive interpretive program. Eventually, a duty statement is then written along with an evaluation on the programs being presented.

Remember, their success, is our success!



A New Era Begins

by Victor A. Walsh, *Historian*

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park has a significant but regrettably unrecognized heritage. As the most visited unit in the state park system, it has become a highly commercialized tourist haven. Many visitors are unaware that they are in a state park, let alone a state historic park.

In an effort to showcase Old Town's forgotten history, State Parks this past year awarded Delaware North Companies concessions to the Casa de Bandini, former Casa de Pico Motor Hotel, and El Nopal Restaurant. The company has committed \$12 million to rehabilitate these historic buildings—the largest single facility improvement by any concessionaire in California State Park history.

Built in 1829 by Juan Bandini, a wealthy Peruvian immigrant, the Casa de Bandini is one of the most historically significant buildings in California. The U-shaped, single-story, twelve-room "mansion" had thick adobe walls, ceilings of heavy muslin, and deep-set windows with shutters.

In 1869 Albert Seeley bought the by then dilapidated adobe and converted it into a fashionable hotel and stage stop, called the Cosmopolitan Hotel. Seeley added a wood-framed second story. The balcony featured turned wooden columns and spindle railings with a distinctive wood-shingle hipped roof. According to the San Diego Union in 1869, "The new hotel is truly an elegant building. Its broad verandas above and below extending on three sides of the whole building give the place a comfortable southern air." No other still existing building rivals its scale as representative of a

nineteenth-century building that combines Mexican adobe and American wood-framing construction techniques.

The Casa de Bandini underwent several major renovations, and consequently has varied architectural features that in no way resemble either Bandini's original home or the Cosmopolitan Hotel.

Delaware North has hired Heritage Architecture and Planning and Reyman Brothers Construction to restore the historic building to its heyday of operation as the Cosmopolitan Hotel. Non-historic elements, such as the exterior stucco, ceramic and stone tile, and lush sub-tropical

classic U-shape pattern of a courtyard-enclosed hacienda. Its Spanish Revival and Pueblo Revival architectural features include concrete masonry stucco walls (made on-site) and sloped clay-tile roofs decorated with wooden vigas and parapets.

To avoid a rigid standardization common at that time, Requa used different roof lines and styles, different types of chimneys, and twelve different porch designs. Each room opened onto a wide porch facing the inner courtyard and gardens. Potted flowering plants, hung with different wrought iron wall brackets, graced the garden and porches.

Working under State Park's direction, Heritage Architecture and Reyman Brothers have already begun work to recreate a more authentic historic setting when the building functioned as a motor hotel. Inappropriate support facilities such as the outdoor tortilla-making booth and gazebo and the dense shrubbery that concealed much of the building have already been

removed. Heritage Architecture plans to fully restore one guestroom plus the unique corridor of garage bays.

The historic hotel is now called the Plaza del Pasado and features a complex of retail shops that sell silver, pottery, jewelry, and other decorative wares similar to those shipped into San Diego during Mexican rule in the 1840s in exchange for dried cow hides and tallow.

The other building that Delaware North plans to refurbish is the El Nopal, now called the Jolly Boy

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courtyard plantings, will be removed. Restoration of the adobe-walled rooms on the first floor will include a formal Victorian Era dining room and bar. The second story will feature eight fully restored guestrooms, each designed to showcase the lives of individuals prominent in Old Town's history.

The other major rehabilitation to be undertaken by Delaware North is the former Casa de Pico Motor Hotel. Designed by the noted San Diego architect Richard Requa, this upscale tourist hotel opened in 1939 amid much fanfare.

The building is designed after the



CSPRA BUDGET	2005-06	Proposed for 2006-07
INCOME		
Dues	\$54,800	\$51,420
Dividends	\$0	
Donations	\$300	
Sales	\$400	\$300
Retiree Rendezvous	\$1,500	\$1,500
Total Income	\$57,000	\$53,220
EXPENSES		
Administration		
Bank Charges	\$70	\$0
Dues Collection	\$1,500	\$1,500
Contractors	\$15,600	\$13,600
Equipment & Equip Repair	\$1,000	\$300
Fees & Taxes	\$280	\$1,500
Officer & Board Mtgs	\$8,000	\$3,170
Office Expenses	\$1,200	\$1,400
Phone	\$150	\$450
Postage	\$1,200	\$1,200
Printing	\$500	\$500
Sales Materials	\$500	\$300
Subtotal Adm	\$30,000	\$23,920
Member Services		
Awards/Recognitions	\$2,000	\$2,000
Mott Training Award	\$300	\$300
Newsletter	\$6,000	\$8,500
Recruitment	\$1,200	\$1,000
Retirees Rendezvous	\$1,500	\$1,500
Scholarship	\$3,000	\$3,000
Subtotal Mbr Svcs	\$14,000	\$16,300
Heritage Project		
Lobbying	\$500	\$500
Lobbyist	\$12,000	\$12,000
Membership Dues Pd (International Ranger)	\$500	\$500
Subtotal Heritage Proj	\$13,000	\$13,000
Total Expenses	\$57,000	\$53,220

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budget for trash collection on the beaches has dwindled. While state budget issues continue, and staffing concerns are debated, Tom's work continues, insuring that the beaches remain beautiful for us all.

I am happy to report that **Tom Coppage** was recently presented with the Director's Recognition for Volunteer Service. This is the highest award available for voluntary service. Being the modest man that he is, he refused my request to include his photo with this article.

The years he has worked on behalf of the people of California far exceeds any measure of reasonable service we could have hoped for. The parks in general are better because of Mr. Coppage and Torrey Pines specifically remains a jewel of beauty among the parks...directly attributed to Tom's selfless service.

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

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Saloon. Located next to the Plaza del Pasado, it was built in 1942 by Frank Cardwell as a dining room addition to his motor hotel.

Named after José Antonio Serrano's 1854 saloon that once stood here, the Jolly Boy will feature a restored kiva fireplace, beadboard wainscot, and pitched beam ceiling illuminated by electrified "kerosene" lamps.



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WHAT A WAY TO START

by **Carl Chavez**, Retired

Following is an excerpt from Carl Chavez's book, A PATHWAY THROUGH PARKS that tells of his arrival and first day on the job as a new State Park Ranger at Bodie State Historic Park on October 24, 1966. It is based upon a journal kept throughout most of his 33-year career. In stark contrast to the hiring practices of today, things were much different in the "Good Old Days" and Carl was hired sight unseen, given no orientation or training and expected to "get to work!"

I had accepted a State Park Ranger I position at Bodie State Historic Park at the amazing and stratospheric salary of \$530 month! Bursting with pride, I couldn't believe I had been selected for the job. Then it dawned on me that being 47th on the list probably meant that 46 others had turned down it down, but why?

I grew a little suspicious when I considered my so-called job interview. The only relevant question asked was "When can you get there because it will be snowing soon." I was told that housing would be provided, but was given no further information as to furnishings or general living conditions other than to be prepared for cold and snow. Incidentally, in passing, I was told there had been some previous personnel problems in Bodie and a new Supervising Ranger would also be reporting about the time I was to arrive in late October. That meant that the only two full-time employees would be new to this assignment. Oh yes, because conditions were considered to harsh in Bodie during the winter for children, employees with children were not allowed to be year-round residents. That led to the only other significant question which was: "Do you have plans for children in the near future?" At that point I sort of crossed my fingers and answered "No."

With all of our belongings in our little red VW bug and a small rental U-Haul trailer we headed for our first adventure with the Department of Parks and Recreation. Near Bridgeport, we had a flat tire just before turning off the paved highway to take

the 13-mile washboard dirt road into the ghost town. On October 24th we arrived in Bodie. It had only been three months since our first visit to the ghost town where we had once wondered "Who would want to live here?"

I identified myself as the new ranger to one of the employees and was directed to **Lincoln Covington**, who was the Acting Superintendent in Bodie on temporary assignment from Grover Hot Springs State Park. He advised me that there had been some recent staffing problems at the park and the previous Supervisor, who apparently had a drinking problem, was nowhere to be found and hadn't been seen in several weeks. The other permanent employee, **John Myers**, whom I was replacing, was in the process of moving out of the D.V. Cain residence that we were supposed to occupy. Lincoln explained to me that the new Supervisor, **Bob Frenzel**, and his wife Dorothy had arrived a few hours ahead of us with a moving van and were going to occupy that house instead of us. The problem was that the other house, the J.S. Cain residence, was still occupied by relations of the former Park Supervisor. Lincoln was very apologetic and embarrassed at this inauspicious beginning to my park career. He too was surprised that I really hadn't been thoroughly interviewed about the prospects and living conditions of the job and felt that a ten-minute telephone interview just wasn't sufficient for the challenge that lay ahead. In any case, the immediate problem was to decide what was to be done with us and where we would live until the

other house was vacated. The answer was to introduce us to Bob and Dorothy (better known as Dot). Bob and Dot were promoting and transferring to Bodie from Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Talk about going from hot to cold... Since they were considerably older than we were, they immediately took us under wing and made us feel comfortable and welcomed. For the most part we were able to forge a good working and living relationship with them. In those first two weeks it was a necessity because we moved in with them! As if that wasn't enough, our best friends from college arrived for a stay of several days and moved in with us too.

The time finally did arrive when we were able to move into our place at the J.S. Cain House.

I should say something about my first day on the job as a Park Ranger. Remember that Bodie is at 8375' elevation. We had recently moved from Arcata, which is basically at sea level. The first day found me with pick and shovel in hand, digging ditch for the water line. Actually, we had to blast the ditch out with dynamite and then muck out the rubble. You could say I got a "bang" out of my first day on the job. In any event it was hard work for someone not acclimated to that altitude. This time I didn't think I had "died and gone to heaven", I just thought I had died!

Perhaps most telling are the words often quoted and attributed to a little

See BACK IN THE DAY, p. 12

Recently retired California State Parks ranger **Carlos Porrata** will receive the Hannah Creighton Environmental Justice Award from the Marin Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Over the last 25 years of his career Carlos worked with more than 17,000 fourth- and fifth-grade students at Tomales Bay State Park though his Environmental Living Program emphasizing the local Native American culture while instilling environmental stewardship. He is still actively involved in environmental issues, affordable housing, and a variety of other community needs

throughout Marin County. Currently Carlos is vice chair of the Board of the Marin Community Foundation.

Sonoma Coast Lifeguard **Brit Horn** was awarded a medal of valor in early November by the U.S. Lifeguarding Association.

Horn rescued Ryan Ramey, 21, who was struggling 400 yds. from shore in 14 foot waves at Salmon Creek Beach on January 19.

On October 18, Horn was surfing the same beach on his day off. He helped surfer Megan Halavais after she was bitten by a shark.

BACK IN THE DAY, from p. 11

girl. When told she was moving to Bodie she is said to have said either, "Goodbye, God, I'm going to Bodie" or "Good, by God, I'm going to Bodie". I think one of these two sentiments applied to us at our first assignment. Only time would tell which meaning applied.

Bodie grows on you. It has a magic, a history, and a stark beauty that we grew to love. Living and working there gave me a strong sense of self-reliance and a foundation for a career in State Parks.

STATE PARKS WITH ALLIGATORS

by Joanie Cahill

Regional Interp. Specialist

Thanks in part to a scholarship from CSPRA, I attended this year's National Interpreter's Workshop in Mobile, Alabama. This is definitely the best interpretive training available and I'd highly recommend it to all rangers, guides, interpreters and managers.

My favorite part of each year's workshop is the field session. This year I spent the day in Blakely State Park. After entering the park, our tour guide and bus driver became completely lost. All the signs had blown down during Hurricane Katrina, and thousands of trees, too. The bus got stuck and the driver got to have fifty-five loquacious interpreters telling him how to get out of the tight spot. One large dent and several cursers later, we got back to a main road (?) and a ranger rescued us.

Eventually, we got to the boat landing and boarded a pontoon boat for a trip along the Tensaw River. The

park owns the boat and guides the tours. Alabama State Parks recently cut almost ALL funding to this park, so they are on their own. Blakely's co-op purchased the boat to generate revenue from school groups and weekend visitors.

During our tour, we learned about the Mobile-Tensaw river delta, one of the largest wetland ecosystems in the United States. We saw lots of fish



jumping and lots of alligators, including one as big as a Volkswagen. The ranger tried to tell us that you can swim right by them and they won't bother you, but I don't think anybody in our group would have been willing to test that theory!

After a picnic lunch we learned that Blakely was the site of the last major

battle of the Civil War. Five and a half miles of breastworks are still visible. In addition, the 3,800 acre park features nature trails, a historic town site, and several prehistoric Indian mounds.

The park manager and staff showed us a film about the natural wonders of Blakely and gave us a glimpse into the myriad problems faced by this exciting park. Alabama has only 22 state parks and is run by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. About half of the parks have either cottages or hotels, some with golf courses. A conference center that will accommodate 2,000 people is in the works at one new state park. Each park is expected to generate revenue from recreation. Preservation is not a central goal.

It's easy to get discouraged at the lack of funding and political support for our mission, here at California State Parks. Visiting other parks and observing the creative ways rangers and managers are overcoming challenges reminds me that we're not the only ones struggling. It also serves as a reminder that we are still doing many things better than most park systems, and we have many reasons to be proud.

BOARD MINUTES

CSPRA Board Meeting – Minutes
Saturday, October 1, 2005
Turlock Lake State Recreation Area

Present: Ron Brean, President; Angy Nowicki, President-Elect; Pam Armas, Secretary/Treasurer; Gail Severns, Board Member; Joe Mette, Board Member; Laura Svendsgaard, Executive Manager; Kirk Wallace, Guest.

Absent: Val Bradshaw, Immediate Past President; Joe Rodgers, Board Member

Minutes from previous board meeting were presented and approved as read.

Reports of Officers and Committees: Gail and John Mott are actively seeking nominations for the **Honorary Ranger award**. Gail is also working Summer Kincaid on the **Directors' Awards**.

Pam provided an update on the **2006 Conference**. Things are moving along very well. Laura Svendsgaard agreed to coordinate registration and be the financial chair.

The **2007 Conference** Planning Committee is seriously considering Yosemite as the next site. Angy updated the Board on the successful filling of **District Rep** positions, and will be contacting them soon to have them start performing their responsibilities.

Nominations for the 2006 **CSPRA Board elections** are actively being sought. The deadline for nominations is November 11th. Ballots will be mailed by December 1, 2005.

Laura reviewed the **financial report**, discussed the new software (QuickBooks Premiere Nonprofit), and advised that Board that she is now also working as the Executive Manager for the California Recreational Trails Conference foundation.

Next Meeting, November 7, 2005, Sacramento



District Reps as of 12/12/05

(Number indicates Rep(s) needed)

District	Name	Email Address
Angeles	Frank Padilla	fpadilla@parks.ca.gov
Capitol	1	
Central Valley	Wayne Harrison	wharrison@parks.ca.gov
Channel Coast	1	
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 Pierce	kpearce@parks.ca.gov
Inland Empire	Susan Neary	
Mendocino	Natalie Lohi	nlohi@mcn.org
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
	Rebecca Schenone	rschenone@parks.ca.gov
Orange	Jenny Donovan	roadkil151@aol.com
	Robert Simoneaux	
San Diego	Fred Jee	jeeology@yahoo.com
San Joaquin	Sean Malis	
San Luis Obispo	Nick Franco	nfranco@hearcastle.com
Santa Cruz	Charles Edgemon	
	Linda Hitchcock	Llindi3@juno.com
Sierra	Susan Grove	susan@gbis.com
Administration	Jann Bullock	jbullock@parks.ca.gov
Grants	1 Historic Preservation	1
Northern Service Ctr	1 Southern Service Ctr	1
OHV	4 Interpretation Div.	1
Cultural Resources Div.	1 Natural Resources Div.	1
Planning Div.	1 Tech Services Div.	1

Want a CSPRA scholarship?
Contact **Fred Jee** at
(760) 767-4651
jeeology@yahoo.com

THIS CUP COULD BE

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All contributors to the WAVE receive a stainless steel CSPRA travel mug



**PROMOTING PROFESSIONALISM IN
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
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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
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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

Parks Conference 2006

Laughlin, Nevada, March 6 - 9



Visit the CSPRA.com webpage for details

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English Language Learners in Envi-
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**English Language Learners in
Environmental Education:**

Using Video Observation and Scenario
Practice. Presenter: Anne Marie
Tipton (California State Parks),
Education Coordinator at the Tijuana
River National Estuarine Research
Reserve (Imperial Beach, CA)

**The Colorado River and the
California Dream**

Presenter: David Carle, retired park
ranger and author

Marshall South Story

Presenter: Diana Lindsay, President,
Anza-Borrego Foundation and part
of Sunbelt Publications

Beyond Volunteer Management

101: Techniques for Creating and
Maintaining a Top Shelf Volunteer
Staff

Presenter: Sean Malis, Interpreter I,
Fort Tejon State Historic Park

**The History of Parks (and How
to Interpret It)**

Presenter: David Gould, State Park
Superintendent III, Calaveras
Sector, California State Parks



humor in unicorn



Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops

by Jeff Price, retired

Healthy school lunch menu.
*There are two foods of thought on
that issue.*

Cranial semaphores?
*Seeing the storm approach just sent
flags off in my head.*

Whittle while you work?
*She keeps dwindling away at the chip
leader's stack.*

Don't reveal the spin!
*Yes she told me too; quite a revolu-
tion isn't it?*

That has a ring of truth.
*You could tell how excited the crowd
was by all the hoops and hollers.*

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

Halfway through CSPRA's fiscal year and the last issue of The Wave before the 2006 Parks Conference, there's much to report and consider.

Hopefully all of you who are Active and Retired Active members have received your CSPRA ballots. If not, it means that you are one of several members we do not have a current address for; in which case PLEASE email or call me (laura@cspra.com or 800.749-8749), we'll update your record and get a ballot to you right quick! Ballots need to be returned to CSPRA, P.O. Box 2132, Newport, OR 97365. The voting deadline is January 15, 2006.

This year's ballot includes elections for three new Board Members, a Secretary/Treasurer and President-Elect; along with two amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. The first Amendment

suggests adding a Professional Development membership category to the Association. This would enable seasonal employees of the Department voting membership in CSPRA for \$36 per year. In the event a seasonal member becomes a permanent employee of the Department or leaves the Department, they would be eligible for membership only as an Active or Supporting member as appropriate.

The second Amendment requests member approval to separate the Secretary/Treasurer office into two positions – Secretary and Treasurer. At my suggestion, we're in the process of adopting more stringent financial guidelines, requiring more of the Treasurer. As a result, the Board feels that it is time to separate these volunteer tasks in order to assure more reasonable and effective oversight.

As the Bylaws require, this issue of The Wave also includes the proposed CSPRA budget for FY 2006-07 (page 10), to be voted on at the March '06 Conference. While relatively similar to previous budgets, needing mention is a decrease in revenue that's been occurring over the last couple of years largely as a result of retirements. The budget numbers have been adjusted to reflect this change, indicating both a reduction in revenue and reductions in expenditures. Having recognized the trend, the Board is revitalizing its recruitment effort with good results.

Both the elections and the budget have kept us busy and give rise to the importance of the upcoming 2006 Parks Conference taking place March 6th to 9th. The Conference Committee has a wonderful assortment of sessions and activities. Details on the Conference should reach you in the next few days.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

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:
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CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Mission Statement



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



Founded 1964