



The CSPRA

Wave

Newsletter

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CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

MAY - JUNE 2008

MY TWO CENTS



**Park Advocacy
Day, Annual
Report, Kudos
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Conference
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Cover: *Gail Sevrens speaks on the Capitol
steps while CALPA President Randy
Widera and a park supporter look on.*

Photo by Diana Casanova

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



CSPRA President Gail Sevrens

My Two Cents

by Gail Sevrens

Sometimes it seems as if no one notices.

In the field, we work 6 days or 60 hours, no time off in the busy season, holidays, Mother's Day. In the office, we stress over the endless deadlines, decreasing budgets, more with less, and work through lunch. "Duct tape and bailing wire" has become such a cliché that we roll our eyes when we hear it.

Yet the visitors arrive, enjoy the park, and leave. A friend tells you their child's class had a nice field trip to a park or that they stopped at a pretty park somewhere on a drive back from Aunt Betsy's. Maybe someone complains about something, but for the most part it seems like the public doesn't realize how hard we're working and that behind the scenes the duct tape is peeling, the bailing wire is rusted, the volunteers are staffing the visitor centers and leading the tours, and one ranger is on duty to cover 300,000 acres (a true example).

On April 8, we saw that people notice. And not only are they noticing, they are doing something about it.

From all across California, volunteers and park advocates swarmed the state Capitol for the largest Park Advocacy Day in history. The California State Parks Foundation once again organized the event, which was co-sponsored by two dozen

other park protection groups, including CSPRA. (Huge kudos to CSPF President **Elizabeth Goldstein**, Director of Legislation and Policy **Traci Verardo-Torres**, Legislative Coordinator **Linsey Fredenburg**, intern **Kate Litzky**, and all their other staff members who worked so hard to pull off this massively successful event!)

Members of our cooperating associations, parks users, individuals from advocacy groups, park volunteers, even kids: hundreds of people roamed the halls, pleading our case to legislators and their staffs. And even more stood on the steps of the Capitol building at noontime as speaker after speaker demanded action to stop park closures and bring more funding to us.

Legislators from both sides of the aisle—Senator **Chris Kehoe** (D-San Diego), Assemblymember **John Laird** (D-Santa Cruz), Senator **Abel Moldonado** (R-Santa Maria) rallied the crowd, declaring that "not one park" should be closed. California State Park and Recreation Commissioner and Honorary Ranger **Caryl Hart** exhorted that now is the time to be expanding parks, not closing them. Benicia Mayor **Elizabeth Patterson**, who brought a busload from her small Northern California city that might see both its State Parks shuttered, shared the podium with California League of Park Associations (that's our coops) President **Randy Widera** and members of the public and our park user groups. And California State Parks Foundation President **Elizabeth Goldstein** forcefully drove home the message: fund our parks.

When it was my turn to speak, several of the above dignitaries had hit many of the compelling reasons to fund the parks: all the benefits we provide to the public, our understaffed units and lack of equipment, our maintenance backlog, the critical resources we hold in trust for future generations, and our huge financial benefits to local communities and the state's general fund.

I approached the podium and told the

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California Parks Conference

CLEAN WATER, CLEAR VISION, DEEP PURPOSE

by **Janet Carle**, *Wave Editor*

The first view of Lake Tahoe is always a treat—big, beautiful and blue. Glorious early spring weather greeted close to 300 attendees of the 2008 California Parks conference in early April. Much is going on in the Tahoe Basin, including concerns about the lake's clarity, recovery from a devastating fire last June, invasive species in the lake and pressure to permit more development in the watershed. All in all, a good place to enjoy the mountain scenery while learning about a range of issues from a myriad of agencies and groups that work at Lake Tahoe.

The fun began on Monday, with field trips to Pyramid Lake to fish,



Dave Nelson and his big fish

Grover Hot Springs to hike and soak, and a GPS class for learning how to not get lost. The evening reception allowed us all to get together in one place to chat and re-connect with old friends.

Tuesday opened with a keynote address from **Sean Willmore**, the Australian park ranger who visited rangers around the world and created the documentary film "*The Thin Green Line*." Sean is using the proceeds from the film to support

the families of rangers who have been killed in the line of duty. Sean is an inspiration to us all and brings a global perspective to our profession.

Various sessions were held for the rest of the morning, with the Gray-Bears travel session being especially popular amongst those looking forward to retirement! Mark Twain (portrayer **McAvoy Lane**) visited us at lunchtime, pontificating about his trips to Lake Tahoe and the Eastern Sierra.

Tuesday afternoon sessions highlighted the wide range of skills useful to a park professional: identifying airplane wrecks, eradicating marijuana farms, and the natural history of the red-legged frog.



Australian ranger and filmmaker **Sean Willmore**



A field trip to the Angora Fire site, where 250 homes burned last June, illustrated how fast fire can move in a heavily populated forest. The Upper Truckee Marsh restoration provided a counterpoint of encouragement at all that is being done to preserve and restore wet-

lands in the Tahoe Basin.

The weather cooperated for the cruise on the lake this year, unlike the snowstorm cruise of 2003. A beautiful, calm night with a new moon made Emerald Bay look its nighttime best.

Sessions continued on Wednesday, and the sunny weather as well. The Gray Bears visited Grover Hot Springs SP in the morning, and Sand Harbor, a Nevada State Park, in the afternoon, for a full day of enjoying the Tahoe Basin.

CSPRA held its annual members meeting during lunch, with an address by Deputy Director of Operations **Ted Jackson, Jr.** Gail Sevens, starting her second year as President, out-

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CONFERENCE

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*Dep. Dir. for Operations **Ted Jackson***

lined an impressive year of activism and accomplishments, including the defeat of the San Onofre Toll Road, purchase of dairy easements at Col. Allensworth SHP, taking action to defeat the Sunrise Powerlink proposal at Anza-Borrego Desert SP, and discouraging the idea of using the 1849er Scene in Old Sacramento as a site for a children's museum. CSPRA has also been working actively with the California State Parks Foundation to reduce budget cuts and park closures in the State Park system. The CSPRA Board is also working to reduce expenses and increase membership and member involvement. Recent generous donations from Bill Lane, Jr., will help immensely with budget balancing. The meeting had close to

50 CSPRA members in attendance.

Wednesday evening featured the banquet and a great raffle thanks to the hard work of Ranger **Heidi Doyle** and Sector Superintendent **Susan Grove** from Sierra District. **Henry Trione** and **Sean Willmore** were named Honorary Ranger and Member from CSPRA and PRAC (see articles on them). The dance began, the band played on, and the moon rose over Lake Tahoe. Another great conference inspired, educated and entertained us.

Special thanks to Co-chairs **Natalie Lohi** and **Pam Helmke**, registrar **Laura Svendsgaard**, and program creator **Mike Chiesa**.

Join us next year in San Luis Obispo!



*Conference co-chairs **Natalie Lohi** and **Pam Helmke***



*Presenters **Dennis Oliver** and **Julie Regan** from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency*



Fieldtrip to the Upper Truckee River restoration project



***Heidi Doyle** and **Susan Grove**, from Sierra District, ran the raffle*

CONFERENCE PHOTOS



^^The Angora Fire field trip was led by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

BELOW: Jay Howard (3rd from left) of Nevada State Parks led a tour of the new Sand Harbor State Park visitor center.



<< Old and New CSPRA Boardmembers -- L to R: Dave Gould, Gail Sevrens, Craig Mattson (behind), Blythe Liles, Don Schmidt, Natalie Lohi, Sal Goshorn, Angy Nowicki



Natalie Lohi with her son, Cameron



Gray Bears visit to Grover Hot Springs SP -- L to R: Bob Burke, Karen Broderick, Mark Hoffman, David Carle, Dave Williamson, Janet Carle, and Mike Chiesa

HONORARY RANGER

2008 HONORARY RANGER HENRY TRIONE

by *Angy Nowicki*
CSPRA Past President

Henry Trione became interested in the preservation of California State Parks through his friend Joe Long of Longs Drugs. They were both founding members of the California State Parks Foundation, and put together a consortium of private and state foundation funds to acquire land that was threatened with subdivision plans to create Annadel State Park.

While Chairman of the California State Parks Foundation, Henry helped provide a visitor center at Fort Ross State Historic Park. He has helped to acquire land, save historical sites and build interpretive centers throughout the state. His involvement included the Old Bale Grist Mill restoration, Stagecoach Hill Azalea Preserve,

Ehrmann Mansion, Coming Home to California educational program, restoration of Jack London's cottage, Colorado House at Old Town San Diego, and most recently Annadel State Historic Park Visitor Center.

His work and dedication was recognized by former President Ronald Reagan when he praised Henry for his excellent work as a citizen concerned with community reinvestment.

He is a man who invests in his community, and is an avid outdoorsman and a born leader. Recently he was honored by being inducted into the Polo Hall of Fame based in Florida for his major contributions as a polo player for over 40 years.

A large part of our park success is due to Henry's leadership, enthusiasm and support. He is a dedicated person



Henry Trione and his wife, Eileen

who believes strongly in the private sector and government jointly contributing to the quality of life.

Henry was born in Humboldt County, the son of an Italian immigrant baker. He started a mortgage company in Sonoma County after World War II, building an enterprise that took him into success with the banking industry, as well as timber and winemaking.



PRAC's Dave Updike awarded Sean Willmore the Member of the Year Award for his work on the documentary film, "The Thin Green Line" and his support of the families of rangers lost in the line of duty.



CSPRA donor and Honorary Ranger (1997) Bill Lane, Jr. and CSPRA President Gail Sevrens enjoyed the Tahoe conference

PRESIDENT

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sea of supportive faces that I was going to tell them why the proposed cuts to state parks didn't make fiscal sense to me. The few millions in savings being demanded of our department would mean a lot to our operations, but would save the state only \$0.24 per California resident. That's two cents per person per month. I took out two pennies from my pocket, raised them over my head, and declared: "Ladies and gentlemen of the legislature, here's my two cents!"

And it is now up to the legislature. They have heard the voices from throughout California: thousands of letters and emails, demonstrations, articles and media segments, and their own members. But as of this writing, they have not come up with a solution.

So, when you're at home tonight, surfing on your computer, why don't you swing by www.savestateparks.org and see how you can help California State Parks Foundation and all our other supporters turn up the heat? Click on the link to endorse the campaign, listen to ads by Honorary Ranger **Huell Howser** supporting us, see five things you and your family and friends can do to help out. Or go to www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html and enter your zip code to find the homepages of your senator and assemblymember, and from there you can drop them a brief email. (Remember, please use your own computer and email accounts for advocacy activities. And be sure to identify yourself as a member of CSPRA or concerned individual.)

People do notice what we do. Let's join them in raising our voices for Parks.

The **President's Annual Report** to the GEC included these achievements by CSPRA and our partners:

- Passage of Proposition 84, parks bond funding
- Prevention of construction of two megadairies adjacent to Colonel Al-lensworth State Historic Park

--Coastal Commission denial of permission to construct a toll road through San Onofre State Beach

--Blocking movement toward construction of a non-compatible children's museum on the historic 1849 Scene and progress toward a General Plan for Old Sacramento State Historic Park

--Participation in legislative hearing to seek prevention of hate crimes in California State Parks

--Endorsement and passage of specific legislation for use of conservation easements to protect parks

--Advocacy toward parks funding

--Agreement by Governmental Advocates to represent us pro bono this year

--Partnership with California State Parks Foundation including cosponsoring their annual threats to parks survey, signing joint advocacy letters, distribution by the foundation of our press releases, and their facilitation of funding to us.

--Progress toward long-term sustainability of CSPRA: financial committee reduction of expenses, recruitment efforts by board and members

Our upcoming goals:

--Block closure of parks and seek increased funding

--Protection of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park from the proposed Sunrise Powerlink

--Protect Chino Hills SP from proposed electrical transmission lines

--Work toward developing an international ranger exchange program with State Parks and rangers in other countries

--Mount a robust membership recruitment campaign

--Obtain insurance to protect the organization and board members

--Continue internal strengthening of the group

So many KUDOS this month:

CSPRA continues to receive support from our outstanding benefactor Honorary Ranger **Bill Lane, Jr.** At the California Parks Conference he presented the CSPRA board with a new donation of \$5,000. Ambassador Lane cares deeply not only about the

Parks, but about the people that he knows are working hard and facing such difficult professional and personal challenges. It is his hope that we will be able to use these resources to lift the morale of those working under the shadow of the proposed park closures. Ambassador Lane and your board know that the most important way to improve morale is to fight off the threat of the closures, which we are working hard to do. We would also like to boost morale in a more direct fashion. Is your park impacted? Please give us ideas of how we can help. Send your ideas to any member of our board, or to me at gail@cspra.com. Also, feel free to send us any expressions of gratitude for Ambassador Lane and his generosity and support for us to convey to him.

The lifetime of hard work and dedication to Parks by this year's Honorary Ranger **Henry Trione**. All of us are indebted to his vision and accomplishments.

Natalie Lohi and the entire California Parks Conference committee and volunteers. What an incredible event! Their hard work, dedication, and organizational skills really showed and they performed a great service to park professionalism. The presenters and course instructors were raved about. Deputy Director **Ted Jackson, Jr.** gave a great speech at the General Executive Council meeting. Rank-and-files and field supervisors were also joined by such department leaders as Northern Division Chief **Lynn Rhodes** and by Deputy Director **Daphne Greene** and OHV Division Chief **Phil Jenkins**, who not only presented but brought toys. Some conference instructors even did double duty (you know who you are **Jenny Donovan**). **Laura Svendsgaard** once again ran a highly efficient registration machine. She deserves an Academy Award for making such a huge, complex, difficult, involved task appear easy. **Janet Carle** led the Gray Bears, as she has so ably all these years--she's looking for some

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help next year, any takers? The Sierra District were wonderful hosts; thanks to **Pam Armas, Susan Grove, Heidi Doyle**, and all the rest! So many contributed that it is impossible to name them all here--please forgive me if I missed your name, it was such a whirlwind I'm just now recuperating. And thanks to our Park Rangers Association of California partners! San Luis Obispo District Superintendent **Nick Franco** will host and be next year's CSPRA chair for the conference. He has many ideas and would love folks to get involved. Can't wait for next year!

Board Members **Sal Goshorn, Brett Mizeur** and **Angy Nowicki** have completed their terms of service and we extend our thanks to them. Sal has been a great help working with our SPPOAC brethren and helping on the political and media front. Brett's enthusiasm has been very welcome and he has helped bring our attention to important issues. Angy. What can I say about Angy that covers all she has done for this group? She has served our members in every role on the board, chaired a conference, recruited dozens of new members, revitalized the District Rep system, represented us ably at the International Ranger Federation, and brought us to a new level of professionalism. She will continue to serve as the scholarship chair and do some recruitment too. Thank you for all your contributions.

New Board Members **Blythe Liles, Craig Mattson**, and Secretary **Don Schmidt** have come out of the gate running and are already making contributions. I am especially proud that they help round out our board representing the gamut from a new Parks permanent employee to a new retiree. They are going to be great assets to your organization.

Our returning Board Members: Vice President **Natalie Lohi**, Secretary **Wendy Martin**, Members **Tyson Butzke, Dave Gould** and

A WAVE GOODBYE



HARRY M. DANIEL

1988 Honorary Ranger

Harry Daniel, 95, and his late wife, Julia, were charter members of the Anza Borrego Desert Natural History Association and key supporters of building the Anza-Borrego Visitor Center in 1979. Harry was a long-time member of the Anza Borrego Paleontology Group; the Daniel Lab in the Visitor Center carries his name.

GENE SCHAAL

Gene was a long-time ranger who worked at Doheny, Mt. Diablo, Calaveras Big Trees, Angel Island and Old Sacramento. Known as "Little Fat", he was the subject of many park fables.



EMMET CRISP

Passed away this year at the age of 95. Emmet started his career in 1951 as a stock clerk then moved on to Anza Borrego, Huntington Beach, and finally Sonoma Coast, working as a Park Attendant and Park Ranger. He handled Sonoma Coast for years without law enforcement powers. Emmet loved interpretation and spinning a yarn. He was known as Mr. Sonoma Coast, and retired in 1978.

Friends reflected on Emmet as a man who made problems laughable and solvable. He never treated people like they were strangers.

Rain Greenslate have been stalwarts. Their vision and tireless work (and I mean tireless) have really brought CSPRA to a new level.

Allison Pedley, our executive manager, works tirelessly and out of the limelight. She is the machine that keeps CSPRA running, from getting retiree plaques, bringing in the new members, paying the bills and doing the accounts, getting the newsletters out, etc., all the while constantly on the lookout for ways to reduce CSPRA expenses and improve our processes. She is truly CSPRA Central, and her role sometimes goes unsung. But there is no way an organization like ours--with a volunteer board whose members all have demanding day jobs--could be anything like it is without her work.

Thanks to **Val Nixon** for her years as Northern Buttes District Rep. We wish her luck in her retirement. Kudos to **Lori Martin** for stepping for-

ward to take her place as District Rep. I am continually impressed by the initiative of our wonderful members!

Other great members of our team: Thanks to **John Mott** for heading our Honorary Ranger Committee. He continues to run a process that fields such great nominations of individuals who have contributed so much to meet our goals. **Jeff Price** juggles running our website with bringing in the next generation of park professionals. **Janet** (and ghost editor **Dave**) **Carle** produce this excellent newsletter you are reading. **Dick Troy** and **Donna Pozzi** serve as excellent resources on our Advocacy Committee, and **Wes Cater** has stepped up to take over advocacy efforts on protection of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park from the proposed Sunrise Powerlink. **Monica Miller** and Governmental Advocates not only provide valuable assistance but

RADIOS AND THE RANGER/GENERALIST

by James G. Davis, Retired

In the mid 1950s I was promoted to Ranger II and transferred to Big Basin Redwoods as its first Fire Management Officer. In addition to the duties that the position entailed then District 4 Superintendent **Jim Tryner** assigned me the job of doing a feasibility study for a radio system there. Having used radios in the National Park and US Forest Service, the subject was not totally foreign. With the help of CDF friends at Felton, a primitive study was conducted. The results indicated a system with the transmitter/receiver in Rogers Meadow would cover the heart of the Basin.

Based on that information Superintendent Tryner asked that I prepare the budget documents for the system seen as meeting the Basin's needs. During the review of the budget documents, one of the park's managers made this comment "Damn foolishness, if we can get that kind of money I want it in toilet paper, bowl brushes and Pine Oil and salaries for more

Park Aids to use the supplies". This did not happen and the radio system was funded.

While the installation of the radio equipment would be done by the Division of Communications, the balance of the work of installing the system fell to the Ranger/Generalist. A building to house the radio in Rogers Meadow (a location removed from roads, trails and people was felt to be safe) was needed. The pump house that served the old Opal Creek Swimming Pool was found to be suitable and was transported by Ranger/Generalists and installed in the meadow. An antenna mast was produced by the careful logging of a young redwood tree, as were the poles needed to carry the radio control line from Park Headquarters and the power line from the shop area. Err too many shouts of "they cut the Redwoods" are heard it should be pointed out that that a number of these trees were scheduled for removal in the construction of the East Ridge Fuel break that ran through Rogers Meadow.


At this point there was a structure for the radio, poles and spools of surplus World War field telephone wire that would serve as the control line. Pole holes to dig, poles and an antenna mast to set, trees and poles to climb to install control lines and power lines, power poles to "frame" and wires to install and all done by the Ranger/Generalist.

Promotion and transfer took me from Big Basin before the system became operational. That it worked and worked well was the reward for my efforts. I would not enjoy the benefits of a radio system until the Ventura Area in fall of 1969.

Is there a place today for the Ranger/Generalist and his/her myriad of skills of half a century ago? In my view, an un-equivocal yes. Does this diminish the Department's very talented Maintenance Staff? Absolutely not. The acquisition of the skills of the long ago Ranger by today's Ranger can only enhance the accomplishments of the Maintenance Staffs.

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they do so on a pro bono basis.

Every single person at the California State Parks Foundation. For all your support of Parks, and recruitment of other partners, on behalf of every one of our members: thank you, thank you, thank you.

To **Karen Barrett** and **Ron Brean**: thank you for recruiting me. I had no idea what a wonderful thing I was becoming a part of.

I'd love to give a special thank you to what I think of as my "wise advisors," those park veterans who I call up and ask for advice on thorny situations or to see if I'm on the right track. You are priceless.

PROMOTING PROFESSIONALISM IN
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

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May we print your name as a new member in
the WAVE? _____

I hereby authorize the State Controller
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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 _____

EXECUTIVE MANAGER



by *Allison Pedley, Executive Manager*

It was great seeing many of you at the California Parks Conference again this year, and it was especially nice to feel all of the positive energy surrounding the event -- I'm already looking forward to San Luis Obispo !

We have two new Active members to welcome, both from the Sierra District -- **Michael Byram**, a maintenance worker, and **Lindsay Harbison**, an interpretive specialist, both recently joined CSPRA. **Bryan Lemas**, a

student at Sacramento State hoping to work with State Parks, recently joined as a Professional Development member. And **Craig Mattson**, new to the CSPRA Board, signed on for his first year as a retired member of CSPRA. Welcome new members!

I also received a delightful correspondence from **Thelma Kishbaugh**, wife of the late **Gordon Kishbaugh**, a ranger who signed on in 1938. Some of Ms. Kishbaugh's park memories will be included in the next *Wave*. In the meantime, I wanted to extend an invitation to other retired park employees and/or their spouses to keep sending stories of park life "back in the day" -- days that were in some ways better, in some ways harder, but always fun to read about.

Do you know someone who is retiring?

CSPRA provides a plaque for members when they retire. Contact us at (530) 550-1268, or email allison@CSPRA.com, or write to CSPRA, P.O. Box 10606, Truckee, CA 96162

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*Denzil and
Jennie Ve-
rardo (left) re-
cently traveled
to Antarctica
and ran into
Jan Anderson
and Pat Mur-
phy from State
Parks.*

humor in unicorn



Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops

by Jeff Price, retired

Here is another mixed up batch of overheard slips of the tongue and misfires of the brain. Malaprop: a wrong word that renders a statement ridiculous. Usually the mistake occurs when the speaker attempts a vocabulary much beyond their learning. Feel free to send along any you hear - malaprops@cspra.com

Old "Bullet Leg."
He'll definitely be having surgery since the MRI showed cartridge problems in his knee.

Whets the appetite.
I don't think he has a clue, but then he's pretty green behind the ears.

Oye ve, kosher meds?
That's the best thing since Pasteur discovered a cure for rabbis.

Like right at the end, huh?
... but don't count the British runner out yet, the win always comes late in the race.

Palm problem or just don't like ham?
These rules of engagement have our troops in Iraq handstrung.

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Representatives are needed for:

Orange Coast, Mendocino, and San Diego Districts, Grants, Historic Preservation, Northern Service Ctr., Southern Service Ctr., Interpretation Div., Cultural Resources Div., Natural Resources Div., Planning Div., and Tech Services Div.

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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