



The CSPRA

Wave

Newsletter

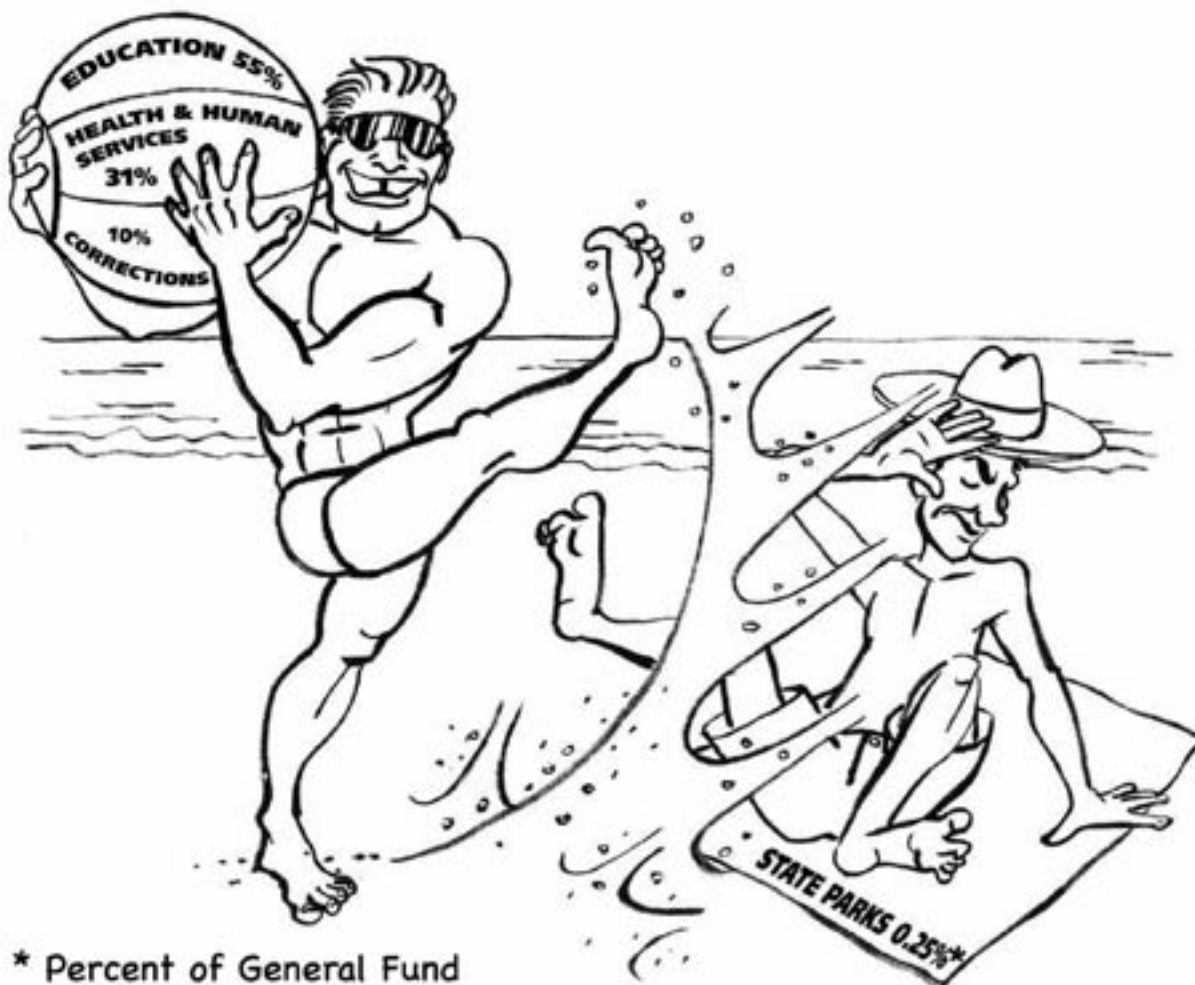
VOLUME 9, NUMBER 4

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

JULY -AUG 2009

"...to support, protect, and defend the integrity of State Parks for present and future generations."

PARKS BUDGET: A DROP IN THE BUCKET



* Percent of General Fund

cartoon by Michael Krumbein, 2009



CSPRA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Pam Armas, Sierra
(530) 525-9523, pam@cspira.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Natalie Lohi, Mendocino
(707) 367-1324, natalie@cspira.com

SECRETARY

Don Schmidt, Sierra
(530) 908-3993, don@cspira.com

TREASURER

Blythe Liles, Southern Service Center
(619) 384-9648, blythe@cspira.com

DIRECTORS

Craig Mattson, retired
(209) 795-7440, csmatt@sbcglobal.net

Pat Clark-Gray, Monterey
(831) 384-5119, patricia@cspira.com

Nedra Martinez, Colorado Desert
(760) 765-3019, nedra@cspira.com

Cindy Spencer, Santa Cruz, San Mateo
(831) 706-8093, cindy@cspira.com

ADMINISTRATION

Allison Pedley, Executive Manager
P.O. Box 10606, Truckee, CA 96162
(530) 550-1268, (800) 749-8749
allison@cspira.com

INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS

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

The CSPRA Wave

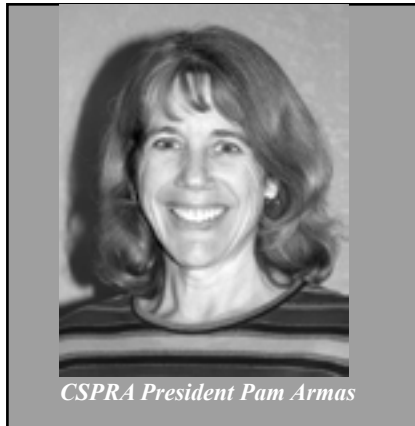
Janet Carle, Editor
(760) 647-6431, wave@cspira.com

The CSPRA Wave

(ISSN0087-9176)
is published by CSPRA, P.O. Box 10606,
Truckee, CA 96162
Articles and letters are always welcome. All
submissions become the property of CSPRA
and may be edited without notice.

*Cover: Cartoon by Michael Krumbein.
The cartoon on page 3 is by Bill Krumbein.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



CSPRA President Pam Armas

by Pam Armas

Park Closures – What a mess! or... CSPRA Board Retreat – Creating a Future

As this article is being written, the Legislative Budget Committee is hearing the proposal to close 223 parks. So, by the time this newsletter goes to print and is in your hands, a decision will have been made as to the fate of California State Parks. So, I'm not going to waste space saying what an insult and travesty the proposal itself is, especially if it comes to fruition. However, I would like to share the actions that CSPRA has taken to fight for our employees and the citizens of California to keep our State Parks open.

We learned about the park closure proposal on May 29. We were in immediate contact with Monica Miller, CSPRA pro-bono lobbyist to guide us through this uncharted, legislative fiasco. CSPRA partnered with the California State Parks Foundation. CSPF has created a do-it-yourself letter to local legislators on their website, www.calparks.ca.gov.

On June 2, **Don Schmidt** (representing SPPOAC) and I traveled to Sacramento to testify before the Legislative Budget Committee. Don and I, along with what seemed like several hundred employees, docents, volunteers, co-operating associations, and past deputy directors, waited three to four very long hours to speak for 60 very short seconds.

CSPRA sent a letter to key legislators and the Governor opposing the park closure proposal.

On June 12, as CSPRA president, I was invited to participate in a special meeting held by the State Park and Recreation Commission. This special meeting was held for DPR executive staff to brief the Commission on the affect the proposed \$143 million eliminated from our budget would have on State Parks. I was able to provide public comment on the devastation this action would have on State Park resources, employees and ultimately the citizens of California.

It is now June 13, the deadline for getting my article into the *WAVE* editor and I'm holding my breath that the people in the State Capitol will do the right thing for the State of California by keeping State Parks open.

Looking toward the future - Before all the drama of the park closures was thrust upon us, CSPRA had its first retreat at Sugar Pine Point State Park. We discussed the future of CSPRA. The Board discussed the Professional Development program (retreat photo and article on page 4), we planned for a survey, we discussed a mechanism to allow us to communicate with CSPRA members via e-mail (postcard questionnaire in the mail), a recruitment program and defining District/HQ Representatives' roles and responsibilities. It is all a work in progress, one in which we will need your assistance.

I am very much looking forward to all the possibilities that are in store for CSPRA as an organization and opportunities we plan to afford all of you as members. Thank you all for your dedication and continued hard work with California State Parks!



LOBBYIST : The Budget Squeeze Continues

by **Monica Miller**, CSPRA Lobbyist

Since the May 19th election was unsuccessful, the Legislature is back at the drawing board trying to deal with a massive deficit. As I write this article, the State of California is facing a \$24.5 billion deficit, the largest hole the state has ever seen. There are several programs at risk. Given that there are a variety of programs that are constitutionally protected, the General Fund can only be cut out of a few areas. Given the lack of options, State Parks is once again at risk, only this time it can not sustain the proposed cuts. The potential closure of 220 parks is currently being discussed.

As you may know, the Department of Parks and Recreation is attempting to salvage some parks, looking at which parks can sustain themselves based on attendance and fee increases. The Legislature is discussing raising park fees to offset the loss of the \$159 million in General Fund dollars. They are also talking about an additional gas tax among other ideas to keep some of the parks open.

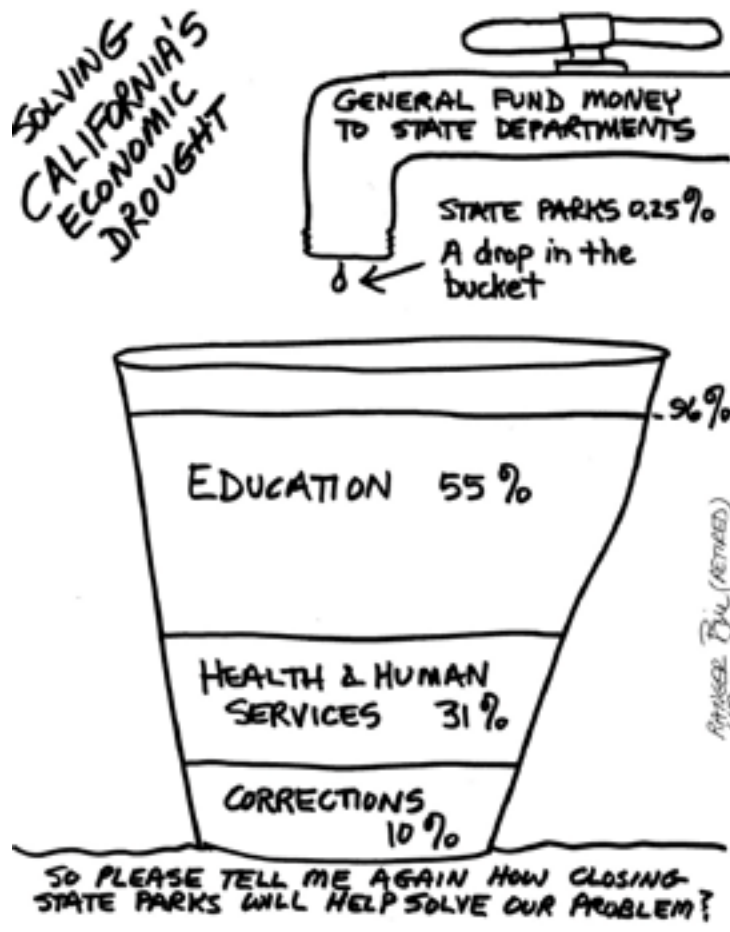
We are told that the State will run out of cash if we don't have a budget in place soon. Every summer the state borrows money to close the cash flow gap, even in good years. The ability to borrow can only be exercised if we have a budget or a budget plan in place, meaning we have closed at least half of the budget deficit. Even if we are able to borrow these funds, we will continue to have a significant gap. The Governor has said that he would rather see state government

come to a grinding halt, forcing the Legislature to "do their job". The Governor has proposed a variety of program eliminations, such as the CalWorks Program, Healthy Families, and total elimination of community based programs for families, seniors and children. They are planning on re-opening the 2008-09 budget to cut

only the state but also for the local community. The California Chamber of Commerce has joined forces with us to try to fight these closures. We need to continue to educate the Legislature, look at other options to keep our parks open, like the "State Parks Access Pass" and remind local communities that they need to voice

their concerns as well. We had an amazing turn-out of articulate, passionate people at the committee hearing where public testimony was taken. Your Board showed up in force, and your President was amazing. We need to continue to work together towards keeping as many parks open as possible. Please stay connected and be part of the discussion. There may be some park closures, but hopefully cuts can be minimized. We need to keep moving forward, protecting this wonderful resource of California's parks. We will keep you updated, but please contact your legislators and get your

friends and neighbors involved, think outside the box and try to be creative to keep as many parks open as possible. Thank you for all your work to keep these resources available for generations to come.



Proposition 98 (Education) back to what is called the "minimum guarantee". This would delete \$6.5 billion of education funding, eliminate class size reduction, delete the Rehabilitation piece of the CDCR (California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation), just to name a few that are slated for cuts and closures.

Having said this, we do know that State Parks brings in money for not

Professional Development for CSPRA Members

by **Pam Armas**, CSPRA President

As you all may know the CSPRA Board is working on a professional development program for our members. Our vision is that the program will be created by a consultant and then delivered by CSPRA Board Members and members trained in delivery. The subjects we will be presenting are writing skills, oral presentation skills, leadership skills, how to conduct an effective meeting and how to develop a presentation. We are looking at a 2-3 hour presentation to present around the state in Districts and Headquarters as needed.

This program is being paid for with a donation in which the donor specifically requested that CSPRA spend the money on professional development for our members.

I am pleased to announce that CSPRA has partnered with Larry Bienati, Ph.D. to create this program.



Larry is very familiar with State Parks and our culture. He has over 28 years of senior level leadership experience in numerous organizational

settings. Larry is known for building collaboration, enabling visions, mentoring successful leaders and passionately inspiring others to become legacy leaders.

The professional development program will be created during the Summer of '09 and we will roll it out after Labor Day.

Larry has developed a survey which is currently in the review stage. The purpose of this survey is to ask for your input and your needs. A post-card questionnaire will be coming to

you in the mail asking for your e-mail address so that we better communicate with and serve our members.

We are very excited about this endeavor..... look for more information on this to come your way.



CSPRA BOARD RETREAT at Lake Tahoe: *L to R: Don Schmidt, Pam Armas, CBlythe Liles, Natalie Lohi, Nedra Martinez, Craig Mattson, Executive Mgr. Allison Pedley and Pat Clark-Gray. Not pictured, Cindy Spencer.*

VI World Congress of Park Rangers

November 2 - 7, 2009

Santa Cruz de la Sierra

Bolivia

The sixth World Congress of Park Rangers, sponsored by the International Ranger Federation is a chance to meet rangers from all over the world, to share expertise, and to learn about our profession from an international perspective.

Sessions will be held on working relations, adjusting to future global conditions, international relations and cooperation, the potential for international development between Ranger

Associations, and meeting challenges with effective action.

The documentary film, *The Thin Green Line*, brought home to many of us the myriad challenges dealt with around the globe. The World Congress is an opportunity to meet our fellow park professionals face to face.

The fee to attend includes 6 nights lodging and all meals, as well as a visit to one of Bolivia's protected areas.

Information and online registration:
www.guardaparque.org

Opening Fort Ord Dunes SP

by **Patricia Clark-Gray**

Dist. Interp. Spec., Monterey District
California has a new State Park! Over 100 participants braved the wind and blowing sand on Wednesday, April 15th to attend the Grand Opening of Fort Ord Dunes State Park. An additional four miles of ocean beach on Monterey Bay and nearly 1,000 acres of coastal dunes are now open for public use.

Monterey Sector Superintendent **Dana Jones** welcomed the speakers and guests. Then State Parks Director **Ruth Coleman** thanked all the agencies involved in turning this former Army firing range into a State Park. The next speaker was Congressman **Sam Farr** who is a great supporter of State Parks and is an advocate for the proposed Monterey Sanctuary Trail. He talked about the importance of providing visitors with interpretation and education so they can appreciate the unique features of this park. Monterey County Supervisor **Jane Parker** discussed the importance of open spaces like Fort Ord Dunes State Park. Colonel **Darcy Brewer**, Garrison Commander of the U.S. Army Presidio of Monterey and Defense Language Institute, talked about the military history of the park. **Eric Brunnemann**, Pinnacles National Monument Superintendent, informed the participants of the importance of the National Park Service Federal Lands to Parks Program. He mentioned that the California Condors located in his park also like to visit the coast so that is why he was interested in Fort Ord Dunes State Park. **Maziar Movassaghi**, Acting Director of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, elaborated on the involvement of his agency in the removal of the lead contaminated soil. And the last speaker, **Michael Houle-mard**, Executive Officer of the Fort Ord, talked about all the partnerships necessary from the local community



<<Some military buildings have been preserved at Fort Ord.

*Below: Long time Monterey Dist. ecologist & planner, Dist. Services Mgr. **Ken Gray** with DPR Director **Ruth Coleman***

to get the park open and recognized **Ken Gray** for his long-term involvement in turning the army lands into a state park.

The ribbon cutting ceremony followed the speakers and the public officials and the speakers joined Director Ruth Coleman and Congressman Sam Farr as they cut the ribbon. The participants then visited the Fort Ord Alumni Association and California State Park booths. They also enjoyed the fresh fruit provided by Whole Foods Market, Monterey, cakes and juices.



The 979 acre park is unique, with sandy beaches, coastal dunes and remnants of the site's former military history. Interpretive panels provide information on the cultural and natural history of the park and are located at the former Stilwell Hall parking lot. The park is open to vehicle access daily from 8 a.m. to ½ hour after sunset.

Park receives "Smiles" and "Raves"

Since I wrote the article above for our district newsletter, we have been receiving great press about the park. Today, in the *Salinas Californian*, we received a "Smile" in their

"Smiles and Scowls" on-line news.

They wrote "For decades the stretch of pristine beach property was off limits to the public because it was an Army firing range. Now the 979-acre park is a showcase of Monterey Bay coastline with hiking trails, fishing, picnic benches and plaques with park factoids." The local *Monterey County Weekly* titled their article "Fort Ord Dunes State Park's recreation reincarnation is a beautiful thing to behold" and the Monterey Herald described the park as "wonderfully simple and simply wonderful".

This new park is also special to me for several reasons. I was involved in the development of the general plan and the interpretive panels so I am pleased when

I visit and see the visitors enjoying the park and reading the panels. I am also happy the park is open because my husband Ken Gray has been working for over 18 years to turn the former army lands into a state park. I think this has been one of his career highlights. Lastly, since we live in nearby Marina, we will be enjoying bike rides to the park, walks with our two dogs Jerry and Jewel on the many miles of paved roads and taking our friends and family on tours of our newest State Park.

CSPRA Wave, July-Aug, 2009 **5**

Supporting Partners Who Support Us

by **Linda Rath**

Sector Supt., Russian River Sector

This year, the California League of Park Associations (CALPA) held their annual conference from May 14 – 17 in Santa Cruz. Although I have not attended a CALPA conference in years, I was intrigued by the League's promise to conference participants to: discover the area's oldest building at the Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park; join Teddy Roosevelt on a scenic train ride through the Redwoods to Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park; travel back in time on a draft horse drawn wagon at Wilder Ranch State Park; observe "Interpretive Magic" in between sessions; learn from dynamic and engaging presenters focusing on "Living the Partnership," "Going from Good to Great," and "Keeping your House in Order;" and meeting and learning from the best and brightest minds doing what you are doing – making a difference in California State Parks!

None of these promises, however, was why I attended this year's conference. I had previous out-of-town vacation plans during this time and knew that I would most likely not be funded by the Department to attend this conference due to budget constraints, so I was not even considering attending. When the Executive Director of the Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Stewards) mentioned how great it would be for someone from State Parks attend this with her and a board member from Stewards, I realized I needed to attend as the temporary Cooperating Association Liaison for Stewards, not to have a great time in Santa Cruz, network with other staff and association board members and possibly learn something about

cooperating associations, but to show Stewards the support they need and deserve for all of the hard work and support they provide to State Parks. Due to a CSPRA scholarship and a slight adjustment to vacation plans, I was able to attend part of the conference and truly wish I could have attended all of it.

Highlights of this year's conference are as follows:

--- The Thursday night welcome and mixer at the Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park. During this opener, we made tortillas using a tortilla press, ate delicious food, toured the buildings of the park with an interpreter, mingled with board members, association staff and state park staff and were welcomed to the conference. I also got to know **Marie Gray**, a Steward's Board Member, a little better and was able to talk informally with **Michele**

Luna, the Steward's Executive Director in a relaxed atmosphere.

--- The Friday morning Interpretive Magic with **Martha Nitzberg**

where I got to dress up as a chrysalis to help demonstrate the life cycle of a Monarch Butterfly.

---The Friday General sessions which included "Living the Partnership: The Strength and Successful Partnerships" presented by **Donna Pozzi** and **John Mott**, "Going from Good to Great: The New World Order for Cooperating Associations: PRC 513" presented by **John Mott** and **Randy Wildera**, "Keeping Your House in Order: Play to Win: Mission to Action" presented



John Mott leads a session

by **Lance Linares** and "Living the Partnership: the Healthy Trails Challenge program" presented by **Bonnie Broderick** and **Kathleen Hooper**.

I learned a lot at this year's CALPA conference, met many people and experienced many things. The most beneficial part of the conference was the support I was able to demonstrate to the Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods staff and board members for all of the excellent support they provide us at Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve, Austin Creek State Recreation Area and Sonoma Coast State Park. We would not be able to provide the quality and quantity of interpretive programs to the public and complete the numerous restoration projects and trail work without them.



Interpreter Julie Sidel in Santa Cruz

CSPRA Chronicles

Dave Gould has joined the ranks of contributing writers to the WAVE. Dave will be coordinating an article highlighting a different CSPRA member for each edition. In his many years in working for State Parks and being a longtime member of CSPRA, Dave has found that the personal and professional lives of CSPRA members are quite varied and fascinating. He hopes to chronicle these stories and bring them to you with each edition. So enjoy the first installment.

The CSPRA Chronicles...Gail Sevrens

Gail Sevrens agreed to be the first in hopefully a long list of CSPRA members highlighted in each edition of the *WAVE*. Gail is the most recent past president of CSPRA and is a very dedicated park professional. Here is an insight into Gail's life:

Where do you work, what is your job classification? I am currently the District Services Manager (Senior Park & Recreation Specialist) at Colorado Desert District. Our District includes: Anza-Borrego Desert SP, Cuyamaca Rancho SP, Indio Hills Palms, Palomar Mountain SP, Picacho SRA, and Salton Sea SRA.

Where were you born and where did you grow up? I was born in San Jose, CA but moved to San Diego when I was one.

Do you have any hobbies? Disc golf (aka Frisbee golf), body surfing, kayaking, camping, reading, cooking, attending concerts. I don't have a dog, but I like to visit dog parks to see all the dogs at play. I speak Spanish and French, and have studied a little German and Portuguese.

Did you visit any parks while you were growing up? Do you have any park-related stories from your youth you would like to share? I camped with Girl Scouts in Cuyamaca and Picacho (canoeing on the Colorado River) and in Anza-Borrego as a young adult. When I was five, my dad taught me how to catch waves at Torrey Pines SR. Also as a young adult I was camping one time at Palomar Mountain. One of the group brought a friend, who was dating one of the rangers there. I remember thinking I wished I had gone into park work. I



later realized it wasn't too late...

Where did you go to school? Do you have any academic degrees? I have a BA from UC Davis in International Relations, with my junior year abroad in Poitiers, France. I also have a Masters at UCSD in International Relations with an emphasis on Environmental Policy.

What were the jobs you held before joining California State Parks? Worked in environmental nonprofits and academia, freelance writer, copy-editor, wine exporter.

When did you get the idea that you would like to work for California State Parks? (See above re: my trip to Palomar, but also:) I was doing work in US-Mexico border issues and met the education coordinator at the Tijuana Estuary/Border Field SP. I went to her and said I wanted to do something, anything there. She said I could volunteer with the school field trip programs. What?! I didn't like kids and had never worked with them! But I learned on the job and a year later was able to be hired on as a seasonal.

Please tell us about your State Park career. Tijuana Estuary: Volunteer, Park Interpretive Specialist, Environmental Sciences Intern, State Park Interpretive Assistant, State Park In-

terpreter I; Bay Area District: Regional Interpretive Specialist; Northern Service Center: Associate Park and Recreation Specialist (CEQA, permits, etc.); Colorado Desert District: State Park Interpreter III, District Services Manager.

What have been some of the more interesting things you have done in your State Park career? One time I decided to do a Junior Ranger program about gray whales and wanted to illustrate to the kids how the whales use their baleen to filter through the seawater to catch krill to eat. I got a bucket of water, a scoop-type filter like the kind used to clean fish tanks, and some Styrofoam packing peanuts to serve as the krill. But I broke the cardinal rule of testing your program before delivery. So when I stood up in front of the kids and dropped the Styrofoam "krill" into the bucket of water, it turned out they were not made of Styrofoam but were rather the new, eco-friendly degradable kind. All my krill dissolved before I could do the demo!

What type of things do you do in your current assignment? I do a lot of people management, which often boils down to communication. I find that we are often so busy "doing our jobs" that we don't take the time to talk to each other. Just pulling people together around the table and talking through the issues works almost every time. I'm a big fan of face-to-face communication; emails are so easy to misinterpret and consume more time than we realize. I observed one supervisor who went "on patrol" in

See CHRONICLES, page 8

CHRONICLES, from page 7

the offices each day, going from office to office and discussing all the pending issues. It was incredibly effective and I try to imitate that. I also do a lot of analysis on how external or internal projects might impact the parks, and work on proactive ways to reduce or avoid impacts.

What is it like to live and work in the Anza-Borrego Desert? Any special coping mechanisms to deal with the summer heat? In our town we have many seasonal residents known as “snowbirds” who winter here and return to places like Montana, Minnesota, and Canada in late spring. I like to say I live here all four seasons: fall, winter, spring, and air conditioning.

How long have you been a CSPRA member and what inspired you to become a member? I’ve been a member for something like a dozen years. I was at the Mott Training Center for “Introduction to State Parks” training and some of us were sitting around one evening. Then-President Dana Jones came up to talk about CSPRA. She handed me an application and said “You will join.” The rest is history.

What was it like to be President of CSPRA? It was such an honor to be a part of the history of this organization. Having the opportunity to meet and work with some of the legendary “greats” of our department was an incredible experience. And it was an amazing learning experience—I had no idea going into it how much I would learn. No idea.

What is your favorite California State Park? Parks are like children—we’re not supposed to have favorites. But, I will say my “new favorite” park is the Salton Sea SRA. When you are standing on its peaceful shores, gazing at the Santa Rosa Mountains on the

other side, watching white pelicans skim over the surface---now that is an experience. It reminds me of some of the natural spots of Baja California. I think it is one of our park system’s best-kept secrets.

If you could wave a magic wand and have one wish come true for California State Parks, what would that be?

Stable, adequate funding.

Is there a message you would like to share with CSPRA members? Don’t ever give up the fight for parks and don’t underestimate what you as an individual and you as a member of this incredible organization can do.

17th Annual, CSPRA Sponsored “California State Park Retiree’s Rendezvous”

by Kirk Wallace, Rendezvous Chair

Time to grease the axles, hook-up the wagons and head for the 17th annual “Retiree’s Rendezvous” at McConnell State Recreation Area, near Delhi, California, October 2 through 4, 2009.

The “Clyde Strickler Road-Kill Grille” will be held the evening of Friday, October 2. Bring whatever you run over, catch, shoot or buy, to Bar-B-Q for yourself (or to share), and a side dish to share with others. A Continental Breakfast will be served on the morning of October



Jim Peat and Mike Curry at the grill

3. The Saturday night (October 3) dinner will be semi-potluck style with the participants to provide salads, veggie plates or French bread. The committee will provide the Tri-tip / Chicken, Beans and Dessert.

The Raffle of donated items will be held after the Saturday night dinner. Donations will be gratefully accepted. Any income, over and above the cost of the “Rendezvous”, will be placed into the CSPRA Jim Whitehead Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The Camaraderie of old and new friends is the main reason for the “Retirees’ Rendezvous”, therefore the “Rendezvous” is put on as an informal gathering of friends and acquaintances that have a common tie with each other through the California State Park System as Active or Retired Employees, family or friends. Should you know someone who fits this loose definition, that is not receiving “Rendezvous” information, please let us know. Send their name & address to Allison Pedley, Executive Manager, CSPRA @ P.O. Box 10606, Truckee, CA 96162 and / or copy this info and give it to them. Then, bring them along.

Contact Kirk Wallace (209) 586-3209; kirkw@mlode.com; rendezvous@cspira.com. We look forward to receiving your reservation form prior to 9-15-09, and seeing you at the 17th annual Rendezvous.

Retirees can keep in touch, send email to graybears@cspira.com

ROBERT PERKINS
1921 - 2009

Bob passed away in May, 2009 at the age of 87. After serving in the Navy during WWII, he worked for Fish and Game in Redding. During his long State Park career, Bob worked at Hearst Castle, Santa Cruz and Shasta areas. Bob retired as a Superintendent in the North Coast area. He retired to Cave Junction, OR, and enjoyed fishing, golf, and his grandchildren.



GAIL KIRSCHENMAN
1956- 2009

Gail passed away in May, 2009 at the age of 52. She worked in state service for 24 years, starting out at EDD and the Department of Consumer Affairs, before coming to State Parks. Gail worked in the Personnel Section, the Budget Section and the Training Section. She retired in 2007 as a Park and Recreation Specialist in the Administrative Services Division.



EUGENE JUNETTE
1926-2009

Gene passed away in May, 2009 at the age of 83. After serving in the Army in WWII, he had a 30 year career with California State Parks, starting as a Ranger in Cuyamaca Rancho SP in 1952. He worked in Anza Borrego and San Clemente and retired as Chief Ranger of the Goleta Area in 1982.

MARY FAIRCHILD

Mary, who passed away in May, was a part of the park family with her husband Frank, who worked in Anza Borrego and Mitchell Caverns, and was Chief Ranger at San Diego Coast Area.

World War II Firefighter and Retired Ranger Honored

In World War II, retired Mojave River District Chief Ranger **Jim Davis, R11** was an Army Engineer soldier fire fighter assigned to the 1204th Army Engineer Fire Fighting Platoon that fought the Army's fires, military and civilian, in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany. Some decades ago, Jim became interested in the story of these units including the one in which he served. Several years of research brought to light a number of things. One, the Army did not know how many of these Platoons they created or where they were sent in the war. And two, Army historians had left this handful of tiny units out of the history of the war. Largely from memory Jim wrote and published, in the late 1990s, the history of the 1204th, copies of which now reside in major Army and Army Corps of Engineers History Offices.

In recent years with the help of the talented CSPRA Webmaster **Jeff Price**, Jim added two websites to his writing efforts. The first discussed the WWII Engineer Fire Fighting Platoons in a broad view. The second discussed and illustrated the fire fighting apparatus used by these Platoons. This site is recognized planet-wide as one of the premier works in this field.

Two years ago Jim was contacted by a Dutch citizen, a collector, restorer, displayer and re-enactor of and with WWII Army vehicles. This gentleman sought identification of a WWII Army Engineer fire truck he had purchased and guidance in restoring it to its original condition. This truck is possibly the only survivor of the WWII Army fire trucks in Europe. The work was completed earlier this spring. To honor the Platoons and to thank Jim for his efforts the owner placed "Jim" and the 1204th's unit identifiers on the truck. He also asked that Jim come to The Netherlands to



drive the truck at its "Rollout" and dedication. And, so after sixtyfive years Jim returned to Europe, a land he had seen earlier.

The "Rollout" was part of a meeting of Dutch WWII Army vehicle collectors/restorers. Food, fun and convoys of ancient WWII Army vehicles of all sizes shapes and types traveling through the Dutch countryside made for a wonderful party. On the somber side, visits to cemeteries of Canadian and British troops lost in the retaking of Belgium and The Netherlands and the laying of wreaths at memorials for Dutch Resistance fighters completed the gathering.

Jim's host graciously took him to the US Military Cemetery at Henri Chapelle, Belgium where Jim was able to pay his respects to an Army Engineer soldier fire fighter who fell on Christmas Eve, 1944, in the Battle of the Bulge. And then on to Heidelberg, Germany where Jim's war ended and he started home in late 1945.

Beautiful green clean lands, lovely friendly people, memories of times and places long forgotten renewed plus new memories made this journey to yesterday and today A Thing to Remember for All Time.

www.firefighters.mil-fire.net

www.firetrucks.mil-fire.net

PROMOTING PROFESSIONALISM IN
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Membership Mail to: CSPRA,
Allison Pedley, P.O. Box 10606,
Truckee, CA 96162. Or join online
at: www.cspira.com/membership
For all except "Active" or "Active
retired" 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

Check one: I prefer getting the WAVE
_____ as a PDF file by email;
_____ by postal mail (hard copy).

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

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 _____

EXECUTIVE MANAGER



by **Allison Pedley**, Executive Manager

There's been a lot going on in the CSPRA office lately, and new memberships are no exception. First I'd like to welcome a rush of recent academy graduates! Among these signing up as new members of CSPRA include **Jason Archuleta, Emily Bertram, Shalon Cunningham, Mike Dippel, John Hardcastle, David Hart, Philip Hauck, Brady Her, John Hunt, Justin McHenry, Brian Meyer, Robb Mullins, Vaughn Pani, David Rodrigues, and Paul Wissler.** Also joining CSPRA recently are **Maria Mowrey** and **Connie Latham** from OHMVR in Sacramento, **Rebecca Carruthers** from the Archaeology, History, and Museums Division, and **Jeff Miller**, a guide at Hearst Castle! CSPRA also has two new retired "GrayBears" joining on -- **Bruce Lynn**, now residing in Gold Canyon, AZ, and **Janene Woolley** in Orangevale, CA. Welcome to CSPRA!

In CSPRA administrative news, voting members of CSPRA who are not currently signed up to receive our newsletter electronically, should have recently received a green postcard from us, asking for your up-to-date e-mail address. If you have not already gotten your e-mail address to me, please do so. Our intent is not to bombard you with e-banter, but to make sure that when important information needs to get to you more quickly than the newsletter will allow, or we need your input on a critical matter, we'd like to be able to reach you rapidly and efficiently. CSPRA is, after all, a member-based organization, and now more than ever we want to make sure our voting members know they have a voice, and that you're apprised of issues that might be of importance to your professions. As well, the Board is gearing up to conduct a member survey, and having your e-mail address will facilitate this endeavor. For those of you who choose not to provide your e-mails, know that we will strive to keep you up-to-date with our website and newsletter, and encourage your input through whatever alternative means you choose.

Hang in there, everyone. This has not been an easy time to say the least.....



Interpreter **John Goldberg** talks to schoolchildren across the state and country from a TV studio at Seacliff State Beach. The PORTS program brings the parks to the classroom from several locations in the state.

humor in unicorn



Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops

by Jeff Price, retired

Mixed Metaphor definition: a combination of metaphors that together produce a ridiculous effect of carelessly strung together clichés. Feel free to send along any overheard slips of the tongue -
webmaster @cspira.com

Double gift.

The offer was free gratis.

Mobile activation.

His car was stolen because he left the keys running.

... even a wet one?

You have to look at people as individuals, and can't just throw a blanket over them all.

Trauma theatrics.

After the shooting I assume victims will suffer some symptoms of post dramatic stress syndrome.

Can't explain 'em all; we just report 'em.

I'd love to get my finger behind the wallpaper to know what they are talking about in there.

District Reps

| District | Name | Email Address |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Angeles | Frank Padilla | fpadilla@parks.ca.gov |
| LEES | Mark Hada | mhada@parks.ca.gov |
| Central Valley | Wayne Harrison | wharr@parks.ca.gov |
| | Greg Martin | gmart@parks.ca.gov |
| Channel Coast | Tyson Butzke | tyson@cspira.com |
| Colorado Desert | Gail Sevens | gsevr@parks.ca.gov |
| Diablo Vista | Carl Nielson | cnielson@parks.ca.gov |
| | Ann Meneguzzi | amene@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 | Dana Jones | djones@parks.ca.gov |
| Mott Training Center | Sara Skinner | siskinner@parks.ca.gov |
| North Coast Redwoods | Rick Sermon | sermon@wave.net |
| | Jenny Donovan | roadkill151@aol.com |
| North Bay | Karen Broderick | karen@mcn.org |
| Northern Buttes | Lori Martin | lmartin@parks.ca.gov |
| San Luis Obispo | Nick Franco | nfranco@hearstcastle.com |
| | Robert Latson | rlatson@aol.com |
| Santa Cruz | Charles Edgemon | charlesedgemon@earthlink.net |
| | Linda Hitchcock | lhitchcock@parks.ca.gov |
| Sierra | Susan Grove | susan@gbis.com |
| Tehachapi | Sean Malis | sean.malis@us.army.mil |
| OHV | John Pelonio | jpelonio@parks.ca.gov |

Representatives are needed for:

Orange Coast, Mendocino, Capitol, 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.

GET CONNECTED

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

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS RETIRING?

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

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.

E-mail graybears@cspira.com



California State Park Rangers Association
P.O. Box 10606
Truckee, CA 96162
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