



The CSPRA

Wave

Newsletter

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 1

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2011

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

2011 PARKS CONFERENCE



*Pam Armas passed
the President's gavel
to Nina Gordon*

*Dave Updike, Jeff
Olfs, and Mike
Lynch traded
patches (below)*



YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS WILL SAVE MONEY AND PAPER AND HELP US
STAY IN TOUCH. PLEASE SEND TO ALLISON@CSPRA.COM



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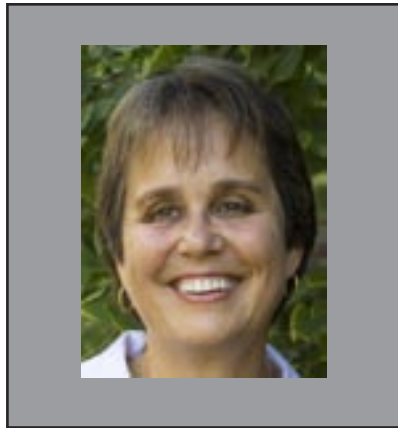
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*Cover images: 2011 California
Parks Conference, courtesy of
Mike Lynch and Mark Hada.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



by Nina Gordon, CSPRA President

This is your organization. I am honored to be in a position to help guide CSPRA over the next two years. I am committed to making sure CSPRA serves as a support and resource for members. In this time of severe cutbacks consider CSPRA as a resource for you. We are a member organization whose primary purpose is to serve our members. We will be turning 50 soon! (more to come on that). We have a proud long-standing reputation for promoting professionalism and being an advocate for California State Parks. Times are changing – and we need to help guide and inform and advocate regarding those changes.

My vision-

Stay Connected and Current- We heard from the CSPRA survey that one of the best benefits of CSPRA was to stay connected. CSPRA's communication tools can work for you. The newsletter will emphasize state parks news and features on employees. The Wave will have a new look, featuring updated and current information including legislation, professional development opportunities, Department news, upcoming conference information, employee changes and updates (current and retired), and department initiatives. We also have the Board member photos so you can put a face to a name.

Many thanks to Webmaster Jeff Price and Wave editor Janet Carle for their assistance. Board member Sara Skinner will work with Jeff to ensure the website is updated regularly.

Supporting members through Training/Professional Development Opportunities

-This is a priority. We can be another source for creative ways to further your career and nurture your interests and skills. CSPRA has resources, financially and talent, to provide valuable and timely training for members. State Park training will undoubtedly be reduced with the severe budget cuts. We have some financial resources available through the generous donations of **Bill Lane** and others and I want to pursue putting those to good use for their intended purpose. CSPRA can provide training benefits such as regional classes, webinars, etc. on topics that are useful and timely for you. Please tell us what classes you would be interested in. CSPRA also continues to offer scholarships for training opportunities. We can promote opportunities both in the Department and outside. We will have a section on the website and in the newsletter on training opportunities outside the Department.

We not only want to keep you informed, provide member support through training and other opportunities but we want to hear from you. Check the website for current information. We also want to get your thoughts and opinions and inform you of timely opportunities. The best way we can do this cost effectively and in a timely manner is through email. **Please provide your email address to Allison Pedley at allison@cspira.com.**

Being transparent- We are member organization and you should be informed of what the Board is doing. All the Board Actions will be posted on the web as soon as they are voted on. The minutes will be also be available for anyone interested. All the Board members are available for your input

See PRESIDENT, page 3

PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT, from page 2

and ideas. Please see the photos on the web and in this issue so you can put a face to a name. We have a dynamic and talented Board and I am excited that we have Archeologist **Chris Corey** joining the team.

Keeping our own house in order- I have asked the Board to review the current by-laws and Constitution and propose amendments for you to decide on as members. Some have been in place for many years and may need to change. You can find the current Constitution and By-laws on the website under "governance" or contact Allison Pedley for a copy (800) 749-8749. Please email suggestions to Allison Pedley (Executive Manager) by May 1, allison@cpsra.com.

Support and involve the District Representatives- I appreciate and recognize the willingness of our CSPRA District Representatives to step up and offer to help. You are all a great resource to help guide the organization and keep the communication flowing.

Above all, keep the long term vision in mind... and with that I end with a photo...



^^ **Erin**, daughter of **Brian and Joanie Cahill**, one of our next generation of park advocates

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(see p. 9,
10 CSPRA
Chronicles)



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2011 California Parks Conference

Conference Keynote ~ Jim Brady

by **Jeff Price**, CSPRA Webmaster

The 2011 California Parks Conference had the pleasure of welcoming Jim Brady as a presenter and keynote speaker. In addition to carrying out those duties, Jim was recognized by PRAC at the Conference by receiving their Honorary Lifetime Member Award for his work in parks nationally and internationally.

Jim's primary presentation focused on helping individual park employees see the benefits of excellence and being ready to handle any situation, and worked around the theme of "Happiness is a journey not a destination." His other very well received session focused on dealing with supervision and how to fix a broken boss and was titled, "DETOXIFYING MANAGEMENT: Solutions and Considerations to Achieve and Maintain a Positive Workplace Environment." If you write to CSPRA, using [webmaster@cspira.com], both of these programs will soon be available in PowerPoint for your review and reference.

In 1961, as a fresh college graduate, with a wife and baby on the way, Jim accepted his first seasonal job as a ranger with the National Park Service. His career quickly moved forward with many new challenges. Starting in the entrance station at Petrified Forest and progressing to a protection ranger position, Jim experienced a long and fascinating career as a ranger's ranger.

From law enforcement to Search and Rescue, interpretation and training and management, there are few people who have shaped the careers of park rangers like Jim. His experience includes working in large western parks such as Yellowstone and Yosemite to the urban parks of the North Atlantic Region. He spent 5 years at the Horace Albright Training Center as an instructor and then

Director, working to get the best from every student that passed his way.

From 1991 to 1995 he served as the Chief Ranger of the National Park Service, working to revitalize the ranger program and improve the future for the generalist ranger. Following his years in Washington D.C. he served as the Superintendent of Glacier Bay National Park. Awarded both the National Park Service *Harry Yount Award* and the *Sequoia Award*, Jim closed out his 38 year career in 1998. Since his retirement he has continued to share his knowledge and enthusiasm with the next generation of rangers in the U.S. and abroad.

Thanks to Jim Brady for lifting our Conference to new heights.

Jim Brady meeting President Bill Clinton in the Oval Office.



*To Jim Brady
With Appreciation
Bill Clinton*

2011 California Parks Conference

by **Tracy Weisberg**, Ranger
Mendocino

Imagine for a moment that you are in a place surrounded by people who love State Parks as much as you do. A place where the enthusiasm for working in parks is shared by all, and their excitement is contagious. I was blessed with such an experience at the California State Park Rangers Associations (CSPRA) conference in Yosemite. Aside from the breathtaking scenery, I got to attend all types of classes and meet all kinds of people. The classes ranged from interpretation to resource management and public safety. The diversity of State Park employees included interpreters, maintenance mechanics, rangers, and district superintendents.

I learned that there is a miscon-

ception today by many State Park employees that CSPRA is primarily a "Rangers" association. The truth is that CSPRA has always been an organization of park professionals dedicated to advancement of the highest principles of public service, established to support and preserve California State Parks for present and future generations.

This was truly a great experience to share and grow as a professional. I am looking forward to telling all our district employees about the opportunities available to them and hope that they consider attending next year's conference, tentatively planned for the Santa Monica Mountains in March of 2012.

2011 California Parks Conference

Diane Porter Cooley and Don Cooley Honorary Rangers

by Lynn Rhodes, CSPRA Board

Don Cooley and Diane Porter Cooley have been named Honorary California State Park Rangers by CSPRA. Mr. and Mrs. Cooley are special examples of what can be accomplished when valuing resource conservation, philanthropy, public service, and stewardship. It is unusual for CSPRA to nominate two people for this prestigious award. However, Mr. and Mrs. Cooley are unusual in their service and contributions to resource protection and to California State Parks.

Don Cooley has supported State and National Parks for many years. He was a Volunteer Park Ranger at Ano Nuevo State Reserve with the Mounted Assistance Unit for over 15 years. He has served for over 17 years and still serves as Trustee of the California State Parks Foundation. Currently he is focusing on the Pigeon Point Lighthouse Restoration Program in San Mateo County.

Don grew up in West Lafayette, Indiana where he received his Engineering Degree at Purdue University. He received his Business Degree at Stanford University where he met Diane in 1951 during a Stanford ski trip.

Don served in World War II in the Army, fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was a P.O.W. in Germany. Mr. Cooley had a long career with IBM Corporation in marketing and management. In retirement, he manages ranch and farming properties and serves on the boards of several foundations. He enjoys traveling and horseback camping trips.

Don's advice to State Park staff:

"Embrace the challenges. Do more with less and increase professionalism. Maximize use of your resources. Use time and resources efficiently. Think of volunteers as Public Park Ambassadors. Encourage people to actually get in there and help. Suggest they (the public) pay to go to Park

Management Camp, kind of like Earth Watch. Embrace the custodial part of parks and what the public sees; not just rules. We must increase protection of the parks for the public not just from the public."

Diane Porter Cooley grew up in North Monterey County, Pajaro Valley and Watsonville, where generations of the Porter family have lived. One of her first teachers in this rural area was the indomitable **Miss Zmudowski**, donor of a State Beach of the same name. Diane's great-great grandfather was the first Customs Officer at the historic Monterey Custom House in what is now Monterey State Historic Park, appointed to the position by Abraham Lincoln. Diane literally grew up outside, on her family ranch and property, riding horses in the neighboring hillsides with wildlife as her friends. Diane was a school leader on many levels and is recognized in the Watsonville Hall of Fame. She went on to Stanford which opened a new world to her. It is where she met Don and they married in 1952.

Diane and Don relocated for a while in Santa Monica where Don had been transferred with IBM. There Diane served as a Girl Scout Leader and also as a docent at the Los Angeles Zoo. She was President of the Nature Conservancy, Southern California Chapter, and joined the effort to include Santa Monica Mountains in the State and National Park Systems by acquiring Cold Creek Canyon as a Natural Preserve.

After Diane's father **Tom Porter** died in 1978, Don and Diane moved to their present ranch, the Circle P, in the Pajaro Valley. Diane became involved as a founding member of the Forest of Nisene Marks Advisory



^^Pam Armas, Don Cooley, Diane Porter Cooley, Nina Gordon

Committee, Diane's family owned property in the Forest of Nisene Marks and she was instrumental in coordinating a successful effort to have the property donated to California State Parks. Diane was the first recipient of the Santa Cruz County Land Trust's Conservationist of the Year Award in 2007.

Diane's ideas for State Parks:

"Engage in more partnerships with others including businesses that live next to the parks as stakeholders. Send a message that everyone is a steward of the Parks, not just the professionals. Hire teenagers. For the public she suggests: "Be active in the parks don't just go to them. Pick up trash, volunteer, keep trails open, work with park networks."

Don and Diane recently donated a conservation easement on 680 acres of their family home, the Circle P Ranch, and another 360 acres of prime land they own in the Pajaro Valley near Elkhorn Slough. They plan to place conservation easements on all of their family owned lands for the benefit of future generations, highlighting the compatibility of private, working land ownership with the principles of wildlife and land conservation.

Don Cooley and Diane Porter Cooley now join the ranks of **Walt Disney** and **Ansel Adams**, with the distinguished title of "Honorary California State Park Ranger."

2011 California Parks Conference

Special Guest Speaker Andrew Fisher

by *Lynn Rhodes, CSPRA Board*

Andrew Fisher was a Special Guest Speaker for the Parks Conference, giving a very interesting presentation on the role of leadership in changing culture. Mr. Fisher recently retired as Superintendent of the Merseyside Police Department in Liverpool, England. I am fortunate to have had first-hand experience working with Mr. Fisher on a number of subjects such as Diversity, Leadership, Employee Recognition, and the perceptions of colleagues and stress regarding gender in policing. Mr. Fisher's 30 year career involved roles in communications, crime and public order and introducing the Merseyside Police to Problem Oriented Policing in the late 1990s.

When Andrew was promoted to Superintendent in January of 2006 he was given the challenge of creating a Citizen Focus Department with strategic responsibility for neighborhood policing, improving public confidence and satisfaction and community engagement. His department also had the lead for diversity issues and strategic responsibilities relating to hate crime. He focused like a laser beam in order to bring about positive results.



^^Andrew with PRAC's **Dave Updike** and the Bobby hat donated to auction

His efforts led to numerous national awards including National Customer Service Awards two years in a row and high rankings in the Stonewall Workplace Equalities Index and with the Pink Paper as a Gay Friendly Employer. In 2009 the Citizen Focus Department was highly commended in the National Justice Awards for breaking down barriers between the criminal justice agencies and the di-

verse communities of Merseyside.

Andrew was available throughout the conference to talk with attendees and enjoyed several of the training sessions. He is currently undertaking his doctorate at London Metropolitan University where his thesis is on the role of leadership in changing culture. He can be reached at: mail@andrewcfisherassociates.com, andrew@thewowawards.co.uk and <http://deepbluelight.blogspot.com>

The 2012 California Parks Conference

by *Nina Gordon*

The March 2012 California Parks Conference promises to be very exciting, informative and lots of fun. The conference will feature Malibu Creek State Park, Gillette Ranch and the other parks featured in the collaborative management of California State Parks, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the National Park Service. The conference hotel will be in

the Calabasas/Agoura Hills area. Sessions will include successful methods for finding funding, cultural resources, natural resources and public safety and an expanded GrayBears track. We hope to have sessions POST certified and also meet any interpretive requirements as part of our commitment to employee development. We look forward to a chance for both current and retired employees to share ideas,

resources and stay in touch. Keep checking for more updates at www.cspra.com and upcoming newsletters. Contact Nina (nina@cspra.com) for current employees or Jeff Price for GrayBears (webmaster@cspra.com) if you can help.





^^Photo award winners, L to R: Mike Lynch, Patrick Boyle, Richard Weiner, William Steen
BELOW: Millerton Lake eagle tour



^^Don Cooley, Pam Armas, Lynn Rhodes, Diane Porter Cooley, and Nina Gordon




CALIFORNIA LEAGUE OF PARK ASSOCIATIONS
"Key Partners for the Future"
Annual CALPA Conference
May 12-15, 2011



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Reflections on the 25th Annual California Indian Conference

by **Ty Smith**, Museum Services Manager
California State Capitol Museum

If I had not seen a few frantic academics rushing out of the hotel lobby, I might have missed the shuttle to the conference venue, UC Irvine. I could have walked, but I'm glad I did not because my timeliness was rewarded with an inspirational opening talk by the venerable **Malcolm Margolin** and a moving performance by Luiseño artist **James Luna**. Both speakers set the tone for what would unfurl into a truly remarkable experience.

The goal of each California Indian Conference is to facilitate "the exchange of views and information among academics, educators, California Indians, students, tribal nations, native organizations and community members." Beyond a general commitment to provide a venue for the above, each conference takes on a unique flavor. Perhaps most astonishing is the fact that there is no central committee or formal organization, and there are no yearly dues. Each year, maintaining a loose commitment to alternate between Northern and Southern California, interested groups, often affiliated with a college or university, offer to host the next conference. For the last 25 years, through some inexplicable calculus of volunteer commitment, likely and unlikely sponsorships, and perhaps a little luck, the conference materializes.

This year's conference was no different, though the fact that it was the twenty-fifth anniversary made it a little more special. The confer-

ence theme of "Retrospectives and Perspectives," created a mood of reflection, especially among longtime conference participants and the conference founders. It was interesting to hear from the founders about their initial goals and successes, as well as their challenges. Of course, such reflections elicited from the next generation a renewed commitment to carry forward the conference with renewed vigor in the future.

As usual, the conference papers and presentations were top-notch. As a historian and interpreter, I gravitated toward presentations dealing with California Indian history and issues of representations of California Indian experiences. I heard a diverse range of presentations dealing with everything from the Intra-tribal political dimensions of the Acjachemen Uprising against Mission San Juan Capistrano, to the politics of modern California Indians telling their own stories at Missions Santa Barbara and Dolores (located in San Francisco).

As it turned out, I was not the only participant from California State Parks. In fact, there was a panel discussion hosted by Parks personnel. **Cathy Taylor**, Capitol District Superintendent and **Ileana Maestas** updated participants on the ongoing efforts of the California Indian Heritage Center. **Kathy Lindahl** and **Paulette Hennum**, from the Archaeology, History and Museum Division,

presented on the Department's consultation policy and issues of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The participation of State Park employees demonstrated a commitment from the Department to serve these very important communities. If there is one common denominator in the California State Parks System it is that each of its 278 units, whatever their designation, were once the homelands of Native California Indians and continue to be important places to modern California Indian people. In this respect, while the Department was well represented at this year's conference, many more of us should attend.

I have attended many of the past conferences, but because of increased time commitments, furloughs and travel freezes, I have missed the conference for the last three years. I would have missed it again this year if it had not been for the CSPRA training grant program. I therefore wish to thank CSPRA's current leadership and members for the financial support. It was a personally fulfilling experience, to be sure, but it is also my sincere intent to put into action the things I learned and the contacts I made for the benefit of CSPRA and to advance the mission of California State Parks.

The next California Indian Conference will be held in Chico, CA, October, 28-29, 2011. Please spread the word and plan to attend.



Dave Gould is highlighting a different CSPRA member for each edition of the WAVE. In his many years 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. This issue highlights Sara M. Skinner of the Mott Training Center.. Enjoy ...

CSPRA Chronicles...Sara M. Skinner

Where do you work, what is your job classification, and how long have you worked for California State Parks?

I currently work for the Training Section, assigned to the William Penn Mott, Jr. Training Center as a State Park Interpreter II/Training Specialist. I like to tell people that I started working for California State Parks when I was in third grade and became a Junior Ranger. But, officially, I started as a Park Interpretive Specialist Seasonal (a PISS and proud of it) in the summer of 1997 in the Big Sur Sector.

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was raised in Sonoma County, CA, Santa Rosa to be precise. My parents moved to Sonoma County from Marin County when I was a baby for the better house and a closer commute to the wine country.

Tell us a little about your family.

My father is a retired high school and college English teacher/professor whose hobbies include watercolor painting, gardening, and photography. My mom serves on many committees, quilts, and for over twenty years was the primary person counting all of the money that the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County brought in for the annual Human Race event. My sister taught elementary school for a while and is now working as an Education Coordinator for the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center in Santa Rosa. She is also the proud mother of my beautiful niece (and my parents' only grandchild). We grew up camping and hiking every summer in national and state parks as often as we could.

What is your educational background?

I had planned on attending school



in Oregon until a dean I met with encouraged me to pursue the Natural Resources Planning and Interpretation major at Humboldt State University. So, off I went to spend four years at HSU, worked for the Arcata Police Department when not in school, and graduated in 1998 with a B.S. in Natural Resources Interpretation with an emphasis on cultural and wildlife management. I recently received my A.S. degree in Administration of Justice and would like to get a Masters of Arts degree in Public History someday.

What are your hobbies and what do you like to do when you are off of work?

Photography is a hobby I enjoy and would love to dedicate more time to (more in the next question). I enjoy reading and have over 300 books on my "to read" shelf at home. My co-workers will tell you that my hobby is organizing, which is fairly true. I am enjoying being in a great relationship (which happens to be long distance) and we see each other as often as we can. I also try to visit my family and friends that I have had since preschool all the way through college. I enjoy traveling.

You are quite an active photographer. Tell us a little about your interests in "looking through the lens."

When I was growing up my father was primarily the nature photographer and my mom was the people

photographer. I started taking photos of friends in high school and would make a photo album every year that my friends would enjoy looking through. I quickly became known as the informal historian and that carried through to college. As my friends started getting married and having kids, I went to over 18 weddings in a five year period. My gift to the couple (in addition to their registry gift) was always several rolls of pictures I took informally at the wedding, printed, and delivered to their house before they returned from their honeymoon. For my thirtieth birthday, my high school girlfriends chipped in and bought me my first digital camera. I slowly started moving towards nature shots because it was easier, the plants/animals didn't critique their shots, and enough of my friends always brought cameras to every people event. I want to become better at night photography and learn all the functions of my camera. I would like to visit and take photos of every one of our 278 parks.

When did you get the idea that you would like to work for California State Parks?

My grandmother was always a nature lover; she joined organizations that appreciated the ocean and earth. She would often enroll me as a member, getting me Ranger Rick magazine as a kid, and telling me that we have a purpose to protect the creatures that cannot fight humans for a place on this Earth. In elementary school my class participated in the Environmental Living Program (ELP) at Angel Island State Park. The experience changed my life as I marched in the Civil War era as PFC Skinner. I knew then, when I saw the State Park Ranger leading our program, that was the job for me. As a kid I would sit at Stinson Beach and stare up at Mt.

See CHRONICLES, page 10

SARA M. SKINNER

CHRONICLES, from page 8

Tam. I looked at my dad one day and said, "I want to be in charge of Mt. Tam". He never said I couldn't. I met with my guidance counselor in high school and mapped out course work that would assist me in getting into a college where I could pursue this dream. I went off to Humboldt, starting working for CSP, was able to lead an ELP in a state park, and here I am.

Tell us a little about the positions you have held in your SP career.

After working as the PISS in Big Sur, I became a PISS at Prairie Creek Redwoods SP in the summer of 1998. I wanted to be a Ranger and went through the process to be on the list. I was supposed to start BVST in the fall of 1998. But, there were a few things I was questioning, so I put myself through the NPS Seasonal Ranger Academy that fall instead. I quickly realized that my eye-for-an-eye sense of justice wouldn't work when I saw animals or kids getting abused or hurt in our parks. I decided to seek a calmer avenue of park employment and pursued the Interpreter series. I was hired as a PISS for the Sonoma/Petaluma Sector of State Parks in 1999. While working for the sector, I fell in love with Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park. They managed to establish a Guide position and I successfully competed for the job. The park hadn't had that position before, so I was able to make it into what it needed for the park to be more successful. As a Guide, I collected day use fees, planned/presented school tours, oversaw the planning, funding, and presenting of the Environmental Living Program, planned three park events and established two new ones, mucked out the horse stall, did animal care, prepared deposits/ROC's (one of my favorite things), weed whacked, split wood, sat on the visitors program advisory committee, did the visitor services staff schedule, created and maintained the park website,

and more. They were able to fill the Ranger position after it had been vacant for a year, and I was lucky to be joined by Ranger **Crystal Shoaf**. I was living a dream. After being at the Adobe for almost eight years (thinking I would retire there), the Monterey area called me back. So, in 2006 when the job was advertised for the Mott Training Center, I returned.

Working at the Mott Training Center seems to be a very demanding job. Tell us about some of the things you do in your position.

I am currently the Training Specialist that assists with the majority of trainings that are provided for the Natural Resources, Archaeology, History, and Museums, and Interpretation and Education Divisions. In brief, I am the logistical coordinator for the trainings that revolve around natural/cultural resources and Interpretation. The training staff works pretty hard year round. I think the toughest thing about my job is trying to relay to people that we never really have down time. The majority of the staff puts in ten to fourteen hour days every day during the training year and then spends summer trying to get the other projects on our lists back on track while amping up for the next training year.

The CSP Training Program is quite highly regarded. What do you see are the keys to making the training program so successful?

The training programs are successful due to the dedication of the training staff. We constantly fight during budget times to prove our training programs are worthy of being on the schedule. I don't think any of us sit down without a fight on the employees' behalf of professional growth and training. Another key is staff members such as **Pamela Yaeger** and **Pat Bost**. They have incredible knowledge of our training programs, the staff they've seen go through the training center, and Department

history. I think a key to making the program successful is remembering what it is we are here to do. In addition to programs required by law and policy, we think about our visitors and employees of the future and being prepared to meet their needs.

You've had a great opportunity to visit many California State Parks. Which one is your favorite?

That's a tricky question because there are spots that I am in love with in every one of them. I love the wind caves of Anza Borrego SP, the bridge over the creek at Petaluma Adobe SHP when the Buckeye trees bloom, the sounds of Pfeiffer Falls as it wisps over the rocks, the towering Coastal Redwoods of Prairie Creek Redwoods SP, the amazing CCC architecture, and the wildflowers tucked in Harmony Headlands. I can't choose just one.

If you could have one wish come true for California State Parks, what would it be?

I wish that we weren't stuck in the political and budgetary upheaval every year. We have great employees who work hard for little recognition and pay to open up the most endearing, beautiful, and significant parts of our state to the public. I wish there was a way to fund our Department so that we could hire people, protect resources, and educate/inspire our future. I wish we could ensure that our school children have access to parks that can relate to them beyond what they read about or see in pictures. They are our future employees, voters, and donors and if we cut them out of the system, we lose.

Is there a message you would like to share with CSPRA members?

I am honored to serve as Treasurer for an organization that recognizes the importance of our employment, our parks, and our legacy. As one voice I believe we can navigate these tough waters ahead.

A WAVE Goodbye

BAMBI WOODSON

1957- 2011

Bambi was working at Colorado Desert District as a Management Services Technician when she died in January in an automobile accident. She also worked in Sierra District in Personnel during her 14 year career with State Parks.



ELIZABETH "BETTY" SMART

1932 - 2010

Betty passed away in December shortly after retiring as senior curator of the California State Museum Resource Center. She spearheaded the ongoing cataloging of all the art and historical objects in the California State Park system, worked on a database of California artists and worked with the Legislature on bills helpful to museums. Betty's buoyant personality, enthusiasm, and humor will be remembered along with her groundbreaking work in caring for the artifacts of California history.



BURGESS "BUD" HEACOX

1923 - 2010

Bud had a long career in State Parks, after serving in the Navy in the Pacific during WWII. He was a Ranger from 1954-57, working in Cuyamaca, Providence Mountains and Anza-Borrego. He moved to Sacramento Headquarters in 1957 and was Chief Naturalist in the Interpretive Services Division until his retirement in 1979. Bud loved Hawaii and vacationed there often. He was an avid volunteer in his retirement years, working at the McKinley Library, Sacramento Blood Bank, and Mercy Hospital Auxiliary.



RONALD MCCULLOUGH

Ron attended Humboldt State University and served in the Army during WWII. He worked at Cuyamaca, Folsom, Hearst Castle and Manpower Utilization during his long State Park career, retiring in 1986 as Southern Regional Director.



THELMA KISBAUGH

1912 - 2010

Thelma passed away in December at the age of 98. She was a long time part of the park family, married to Ranger Gordon Kisbaugh. They performed music together at campfires and participated in Environmental Living Programs. Thelma wrote an article on her memories as a park wife in the July-Aug. 2008 issue of the Wave -- see www.cspira.com



CHRIS JONES

Chris was a Ranger at Silver Strand State Beach and Borderfield. His late brother, Earl, was also a Ranger. Chris played major league baseball for the SF Giants and Houston Astros.

GLEN LAVINE

1930-2011

Glen began his State Park career in the Park Attendant days, became a Ranger, and then a Maintenance Chief. He worked at Mendocino, Huntington Beach, Weott, and Fort Humboldt. He was Maintenance Supervisor at Humboldt Redwoods when he retired. Glen could repair, remodel or build anything and loved to work with his hands. He also loved to fish, and retired to Cottage Grove, Oregon.



HENRY CHARLES MEHLERT

1917- 2011

Chuck majored in Forestry at UC Berkeley and entered State Parks as a Forester in the early 1950s.

He served in the Army Air Corps in WWII, designing innovative runways for bomber planes. He was a Ranger at Mt. Diablo and Big Basin. Chuck returned to military service during the Korean War as a Major in the Alaskan Air Command, later becoming a Ranger II at Tomales Bay. He was hired to develop Alaska's State Parks shortly after Alaska became a state in 1959. Chuck returned to California State Parks, and retired as Regional Resource Specialist. He was a big supporter of "environmental" walk-in campsites, and was instrumental in acquiring Ano Nuevo as a State Park and establishing marine reserves along the coast. He was actively involved in efforts to protect Monterey Bay in his retirement.



KEN MARTIN

Ken passed away last year. He was a long-time Ranger in the Central Valley, retiring at Caswell.

JOHN LUNDAY

1946 - 2011

John passed away recently from a heart attack. He served four years in Vietnam for the U.S. Navy. His 27 years as a California State Park Ranger included time at San Diego Coast and many years at Folsom Lake. John retired in 2002 and lived in the Folsom area. His bear hugs, belly laugh and out-going personality will be remembered by all who knew him.



Park Advocacy Day Impressions

by *John Mott, retired*

On March 22, 2011, 160 park supporters, organized by the California State Parks Foundation (CSPF) lobbied to support State Parks during the 9th annual Park Advocacy Day (PAD) at the Capitol in Sacramento.

Participants included cooperating association members, off duty rangers, managers and other staff, high school and college students, CSPF members, and CSPRA members. The well organized event began weeks before with briefing packets and speaking points sent to all and webinars featuring **Traci Verardo**, CSPF Legislative Coordinator. Our motto was "Be Prepared."

The busy day began with an 8:30 AM briefing where we received the latest updates on budget and policy issues facing state parks. Participants were then assigned to 3-5 person teams. Each team leader had received additional training and orientation and had "leave-behind" materials for each legislator, including personal letters from individual constituents to the specific legislators each team met with. The letters helped demonstrate that even if we were not from the legislator's district, we were representing constituents who do care about state parks. The CSPF did a great job obtaining and organizing the entire event.

By mid-morning all PAD teams descended on two committee hearings: Senate Natural Resource Committee on **SB 580**, to enhance State Park protection; passed 6 to 3.

Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on **AB 42**, to expand DPR operating agreement authority with non-profit organizations; passed unanimously w/13 Ayes and bi-partisan support.

The abundance of park supporters was favorably described by one legislator as "an embarrassment of riches." This support was due to outstanding CSPF leadership and dedication from dozens of advocates.

12 CSPRA *Wave*, Spring 2011

During lunch we received further updates before returning to the Capitol. My team leader was Dr. **Jerry Jackman** (Ex Director, Trust for Historic Preservation) and my fellow team members were a CSPF member from Rocklin and a CSPF staffer from the LA Office. We had four meetings—with 2 Republicans and 2 Democrats all from southern California. Two of our meetings were with the actual Assemblymembers--**Das Williams** and **Mike Morrell**--and two were with staff members. Like many of their colleagues, the legislators we contacted had very limited knowledge of State Parks. We were able to not only advocate for CSPF positions, but also the diversity of State Park resources and the funding crisis the system faces. The afternoon concluded with excellent speakers: **John Laird**, Resource Secretary, and several legislators discussing a variety of park and environmental issues and taking questions from the audience.

For me the high point was the traditional evening reception hosted by the CSPF for all PAD participants. Several important legislators

and environmental leaders attended including CSPF Board Officers and **Ruth Coleman, Michael Harris, Roy Sterns, Jay Chandler, Mary Nichols** (Secretary, Air Resources Board), **Susan Smartt** (President, Nature Bridge and CSPRA Honorary Ranger), as well as Assembly members and staff from several legislative offices. A personal highlight for me was being honored as the statewide recipient of the CSPF 2010 *Grassroots Champion Award* for my efforts to organize 60 volunteers in the Sacramento area to gather signatures and demonstrate support for Prop 21, and my attendance at all nine Park Advocacy Days.

More information about PAD is available at the CSPF website at <http://www.calparks.org/takeaction/pad.html>

I enjoyed seeing fellow CSPRA members **Nina Gordon, Dick Troy, Heidi Doyle, Susan Grove, and Margo Cowan** at PAD (there were probably more). Hope to see more CSPRA members as participants in the next PAD in 2012!

*John Mott, mottfour@surewest.net
cell (916) 539-7300*



John Mott's retirement party drew 6 former CSPRA Presidents, L to R: **Kim Baker, Bud Getty, John, Scott Nakaji, Rick Parmer and Ron McCall.**

<<John led a campfire song that had the audience on its feet

EXECUTIVE MANAGER



by **Allison Pedley**, *Executive Manager*

Starting off with new members, I'd like to welcome Ranger **Cecilia Rejas** to our ranks as well as newly retired GrayBear member, **John Arnold**. John will be receiving our newest retiree thank you gift, a fantastic CSPRA LED flashlight. For those of you who retired this past year (and remain on the CSPRA books only a little longer unless you sign on as GrayBears along with John...), this super cool flashlight can be yours for the low membership price of \$36/year. Please think about renewing as a retiree soon! If you have not recently been receiving e-mail blasts from the CSPRA office and would like to better stay informed, **PLEASE CONSIDER SENDING YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS** to allison@cpsra.com for updates, and/or to receive the newsletter electronically. Thanks!

Retirees Rendezvous

Sept. 30, Oct. 1 - 2, 2011
McConnell SRA

For everyone: retired or not yet!

Coordinator **Pat Clark-Gray** needs help at a summer planning meeting. Contact: graywolf50@comcast.net or call her cell phone at (831) 277-5119. **Great food; a raffle; new activities!** The reserved campground handles most any RV or tent camping. Motels are in nearby Turlock.

CSPRA Board Survey Results

Thanks to the 79 CSPRA members who responded to our survey. The Board will discuss these results and announce decisions regarding new/different/expanded/deleted activities.

80% of respondents had been CSPRA members for 8 years or more. The 2 primary reasons for joining CSPRA are professional development and "giving back to my profession." Respondents ranked CSPRA benefits as follows: Legislative lobbying (47%) Newsletters (34%) Networking (26%) Conferences (14%) Website (13%) Scholarships (11%)

61% responding attended a California Parks Conference (CPC) in the past five years. 71% for networking, 68% for educational sessions. Cost, location, and lack of shift coverage keep others from attending. CPC ideas: more department support and coordination with the training department; more regional/specialized training events; sessions on public/private partnerships; on quality customer service, on dealing with difficult people and stress management; more time to meet with CSP leaders in an informal setting; POST hour courses; sessions on responses to climate change and multi-agency integrated resource management; have top name environmental speakers.

76% of respondents felt *WAVE* articles pertained to their profession; 22% did not. Respondents favored personal member profiles and field stories; more articles on maintenance personnel, resource ecologists and administrative employees; articles showing innovative solutions to common problems, including funding; more current events, especially pertaining to threats to state parks; some felt the newsletter was "outdated."

"What do you feel CSPRA could do differently to better serve the membership and you?" Select answers:

"CSPRA would do us all a service of showing how you use our dues, and reminding me why I should continue to support this organization."

"Be more visible to employees."

"Provide more cool collector stuff for sale and free to members."

"Obtain group discount deals from manufacturers/retailers."

"Communicate more."

"Focus more on morale in our department through meetings with headquarters and networking. We need to see our leaders making a difference, investing in us, and working as a team."

"Have active local chapters."

"Update the website with more current information and events."

"Engage in more local outreach and communication."

"Make a focused effort to create a large training budget for our current in-service members."

When asked, "What do you feel is the most important benefit you receive from being a member of CSPRA?" select answers include:

"CSPRA's most important function is lobbying for the State Park System."

"Knowledge of what is going on with other parks units and getting to know the people."

"Tradition and a feeling of still belonging to something worthwhile."

"Networking with other park staff and another layer of being part of an organization that understands the commitment and pride we feel as park professionals."

"Maintaining a connection to my lifelong career."

"Helping me keep informed of people and problems facing or solved for DPR and the visiting public."

"Staying connected to department staff."

"Staying in touch with the profession after retirement."

"I was supported with training funds to allow me to attend both in and out- of-state training. This was a huge benefit that I received when I most needed it."

PROMOTING PROFESSIONALISM IN
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Membership Mail to: CSPRA,
Allison Pedley, P.O. Box 10606,
Truckee, CA 96162. Or join online
at: <http://www.cspira.com>
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 _____

Lobbyist's Report

by **Monica Miller, CSPRA Lobbyist**

As spring begins in Sacramento so do policy committee hearings. Bill introduction deadline was February 18: 2,400 bills were introduced. The Legislature continues to grapple with a significant budget deficit and trying to put together an 18 month budget in a few short months. The Administration and the Legislature have attempted to close a \$24 billion gap with \$12.5 in budget cuts and solutions while asking the voters in June to extend the various taxes enacted in 2009 for another five years. Also, they are working with local governments to "realign" many programs to the locals and funding them with the proposed tax extensions. They have cut state parks by \$11 million in the 2011-12 budget year and proposing another \$11 million in 2012-13, for a total of \$22 million.

Legislators have started thinking outside the traditional means to offset general fund dollars. Parks have dealt with this for several years. With the failure of Prop. 21 in November, our friends and partners decided we need to come up with alternatives. Assembly Member **Jared Huffman** (D-Marin) introduced AB 42 and Senator **Lois Wolk** (D-Yolo) introduced SB 580.

Over the past several years, the general fund budget for State Parks has decreased while user fees increased. Today the park system has a deferred maintenance backlog of over \$1 billion. Last year, as a result of budget reductions, hours of operation and services at many parks were reduced.

AB 42 will allow a bridge while the search for stable funding continues. It is critical that creative opportunities for public/private partnerships be explored and encouraged in order to minimize the impacts to parks and, where possible, maintain public access to park resources. Public/private partnerships are one tool which may help the state to keep a few of the parks open that would otherwise be

subject to closure. Currently, there are 86 non-profit cooperating associations that provide varying levels of support for individual State Park units. Cooperating associations are non-profit charitable 501(c)3 organizations dedicated to enhancing educational and interpretive programs in California State Parks. If AB 42 is enacted it would allow some qualified non-profit organizations to potentially provide greater assistance to DPR with the operations of a state park unit if DPR had authority to enter into negotiated agreements with non-profits for that purpose. Such agreements could potentially enable DPR to keep open a park that would otherwise be subject to closure.

SB 580 furthers the mission of The Public Park Preservation Act, commencing with Section 5400 of the Public Resources Code (PRC) which prohibits a public entity from acquiring any park for non-park purposes unless there is sufficient compensation or replacement park land given in exchange. Compensation must be based on the cost of acquiring and developing substitute park land of comparable size and characteristics in a location allowing for use by the same people who frequented the original park.

SB 580 would prohibit State Park lands from being disposed of or used for other purposes incompatible with park purposes unless suitable substitute land, as determined by the Commission, is received in exchange. This is an on-going discussion; Senator Wolk is working closely with the Parks Foundation to protect the valuable parks that exist in California even as we continue to weather this storm of a budget crisis.

These measures could help protect parks for generations to come. AB 42 passed its first policy hearing and will go to the fiscal committee soon. To read the bill, see: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=ab_42&sess=CUR&house=A&author=huffman

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 cliches. Feel free to send along any overheard slips of the tongue - malaprops@cspira.com

Lung issues?

We still have a whole pleura of options with nuclear plant safety.

A stunning stockpile of talent.

I was amassed at his supervisory and management abilities.

Blown away!

... come on, you know Bachman can't be serious about a Presidential run, she's just selling smoke.

Wait a momentum...

The idea of busting unions seems to be gaining downhill steam.

District/Program Representatives

District	Name	Email Address
LEES	John Pelonio	jpelonio@parks.ca.gov
Capitol	Rick Becton	rbecton@parks.ca.gov
Channel Coast	Tyson Butzke	tbutzke@parks.ca.gov
Colorado Desert	Gail Sevens	gsevr@parks.ca.gov
Diablo Vista	Carl Nielson	cnielson@parks.ca.gov
	Ann Meneguzzi	amene@parks.ca.gov
Grants & Local Services	Ruth Bergener	ruth.bergener@gmail.com
Inland Empire	Sue Neary	sneary@parks.ca.gov
Marin	Cecilia Rejas	crejas@parks.ca.gov
Mendocino	Tracy Weisberg	twaisberg@parks.ca.gov
Monterey	Dana Jones	danajones@parks.ca.gov
Mott Training Center	Sara M. Skinner	sskinner@parks.ca.gov
Northern Buttes	Lori Martin	lmartin@parks.ca.gov
Orange Coast	Blythe Liles	bliles@parks.ca.gov
Russian River	Jenny Donovan	jdonovan@parks.ca.gov
San Luis Obispo	Nick Franco	nfranco@hearstcastle.com
	Robert Latson	rllatson@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	Jeff Gaffney	jgaffney@parks.ca.gov
HQ	Mark Hada	mhada@parks.ca.gov
COM Centers	Cris Sanguino	cksanguino@parks.ca.gov
Representatives are needed for: Angeles, Central Valley, Goldfields, North Coast Redwoods & San Diego Districts, Historic Preservation, Northern Service Ctr., Southern Service Ctr., Interpretation Div., Cultural Resources Div., Natural Resources Div. Planning Div. and Tech Services Div.		

GrayBears



Attention retired members!

Want to keep in touch after you leave DPR? Join the GrayBears email ListServ. It is FREE and EASY to use. Email graybears@cspira.com

Do you know someone who is retiring? CSPRA provides plaques when members retire. Contact Allison: (530)550-1268; allison@CSPRA.com.

GET CONNECTED CSPRA Online

Catch up on CSPRA activities, contact your District Reps, Board. or Officers, read the WAVE online:

<http://www.cspira.com>





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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