



*The CSPRA*

# *Wave*

*Newsletter*

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 4

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

FALL 2012

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

## Partnerships, Not so New



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Cover photo: CCC workers at Mt.  
Tamalpais State Park by Victor Bjelajac

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



by *Nina Gordon, CSPRA President*

The aftermath of the “scandal” from the “found” monies has resulted in both unwelcome attention and scrutiny from a number of sources. Although many entities mean well and genuinely want to help, there are other interests that feel they are experts in how the Department should operate and have the instant solutions for a more “efficient” operation.

The Legislature has mandated that state parks show proof of viable progress in finding additional revenue by October. There are many eyes watching us. Cries of broken trust and increased need for oversight ring in the halls of the Capitol. This is reflected in recent legislation giving more authority to the State Park Commission and requiring more reporting to the Legislature.

What does this mean for CSPRA? We need to continue to be a voice of reality, driving home the message that the alleged unprofessional conduct by a few is by no means reflective of the whole. We issued a statement to that effect (pg. 3). We need to be available and assertive in providing factual information on park operations, needs and priorities.

It is good news that the \$20 million now available for state parks has been designated through legislation to be used for park operations but it is a small part of the overall deficit needed to keep all our parks open in the manner consistent with our mission. Given that the Governor

and Legislature is not going to restore our budget to the amount needed in the foreseeable future, we know we need help. However, we must be vigilant in holding true to the values of those who built up this state park system since 1864.

One way we are doing this is participating on the advisory committee of the Little Hoover Commission which is studying “efficiencies” including whether state parks should “turn over some state parks to other land managers”. They cite the deeding of 8 state beaches to Los Angeles County. The latter was a big mistake by the Department and one which we do not want to see repeated. CSPRA is developing a platform statement on partnerships both in preparation for the Little Hoover Commission meeting on this topic and to present to the next state parks director. This statement will provide critical elements stating what should be included in viable and successful partnerships in addition to what should be avoided.

We already have the authority and precedent to have other entities manage a portion or all of a state park unit. One example is the agreement with the East Bay Regional Park District. California State Parks can continue to negotiate these agreements without direction by outside authorities. CSPRA also applauds the entities that truly support and promote the state park mission. We are a stronger and more effective department with involvement by these organizations.

The strength of CSPRA is that we represent the experts – the staff of a wide variety of classifications and levels that are daily carrying out the operations of the state park units. We must continue to be active and vigilant. This includes all our membership. I encourage everyone to get involved, contact your legislator (as a CSPRA member and citizen, not as a state park employee). We need you to help write position papers and opinion pieces for CSPRA, statements for testimony, and

*See PRESIDENT, page 3*

*Op-Ed from CSPRA, July 26, 2012*

## Public Trust in State Parks Should Not be Broken by Actions of a Few

The California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) represents park professionals from many classifications throughout the California State Park System. These hardworking, honest people have dedicated their lives to the stewardship of the parks they love. We feel betrayed by those within the department’s administration who appear to have been keeping available funding from the parks at a time when those parks needed funding more than ever.

CSPRA and all professional park employees welcome the investigations into how this happened and what can be done to make sure revenues earned by parks go towards the continued stewardship and operation of those parks. We also ask the Governor and Legislature to work together to make sure the surplus funds immediately be directed to the parks to keep open those parks slated for closure. We ask that tight controls be placed on these

funds to guarantee they go for the operation of parks and service to the public.

Nobody is more disappointed in this accounting discovery than the thousands of park employees and the partners who have invested so much energy trying to keep the State Park System intact. State park employees serve as stewards of the resources and also provide high quality educational and recreational opportunities. Duties range from rescuing a drowning child from the ocean, stabilizing an irreplaceable adobe building, operating a waste water treatment plant, taking inner city youth on their first camping trip, applying emergency first aid, immersing visitors in the world of redwoods on a nature hike, arresting a fleeing felon, or simply providing welcome information and assistance that help create lasting memories at a favorite state park. We are also extremely grateful to the park supporters

and advocates who have worked tirelessly with us to develop innovative ways to help save parks. State Parks continues to be severely underfunded, including a 1.3 billion dollar maintenance backlog. These efforts and collaborations will continue to be critical to sustaining and improving our world-class State Park System.

The reputation of these passionate, hard-working state park employees should not be tarnished because of the alleged mismanagement of funds by a few. The men and women of California State Parks are dedicated to providing the best care for the state’s natural and cultural treasures and to serving our visitors. Don’t let the lack of integrity of a few punish the visitors to the parks nor the resources within them. They are both too precious.

Nina Gordon, CSPRA President

## California Parks Training Conference

*February 25-27, 2013, at the Embassy Suites*

*Seaside, Monterey Bay*

Plans are progressing for the Training Conference in a beautiful venue near the beach on Monterey Bay. Mark your calendars and request time off! Programs will meet “job required” or “job related” specifications as well as field study excursions in **Public Safety, Resources, Interpretation, Operations, Management, Facilities, and Administration**. **Share your ideas** about activities you would like by emailing **Joanne Danielson**, conference chair, at Joanne@cspira.com.

### Schedule

Mon. 2/25: Field trips / reception  
Tues. 2/26: Guest speaker/ Training Sessions/ Evening programs  
Wed. 2/27: Training Sessions/ PRAC- CSPRA General Membership Meetings/ Evening Banquet  
Thu. 2/28: Specialized training.  
Check [www.cspira.com](http://www.cspira.com) for updates. Registration packets should arrive in December.  
Actor and director **Clint Eastwood** has been selected as 2013 Honorary Ranger, and indicates he will attend!

### *PRESIDENT, from page 2*

make your voices heard. We are as strong as our membership.

On a personal note, I am retiring effective December 31, 2012. It was a very hard decision, but after almost 36 years with the state, most of which was with State Parks, it is time for me to have more time for other parts of my life. I will complete my term as CSPRA President (which ends March 2013). I will always be a strong advocate for State Parks and plan on continuing to be active with CSPRA and in any other capacity I am able. I have been fortunate to have worked in many classifications and areas in the Department, both in the field and in headquarters. I am proud to have worked with the passionate, professional and creative staff of California’s state parks.

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# Partnerships, a New Thing?

by Victor Bjelajac, Marin District

I am fortunate to work at Mount Tamalpais State Park (MTSP). The long history of conservation advocacy in the first part of the 20th century by groups such as Tamalpais Conservation Club (TCC), the Alpine Club (AC), the Sierra Club (SC), and the Mountain Play Association (MPA) coupled with public works projects carried out by Civil Works Administration (CWA), Civilian Conservation Corp (CiCC), municipal

and a multitude of European ethnics.

Fast forward 80 years and many of the same organizations are protecting the same resources. We think of the partnerships that California State Parks has engaged in over the last few years as something new, but I would like to illustrate the point, using the Marin District as an example, that the partnerships with multiple agencies, private organizations and individuals is actually “business as usual”.

(CaCC), Conservation Corp North Bay (CCNB), and Student Conservation Association (SCA). These organizations continue to shape the lives of youth through education in the performance of public conservation work in the region.

One example of these partnerships is exhibited in the creation and maintenance of the Bootjack Trail running from Muir Woods National Monument up to the Mountain Theater in



agencies like, Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) and individuals like **William Kent** have made the region a case study for the mixture of non-profit, private, federal, state and local agency partnerships. These partnerships created sustainable natural resource conservation practices resulting in spectacular trail systems, iconic structures and cultural histories reflecting practices and beliefs of Native Americans (Coast Miwok), Spanish, Mexican, Portuguese, Chinese

The individual players have changed but the same organizations and agencies like TCC, the National Park Service, California State Parks, MMWD and the Alpine Club are still active resource activists and land managers preserving, protecting and facilitating public access to irreplaceable natural and cultural resources. Today, federal agencies such as the CiCC and CWA have been replaced by modern organizations at the federal, state, and county levels represented by the Employment Development Department (EDD), California Conservation Corp

Mt. Tamalpais State Park (MTSP). Bootjack trail has a total length of just under three miles, spans three creeks and nine drainages with 12 redwood bridges and was first carved into existence before 1883. Early hiking and conservation clubs performed volunteer conservation and trail work that continued even after the trail became part of MTSP in 1928. TCC had a host of volunteers and some funded trail steward positions. TCC trail stewards lived and worked in the area or on the mountain and part-

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nered with agencies in Marin County. TCC volunteers established original furnishings in the campgrounds at Van Wyck Meadow (Upper and Lower Rattlesnake) and Bootjack that fall within the current boundaries of MTSP. (TCC still maintains a volunteer trail crew that works with State Park staff once a month).

The Depression-era programs were not unlike current federal programs such as the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) that have been put in place to provide economic relief for American citizens today and stimulate the American economy. The economic crash of 1929 and the subsequent federal programs of the “New Deal” made for unprecedented economic hardship in the US and spawned public works projects like CiCC, Public Works Administration (PWA) and CWA that still benefit the American public through recreational areas, conservation practices and civic building efforts. These public projects created lasting monuments and access to natural resources, as well as education, training and employment opportunities for Americans during the worst economic crisis of our time.

**Franklin Delano Roosevelt** garnered bi-partisan support and proposed Senate Bill S.598 in 1933. The legislation was drafted by and put to the legislative houses on March 27th 1933 and was passed into law four days later on March 31st 1933. During the great depression the Emergency Conservation Work/CiCC program, as part of the New Deal, offered veterans, the unemployed and young Americans an opportunity to build useful lasting public works and develop lifelong work ethics while earning monies to support their families. With the creation of the CiCC Spanish American and WWI veterans were given the opportunity to work. Of the 3,465,766 men who enrolled in the program, many were veterans, the majority were young men from 17-21 years old and 80,000 were Native



Americans.

The impact of the CiCC program on these men has been memorialized in countless life histories where they discuss the life changing experience that the CiCC program offered them. Many credit the CiCC experience with shaping their character and who they were as men for the rest of their lives. With a pay rate of \$30 a month (\$25 went home to families), they had room, board, educational opportunities and all the most physically demanding work they could stand. ECW program resulted in 4,500 CiCC camps in 48 states. The CiCC's built 125,000 miles of roads, planted 2.5 billion trees and established 52,000 acres of campgrounds as well as performing renovations on close to 4000 historic buildings

Bootjack trail and the Mountain Theatre, as we see them today are two of these public works efforts. In 1934 CiCC, S.P. 23 (S.P. =State Park) started work on lands managed by California State Parks, NPS and MMWD. CWA and CiCC crews established work camps in the area of what today is known as the Alice Eastwood campground. CWA built a camp in the area for CiCC and a second camp was built in 1935 by the CiCC. The S.P. 23 crew was

originally made up of veterans of the Spanish American War and World War I. From 1933-1940 S.P. 23 worked on many projects at MTSP. Along Bootjack trail CiCC crews quarried rock and harvested downed trees for materials to build bridges, steps, causeways, campgrounds, latrines, fire rings, Diablo stoves, incinerators, spring boxes, water fountains, wash basins, picnic tables, fences, fire breaks and service roads. The CiCCs made improvements to camp furniture, tread and bridges along Bootjack trail that were originally established by local conservation groups like the TCC and the AC. An amazing number of these camp furnishings are extant and still in use today.

“CiCC boys” were supported, welcomed and praised for their good works by TCC, AC, MPA, MMWD, CSP, NPS, and the citizenry of Marin and in turn improved access to this spectacular region for the general public. Bootjack trail is one of many projects completed by the CiCC on the mountain and is a nice example of how farsighted thinking and mutual aid from multiple organizations, agencies, and individuals partnered

See CCC, page 6



## Partnerships

*The spectacular Mountain Theater in Mount Tamalpais State Park, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps and still used today. >>*



### CCC from page 5

together created and sustained safe access to many wonderful natural resources. In turn these built items make up a large portion of our current cultural resources. MTSP itself has over 53 miles of trails and those trails intersect with others on NPS, MMWD and Marin County lands adding hundreds of miles of trail.

Flash forward to from the 1930's to 2010-2012 and we find CaCCs, SCA, and CCNB trail crews spiked at Alice Eastwood campground, building bridges, steps, causeways, trail tread, repairing slide damage, and quarrying rock, for trail work along Bootjack and connected trails at MTSP. The CaCC was established in 1976 by our current governor and boasts the motto of "Hard work, low pay, miserable conditions ... and more!" The young men and women in the current CaCC, CCNB and SCA in partnership with many land managers continue to maintain, and rebuild when necessary, the trail systems and campgrounds

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established by early conservation groups and land managers. Recently the TCC and AC partnered with MTSP to directly support trail crews with funds for materials, staff and volunteers.

The most heartening benefit I continue to see from these private and public partnerships, setting aside the conservation work and resource protection for a minute, is the growth and development of the character and work ethic of the young people working on trail projects for the various corps. When you are slogging along a trail in the rain and come across a group of corps members a mile or so in, drenched, muddy and at some point in their ten hour work day, still smiling and thanking you for the opportunity to work on the project it makes one think that some things are still right with the world.

So, partnerships, new, not so much... in this little corner of the world, and I suspect in quite a few others, public land managers continue to forge and nurture partnerships with

private individuals, organizations, groups, and amongst themselves that continue to conserve and protect public resources, as well as, provide safe public access for the general public, on public lands.

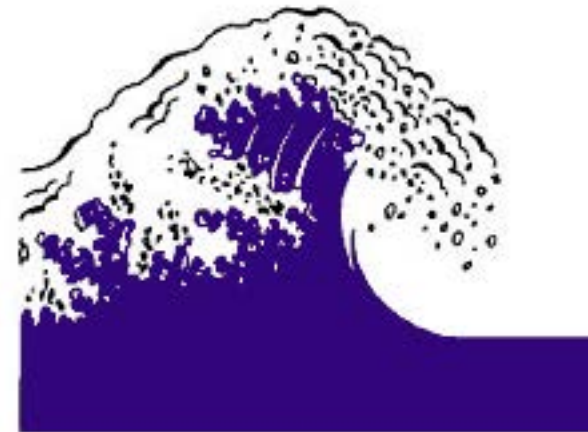
### Executive Manager



*by Allison Pedley*

CSPRA would like to welcome new member **Daniel Williford** in the Santa Cruz District. We also want to extend tremendous appreciation to **Mike Wells** who has signed on as a lifetime benefactor to CSPRA! We sincerely appreciate all of our members, and thank you all for continuing to support what we do. As these are difficult times for us all, your continued belief in our mission is particularly valued and motivating. Thanks everyone!

## Vision



# These Rough Seas Shall Pass

*by Mike McMenamy  
Sup. Ranger, Santa Cruz District*

Vision is the absolute significance of what we do, and the decisions we make today will affect future generations.

Several moons ago I walked my inspirational path to begin the journey that has led me to where I am today. As a young man my mother used to walk me along the only open space around our house, a nearby cow pasture. There we would talk as I would gaze over what seemed to be an endless open space and my only care in the world was enjoying the moment.

Years later, reflecting upon those moments while I was in college I studied outdoor parks and recreation. I watched the experiences people have while re-creating themselves in the outdoors and nature. Based on my calling, I volunteered to lead novice outdoors people on canoe trips down the Colorado River along the Chocolate Mountains, hiked to peaks in the Sierra Nevada, and kayaked in the remote, desolate, and beautiful region of the Sea of Cortez. Over time those moments resonated with me and I relished my personal satisfaction in providing parallel experiences to others. My professional calling soon became working for California State Parks.

So, why this brief biography you

ask? Good question. The purpose of this recollection is evoking your feeling, memory, and emotion as to why you began your journey with State Parks in the first place.

We State Park Professionals have the greatest, most profound, and philosophical profession there is. Not just in the government, the private sector, or other; period. What we do, what we provide, what we represent, transcends any current political climate, election, economy, or generation. What we do is so deeply profound that we consciously do it for what feels like little pay, contempt, criticism, and scrutiny. It does not matter what classification you fall in, whether it is Ranger, Maintenance, Historian, Administration, Lifeguard, Management, Volunteer, or Retiree. What matters is you have chosen to dedicate your life to the betterment of Californians, nature, the environment, and humanity as a whole.

To that end my hat is off to each of you for continuing to fight the good fight, despite the unfavorable political climate, scorn, and the general unrest. The fact that you continue with your righteous profession is a testament to your determination as a park professional to prove to the masses that what WE provide, is tremendous. We provide areas and opportunity for people and the overall environment

alike, to re-create themselves.

So I ask you to hit the pause button, if only for a moment, to reflect on the intangible things in life, the things that are larger than life. Slow down the supersonic pace of the human race and enjoy the simple delight of the moment. A cow in a pasture, a sunset, the smell of sage, a fish on the end of your line, a deer crossing your path, or a peregrine falcon screaming down from the top of the sky as you view it from the 14 floor in Sacramento.

This is what we do; we provide moments. Remind yourself why you began your journey in the first place. The path you have chosen is honorable. Hold fast like the abalone clinging to a rock in the surf at Ano Nuevo. These rough seas shall pass.



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## Retiree Rendezvous 2012 at Pfeiffer Big Sur SP



*Kirk Wallace and Jim Peat tend the grill.*



*^Kathy Peat (far left) and Bev Neal (far right) run the raffle with help from Rendezvous Chairs past and present, Pat Clark Gray and Kirk Wallace.*



*^Glen McGowan, John Mott and Ken Gray enjoy a mountain bike ride at Andrew Molera State Park.*



*<< Interpreter Sara Howlett entertained the group with her fiddling and singing.*

## More Retirees Rendezvous



*<< Pfeiffer Big Sur Ranger James (JJ) Nimmons with Wes Cater and Ken Smith.*

*Thank you, Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park and the Monterey District for hosting us!*



*Twenty years of the Retirees' Rendezvous!*



*^Ranger Trainee Group R reunion: L to R, John Mott, Janet Carle and Tom Bernardo.*



*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 Dick Troy. Enjoy!*

## CSPRA Chronicles...Dick Troy

### Tell us a bit about your career with California State Parks.

I had 30 fun and challenging years at state parks. After assignments at Santa Cruz Mountains and Orange Coast, I spent most of my career in the Sacramento area. I worked as a Ranger, Planner, Special Assistant to the Director, Area Manager, Superintendent, Division Chief, and retired in 2002 as Deputy Director for Operations.

### Do you have any park-related stories from your youth you would like to share?

Growing up in San Diego, I think my park 'thermostat' was set at 6th grade camp at Cuyamaca Rancho SP. The meadows, stars, and smell of the pines all spoke to me and I still carry the memory of some of those special moments inside me.

### Tell us about your family, hobbies and what do you like to do for fun?

My daughter Dawn and son Wes have made me proud. Both married, Wes is a manager with Hyatt Hotels and Dawn works as an art registrar in the SF bay area. Dawn has also made me the proud grandparent of a wonderful 4 year old boy, Monty. No special hobbies really; hiking, jogging, playing golf, reading-just making sure I can keep fogging the mirror like everyone else.

### You live in Borrego Springs. What is that like?

I'm splitting my time between Borrego Springs and Sacramento these days. A few years back, I built a straw bale house in the desert and I try to get down there by mid-October each year. Pretty incredible to wake



up to those wilderness views each day and the people there (all 3,000 of them) seem to know and appreciate the lifestyle they have and are not afraid to work to preserve it.

### Although you have been retired now for a number of years, you seem to stay pretty active in promoting parks. What is your motivation in doing so?

It's hard to walk away from an idea that inspires you. I've been lucky to be asked to serve on non-profit boards that are doing things that are of interest to me. Working with the Anza Borrego, State Railroad Museum, and State Trails Conference foundations keeps me informed, involved, and connected to 'park people' – the best people in the world. You just have to make sure your time commitments and stress levels stay at the 'retired' level.

**One park project of which you have been instrumental is in helping to create the just released documentary film "California Forever – The Story of California State Parks." Tell us about how the vision for this film was born.**

I've been lucky to have a friend and mentor in **Joe Engbeck**.

Joe is the author of several books including the history book, "State Parks of California from 1864 to the present". One day in 2006, on the golf course, we hit on the idea of a film about of the state park system. Director Coleman liked the idea and we gathered together some volunteers (**Nick Franco, John Werminski, Jackie Ball, John Kolb, Jeremy McReynolds**, and someone named **Dave Gould**) to produce a treatment. Thanks to Nick, we were able to find some private money and hired Backcountry Pictures in 2008 to produce what became

two films: the history and future of state parks.

### How did the film production progress?

There is a lot of compromising that goes into film-making, no one gets everything they want. In the end though, I think it turned out well. The folks at the parks were super cooperative and we were all pretty flabber--ghasted that PBS liked the final products so much. This September/October, the two films will be in prime time in all the California markets and will be broadcast over 1,000 times across the country in 43 states.

### What do expect the film to accomplish?

Considering the crummy press that parks is getting right now, maybe it can start to raise the level of the conversation a bit. The team's goal was to focus on the elements of the park idea, the basic things that Fredrick Law Olmsted Sr. laid out in 1864: 1) parks belong to everyone, 2) they're essential to our physical and mental

*See TROY, page 11*

## CHRONICLES

*TROY, from page 10*

health, and 3) they should be held and guarded in perpetuity. We wanted to remind everyone that this is one of civilization's 'best ideas' and to be proud of the fact that it was born right here in the mountains of California.

### How long have you been a member of CSPRA and what inspired you to join?

It seemed as though nearly everyone joined in the 1970s as there were no unions at the time. It was great for a young ranger to rub elbows and chew the fat with area managers and other park leaders.

### If you could make a change in California State Parks, what would it be?

Perhaps the best way to create separation from today's headlines will be to try to find ways to re-engage the people in their park system; create a new park 'civics', so to speak. Try to create more mechanisms and pathways that allow people to enjoy, appreciate, and be responsible for their parks. If we can create a new appreciation and respect for the parks, the necessary funding and support ought to follow. Easier said than done.

### What is a message you would like to share with CSPRA members?

Stay the course. Things may seem bad now, but this will pass. Remind yourselves how lucky you are to be spending time in these inspiring places and working with some of the finest folks you'll ever meet, anywhere.



## New Historic Preservation Officer

**Carol Roland-Nawi** of Sacramento has been appointed state historic preservation officer at the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Roland-Nawi has been senior historian and project manager at Mead & Hunt Inc. since 2009 and was the principal at Roland-Nawi Associates from 2003 to 2009. She served as senior environmental planner at the California Department of Transportation from 2001 to 2003 and associate historian at DPR's State Office of Historic Preservation from 1983 to 2001. Roland-Nawi has been a member of the California Preservation Foundation since 1991 and served as president from 2005 to 2007. She has been a member of the National Trust for Historic Preserva-



*Carol, lower right, at Hearst Castle with other State Historians in 1990.*

tion since 1995 and a board member of Sacramento Heritage Inc. from 1995 to 1999.

## Yosemite Grant Act 150 Years

*by Kass Hardy  
Yosemite National Park*

On June 30, 2014, we will mark the 150th anniversary of the Yosemite Grant Act signed by President Abraham Lincoln, thereby protecting Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove. As you may know, these two special places, found in what is now Yosemite National Park, were the first resources in the world set aside for preservation – planting the seed for the national (and state) park idea.

To honor this significant milestone in our nation's history, the NPS has embarked on a community driven partnership called the Yosemite Grant 150th Anniversary Program. If you have an annual educational program that would like to adopt the theme of the Yosemite Grant 150th or if you would like to create a signature

program, we invite you to apply.

- Applications will be reviewed and approved by the Events Subcommittee. Once you have completed the application, please mail it to: Kass Hardy, PO Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 or email it to: [kassandra\\_hardy@nps.gov](mailto:kassandra_hardy@nps.gov)
- All applicants will receive a letter notifying them of the decision regarding their application. Those organizers of approved events will receive a certificate by mail and the Yosemite Grant 150th logo by email in a format for reproduction on your event material.

- For more information, please go to: [www.nps.gov/yose/anniversary](http://www.nps.gov/yose/anniversary)



## Thornton State Beach, San Mateo Coast

by Robert Pavlik

This small (50-acre) state beach is located in Daly City, at the northern end of the San Mateo Coast district, and south of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Dubbed a park “of small compass and unusual value,” it has been closed for more than 25 years, but 30 years ago it was another jewel in the crown of the State Park System and a great place to work.

State Park Ranger I **Carolyn Strause** hired me as a park aide in March 1980. Typical duties included fee collection, maintaining the restrooms, trash pickup on the trails and beach, chopping iceplant, repairing trails, and informal public contact regarding dogs, horses, and fires. Most of the park was perched in a valley created by a rotational slump caused by the 1906 earthquake. A comfort station, large picnic area, parking lot, and Ranger Station occupied the valley. At the top of the ridge, formed by the quake, ran the George R. Stewart Nature Trail, conceived by Ranger **Nick Lee** and named by Ranger **Steve Gazzano** for the venerable author (*Ordeal by Hunger*, *Fire*, *Storm*, *Earth Abides* and others) who was a frequent visitor to the park until his death in September 1980. (Others present at the conception, trail building, and dedication included Rangers **Bill Chamberlin** and **Don Scott**, author of *The Life and Truth of George R. Stewart* (pg. 13). The ridgeline was a popular place for people to fly their radio-controlled gliders in the brisk winds that sweep up the steep cliffs from the ocean. (Hang gliders use the coastal bluffs of Fort Funston, one mile north.) On a clear day one can see (from north to south) Mt. Tamalpais and the Marin Headlands, Point Reyes, the Farallon Islands, Point San Pedro, and Mussel

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**Jennifer Ho, Craig Sanchez, Marcia Paulson and Dan Ng.** Joe Von Herrmann left, Carolyn transferred to the Railroad Museum in Sacramento, and I moved on to Big Sur in May 1981. Later, Ranger **Mark Faul** took over

Thornton until the El Nino storms of 1983 caused irreparable damage to the park. It is still possible to access the beach, but the parking lot, restrooms, office, and entrance road are all long gone. Thornton remains in limbo, but the good memories linger on.

Thanks to **Carolyn Strause Cochran** and **Don Scott** for their reminiscences, and **Paul Keel, Chet Bardo**, and **Ty Smith** for assistance with the research.



Ranger Carolyn Strause with Congressman Phil Burton (behind)

Rock, a “horse” that marks the San Andreas fault on the coastline south of the park. **John McPhee** opened and closed his book, *Assembling California* talking about Mussel Rock, and the park is even featured in **Philip Fradkin** and **Alex Fradkin**’s latest book, *The Left Coast* (UC Press). A vehicle ramp, staircase, and trail all led down the steep bluffs to the beach. There is a lot of history in the area, where the Oceanshore Railroad once ran toward Pacifica. In the winter of 1981 we recovered some spikes, a steel wheel, and a short section of rail from the beach during low tide, and donated them to the San Mateo County Historical Museum. Tobin’s carriage tunnel, dating to the mid-1870s, can still be seen in the rocky point at Mussel Rock.

There were some great folks that worked at Thornton SB back in the day. **Roger Werts** was Area Manager, the Chief Ranger was **Alan Schieble** and the Ranger II for the North Sector was **John Bollinger**. **Joe Von Herrmann** was the PI Ranger and Ranger **Roger Nelson** would come by on occasion. **Peter Braudrick** was the Park Maintenance Worker who would brave Devil’s Slide to come to Thornton to make repairs. Former PI Ranger **Don Scott** was a frequent visitor and later, a good friend. Park aides included

by **Monica Miller**, CSPRA Lobbyist

While the legislature has recessed for the fall, we were still in the midst of the Governor’s signing period. He was sent hundreds of bills to act on and slowly released the lists in groups by subject matter.

The Governor had until September 30, 2012 to either sign or veto bills, which he did. We anticipate that both he and the legislature will now focus on the election this November. With this November’s election the legislature will see a turnover of more than fifty percent of current membership due in part to term-limits, the new open primary system and reapportionment that will take effect this November. In addition to the largest turn-over any state has ever seen this election, there are members that if newly elected have the chance to serve for the next twelve years in their seat. This really allows them to become familiar with their district, the Capitol and, hopefully, experts in their committee choices. The downside is many new representatives

who have never been in elected office, so the time to make yourselves known as park people is now, spending time educating them on your issues. This will be especially critical as new committee assignments are made, leadership changes happen and new committee chairs are assigned.

One issue of concern to CSPRA was AB 1589 by Assembly Member **Jared Huffman**, which continued to move through the legislature with bi-partisan support. The bill’s purpose is to enhance the capacity of the state to protect its valued state parks and the natural and cultural resources they contain, and to keep the parks open and accessible to the people of the state. To make progress toward the long-term goal of a more sustainable and well-maintained state park system, this bill promotes new revenue enhancement opportunities, including enhanced fee collection and other revenue generating opportunities at state parks, a new state park environmental license plate, and tax incentives for purchase of state park annual access passes. This bill also creates a

state park enterprise fund and requires DPR to develop a revenue enhancement plan for state parks, modifies the criteria and public transparency required for state park closure decisions, states that park closures should be implemented only as a last resort after other feasible alternatives have been explored, and places a cap on the number of state parks that may be closed without legislative approval. The bill was signed by the Governor on September 25, 2012.

When the legislature returns in January to resume the 2013-14 session, the Speaker and President pro-Tem will make their committee assignments and new chairs will be named. Once that happens the jockeying will begin on who will replace the current leadership as both **Speaker Perez** and **President pro-Tem Steinberg** will be termed out in 2014, so the rumors will begin. Every assembly seat is up this year, which is typical, but the stakes are higher given all of the termed-out members. I will continue to keep you updated as things progress on all fronts.

## The Life and Truth of George R. Stewart

Best known for his 1949 post-apocalyptic thriller *Earth Abides*, **George R. Stewart** (1895-1980) spent a lifetime wandering the American landscape and writing books about its geography and history. An English professor at UC Berkeley, the exceptional scholar-author penned some of the most remarkable literary works of the 20th century, inventing several types of books along the way—including the road-geography book, micro-history, place-name history, ecological history, and the ecological novel.

Author **Donald M. Scott** has taught in high schools, adult schools, and in community college. Early in his career, Don was a PI Ranger at San Mateo Coast, Ano Nuevo State Reserve and Half Moon Bay State Beach.

He has worked as a National Park Ranger-Naturalist in several parks and served as a NASA aerospace educational representative where he worked with NASA astronauts and scientists to develop educational programs, which he presented to students and teachers in Southern California, Nevada and Montana. His home base is in Arroyo Grande, California, but he travels extensively as a volunteer in parks.





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*A WAVE Goodbye*

**FRED EGGIMANN**

Fred passed away recently at age 93. He joined the Division of Beaches and Parks in the late 1940s as a Ranger at Mount Diablo and S. P. Taylor. He was a Supervising Ranger at Humboldt Redwoods, Chief Ranger at Hearst San Simeon and Park Supervisor at El Capitan State Beach and Will Rogers. Fred later took a position with the Santa Barbara Parks Department and was Superintendent of Lake Cachuma County Park until retiring. Fred served in WW II as an Army Engineer bulldozer operator, working on the Alcan Highway in Canada. In his park career, he often made use of his knowledge of heavy equipment and auto mechanics.

**JIM PENCE**

Jim passed away suddenly of a heart attack in late September at age 49. He started his State Park career as a Lifeguard, working seasonally at Orange Coast, then as a permanent at Grover Hot Springs. He later became a Ranger, working at Red Rock Canyon, Turlock Lake, Folsom Lake, Auburn SRA and Marshall Gold Discovery SHP. Jim finished off his career in the Eastern Sierra, as the unit ranger at Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve. He was often the duty ranger at Bodie SHP as well. Jim's ease with people and ready smile lit up a room wherever he went. His swimming prowess was put to use rescuing a baby osprey from the waters of Mono Lake and returning it to its nest atop a tufa tower in his first year at Mono. Jim was also very active in the State Park Peace Officers Association of California. Jim and his wife Sara loved whitewater and had many memorable trips rafting down the Grand Canyon of the Colorado.



**PEGGY ZENTNER**

Peggy passed away in August at age 55 of cancer. Born in Pennsylvania, she attended UC Berkeley. After working at the Legislative Analyst's office, she joined State Parks in 1989. She retired recently as Departmental Construction and Maintenance Supervisor. Peggy oversaw many significant capital outlay projects, including the renovation of the Historic District at Crystal Cove State Park, the renovation of the Stanford Mansion, and the completion of the Baldwin Hills scenic overlook. Peggy received the Drury award for professional integrity from DPR in 2001.



**TIM GUARDINO**

Tim, 49, passed away in October after a long battle with Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS). He was a Ranger and Supervising Ranger at Folsom Lake SRA. He was most recently a Supervising Ranger in the Off Highway Motorized Vehicle Recreation Division at Sacramento Headquarters, working with the Law Enforcement Team to provide Off Highway Vehicle training to state, federal and local agencies. Tim was an expert in OHV related laws and policies and was skilled in sharing that knowledge. He was always positive and upbeat, even when faced with the challenges of his disease. He continued to work and be productive right up until his illness won out. Tim enjoyed hiking and biking and lived in the Roseville area. He leaves behind his wife Dena and 3 daughters.



*Upcoming Retirements*

*Andy Zilke  
Pismo Dunes*



*Don Wilder  
Shasta/Weaverville*



*Linda Rath  
Armstrong  
Redwoods*



*Roy McNamee  
Marin*



*Nina Gordon  
Headquarters*



**Mixed  
Metaphors  
and Malaprops**

by Jeff Price  
semi-retired



More overheard slips of the tongue  
and misfires of the brain. Send any  
you hear to: [malaprops@cspra.com](mailto:malaprops@cspra.com)

Lubricate his piano maybe?  
*President Obama stuck many of the  
same chords during a White House  
news conference on Wednesday.*

Does redistribution cause decimation?  
... *but that criteria (being fired  
for stupidity) might disseminate the  
agency :).*

Stick to the distance.  
*I wouldn't touch that problem with the  
whole 10-yard pole.*

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Representatives needed: Angeles, Central Valley, Gold Fields, North Coast Redwoods & San Diego Coast Districts, Historic Pres., N. Service Ctr., S. Service Ctr., AHM Div., Natural Resources Div., Planning Div., and Facilities Mgt. Div.		

*GrayBears*



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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***