



The CSPRA

Wave

Newsletter

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 2

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2013

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



MEMBERS: HELP US SAVE TIME, MONEY & TREES. **PAPER COPIES OF THE WAVE WILL BE PHASED OUT SOON.** SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS: ALLISON@CSPRA.COM



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The CSPRA Wave

(ISSN0087-9176)
is published by CSPRA, P.O. Box 10606,
Truckee, CA 96162

Articles and letters are always welcome. All
submissions become the property of CSPRA
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



by Matt Bellah, CSPRA President

Last month, in Monterey, outgoing CSPRA President **Nina Gordon** handed me the President's gavel. After this symbolic and heavy hand off, I returned the gavel to its wooden box. The box is simple but impressive, and has the CSPRA logo affixed to the top and a brass plaque inside the lid that lists the past presidents of CSPRA. I opened the box and read the names of individuals who have had a great effect on California State Parks and whose works have benefited all park professionals. I am honored to serve as President of CSPRA, and hope that my service will benefit State Parks and park professionals.

I would like to thank outgoing CSPRA President **Nina Gordon**. She has made great contributions to CSPRA and to State Parks.

Three of my objectives as President are to improve communication, increase recruitment, and to improve marketing efforts.

Communication

I would like to improve communication not only between CSPRA members and the CSPRA Board, but also between CSPRA members themselves. Current technology has us expecting instant communications and updates. CSPRA will strive to communicate important information quickly and effectively. We are looking at the creation of a CSPRA e-mail list server, a comprehensive all member CSPRA e-mail list, inte-

grating social media and web postings, and in-person presentations at Department Training and District Meetings.

Recruitment

I would like to make sure that CSPRA continues to be the organization for all State Park Professionals. The recent California Parks Training was a great event, with quality presentations in all professional disciplines. It was a great opportunity to interact with park professionals from all disciplines and from other park agencies. However, it was quite noticeable that there was a lack of field level State Park professionals in attendance. I want CSPRA to continue to be the association for all State Park professionals and to focus recruitment efforts on current and new generations of State Park professionals. This includes Rangers, Lifeguards, Maintenance Workers, Interpreters, and all who help provide quality visitor service, protect valuable resources, and provide visitors with quality recreation.

Marketing

I started working for State Parks as a maintenance Park Aide almost fifteen years ago. One of the things that has always struck me is that our park professionals provide quality services in our communities on a daily basis. However, we often don't effectively communicate this to the public. We see in the mainstream media that State Parks had a vacation buyout scandal and a hidden money scandal, but not that our park professionals are providing valuable services to our visitors and communities every day. CSPRA, as the voice for all park professionals, should actively engage in marketing efforts to promote State Parks and park professionals.

I am honored to be serving as CSPRA President. I hope to promote State Parks and park professionals through improved communication, recruitment, and marketing efforts. If you have suggestions or concerns about CSPRA please e-mail me at **matt@cspira.com**.

2014: 50th Anniversary of CSPRA and 150 Years of State Parks



The California State Park Rangers Association was formed in 1964 and represented by the Board pictured here. The first membership meeting was held in 1965. In 1969 CSPRA was recognized by the state as an authorized representative for members and became a professional and employee representative organization. In 1979, with collective bargaining laws, CSPRA became a solely professional organization and welcomed all park professionals in DPR as members. 50 YEARS to be proud of. Help plan the celebration, contact Allison@cspira.com.

The year 2014 will mark the 150th Anniversary of the start of California State Parks. On June 30, 1864, President Lincoln signed a bill granting Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove to the State of California. On Sept. 28th, Governor Low accepted the Grant and appointed the first state park commission. **Galen Clark** was appointed State Guardian of Yosemite in May, 1866, the first paid state park employee. These actions represent not only the birth of California State Parks, but also the birth of the national park idea, which has spread around the world.

A grand celebration is planned for June 30, 2014, at the Mariposa Grove, and also throughout the state during the celebration year. Think about events in your parks that can tie into this effort. A 150th Anniversary Committee is in place, and can be reached at 150th@parks.ca.gov. A beautiful 150th Badge is available; order at www.parkanniversary.org or email cspac150@gmail.com

2014 PARKS TRAINING will be held in early March in Yosemite Valley. Rooms are limited, sign up soon! Details on the following page and at www.cspira.com. Mike Lynch & Jeff Ohlfs are co-chairing this exciting event.



CSPRA's first Board met in June, 1964 and included Paul Griffith, Al Salzgeber, Philip Geiger, Darrel Knoefler, Gordon Kashbaugh, Henry Sadler, John Michael, Kirk Wallace and Mel Whittaker.

Park Heritage



A GIFT FROM THE PEOPLE
TO THE PEOPLE



INSPIRING GENERATIONS



150 YEARS ~ 1864-2014

California Parks Training Conference - March 3-6, 2014 - Yosemite NP

CSPRA *Wave*, Spring 2013 **3**

The Heritage of Parks in California (and those who made it happen) **California Parks Training Conference - 2014**

<i>Commemorating</i>		
California State Parks 150 Years	Yosemite 150 Years	Local Parks in California 150+ Years

Dates: March 3-6, 2014

Location: Yosemite Lodge, Yosemite National Park in the Valley

Conference Fee: \$225

Rooms: \$99 per night (+ tax) at Yosemite Lodge (73 rooms)
\$84 per night (+ tax) at Curry Village heated cabins with bath (35 rooms)
\$442 per night (+ tax) at the Ahwahnee Hotel (2 rooms)

Conference Size: The conference is limited to 175 registered attendees and room types as above. So reserve your room and make your conference registration now!



Yosemite Lodge at the Falls

Program includes:

- Meals: 2 lunches, 2 continental breakfasts and 1 banquet dinner at **Ahwahnee Hotel**.
- Hospitality: 2 hospitality sessions
- Special Presentations: **Muir & Teddy** by Lee Stetson and **Buffalo Soldier** by Shelton Johnson (pending)
- Program: 21 sessions in three tracks (see attached for details)
- Tracks: Heritage & History of Parks in California, How the NPS does it at Yosemite & Into the Future.

Optional Tours:

- Behind the scenes tour of Yosemite Visitor Center
- Ahwahnee Hotel - Inside look - walking tour
- Guided night walk
- Valley Floor narrated tram tour
- Galen Clark, 200 Year Birthday Anniv. Ceremony
- Photo walk with a NPS Ranger



Garden Terrace meeting room

Sponsors/Supporters:

- California State Park Rangers Association
- Park Rangers Association of California
- California State Parks Foundation
- California State Parks Anniversary Committee
- California State Parks
- NPS - Yosemite National Park



Mike Lynch & Jeff Ohlfs, Co-Chairs

The Stanford Mansion and the Yosemite Grant

by **Rick Becton**, *Historic Guide*

On September 28, 1864, California Governor **Frederick Low** signed a formal proclamation acknowledging the federal legislation granting to the State of California, The Yosemite Valley and The Mariposa Big Trees Grove. At that time, Governor Low's State Executive Department was centered at the Stanford Mansion, two blocks from the Sacramento Capitol.

It was during the tumultuous Civil War era that Governor Low, both the State Executive and head of the militia, officially accepted the Yosemite Grant and appointed its first Commissioners. Two Commissioners, **Frederick Law Olmsted** and **Galen Clark**, would stand out as champions for public open space.

Earlier, in the first decade of California's statehood, our Legislature settled its operations at the Sacramento County Courthouse as a temporary Capitol building. (The State Capitol, as we know it today was but a formative idea, and officials used office space where they could find it.) Newly elected Gov. Leland Stanford, in 1861,



on his own initiative, built an Executive Office as part of his home at 8th and N Streets in Sacramento. Stanford and his wife Jane later agreed to lease the office and mansion to the new Governor Frederick F. Low following the 1863 election.

It was during Low's term that both the 1864 Proclamation and subsequent April 2, 1866 State Legislative Act accepting the 1864 Federal Congressional Act were signed.

So, what's the big deal? Well, these surviving places and documents help us understand and appreciate the creation of the early preservation and park movement concept that we will celebrate in 2014. The opportunity to visit where these official actions were centered can help our visitors relate to what it took to lay claim to these two incredible wonders of nature.

In another interesting development, the Stanford family renovated their home and Governor's office in 1871 by lifting them twelve-feet in the air, as they expanded and modernized their home. They preserved this office structure which had served as the State's Executive Department for most of the previous decade. Now a remarkable part of California's State Park System, The Stanford Mansion continues the early ideal of a special place "held for public use, resort, and recreation" by the State of California. Today, thirty-five times a week, tours are led at the Stanford Mansion State Historic Park and guests visit this scene—the historic Office of the Governor.

11th Annual Park Advocacy Day

by **John Mott**

On March 12, 2013, park advocates (the highest number ever) from throughout California participated in the California State Park Foundation's 11th Annual Park Advocacy Day to send a powerful message of support for California's 280 state parks.

Participants dedicated an entire day meeting with policymakers at the Capitol to discuss state parks related legislation and budget issues. The 200 participants were divided into teams of 3-5 people each and given specific speaking topics. A list of specific legislative "asks" is available at <http://www.calparks.org/programs/policy/legislative-agenda.html>. The day ended with inspirational remarks from Director Jackson and Senators Leno and Pavley. PAD's goal is to impact legislators as they make important



decisions about state park protection and the funding of California's state parks system, and significant progress was made.

If you have questions about the event, or would like to participate next year, contact the Foundation's Legislative office at email Advocacy@calparks.org or call 916-442-2119. The CSPF website www.calparks.org/takeaction/pad/ contains more information and photos of the event.

Training Center Celebrates 40 Years Share Your Stories!

This fall the William Penn Mott Jr. Training Center (MTC) celebrates 40 years with an open house and a series of newsletters that will highlight MTC training moments. Please share your experiences at the Center between 1973 and 2013. Try to identify what training class it was (or at least the discipline/program area) and the year. Send small blurbs (anything from one sentence to an article) to:

sara.skinner@parks.ca.gov

Also, please "Like" our page on Facebook to view photos, add/tag photos, and submit positive reflections on training you have attended: <http://www.facebook.com/MTC40th>

Standing on the Shores of our Future

The California Parks Training Conference

was February 25-28, 2013 at Monterey Bay



^^Past President **Nina Gordon** passes the gavel to CSPRA's new President, **Matt Bellah**, Supervising Ranger in Capital District.



Co-chairs **Patrick Boyle** and **Joanne Danielson**

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: **Frank Dean** (L), General Superintendent of Golden Gate National Recreation Area and **General Anthony Jackson**, USMC (retired) Director of California State Parks.



CSPRA'S NEW BOARD:

Back row: **Jeff Price**, Webmaster. 2nd row L to R: **Matt Bellah**, President, **Mike Lynch**, **Steve Ptomey**, **Joanne Danielson**, Board Members, **Victor Bjelajac**, Treasurer, **Janet Carle**, Newsletter Editor. Front row: **Mark Hada**, VP, **Nina Gordon**, Past President, and **Mike McMenemy**, Board Member. Not pictured: **Cecilia Rejas**, Secretary, and **Jan Wooley**, Board Member.

2013 Parks Training

Sacramento County Regional Park Ranger **Chris Kemp** received the Medal of Valor award from CSPRA Vice President Mark Hada and PRAC President Pam Helmke. Chris was stopped for gas in Stockton off-duty, when he witnessed a woman being beaten nearby. Ranger Kemp called 911 and stopped the assault by drawing his weapon. The suspect was later arrested and charged with multiple felony crimes.



Dave and Janet Carle's slide talk at the banquet was based on their new book: *Traveling the 38th Parallel; A Water Line Around the World*

Nina Gordon, CSPRA's immediate past president, recently retired. Past CSPRA Presidents **Wayne Harrison**, **Rick Parmer**, **John Mott**, & **Bud Getty** attended the celebration in Sacramento.

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PARKS TRAINING!



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PRAC attendees are eligible for membership. Stop by our booth and join today!

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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 the new CSPRA President. Enjoy!

CSPRA Chronicles...MATT BELLAH

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

I currently work for State Parks in the Capital District as a Supervising Ranger. I've worked for State Parks for over eight years as a Ranger/Supervising Ranger and four seasons for State Parks as a Park Aide.

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born and raised in the heart of the Inland Empire in Riverside, California. I went to college in San Diego and lived there before attending the State Park Ranger Academy.

Tell us a little about your youth, the "formative" years.

Growing up I spent a lot of time playing outdoors, playing sports like baseball, soccer, and football.

What were some of your favorite parks you visited when you were growing up?

I was fortunate growing up that both my parents were teachers and had summers off. We would spend most of the summers on the California coast, enjoying the beaches in Pismo Beach, Ventura, and San Diego. I really enjoyed spending time at Carlsbad State Beach, Carpinteria State Beach, and Pismo State Beach. Before moving inland I was an active long boarder and one of my favorite spots in my youth (that is not a State Park) is Tourmaline Beach Park in Pacific Beach.

Tell us a little about your family.

My wife and I have one daughter, Sophia, who is 2 years old and always full of energy. My wife, Amy, is an attorney for Placer County.



What is your educational background?

I have a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of California San Diego. I have also taken graduate courses in Public Administration at San Jose State University.

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

I spend a lot of time chasing around a 2 year old and playing at our local neighborhood parks.

What were the jobs you held before joining California State Parks?

Working as a Park Aide for State Parks was my first "real" job. My first season as a Park Aide I was 18 years old, just graduated high school and waiting to go away to college in the fall. I worked as a Park Aide at the California Citrus State Historic Park and Chino Hills State Park doing maintenance, groundskeeping, and visitor service. In between being a Park Aide for State Parks and attending the State Park Ranger Academy I worked as a Park Aide for Riverside County Parks, as a Seasonal Park Ranger in Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area, and as a Park Ranger for San Diego County.

When did you get the idea that you would like a career in Parks?

While I was in college I was looking for a summer job in parks. I had already worked several seasons as a Park Aide for State Parks and I was looking at what other opportunities were out there. On a whim I applied to work as a seasonal Ranger in Boston Harbor Islands National Park. I interviewed over the phone and a few months later I was getting off a plane in Boston

(a place I had never been before) to work a summer as a seasonal Ranger. I worked on Georges Island at the entrance to Boston Harbor and gave tours of Fort Warren, a historic coastal defense fort and Civil War prison. I stayed in one of the old military buildings and explored Boston on my days off. It was a great experience and cemented my desire to pursue a career working in parks.

What are the positions you have held and where have you worked in your SP career?

I was a Park Aide in the Chino Hills Sector. After graduating the State Park Ranger Academy, I worked in the Santa Cruz Mountains at Portola Redwoods State Park, Castle Rock State Park, and Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. I then transferred to Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. From there I promoted to Supervising Ranger in the Capital District.

Working in the Capital District must be pretty exciting in the diversity of the historic parks within the district. Tell us about a typical day for you as the Supervising Ranger.

The Legislature is now in Full Swing

by **Monica Miller, CSPRA Lobbyist**
Now that we are well into March, the legislature is beginning to get into the full swing of things. Committees have been assigned and they are beginning to meet. We have passed both the legislative counsel and the bill introduction deadline, so now the legislature gets down to work. Additionally, the budget committee and their subcommittees have begun to meet to start the review of the Governor's budget.

With the bill introduction deadline having passed, we have reviewed the newly introduced bills and started to take positions, seek amendments, parcel out what is important and gather additional information on bills that have a potential impact on parks. There were not as many bills intro-

duced this year as there have been in the past; however there were many themes which will be extremely difficult to tackle, so we anticipate that there will be some contentious hearings in the next few months. There are some significant learning curves as the 39 new members try to wrap their brains around many issues that the state has dealt with in some manner over the last few years.

We are also at the beginning of the new term limits for freshman members; they now have up to 12 years in either house with a real opportunity to learn about issues of critical importance to them and their constituents. Given these new rules, take advantage and get them out to our state parks, let them see the beauty that you have to offer.

The Legislature is at the beginning of the budget discussion as well. The Governor released his budget in early January and subcommittees have begun to meet to discuss the proposal. This is the first in many years without a budget deficit. Thanks to the voters' support of Proposition 30, the budget is finally balanced. There remain some concerns that some in the legislature may try to restore many previously cut programs; however the administration has warned that this is something they support.

Once we get into May, we will see what the April receipts have brought with the May Revise. We will continue to keep you updated and look forward to continuing to work on critical issues affecting our State Parks system!

CHRONICLES, from page 8

Like most Supervisors I unfortunately spend a lot of time sitting in meetings and in front of a computer screen. My duties are split between supervising our district-wide Ranger program and supervising the operations of the California State Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento. So one minute I might be on foot patrol along the Sacramento River and the next minute participating in a staff meeting about Docent Training.

The Capital District features mostly urban parks. What special challenges do you face in operating parks within a major California city?

The Capital District is located in downtown Sacramento and is obviously very urban. The Ranger staff spend time dealing with issues involving transients, people with mental health issues, and people abusing drugs and alcohol. We also have issues with theft and vandalism. We provide security for special events at our facilities involving the Governor, state legislators, and other dignitaries.

The Railroad Museum operation presents a different picture, welcoming hundreds of thousands of school children each year. It is a very family oriented environment where people visit and learn about trains and how they helped build California and our nation. Our challenges tend to be related to volunteer management and school and commercial group reservations and programs. The Railroad Museum has over 600 volunteers and it can be a challenge to effectively communicate with any group that size.

As CSPRA President, what message would you like to share?

I want to promote the valuable services that State Park professionals in all disciplines provide everyday in the parks and their surrounding communities. We have good employees that provide great services. We should be better at telling people about our successes.



CSPRA Past President and globe trotter **Denzil Verardo** shared a California State Parks patch with ranger friends he made in Masaya Volcano National Park in Nicaragua.

**PROMOTING PROFESSIONALISM IN
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS**

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at: <http://www.cspira.com>
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Email: _____

District, Section, or Park: _____

Membership type (Circle one):

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Organization \$50/year

Benefactor \$1,000/life

Check one: I prefer getting the WAVE
_____ as a PDF file by email;

_____ by postal mail (hard copy)

May we print your name as a new member in
the WAVE? _____ I hereby authorize
the State Controller to deduct from my salary
and transmit as designated an amount for
membership dues in the California State Park
Rangers Association. This authorization will
remain in effect until cancelled by myself or
by the organization. I certify I am a member
of the above organization and understand that
termination of my membership will cancel all
deductions made under this organization.

Signature _____

Date _____

EXECUTIVE MANAGER



by Allison Pedley

A big CSPRA welcome to **Timothy Harden** out of Silverwood Lake and **Tracey Weatherby** from the Russian River District who have both recently joined our ranks. **Dan Winkelman** has also recently signed on as a retired

member. Welcome! Finally, big congratulations and thanks to former CSPRA Board member **Nedra Martinez** on her recent retirement, and for signing on as a retired member.

Also, thank you to those members who have signed up to receive the *Wave* electronically. This option not only saves trees but helps reduce costs at CSPRA, enabling us to put more money into advocacy and training efforts. Those of you still receiving hard copies, please consider upgrading to our electronic version! Just send me a quick note at allison@cspira.com

A WAVE Goodbye

CRAIG BURKE

1948 - 2013

Craig passed away in February. He was raised in Pt. Loma and attended UCLA. He had a long career as a Ranger at Huntington Beach, Angel Island and Calaveras Big Trees. Craig was known for his marksmanship, his guitar playing, making model aircraft and his wonderful sense of humor. He retired in 2003 and returned to San Diego County, working as a substitute teacher in Ramona. He leaves behind his partner Kathie Taylor and his sons Andrew and Ryan.



She was a Native American of Miwok and Maidu heritage. Her late husband, Bob, was a State Parks Maintenance Chief.

HENRY AGONIA

1942 - 2013

Henry served as Director of California State Parks from 1987 - 1992. He served as Parks Chief in Glendale, and often drove the city's float in the Rose Parade. He was a Sacramento consultant, ran an environmental planning and communications firm, and was the Executive Director of the CA Association of Recreation and Park Districts in his later years.



WILLIAM STAHLBERG

Bill passed away in Nov. 2012. Born in Vallejo, he was a Ranger for 34 years, working at Armstrong Redwoods, MacKerricher, Jed Smith, Mt. San Jacinto and Huntington Beach. He retired in 1982 and enjoyed fishing and backpacking. Bill leaves behind his wife Frances and sons Gordon and Ralph.

BILLIE BLUE

ELLISTON

1943- 2013

Billie passed away in February. She worked for State Parks for 34 years as a Maintenance Worker and Museum Curator.



JOHN WALSTROM

1934 - 2013

John, a painter by trade, served in the Navy during the Korean War. He began his State Park career in 1957 at Cuyamaca. He worked at Russian Gulch, Lake Elsinore, and San Diego's Old Town, eventually promoting to Supervising Ranger, Manager and Maintenance Specialist. John retired in 1988 as a Regional Technical Services Manager.

An avid fisherman and birder, John is survived by his wife Jane, daughter Mary Katherine and 2 grandsons.

Upcoming Retirements

Heidi Horvitz
Northern Buttes



Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops

by Jeff Price
semi-retired



Mixed Metaphor: A combination of thoughts that when strung together produce a ridiculously funny effect of melded clichés. Send along any overheard slips of the tongue to: webmaster@cspra.com

A trepid reaction?
*That can be scary, I am sure
you were filled with intrepidation.*

Point of order Mr. Chairman!
If elected, I will be very amendable to working with both sides on these issues.

Pulling for you . . .
For Northwestern to win, the team will have to throw out all the stops.

Juggling on a tightrope?
That is some balancing act with so many balls in the air at once!

Chalk maybe?
Just kiss that fumble up to bad luck.

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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@cspra.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: www.cspra.com

Find Us On Facebook
www.facebook.com/CSPRA

Are you traveling soon?

Want to find out what's going on in the State Parks around you? Visit the events page on the California State Parks website to find out what's happening in parks around the state:

www.parks.ca.gov/events



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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