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Newsletter of the CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Winter 2019

*"State Park experts and professionals advocating for State Parks since 1964."*

# Park Groups Provide Fire Relief

**By Jeff Price  
and Tom Bernardo**

The Woolsey and Camp Fires both started on Thursday, November 8, 2018. By that weekend, news and personal reports began to reveal the destruction. On the GrayBears retiree listserve we read tragic stories of park employees losing everything. Generous offers of help were posted, but it became obvious that retiree relief offers had no way to get to those who were in need.

CSPRA and the Ranger Foundation gave Jeff Price, representing GrayBears, permission to develop a way to get relief to state park families. We contacted both Districts to offer assistance and contacts for those affected. They were overwhelmed with the immediate threat but began to help us find a direction. Unfortunately, misinformation got to park headquarters Legal and they were initially opposed to our involvement. After a few candid discussions, and them knowing CSPRA and Foundation were involved, they agreed to

support us and told districts they could work with us.

We wrote a note of what was being offered by GrayBears, CSPRA, and Ranger Foundation and who to contact for more information. This was sent by email via district contacts to as many affected park staff and retirees as possible. After the first 10 days, we had not heard from anyone, even as cash donations and offers of physical help were pouring in. We asked the districts to contact affected employees by phone and get their OK for Jeff to call them. Personal calls were made to 37 fire victims; 25 North and 9 South. The list was a variety of jobs including Sewer Plant Operator, PMW I and II, Park Aide, Ranger, Supt, Office Tech, Admin Officer, PMC, Retiree, and Academy Cadet.

We were able to get requests from those in distress and start a needs database. We then simply matched resources with needs, put the parties in touch to get things delivered. I think we partly furnished 9 houses and provided 14 others

with items they needed (3 Christmas trees, used uniforms, a mobility chair, 5 beds, 2 gun safes, etc.). We also had many amazing offers but no identified need (such as horse stable, 2 cars, 3 camp trailers and a fully equipped Class-A motorhome).

The non-profit Ranger Foundation provided financial support to state park families using tax-deductible donations. As of mid-January, 14 reimbursement checks had been sent for a total of \$10,671. We had 92 donors provide \$24,715, including 11 generous donations of \$1,000. Several of the fire victims lost more than the \$1,000 maximum the Ranger Foundation board initially approved, so a proposal to raise the relief ceiling will be reviewed.

Our special thanks to Craig Sap and Tony Hoffman at Angeles; Matt Teague, Aaron Wright and Emily Koskondy at Northern Buttes; Jason Dewall and John Fraser at Headquarters. Cooperation from these key state players helped our relief effort work well.





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# President's Column

*By Mike Lynch, President*

*President Mike Lynch is on a 3-week tour of New Zealand parks and provides this photo report from down-under.*

I did a ride-along with Auckland Regional Parks Senior Ranger **Beckie Trigg** in the Wenderholm and Mahuriangi Regional Parks, located about 30 miles north of Auckland. These two parks get about 240,000 visitors a year.



The rangers do a lot of resource management, education, and other visitor services (i.e. management of trails, camping & day use areas.) They have authority to enforce bylaws (like CSP rules & regs), but rarely formally do so, relaying primarily on an education approach, which works very well for them. Their staffing levels seem to be pretty good with at least one "community" ranger living in each park and another group of rangers who work out of a sector office to provide additional coverage to all the parks in a sector. (Photo above) A few of the sector ranger staff in front



*Mike Lynch and Senior Ranger Beckie Trigg next to a ranger patrol "ute" (short for utility vehicle or what we could call a pickup).*



of the historic Couldrey House, parts of which date from the 1850s. The back of the house is the sector park headquarters and the rest of the house is open for tours.



Wenderholm Regional Park has a mile long beach, headlands and several miles along the Puhoi River. I'm standing where the river enters the Pacific Ocean.



The Auckland Council (a city/county government) operates 29 regional parks in the greater Auckland area, including quite a few beaches and historical features ([https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regional\\_parks\\_of\\_New\\_Zealand](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regional_parks_of_New_Zealand)). One unusual operational aspect is that almost all the regional parks have some and often a lot of cattle and sheep, that the rangers manage, like a regular sheep or cattle farm, including sheep dipping, moving stock around to pastures, and so forth.



I only got to pose driving the ranger Ute as they probably thought I was not ready for driving on the left hand side of the road!



Of course I did patch trading and got a set of their patches, which I did not have. (Above) Patches of the Auckland park rangers. The small reddish patch is the logo of the Auckland Council, also worn by other unformed Council personnel.



*Best Ever!*

# 2018 CALPA Conference

*By John Mott,  
Legislative Director*

I attended the California League of Parks Associations (CALPA) conference October 23-26 in Folsom, California and found it very rewarding.

This conference was different from past CALPA conference in that it was co-sponsored by CSP and was, in effect, the Department's annual Cooperating Associations Partnership Workshop. About 25 Department staff (mostly Cooperating Association Liaisons (CALs)) who were affiliated with one of the 89 associations around the state, also attended.

I interacted with several District Superintendents and numerous Sector Superintendents. I found the sessions stimulating and it was personally enjoyable for me to reconnect with



many association members and park staff I had not seen since I retired in 2010.

Sessions were designed for nonprofit professionals, board members, volunteers, community leaders and California State Park staff. I went as CSPRA's Legislative Director and was especially interested in what is needed to help the Department work more effectively with its nonprofit partners.

Welcoming remarks were also made by District Superintendents from both Gold Fields and the Capitol Districts and the Acting Northern Division Chief. The CSP Executive Office was well represented. **Christina Jaromay**, Partnerships Division Chief and her staff (see photo) attended the entire conference. I was impressed to see that the Department has the Volunteers in Parks Program, the Cooperating Associations Program, and Operating Agreements in one new Division and they are now supported by two program managers and three staff people. Christina, the Division Chief, is also pushing for a management level Partnership Liaison to be assigned to each district.

Director **Lisa Magnat** gave the keynote address to open the conference and attended the closing banquet. Some of the



Partnership Division (L to R Christina Jaromay (Chief), Sara Schlusser (staff), Lisa Magnat (DPR Director), Paige Rogowski (Coop and Op Agree Manager), Brie Grossman (staff), Rachel Young (staff), Dennis Webber (VIP Program Manager)



comments she made included: how SB 1 benefits CSP, i.e. funds a significant portion of the State Park System, enables hiring of 363 positions, the vast majority of who are rank and file. SB 1 also enables funding of seasonal staff and law enforcement. She commented on the tremendous vacancies in CA State Parks and that she hoped to hire 54 new SPPOs in the next year.

During the Q & A session two questions were asked about lack of field staff in park units and the importance of correcting this. Association members expressed strong support for parks to be adequately staffed. The Director said she recognizes the problem and that her administration is working to correct it. I was impressed that several participants expressed strong support for parks to be operated with state

park staff (and not just run by NPOs and volunteers).

She also commented about the new Parks California nonprofit that will be funding capital projects and other programs not only in CSP, but also other park agencies. She said that both the Directors of CSP and Finance are ex officio members of the board of this nonprofit. (Parks California was receiving applications for an executive director, during the conference.) She said Parks California was authorized by SB 111, but I could not locate this bill. The California State Parks Foundation role is no longer capital projects and apparently is now focused more on advocacy and volunteerism.

The sessions were excellent. Some were led by retired CSP rangers such as **Heidi Doyle** and **Dick Troy**. Representa-

tives from the Portero Group (involved with Parks California) also led excellent sessions.

CALPA accomplished something I had started back when I was the Coop Assn Program Manager - a formal relationship with the Public Lands Alliance (PLA is the NPS version of CALPA). For the next year, all CSP coops have full membership in the PLA. This includes discounts on training, and full access to the PLA website. PLA has now posted all the 2018 CALPA conference PowerPoint presentations and related materials on the PLA website. I am hoping that all our associations take full advantage of this benefit.

The conference theme was *Fostering Excellence, Park Leadership in the Golden State* and the conference succeeded in this regard. Attendees came away inspired and motivated to improve CSP.



October 21-24

# 2019 Meeting & Rendezvous

It is time to mark your calendars for the 2019 Conference and Rendezvous — October 21 to 24, 2019 at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

We will see firsthand the relatively new UC Irvine partnership with Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and the Anza-Borrego Foundation, in the Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center. This facility provides a great meeting venue and support facilities.

There will be tours of the Stout Paleontology Lab and the Begole Archeological Research Center, the Fifth Grade Environmental Camp (Yurts), and the Visitor Center. You can also expect some hikes to Borrego Palm Canyon and offer a couple of nice driving tours to Font's Point and the spectacular Split Mountain. Borrego is a designated "Dark Sky" community — enjoy an evening star walk for the stunning nighttime sky-scape.



We have an all-star 2019 Conference Committee spearheading this effort: **Mark Jorgensen, Lynn Rhodes, Dave Van Cleve, Jim Dice, Kathy Dice, Mike Wells, Ann Meneguzzi and Mike Lynch.** You can expect to hear much more in the coming months.



# Master Interpreter Karen Barrett

Karen Barrett, District Interpretive Specialist for the Bay Area District, has been recognized with a prestigious national honor. She was selected this year as Master Front-Line Interpreter. The award is presented annually by the National Association for Interpretation.

“Always an ambassador for interpretation, Karen is adept at building bridges to maintenance, administrative and curatorial employees. She shows environmental scientists, historians and archeologists how interpretation can enhance their efforts. Karen also mentors new rangers in the cadet academy, coaching them in their interpretive presentations” according to **Donna Pozzi**, Interpretation and Education Division, Chief (retired).



The Master Front-Line Interpreter is presented to an NAI member who has worked for five or more years in the profession and does not supervise the work of others. Recipients demonstrate a mastery of interpretive techniques, program development, and design of creative projects.



Karen has been Project Manager for the planning, design and installation for exhibits at Mt. Diablo State Park, Sonoma Mission State Park, and Bothe-Napa State Park. Her interpretive writing and creative input have resulted in effective and approachable exhibits.

She received the award at the NAI National Conference held in New Orleans. NAI is a professional organization dedicated to advancing the profession of heritage interpretation, with over 7,000 members in the United States, Canada, and over thirty other nations.



**Jeff Ohlfs** was recently sworn-in after being appointed by Governor Brown to the Mt. San Jacinto Winter Park Authority. The seven-member public agency and public corporation is the governing body of Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. We are pleased to have Jeff's park values in this crucial role. Photo by **Jim Schooler**.



*Ranger Foundation "Founding Member" plaque is presented by Jeff Ohlfs to Jan Lemons of the Association of National Park Rangers recently in Bowling Green, KY Photo by Jamie Richards.*



# A Wave Goodbye

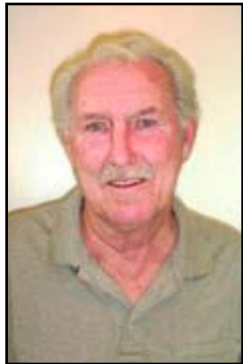
## Rudy Baie

Rudy K. Baie passed away peacefully at age 80 this November at his home in New Harmony, Utah. He was born on April 4, 1938 in Des Moines, Iowa, to Herbert and Sally (Swenson) Baie.

Rudy spent time as a Military Police Officer with the US Army Special Forces and United Nations Command during the Korean War. Rudy started with State Parks at Lake Perris (Los Lagos District) and retired from Cuyamaca the late 1990s serving as Chief of Maintenance. He became a legend during his 22 years in the park system before he retired to New Harmony. He married the love of his life, Chris Baie in 1982.

Rudy was always the life of the party, the person that everyone wanted to be around. He enjoyed the outdoors, and working in his garage. He deeply loved and enjoyed his dogs.

He will be loved and missed by all his family and friends. One co-worker noted, "Rudy made a maintenance worker out of me at a time when women in maintenance were few and far between. I will always be grateful."



## Sandy Jones

Sandy Jones Birkland, 56, died November 11, 2018, in her home in Petaluma. She survived breast cancer for 2 years and was surrounded by dear family and friends at the time of her death.

She was born in Santa Barbara, California, September 15, 1962. She grew up with all the light in the world and truly knew how to outdo the boys. She brought fun and laughter to every room she entered and never met anybody who wasn't an instant friend.

Sandy graduated from San Jose State University with a degree in Parks and Recreation, to later become a State Park Ranger for 30 devoted years. She finished her time as a state employee at Bothe Napa State Park where she was surrounded by a park family and her true passion, old mills. She jumped right into a group called the Society and Preservation of Old Mills. Because of her and many other people with the same passion, the Bale Grist Mill came to life as it had in the 1860's.



## Ken Morris

Kenneth Melvin Morris, 81, passed-on this November. Ken was born in Willmar, MN and joined the Navy at the age of 17. He attended Humboldt State University and earned a degree in wildlife management.

Ken worked as a park ranger in Brannan Island and Portola State Parks and served as the chief ranger in Big Basin Redwoods State Park for 18 years. He was an active member of his community and a longtime member of Felton Bible Church. In his retirement years, Ken was a dedicated volunteer at Mount Herman Conference Center. Known for his lively sense of humor and positive attitude, Ken was a friend to everyone. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, woodworking and repairing his grandchildren's toys, Giants baseball, gardening, and hiking.

A loving spouse and father, Ken is dearly missed by his wife of 45 years, Bessie Morris, and his children, Kelly and Chuck Alberton of San Anselmo and Kristy and Bryan Lewis of Spring, TX. Ken also has seven grandchildren who were his pride and joy.



## Ben Fenkell

Ben Fenkell, an active CSPRA member, Director and Scholarship Committee Chairman shockingly passed away after a cardiac event at his home in late October. He was 41. Ben a Sacramento native, was born into a family highly active in performing arts, activism and building strong connections within the Filipino-American community of the Sacramento region.

Ben will be missed as a CSPRA contributor, Director and as a true park professional. With nearly 20 years of service, Ben was a career State Parks Interpreter who had a positive impact at several park units, districts, and most recently with the Interpretation and Education Division as a statewide PORTS Program Coordinator.

Ben forged strong bonds with the Parks family everywhere he worked. Ben was a Department leader in making diversity and inclusion a central part of the State Parks experience, training and influencing park interpreters to provide opportunities for people from all walks of life.

Ben was very active in the local Filipino community providing guidance, planning for organizations and events, and making a difference in the lives of Filipino youth and culture. Ben was involved in the local Fil-Am community from a very young age.

He served as a youth board member of Philippine National



Day Association (PNDA), a past coordinator of the Filipino Youth Leadership Conference, a founding member of the former Pilipino Youth Coalition (PYC) of Sacramento and served various roles with the Sinag-Tala Filipino Theatrical Revue. Ben has also served many roles with the annual Filipino Fiesta as an active member on the planning team throughout the years.

Ben was not only a CSPRA board member but had quietly been using his gifted professionalism and artistic talent for many years to help design, create and produce artwork for CSPRA. He created artwork for pamphlets, brochures, and even a few special logos for our annual conference events. Most recently, Ben produced the revised CSPRA logo adopted in 2016, proudly displayed on our website, in our Wave Newsletter and on official letterhead.

Ben was also an active member of the National Association for Interpretation.

CSPRA is affiliated with other non-profit organizations that share our goals.

The Park Rangers Association of California is a professional organization for park Rangers and other uniformed park employees of municipal, county, special district, state and federal agencies.



The International Ranger Federation is a non-profit organization established to raise awareness of and support the critical work that the world's park rangers do in conserving our natural and cultural heritage.



Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs was established in 1932 for Mutual Service and for the Promotion of the Proper Use, Enjoyment and Protection of America's Scenic Wilderness and Outdoor Recreation Resources.



Association of National Park Rangers is an organization created to communicate for, about and with National Park Service employees of all disciplines and to provide a forum for professional enrichment.



**Are you Moving?**  
**Please let us know.**  
**Betsy@CSPRA.com**



# Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops

By Jeff Price, Seriously Retired

**Mixed Metaphor:** a figure of speech combining incongruous metaphors. **Malaprop:** the mistaken use of a word in place of a similar-sounding one. Send along any overheard slips of the tongue to [malaprops@cspra.com](mailto:malaprops@cspra.com).



Stoned, for sure!

The senate investigation should leave no smoke left unturned.

Olive or apricot?

Hearing such trashy conversation puts a pit in my stomach.

What about the store?

She just gave away the entire kitchen sink.

. . . or flies in the gravy?

That news sure puts a few lumps in the ointment!

Busman's Holiday?

. . . and they just threw him under the crosshairs.

Clock it, Paladin!

Time is running out on this investigation and now we're up against the gun.

## Ranger Foundation

The non-profit Ranger Foundation is still accepting tax-deductible monetary donations in support of the state park employees and retirees affected by the recent "Woolsey" fire near Malibu and "Camp" fire near Paradise, as well as several other charitable causes.

See CSPRA.com (click the "Relief" button)



[www.CSPRA.com](http://www.CSPRA.com)



## CSPRAnet

### Member List Server

Sign-up for timely CSPRA news right in your inbox.

Just send your email address (no State emails please) to [webmaster@cspra.com](mailto:webmaster@cspra.com) with the subject line "add me to CSPRAnet"



### Retiring Soon?

If you or a co-worker will be retiring soon, please contact Membership Services Coordinator Betsy Anderson at (707) 884-3949, [betsy@cspra.com](mailto:betsy@cspra.com).



### Already Retired?

Want to keep in touch after you leave DPR? Join GrayBears email ListServ - FREE and EASY  
[graybears@cspra.com](mailto:graybears@cspra.com)

## Join CSPRA Or join us online at [cspra.com](http://cspra.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Job Classification: \_\_\_\_\_

District / Park: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_ (required for payroll deduction)

Phone(W) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Type (Check one)

- ☐ Active \$10/month
- ☐ Active Retired \$60/year (\$5/mo.)
- ☐ Supporting \$36/year\*
- ☐ Organization \$50/year\*
- ☐ Benefactor \$1,000/life\*



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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership by Mail:**  
**CSPRA** — Betsy Anderson  
PO Box 618 Gualala, CA 95445

\* please include check for 1 year's dues for these membership levels.





*2019 Conference and Rendezvous — October 21-24 at Anza-Borrego*



## **California State Park Rangers Association**

CSPRA is an organization of State 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.

***Founded 1964***