



The CSPRA

Wave

Volume 23, Number 2

Newsletter of the CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2023

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

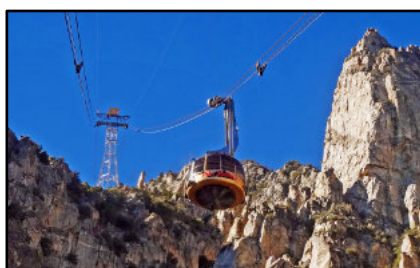
State Parks Rendezvous

Mark your calendar to attend the CSPRA Conference and Rendezvous being held at Lake Perris SRA and surrounding State Parks November 6-9, 2023. This year's conference includes a tour of California Citrus SHP with a "citrus tasting" tour from the large variety of citrus trees found in the park.



A ride on the Palm Springs Tram into Mt. San Jacinto SP to view trail and meadow restoration work in Long Valley, including a visit to the highest alpine lake in southern California - Hidden Lake! Other planned events include tours of the Lake Perris Ya'i Heki' Regional Indian Museum, Bird & Nature walks and a bicycle tour around Lake Perris.

The formal conference meeting will be held on Wednesday November 8th at



Lake Perris Moreno Beach "Lakeview Pavilion" Training facility located adjacent to the Luiseño Campground. Free camping with hook-ups will be available. The nearby Ayres Hotel & Spa in Moreno Valley will be hosting our conference with a room rate of \$95 a night including a "Cooked-to-Order" breakfast!

The Wednesday conference meeting will include several presentations highlighting projects and issues involving our State Parks and will include a catered lunch and dinner.

Early registration, payment options and other pertinent information for the conference are available at cspra.com. Also, you can contact **Ron Krueper** for further information at 909 838 8249 or ron@cspra.com

Operating Agreements

Existing authority to allow non-profits to operate State Park units is set to expire January 2025. SB668 is a bill to extend this authority indefinitely, now working through the legislature. Some CSPRA members believe non-profits should not be park operators. Your Board will be giving this bill serious consideration.

World Ranger Day

California's World Ranger Day will be held at Point Reyes National Seashore's Kenneth C. Patrick Visitor Center, on Monday, July 31, 2023 at 10 AM. It will be the 50th remembrance of the deaths of NPS Ranger **Ken Patrick** and DPR Ranger **Richard Schnurr**. The remembrance will last about 2 hours and included a mounted color guard, memorial dedication, presentation of FOP Supreme Sacrifice Award, and PRAC's Medal of Valor & Honor. In attendance will be staff from Point Reyes' sister park, Georgia's Kolkheti Nature Reserve. Join us.



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President's Message

PARKS ARE FOREVER WITH YOUR HELP

This Winter of 2023 will be talked about for many years. We are facing unusual challenges, particularly those of us living the rural mountain life. The winter after Janet and I moved to Mono Lake to establish a new State Reserve, we experienced the record Sierra snowpack of winter 1983, and wondered if we would ever see another to equal that one. This winter is not yet over in the Sierra, but snow production is already breaking old records. The specific challenges that hit the Mono Lake Basin this winter have been exceptional.

On February 26, the first of several avalanches came down this east face of the mountain, burying Highway 395 north of our local town of Lee Vining. A massive avalanche on the 28th took out several electric power poles on that hillside and electricity was cut off from there to communities north of Lee Vining. Many of us, including Catherine Jones, the Mono Lake Tufa SNR Interpreter, live in a community called Mono City (about 96 homes). The highway south remained closed, with work just begun to clear the avalanches by March 14, hindered by continuous storms. Until recently, only one Caltrans grader was on our side of the avalanche closure, so



road plowing to the north and east was painfully slow. Power remained off until March 3rd from Mono City up to Bridgeport (the County seat in the next valley north). Without electricity for heaters and with nighttime temperatures dropping into the single digits, keeping pipes from freezing was top priority. Woodstove fires helped, but not all of our neighbors had that capability. Some had generators to run area heaters, but fuel soon became a problem.

To keep fires going all night, we exhausted our woodpile. A kind neighbor with firewood buried beneath several feet of ice and snow allowed us to dig a week's worth out. On the morning of March 3rd, with power still out and morning fog blocking the sun that could help heat the house, Janet and I decided to shut off the water to our house, pack up and go. We wrestled the protesting cat into a cat-carrier, and joined a caravan of vehicles leaving for Bridgeport, led by the CHP. 



Since dropping the cat with our son in Hawthorne, Nevada, we have been staying with family in Irvine and Fallbrook. The power back home has been restored by activating a nearby hydro power plant that had been shuttered. Road access out to the east (to Hawthorne NV) has been plowed now and made available just to locals to make the hour-long drive for supplies. Warmer atmospheric river storms keep bringing flooding and mud across California, but have helped clear the snow load on our roof, according to neighbors who remain and are keeping an eye on things at our house.

While down south, we have visited Crystal Cove and San Onofre State Beaches. I was a park aide at San Onofre in 1974 and this was my first time back in 45 years. Trail signs are heavily vandalized, sadly, but surfers were

there, as always, and the coastal bluffs remain beautiful. Someday the intrusive nuclear power plants, now decommissioned but still looming, will be gone. It would have been an appropriate task for CSPRA to oppose the powerplant expansion considered by the Coastal Commission back in 1974. Park staff were told back then to remain quiet on the issue, but some of us who knew about the special beauty of those bluffs, once our seasonal work ended, assisted a local campaign fighting the bluff removal proposed. I presented a slide talk to the Coastal Commission. Some, at least, of the bluffs did get saved. It was good to see them still standing, down the beach, the other day.

In this issue of the WAVE, you can read about a 17-year effort to approve a General Plan for Red Rock Canyon State Park (why did

that take so darn long; glad its finally done). CSPRA is continuing to follow the Dutch Cleanser Mine acquisition effort in that park. Dan Winkelmann is keeping us updated about development threats at Lake Natoma in Folsom. We continue to monitor the gondola proposal across LASHP and, always, any park related issues. Later this Spring, on Tuesday May 16, the State Park Foundation hosts its annual Park Advocacy Day and several of our CSPRA folks will be in Sacramento to help.

In the 1970s, our state park pick-ups at San Onofre had signs on their tailgates that read: "Parks Are Forever with Your Help." That's a fine message and a promise that takes diligence and concern to achieve. That's why CSPRA exists.

A Long Time Coming Red Rock GP Revision Approved

By Ron Krueper

CSPRA has been following and monitoring California State Parks planning efforts to bring before the Parks and Recreation Commission the Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan Revision (GPR) for approval. Red Rock Canyon SP is a 25,000+ acre park located along Hwy 14 north of Lancaster and south of Ridgecrest in the Mojave Desert. The Parks and Recreation Commission approved the GPR on March 3, 2023.

Red Rock Canyon SP was originally established in 1968 when 4,000 acres was set aside to protect the significant desert landscape that is found here. However, with the traditional Off-highway vehicle (OHV) activities in the area the park was reclassified by the Parks and Recreation Commission to a State Recreation Area (SRA) in 1973. However, after continuing OHV use, it became apparent that in order to protect the significant resources within the Park it was reclassified back to a State Park in 1980, followed by the approval of the General Plan in 1982. Additional lands were acquired bringing the State Park acreage to over 8,000 acres and protection of the resources very slowly improved with increased regulation/removal of OHV activity on the primitive road system.



The 1994 Desert Protection Act then transferred an additional 17,000+ acres from the Bureau of Land Management known as “The Last Chance Canyon Addition” to the Park, thus tripling its size. With this huge addition of land it became apparent that the General Plan needed to be revised to address and protect the tremendous amount of significant resources found in the Last Chance Canyon and to integrate the primitive road and trail systems within the park to provide high quality recreation for park visitors.

The Department started a General Plan Revision process with earnest in 2006, but this effort was suspended in 2008 when the recession occurred and funding was removed. From 2011 until 2018 additional

data collection, resource studies and primitive road re-routes and duplicate road removal occurred. During this time, continued dialogue with OHV and environmental groups slowly developed a “balanced” direction for the Department to take for the GPR. Finally, the Department reinstated the GPR effort with additional public hearings, circulation of the Draft EIR, acceptance of numerous public comments and release of the Final EIR March 3, 2023.

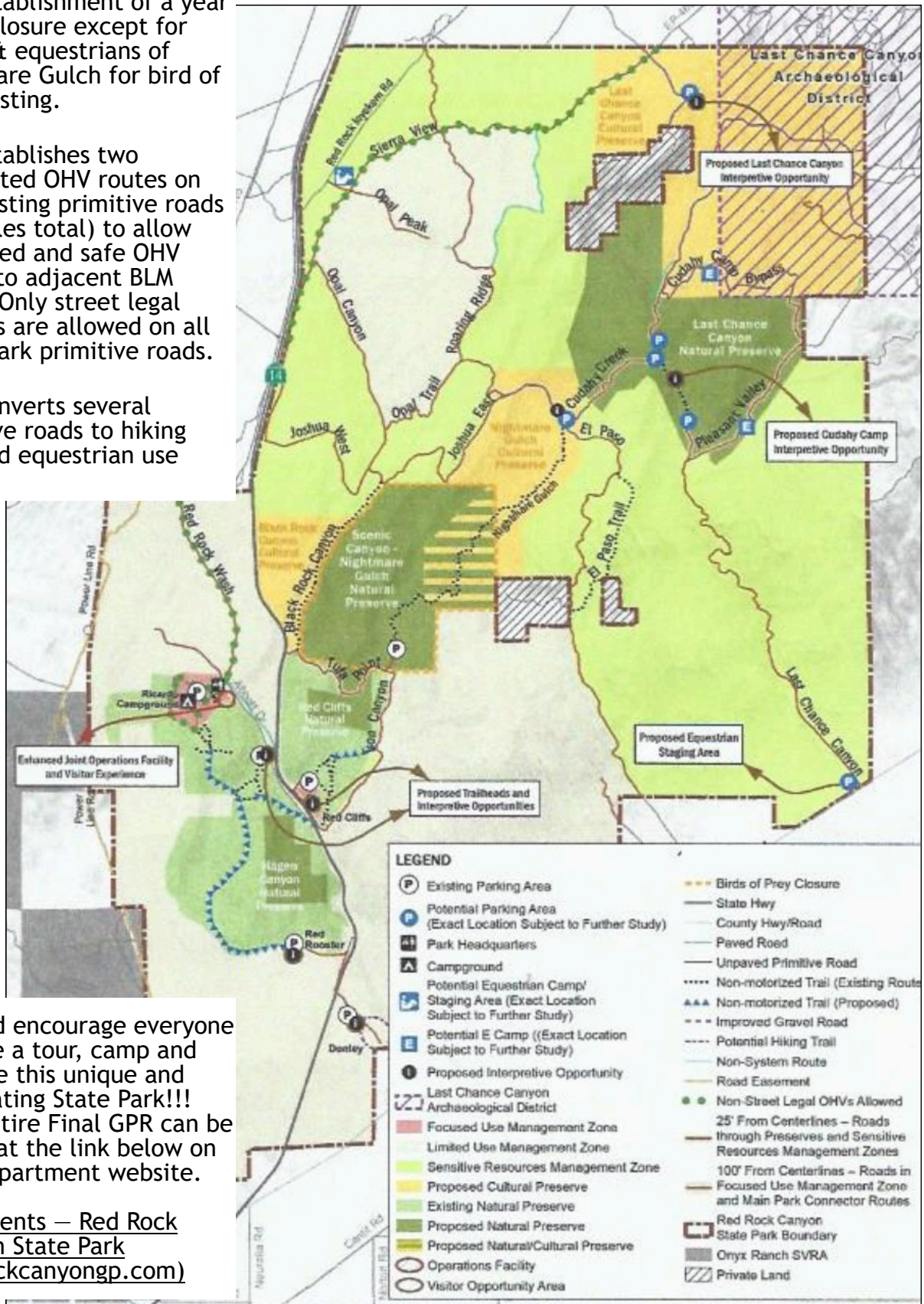
The highlights of the GP Revision include:

- ◆ Establishes 5 new Cultural and Natural Preserves totaling over 6,000 acres.
- ◆ Closure of the Cudahy Historical Camp and riparian area to all vehicles.

◆ Establishment of a year round closure except for hikers & equestrians of Nightmare Gulch for bird of prey nesting.

◆ Establishes two designated OHV routes on two existing primitive roads (3.1 miles total) to allow contained and safe OHV access to adjacent BLM lands. Only street legal vehicles are allowed on all other park primitive roads.

◆ Converts several primitive roads to hiking trail and equestrian use only.



I would encourage everyone to take a tour, camp and explore this unique and fascinating State Park!!! The entire Final GPR can be found at the link below on the Department website.

[Documents — Red Rock Canyon State Park \(redrockcanyonnp.com\)](http://redrockcanyonnp.com)

Pileated Woodpecker

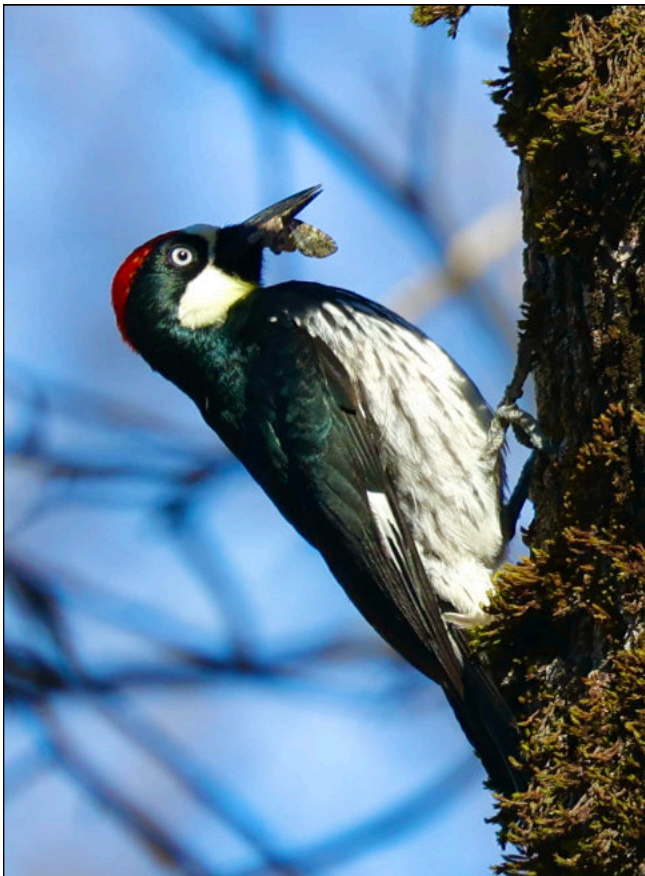
By Laura Van Etten-Collins, Retired ranger

Not only do we have the smallest North American woodpecker in California, the Downy Woodpecker, we also have the largest, the Pileated Woodpecker! California is a special place in so many ways!



The Pileated Woodpecker supposedly was the model for Woody the Woodpecker. Some say Woody was inspired by our clown-faced Acorn Woodpecker, but I don't think so. Here's Woody and here's a Pileated Woodpecker. I'm sure you agree with me. Note the fancy hairdo on both.

The Pileated's name, which I've heard pronounced three different ways, comes



Note the shape of the head on this Acorn Woodpecker. Do you see Woody here?



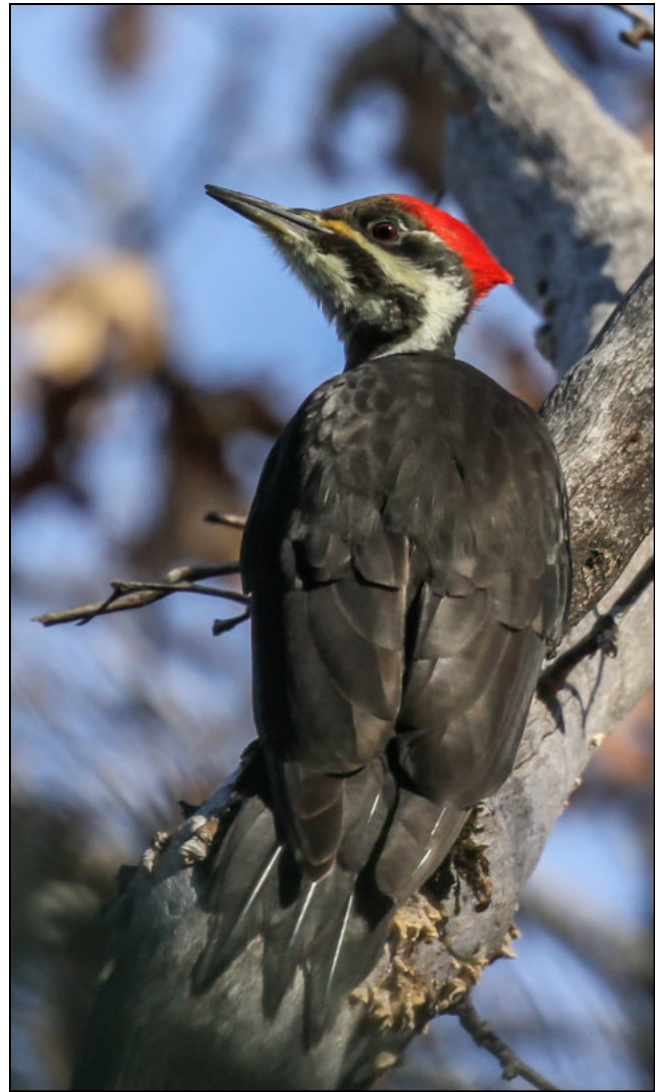
from the Latin *pileatus*, which means "capped." I've heard Pileated pronounced, "PIE leated", "PEE leated" and "PILL leated" I'm going with the latter, PILL leated, because I've listened to people in the know pronounce it that way.

I know you wonder how woodpeckers are able to hang on to vertical tree trunks while slamming their beaks into the bark. What keeps them from knocking themselves backwards when they whack the tree? Think toes and tails here.

Their toes aren't like most songbirds, who have 3 toes pointing to the front and one pointing to the rear. Woodpeckers, (and owls, ospreys and parrots) have two toes

pointing forward and two back, or in the shape of a "K", to help them hold on tight. They also need their stiff tails to make it all work. Rock climbers use a similar technique where the climber locks their fingers into a crack in the rock and then pushes their body outward with their feet, a push-pull. Woodpeckers have very stiff tail feathers that they use to push against the tree trunk accomplishing the push-pull.

Why don't they knock their brains out with all this head hammering? Apparently, they deliver their hits straight on which allows their beaks, strong neck muscles and specialty designed skulls to absorb and disperse all that force. However, there have been all kinds of scientific studies on this subject, with differing opinions, but suffice it say that somehow it all works.



Photos by Laura Van Etten-Collins

To figure out where to start excavating the tree, these birds *listen* for insects, especially carpenter ants, under the bark. Have you ever heard an ant? Pileated Woodpeckers must have excellent hearing!

How are these faces different? One is a male, one is a juvenile female. Unlike the Acorn Woodpecker, the male is more dressed up on this bird and sports a red mustache that the female lacks. The female in this photo is a juvenile because she has brown eyes, later they will become yellow, weird huh?

Be sure to see the next Wave issue for another special woodpecker.

Lake Natoma Planning Concerns

By Dan Winkelman

SPR retired

Located behind Nimbus Dam, Lake Natoma is a reservoir that is a part of Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. The land in and around the lake is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation, and State Parks. Since the lake is also a part of the American River Parkway, there are two plans in place for designated use and development. The overlapping land sections of both plans are in agreement.

The lake is also within the boundaries of the City of Folsom. There is an organization in Folsom called the Greater Folsom Partnership (GFP) consisting of the Folsom Chamber of Commerce, Folsom Economic Development Corp (an organization of developers), and the Folsom Tourism Bureau. All five members of the Folsom City Council are supported by the GFP. The city has created a River District around Lake Natoma and what follows is an excerpt of the city address by Folsom Mayor Rosario



Rodrigues delivered January 26, 2023:

“The city’s general plan calls for the preparation of a River District Master Plan, with the goal of activating our expansive waterfront for improved access, recreation, and economic development. Through strategic partnerships and community involvement, we will image the future of our waterfront in the heart of Folsom, and the heart of nature, together.”

So far, one organization has taken action to protect Lake Natoma from this River District, Save the American River Association (SARARIVERWATCH.com).

SARA was organized in 1961 for the purpose of creation of the American River Parkway that extends from the confluence of the Sacramento and American Rivers at Discovery Park to Beals Point on Folsom Lake. SARA brought suit to stop an asphalt and concrete trail in a designated conservation area of Lake Natoma by the city. Unfortunately SARA lost in court, but continues to monitor and organize a legal team to preserve the treasured natural quality of a lake in the heart of a city that proclaims itself as being “Distinctive by Nature.”

I will keep CSPRA advised of River District activity.



Wave Goodbye

Mike Curry

Mike Curry loved being a Park Ranger and Superintendent. At age 9 he met a Park Ranger at Timpanogos Cave National Monument in Utah and decided that was what he wanted to do.



Mike received his Bachelor's degree in Park Administration in 1974 and started as a Federal Park Ranger at Lake Kaweah. Mike and Mellouise met at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park in the summer of 1973, both working as Park Aides in the same kiosk.

Mike's career took him to many parks including Castle Rock State Park, Mount San Jacinto State Park, Lake Perris and Lake Elsinore State Recreation Areas, Salton Sea State Recreation Area, Mendocino District State Parks where he was the Chief Ranger and then to La Purisima State Historic Park where he was the Superintendent. Mike also supervised the Channel Coast District's Gaviota Sector that included Gaviota State Park and Refugio and El Capitan State Beaches. A capstone of Mike's career was spearheading the new Visitor Center and interpretive exhibits at La Purisima Mission State Historic Park in 2009. Michael was 74 years old when he died in Reno, NV on February 17 after battling a long illness. He was surrounded by his loving wife Mellouise, his daughter Michelle and son Matthew.

Joy Sundberg

Rose Joy Crutchfield Sundberg returned to her Creator at the age of 90. She was born at Yah-ter he-wan on the Klamath River.

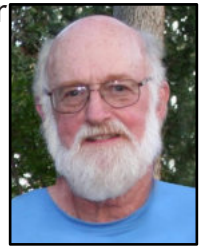


Joy dedicated her life to the betterment of Indian people. When traditional fishing on the Klamath was being challenged, she leveraged her position as a tribal government leader and stood in the gap where she could to protect the rights of the Yurok people. She would take Yurok people to the state Capitol to rally and defend their rights.

Appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to the State Park and Recreation Commission, Joy made the unprecedented motion to repatriate the human remains from Yurok villages excavated by State Park archaeologists and housed at a State Park's warehouse in West Sacramento. The idea for a State Park featuring a reconstructed Yurok village became a reality with the opening of Sumeg village at Patrick's Point State Park. Joy was a key member of the Sumeg Advisory Committee appointed by Supt. Bill Beat

John Bollinger

On December 31, 2022 John Bollinger of Chico, California died at the age of



80 years old. He worked as a State Park ranger for 33 years, managed the Donner Lake Property Owners Beach association for five years, and had a thriving Income Tax practice for 20 years.

John lived a full, often exciting life that he enjoyed to the fullest. He was blessed by a loving extended family and good friends. John always took the effort to give a helping hand and to make other people feel welcomed. He was an avid hiker and enjoyed long distance cycling which took him on adventures in North America and Australia. He was fortunate to be able to travel widely around the world.

John is preceded by his father Byron and mother Helen. He is survived by his wife, Susan, and two children, Paul (wife Lydia) and Teri, two-step children, David and Michael (wife Tiffany), nine grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Mixed Metaphors & Malaprops

by Jeff Price

Mixed Metaphor: A combination of unrelated clichés strung together to produce a ridiculously funny effect.
Malaprop: From the French “mal a propos” which means “something out of place.”



No aquatic rentals?

Since that awful injury, pro football is in uncharted waters.

Livestock apparition maybe?

My old chainsaw just gave up the goat.

Their watercraft is cracked?

It's time to vote out those rift raft politicians.

'Tis the seasoning.

We must take COVID news with a grain of salt and pepper.

A semi-military fatalist.

Things are getting really bad and tomorrow I'm going on death con three.

Linguistic proboscis.

Wait a minute, I'll remember what I was going to say, it's right on the tip of my nose.

Winner challenge!

It's true, I can contest to that!

Possessive reversal.

You underestimate her power at her peril.

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

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



The International Ranger Federation supporting the critical work that the world's park rangers do in conserving our natural and cultural heritage.



Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs Promotion of the Proper Use, Enjoyment and Protection of America's Scenic Wilderness and Outdoor Resources.



Association of National Park Rangers communicating for, about and with National Park Service employees of all disciplines and providing a forum for professional enrichment



California Park Hospitality Association representing companies and individuals who provide hospitality services under contract with the California State Parks.



California League of Park Associations supporting the Non-profits that are partners with State Parks.



Ranger Foundation — Rangers Helping Rangers. Our 501(c)3 charitable organization helps rangers worldwide. Eighty-Four Wildfire Relief grants have been granted to members of our state park family. More information about how you can help [HERE](#).





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Photo by Laura Van Etten-Collins Story on page 6

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