



*The CSPRA*

# *Wave*

*Newsletter*

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California State Park Rangers Association

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**DANA JONES**  
CSPRA President

Events over the last few weeks have made me think more than ever that the key to our survival is teamwork. Teamwork between park employees and visitors, between the field and managers, but teamwork especially between the very different classifications that keep our parks safe, clean and protected for future generations.

As I was reading the newest Harry Potter novel (okay, I know there are other adults out there that also eagerly await each new episode!) I ran across the following lines:

*"For our Hogwarts is in danger  
From external deadly foes  
And we must unite inside her  
Or we'll crumble from within"*

Maintaining the facilities, protecting the visitors and the resources, managing the parks and the staff, educating and interpreting our vast cultural and natural resources and providing recreation; each of these disciplines are equally important in the future of our park system. Recent budget issues seem to have caused an even greater rift between those that are responsible for these varied responsibilities. At a time when

we should pull together, outside issues seem determined to drive us further apart. CSPRA is an organization that is dedicated to the future of parks and is an organization for all park professionals. Let's use this opportunity to promote teamwork within each of our units and every one of our districts. One of my staff during a debriefing of a fatal accident that occurred in our unit over the weekend stated "there is no 'I' in teamwork". This is how we as stewards of the future of State Parks will work together to get through these rough times.

Working together is our key to survival. It would be wrong of me to say that I have not ever considered jumping ship, as I stare at the advertisement for Alaska State Troopers and tell my staff to look me up on their next vacation. As tempting as it may be, my heart and my loyalty lie with California's finest, the best of California and I eagerly embrace this opportunity to be a part of the team that ensures that our department and the 277 State Parks remain the Best of California.....Forever.

## *The Breaking Wave*

by WAVE editor Janet Carle

Even though we have been doing "theme" issues, based on a geographic area of the state, we are always looking for submissions from our members. Articles that relate to your challenges as a park professional, an interesting special event, a great training class, or your philosophy of life as a park person are all welcome. Please remember your audience, and write for *us*, the CSPRA members, instead of the general public. Photos may be e-mailed; CDs or zip disks are great for big files. Let us know if you'd like your area to be featured!

COVER PHOTO: Sugarloaf Ridge SP

# Silverado: Resilient in Times of Change

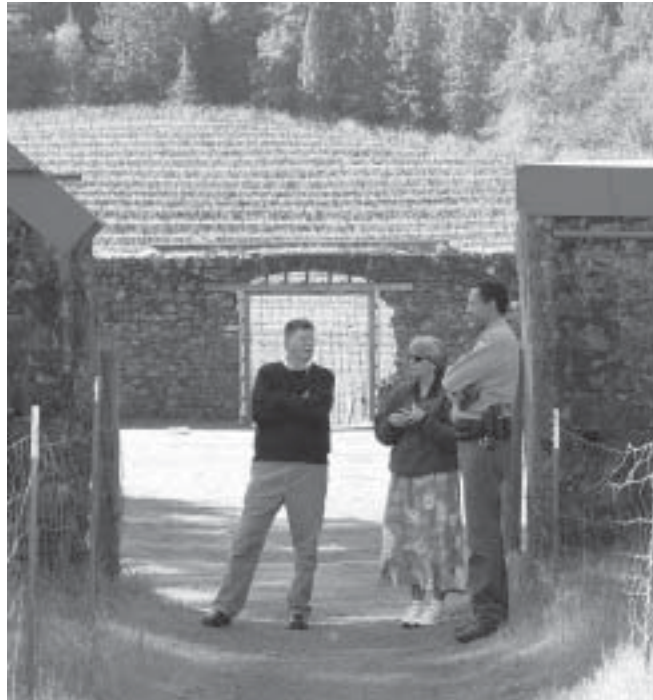
by David Nelson  
District Superintendent

### Silverado District arose from the ashes of the

**Phoenix** departmental reorganization and now, over 10 years later, it is engulfed by the long shadow of the Diablo Vista District. Clear Lake State Park and Anderson Marsh State Historic Park have moved to the Northern Buttes District but the bulk of Silverado lives on as a Sector. Silverado is no stranger to changing management configurations. For example, several members of the District staff came to work here from the old "Northern Region." However, most of the field staff have been around for a while and lend continuity during these changing times. If one can obtain affordable housing, Silverado Sector is a wonderful locale to spend part of your career in.

Silverado mirrors the diversity of park unit classifications found throughout the Department. Characterized by the vast recreational opportunities of Clear Lake, the open spaces of Sugarloaf Ridge and the important cultural resources sprinkled throughout the District, Silverado challenges those responsible for carrying out the Department's varied mission. One of the challenges is that the growth of the Bay Area has turned once-rural parks into urban islands. Linking these islands has become an acquisition priority. Changes in use patterns and demographics are also a constant challenge.

Join me on a circular tour of the old Silverado District. Traveling from the North to the South, we begin in the region of Clear Lake State Park. The largest natural body of freshwater in California, Clear Lake offers vast opportunities for active recreation. Although DPR is not responsible for the activities on the water, Clear Lake SP does have the best boat ramp on



Dave Nelson  
(District  
Superintendent),  
Laurie Thomas-  
Dossett  
(Maintenance  
Chief), Greg Hayes  
(Supervising  
Ranger)  
at Jack London  
State Historic Park  
winery ruins

the lake and the only swimming beach with (sometimes) lifeguard service. Bass fishing is the biggest draw, attracting many major tournaments every year. Its Visitor Center is open year-round with visits by schoolchildren making up most of the winter-time use. Clear Lake SP is also home to one of the largest collections of post World War II historic park buildings in the state park system. Although this designation helps preserve this important element of park history it also makes it difficult to replace, retrofit, or remodel most restrooms, offices, and the entrance station.

Although Clear Lake faces many of the same challenges facing all parks, a few are unique to the lake. Exotic *Hydrilla sp.* clogs the ramp and swim beach and must be treated with chemicals or physically removed. Because the lake is a natural body of water and not easily controlled it periodically floods the park. It is very difficult to get lifeguards to work at Clear Lake and reduced seasonal funds make it even more difficult. Increased development around the

park, especially vineyard development, is causing erosion and sedimentation into the park's creeks and lake. Finally, like many northern parks, the use is very seasonal which makes staffing difficult.

Anderson Marsh State Historic Park sits on the southeastern corner of Clear Lake. The historic park designation doesn't come from, as most visitors believe, the historic Anderson Ranch complex found there. It comes from the important Pomo Native American sites that are over 10,000 years old. The adjacent Anderson Marsh Natural Preserve protects the fragile wetlands. The challenge is to protect the wetland preserve within a historic park and to interpret Pomo history while protecting its many surface artifacts.

In the same region you will find Mount Saint Helena, the dominant physical feature of Robert Lewis Stevenson State Park. Unfortunately, the Department does not receive royalties from the many communica-

See *SILVERADO*, page 4



## SILVERADO DISTRICT

*SILVERADO, from page 3*

tions towers at the peak. Hiking is the most popular activity, with trails from the summit to the valley floor. Less traditional activities include hang gliding and rock climbing. Now for the first time since the park was established, a permanent ranger is assigned to the park. The Napa Land Trust has been very active in securing in-holdings and the scenic Palisades Trail found in the park. Busy Highway 29 bisects and even though there is no formal parking or facilities along the highway, it does not discourage drivers from stopping. Planning is underway for a major day use development.

Heading down into the Napa Valley you'll find that popular Bothe-Napa Valley State Park offers a wide range of activities. A seasonal swimming pool, horseback riding concession, camping and an extensive trail system draw visitors from all over the country. Some of the most inland coast redwoods are found here.

Contiguous to Bothe is Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park. The 36-foot wooden waterwheel was built in 1846 and is the largest operating water wheel mill west of the Mississippi. Staff and volunteers mill flour on weekends. Keeping the French buhrstones operating requires very specific maintenance skills not taught at Asilomar!

Traveling out of the Napa Valley you'll find that two parks are located in the town of Benicia; Benicia Capitol State Historic Park and Benicia State Recreation Area. Benicia was the location of the third state Capitol of California (it is believed that political treachery was involved in its move to Sacramento!). The impressive building with its legislative chambers and work rooms has been restored. Benicia State Recreation Area is located on the Carquinez Strait, the waterway that



*Lachryma Montis – General Vallejo Home at Sonoma State Historic Park*

*History's mysteries: who are these >> rangers on the steps of Benicia Capitol SHP? Can you identify them and tell us what year this was taken?*



connects the Sacramento River delta to the San Francisco Bay. BSRA is home to the Southampton Bay Wetland Natural Preserve. A recent trail project, a partnership involving the Trust for Public Land, the Bay Trail, the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the Coastal Conservancy, the California Conservation Corps, and State Parks provides spectacular views of the Straight and surrounding hills. The unique trail surface and design allows use by bicyclists, hikers, equestrians, and meets ADA standards. Because the park is primarily used by regional residents, many from outside the area are surprised to learn that it is one of the busiest parks in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Swinging back to the Northwest in Sonoma County, there is Sonoma State Historic Park and Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park. With a strong and well-trained paid staff and a good pool of docents, this sector is known statewide for its interpretive programs, especially school group programs. Guided tours, Environmental Living, Living History and Special Events are the backbone of

this program. A two-person Special Events staff is kept busy with the hundreds of activities held in these parks and nearby Jack London State Historic Park. Acquisitions are currently underway to permanently protect the cultural landscape and surrounding hillsides that are the backdrop of Lachryma Montis – General Vallejo Home of Sonoma SHP and the city of Sonoma. Maintenance of these important historic buildings requires special skills and money. A recent example is the \$400,000 (Deferred Maintenance funded) re-roofing of Mission San Francisco Solano also a unit of Sonoma SHP. At the Mission custom roof tiles were cast in order to preserve the historic character of the structure.

North into Sonoma Valley you'll find Jack London State Historic Park, a park that is experiencing tremendous change. Recent acquisitions have almost doubled its size. The acquisition adds valuable natural resources to the wonderful cultural history the park is known for. Sudden Oak Death has hit Jack London especially hard, also changing the natural environment. A

## SILVERADO “now called Silverado Sector and...part of the newly established Diablo Vista District”

*SILVERADO, cont. from page 4*

\$1.6 million project to restore the London Cottage and Kitchen is also underway. The Cottage will become a house museum and the House of Happy Walls will continue to function as a historic museum and serve as the primary Visitor Center. This project is the third phase of a larger project that has been strongly supported by the Valley of the Moon Natural History Association. Like Sonoma SHP, Jack London attracts many international visitors.

Annadel State Park is rapidly becoming an urban park surrounded by Santa Rosa. Most of the 37 miles of trails are open to bicycles, horses, and hikers. Bicyclists are the largest user group. The park's enabling legislation mentions protection of the oak forest as the primary purpose of the park. That has more recently been balanced with the high demand for recreation and the important cultural resources that have since been identified. Those resources include one of the few obsidian quarries in Northern California and basalt quarries that were responsible for most of the cobble and building stone found in the development of San Francisco. Balancing this varied use and resource protection is a challenge. Working with park neighbors to reduce fuel loads and fire danger are ongoing issues. With hundreds of neighborhood entrances and no real central park entrance it is very difficult to control access or notify



Ranger Bob Birkland on ATV patrol at Annadel State Park



Ranger DeeJ Bean'e conducting a Junior Ranger program at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park

and/or educate the public.

Across the Sonoma Valley to the east is Sugarloaf Ridge State Park where major changes are also taking place. A new General Plan is due in June and major acquisitions totaling over 2,500 acres have been recently completed or are nearly complete. The Ferguson Observatory has gone from the umbrella of the co-operating association to an Interpretive Concession. The Observatory, with its three telescopes (one 42"!), is rapidly becoming an important element of our interpretive programming. Sugarloaf is one of only a few sites to offer camping in eastern Sonoma County. In the General Plan permanent State Park standard facilities are planned.

That completes our circle tour of the old Silverado District a place that

mirrors the diversity of parklands found in our Park System. Minus the Clear Lake parks, it is now called Silverado Sector and is part of the newly established Diablo Vista District. The other half of Diablo Vista is named the Bay Sector and is comprised of Mount Diablo State Park, East Shore, Cowell Ranch, Candlestick Point State Recreation Area, San Bruno Mountain State Park and the John Marsh Home. New District offices are being constructed on state park land at Petaluma Adobe SHP. The offices will house the Diablo Vista District, the new North Bay District (Marin and Russian River) and their shared Administration Center. Although the sun has set on the Silverado District, Diablo Vista, with its incredible natural and cultural resources and talented park staff, is still aglow in the fading light.



Valley of the Moon sector staff meeting. Clockwise: John Larroque, Maint. Sup.; Toni McRorie, MWI; Sheryl Lawton, SPR; DeeJ Bean'e, SPR; Angy Nowicki, Sup. SPR; Martin Stoyr, PI Ranger (the last of the unbadged rangers); Robyn Ishimatsu, SPR; Scott Madison, MW; Greg Hayes, Sup. SPR (now retired)

## ANNADEL STATE PARK

# OAK WOODLAND RESTORATION

by Marla S. Hastings  
Senior SP Resource Ecologist

The Northern oak (*Quercus garryana*) woodlands at Annadel State Park are experiencing an invasion of Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) as a result of changes in the influence of livestock grazing, firewood cutting, and fire. The park is located in Sonoma County, California, approximately one mile east of Santa Rosa. It was established in 1972. The brochure for the park describes it as "a wilderness at your doorstep." Annadel is one of the largest State Parks in Sonoma County (5,060 acres) and is visited annually by more than 250,000 hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, and runners.

The vegetation of the park is typical of the North Coast Range, with representation of coastal prairie, chaparral, northern oak woodland, mixed evergreen forest and coniferous forest community types. It is the policy of the California State Parks to prescribe and execute a program of resource management based on current and continuing scientific research. This management is designed to perpetuate a park's unique values. Research conducted during the late 1980's at Annadel documented several vegetation changes within the park.

Some of the finest examples of the northern oak woodland within California are found at Annadel. Approximately 1,050 acres of this northern oak woodland dominated by Oregon white oak are threatened by the invasion of Douglas fir. Causal factors which fostered the establishment of Douglas fir include changing understory conditions which increased oak densities and the suppression of fires. Stand age analysis revealed that all oaks in the park were consistently much older than the



Angy Nowicki, Marla Hastings and the SOD (Sudden Oak Death) Group

oldest firs. During the past 50 years, fire suppression encouraged Douglas-fir invasion into the oak woodlands. These oak woodlands have succeeded to the Douglas-fir type where they overtopped the oaks, resulting in oak mortality.

The historical fire frequency within Annadel has been analyzed through fire scars on redwoods adjacent to northern oak woodlands. The mean fire interval ranged between 6 and 10 years. The northern oak type flourished under this historical regime of low-intensity frequent fire. Since the early 1900's modern fire suppression activities prevented most fires within Annadel. Only two lightning-caused ignitions have been recorded since 1930. It is unlikely, though, that lightning was the sole ignition source responsible for the short fire return intervals before settlement. Several sources document the indigenous use of fire. The short fire return intervals at Annadel suggest that the fuels and understory vegetation were systematically and intentionally burned by Native Americans. The impacts of consistently short fire intervals have influenced the structure of the park vegetation. Most historical fires were suppressed at less than 2 acres in size. Approximately 50 years of fire suppression have allowed Douglas fir to be spared fire-caused mortality. As

a result of the expansion of Douglas fir, essential wildlife habitat, biodiversity, and the open character provided by the park's oak woodlands are being lost.

### Restoration Methods

In 1986, and again since 1993, with large contracted efforts in 2001 and 2002, competing Douglas fir trees within Annadel's oak woodlands have been manually removed to complement prescribed burning efforts. Contracted laborers used chain saws and hand tools to cut Douglas fir trees less than 6 inches in diameter and to lop and scatter the slash. On the larger trees, a single chain saw cut through the cambium was applied. The very smallest trees were simply pulled out of the ground.

Prescribed burning was initiated in the 1980's, with several annual burns conducted through 1997. Under ideal conditions, a low-intensity prescribed fire followed by manual removal of surviving Douglas firs provides excellent control.

The results of this work are impressive. One year after manual treatment, the girdled Douglas fir trees have thinning crowns, needle discoloration, and needle drop. Most trees are fully dead within two years. A few isolated Douglas fir trees of 12-inch DBH or greater have not been killed by the girdling work. Some of the cuts made with chainsaws were too shallow to sever the cambium layer, and some trees that were cut too deeply fail prematurely.

An on-going maintenance effort to 'hold the line' on treated locations is necessary to prevent Douglas fir regeneration. This is ideally accomplished with prescribed burning. Although logistical barriers have prevented burning in Annadel since 1997, a revision of the Unit Prescribed Fire Management Plan is nearly





*OAKS, from page 6*

complete, and burning should be conducted again in the near future.

#### *Discussion and Conclusions*

The general resource management strategy for the park includes burning along with hand labor contract work to remove Douglas fir. There has been concern regarding the fuel loading which results from manual removal without prescribed burning.

In actuality, the fuel loading has proven to be less than within untreated sites where the Douglas fir forest component has been allowed to persist and overtop the oaks. In treated areas there is also an absence of Douglas fir 'ladder fuels', which contribute to high intensity fire behavior. Some pile burning, however, has occurred along the park roads and trails to

alleviate the perception of excessive fuel loading.

The prescribed burning prescriptions used at Annadel were developed after years of field experience burning the fuel types represented within the park, coupled with advanced fire behavior calculations. The nature of surface fuels within the park is extremely variable, and site-specific burning prescriptions are always necessary. Burning can be safely conducted with air temperatures as high as 89, relative humidities not lower than 25% and surface winds that do not exceed 10 miles per hour.

In the absence of this aggressive resource management program Annadel's oak woodlands would be lost along with the important biological diversity that they provide. In addition, the fuel loading of the park would increase and the threat of wildfire spreading into or from the park would become dramatically greater.

*Marla Hastings, a CSPRA member since 1976, and a S.P. Ranger for several of her early career years, can be reached at [mhast@parks.ca.gov](mailto:mhast@parks.ca.gov).*

## ***Observatory Contract Aims for Excellence in Interpretation***

*by Karen J. Barrett,  
District Interpretive Specialist*

The Interpretive Services of the Diablo Vista District/Silverado Sector contains many examples of partnerships that aim for excellence in interpreting parks resources. One of the challenges I have faced is the development of a partnership with a concession to run the Robert Ferguson Observatory (RFO) in Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. A strong beginning has been made by writing the Request for Interest and concession contract to

operate the observatory, which will be awarded in September 2003. Regional Administrative Technician Jennifer O'Hagan was my partner in the contracting process. Her skill, patience and good humor was invaluable.

The dream of developing and operating the RFO began in the mid-1990s and was wholeheartedly supported by, then District Superintendent, Bud Getty. By 2002 RFO had an extensive program. The observatory is a three roomed structure with a domed observatory with 3 impressive telescopes used for observation and public viewing. The education and interpretive program includes public and private viewing nights, college classes, an interpretive "Planet Walk" trail and a musical outreach program. Until the contract is awarded, the RFO

will be operated by a non-profit that works under the umbrella of the park's cooperating association. During the park's General Plan process the value of the dark night sky was identified as a unique resource to be protected.

In writing the contract I had to capture the positive aspects of what was in place operationally, provide opportunities for the growth of the education and interpretive program and provide a workable foundation for the long run. The contract will be awarded for 5 years with an option to renew for another five, so I took the challenge seriously.

As part of the task of documenting the current level of service, I evaluated the RFO outreach program and a public night. I met with RFO volunteer staff and gave them feedback on

*See OBSERVATORY, page 9*

## Can you hear the call of the wild?

by Sheryl Lawton  
State Park Ranger, Jack London SHP

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jack London's wildly successful *The Call of the Wild*. In partnership with The Sonoma County Public Library Foundation, Jack London State Historic Park will host a variety of special events and interpretive activities to encourage reading and community interest. Sonoma County Reads is a countywide, month-long event focusing on involving families and younger readers with events including a "Dog-a-thon", book reading and discussion groups, television and radio shows, exhibits and performances. For a complete listing of the events, please check on the internet at: <http://www.sonoma.lib.ca.us/SCReads/>

Jack London, was a California native, born in San Francisco and resided in the Bay Area where he wrote fifty-three books including

nineteen novels, 180 short stories and three plays. London wrote *The Call of the Wild* at a feverous pitch in Oakland at the start of 1903, when he was 27 years old. He meant it to be a 4,000-word "yarn" but it grew, like a beast breaking free from its own harness, into a 32,000-word, action packed novella. In the book, London followed the adventures of an intrepid dog named Buck who is abducted from civilized California and who responds to the savage call of the Alaskan wild. Ever since it was first published a century ago, critics and reviewers have noted that *The Call of the Wild* is one of the very best dog stories ever written. It became an instant literary success in America

and soon afterwards a best seller around the world, translated into more than 30 languages.

London continues to be read today for much the same reason that he has been read for a century. A masterful storyteller and a lyrical poet-novelist with an exuberant love of the sound of words, he knew how to read the minds of his readers, and how to give them the kinds of popular entertainment they wanted. Pick up a copy of *The Call of the Wild* and follow Buck as he embarks on an epic journey in the wild, following him through learning to surrender to the call of the wild willingly, lovingly and sometimes even without a howl.



## A Tradition Continues

by Jennifer O'Hagan  
Regional Administrative Technician

In 1983 State Parks received a request to allow guided horse rides within Jack London and Annadel State Parks. Management agreed that this would be an appropriate recreational service to provide to the public. The Concessionaire was required to trailer in their horses as there wasn't a designated site to house the horses overnight.

By 1985, a one-year concession agreement was entered into with the "Sonoma Cattle Company". The concession operated on a year-to-year basis and eventually had operations in



Ranch-hand,  
1918, within the  
future Sugarloaf  
Ridge State Park

Jack London, Sugarloaf Ridge and later Bothe Napa State Park.

Historically all of these parks were once working ranches. Jack London himself was very fond of horses and he considered them a valuable asset to his ranch. Sugarloaf Ridge has a barn that dates back to the 1860's that is still used today to store feed and

hay. At Bothe Napa, million year old horse bones have been found, indicating horses were present long before people in the Americas.

Operationally, the horse concession presented issues that were cause for concern. Some park employees view the concession as an inappropriate use of the park. What has proved most difficult has been the balance between resource protection and providing recreation to the public. Wear and tear on the park trails due to the continuous use by the horses caused erosion off the trails; which created water run-off and sedimentation in the creeks. The park's archeological sites have also been affected by erosion. Visitors were also bothered by the presence of horse

See HORSES, page 9



## Adobe Dirt

by Crystal Shoaf, Ranger

The Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park sits surrounded by oak trees and rustling grasses on a knoll overlooking Adobe Creek. It was built for General Mariano Vallejo by the Native Americans to house his vast cattle and sheep ranch of the 1830's and 40's on 100 square miles of land.

Although the days of the vaqueros are long gone, the park comes alive during the school year with the sound of fourth graders learning California history. We have a very active Environmental Living Program where the students get to spend the night at the Adobe. In addition to our numerous school programs the park is home to 5 special events throughout the year.

Our Living History Day occurs the second Saturday in May every year. This is a great opportunity to see the Rancho come alive with costumed staff and volunteers. Historical skits and old crafts are presented including



adobe brick making, candle making and basket weaving. Visitors are encouraged step in and try their hand at making these historic crafts.

The All Nations Big Time is the first weekend in August. Native American dancers, flutists, artists and storytellers come together to present their crafts to the visiting public. The event also features archaeological tours, educational talks and food.

The *Fandango* in October is the staff's favorite special event of the



year. Return to the past and see the *rancho* come alive with the sounds and dances of the past. To celebrate the end of the *Matanza* (the slaughtering season on a large rancho) a *Fandango*, a dancing party, was often held. Costumed docents dance to the music of the time period with traditional



^^Fandango, where the rancho comes alive with sounds and dances of the past. << Living History Day. Phil McCulley, park aide and Guide I Sara Skinner

dances, and then have the visitors join in the dances. The dances are presented inside the building, which is decorated and lit with the warm glow of candles to recreate the feel of a *Fandango*.

So if you are in the area and want to step back to a more simple life on a working ranch, look up the Petaluma Adobe. The park critters will welcome you, as will the staff, Ranger **Crystal Shoaf** and Guide I **Sara Skinner**.

### OBSERVATORY, from page 7

the evaluations. The contract also needed to address how paid park staff would orient concession employees to park resources, how the performance of interpretive services would be evaluated and state the astronomical equipment required for an observatory program of this magnitude.

As a result of our work, the new contract sets the RFO concession up for success in its interpretive program. Park staff will participate in employee orientation, the Concession Performance Rating (DPR 531) will be used to document the interpretive element of services under the "Quality Assurance" section and interpretive programs will be evaluated using the RAPPORT evaluation form (DPR 461).

With the contract in place, the RFO operator will continue to bring new park visitors to Sugarloaf and be partners with state parks in aiming for excellence in interpretive services.

### HORSES, from page 8

manure along the trails.

One solution was the creation of a trail fund to which the Sonoma Cattle Company designated 4% of their gross sales to on-going trail repair. When it was decided that a more long-term contract was necessary, staff drafted a concession agreement that clearly described our expectations. We advertised the Request for Proposals for a five-year contract with the option to renew for an additional five years.

The lesson the Silverado staff learned is that it is imperative for parks to have a unified voice and to clearly identify the expectation of the concessionaire in day-to-day operation and management.

The Triple Creek Horse Outfit has just opened for business in three State Parks, Bothe-Napa, Sugarloaf and Jack London. They would like to invite you to experience the natural and cultural jewels of the Wine Country on horseback.

## Annadel Anecdotes

**Bill Krumbein**, longtime Annadel SP unit ranger, gathered stories from the park's logbook in *ANNADEL STATE PARK, THE FIRST 20 YEARS*, published in 1993 by Desktop Publishing. Here are some excerpts:

Feb. 18, 1980: A lady, obviously a birdwatcher, approached me in the parking lot and asked: "Can you tell me where the owl is?" What kind of answer do you give to such a question?

Jan. 11, 1983: Asked why she had her dog in the park, today's visitor responded, "Well, it says 'No Dogs on Trails,' so I carefully hiked cross-country with my dog, trying to avoid the trails." Another person today said, "I saw trails where horses are allowed and others where horses are not allowed...I figured that there must be trails here where dogs are allowed, so I took a trail that did not *specify* no dogs.

March 1, 1986: A lost horse in the park. The owner, riding another horse, was "leading" this horse for exercise. The problem was there was no lead rope...



## Let's Stir Things Up

by Bill Krumbein, Ranger, retired

- 1) If you were blindfolded and plopped down somewhere in a remote location in your park, how quickly do you think you'd be able to recognize where you are?
- 2) What's the funniest remark a kid has made on one of your nature hikes/programs?
- 3) While on duty, do you ever drop by a park neighbor's house for an impromptu chat?
- 4) Is it possible to be a good park ranger and Republican at the same time?
- 5) If your park is about 5,000 acres in size or less, have you

ever hiked your park's perimeter?

6) Will new budget cuts force park rangers to become SPFCGs again (State Park Fee Collection Grovelers)?

7) Name 5 areas where you agree with how/what your supervisor is doing. Now name 5 where you disagree. Have you talked about these together?

8) As a park ranger, did you walk past some litter on the ground today and not pick it up?

9) As a maintenance person, did you walk past someone with a loose dog and not say anything about park rules?

10) After a day's work, when you've just about falling asleep, do you feel good about your day? Think about your actions today ≤ does your heart feel bigger or smaller?

11) Bonus question: Did you smell a flower today?

Food for thought? Have some of these questions struck home, hit a nerve or otherwise stirred your emotions? I hope so.

Do you feel like you're a human doing or a human being?

Care to do anything a little differently tomorrow; or take a different view; try something risky; or explore somewhere where you've never been?

Go for it!

## The Mission of Guiding

by Jim Danaher, Guide >>

My "Higher Power" has a sense of humor. When I grew up in San Luis Obispo and attended the local Catholic school at Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, I had no idea that my fate would have me standing at a mission doorway greeting visitors five days a week at the state park Mission



San Francisco Solano in Sonoma.

While in Parks and Recreation employment over the past two decades I have enjoyed the sights of Hearst Castle, a pleasure palace on the central coast of California and

now the reflective nature of the Sonoma Valley Mission

Public interest is generally the same. They want to know the obscure background of history that only a guide can provide. It's the gift we impart the visiting traveler, elementary school class and curiosity seeker wanting to know more history than a brochure or interpretive panel can provide.

The questions about a rich man's home, art collection, and celebrated

See *GUIDING*, page 11

## Basic Police Cyclist Course

by Carl Nielson, State Park Ranger  
Mount Diablo State Park

Through the generous support of CSPRA's scholarship program, I attended the "Basic Police Cyclist Training Course" in April 2003. The POST-certified class was conducted by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office Regional Training Center in Dublin. Sergeant David Brady and Officer David Havens, both with Alameda County SO, were the instructors. Brady, the lead instructor, is an accomplished downhill mountain bicyclist with gold medals in the World and California Police/Fire Games.

The forty-hour course covered an array of topics: history of bicycle patrols, nutrition and health, effective cycling, bike maintenance, patrol procedures, bicycle and traffic law, and officer safety. Participants received training and experience in road, off-road, and group-riding

techniques. An afternoon was devoted to firearms training with a patrol bicycle.

The week's highlight was a class trip to San Francisco where we utilized our learned techniques and skills. All officers were in full uniform and POPE. Needless to say, fifteen officers on bikes received a lot of attention in a city known for its "Critical Mass" events. We posed for a number of tourists and presented a very positive image for peace officers. To get to the City, we took BART. Many of us conversed with numerous elementary school children who were on a field trip to the City. The PR/interpretive value of bicycle patrols was clearly evident on this San Francisco trip.

A number of parks are utilizing bicycle patrols by rangers. Bike patrols can be an excellent enforcement and interpretive tool. Santa Cruz District, under the leadership of Supervising Ranger **John Buchanan**, has a well-established bicycle patrol program. John has an impressive tracking system in documenting trails and miles covered by bike patrols and number/type of contacts made. Here at Mount Diablo State Park, a ranger

bicycle patrol program makes sense. Bicycle riders, both road and off-road, represent a large and important user group of Mount Diablo. A ranger bike patrol may prevent some of the accidents that involve cyclists and reduce resource damage in the backcountry. I submitted a ranger bicycle patrol policy for this park and I hope to be patrolling on a bike soon!

Thanks again to CSPRA for the support. The course was educational and fun, and comes highly recommended!

**Want a CSPRA scholarship? Contact Fred Jee at (760) 767-3674.**

**GUIDING, from page 10**

friends are becoming memories while the new location of employment is rekindling the memory of Catholic education taught in my youth.

It's a simple building, the mission, built in 1820 whereas the Hearst estate was developed 100 years later. Mission decoration is sparse whereas San Simeon is garnished by mixed Spanish decoration.

All and all, there is a bond. Both Mission San Francisco Solano and Hearst Castle were the interest of William R. Hearst. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Californians took an interest in preserving historical sites and Hearst was one who believed in it. His influence from 1910 to 1912 promoted restoring the Sonoma Mission and the Historic League turned the mission property over to the state parks system by the 1920's.

In spite of financial woes in California I feel proud to be part of the parks system and linked with the state's history. We tell others what they cannot hear and show them what they cannot see. We protect a great state's history and preserve its legacy for others in the future, and follow what has been done in our past.

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## *Honorary Ranger Howard King (1906-2003)*

*By Denzil & Jennie Verardo*

We first met Howard King in 1971, when Denzil became a Ranger Trainee assigned to Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Our friendship lasted 32 years, until his passing in June. He was an inspiration, and his impact on California State Parks has been incalculable. We had originally written much of this for an article in *The California Ranger* in 1983, highlighting Howard's achievements. They are worth repeating for those who did not have the good fortune to know him.

Honorary membership in CSPRA was bestowed on Howard King in 1980, in recognition of his conservation efforts, as well as his photographic contributions to the Sempervirens Fund and the Save-the-Redwoods League. Those contributions would continue for another 23 years.

Howard began his photography of the redwoods during the drive to save the Butano forest (now Butano State Park) in the 1950's. In 1963, he photographed redwoods in Big Basin for the Sierra Club when it was working to acquire timber rights for the State along Waddell Creek. "I can't raise money for the acquisition of trees, but I can take pictures of them," he said. And did he take pictures!

In 1968, the State had planned to acquire a major portion of Mt. McAbee, located in the geographic center of Big Basin Redwoods State Park. The parcel was needed to consolidate holdings on the western flank of the mountain that were under threat of development. However, there were insufficient funds available for the purchase. Howard, with Claude A. "Tony" Look, rejuvenated the defunct Sempervirens Club into the Sempervirens Fund for the purpose of

saving the parcel. The Fund conducted a successful "May Day" campaign to raise the necessary monies for the state, thereby adding 365 acres to Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Since that time, Howard was continuously active with the Sempervirens fund.

He had also been active in the Save-the-Redwoods League. Through Howard's donated photographs, he helped raise the funds to protect Del Norte and Humboldt Redwoods State Parks. As the late John Dewitt, Executive Director of the League, said, "His pictures are eloquent and few photographers even begin to equal his stature as a great photographer of the redwood forests." Howard's work was published nationally in such periodicals as *Newsweek* and *Audubon*, and appeared on national television.

As a park volunteer, Howard gave his time and labors to the Santa Cruz Mountains District for more than three decades. He was on the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Mountains Natural History Association (now the Mountain Parks Foundation); and an early supporter of the redwood docent program, for which he conducted free naturalist and photography training sessions. He was an ardent trail planner and builder – he had worked as a surveyor at one time. By building most of it himself, he earned the honor of having a trail in Big Basin named after him.

For more than 30 years Howard was busy taking photos for conservation purposes, and showing park staff the art of color nature photography. He worked full-time as a volunteer, helping the Sempervirens

Fund complete the acquisition of the Big Basin watershed, mapping park boundaries, and acting as an inspiration to all of us who had the honor and privilege of working with him. He was, as Tony Look so aptly expressed, "the mirror through which thousands of people view the redwoods." And he certainly earned his title of Honorary Ranger. Howard is survived by his wife of 19 years, Maria. We were privileged to attend their wedding in Big Basin, and were further privileged to count both as dear friends.



*Howard King and Ranger Brooks Collom place grove sign in 1992*

# Carol Nelson (1951-2003)

By Edgar Sanchez (Published July 30, 2003, copyright Sacramento Bee. Reprinted with permission)

Carol A. Nelson, the first African American and the first woman to be a California state park superintendent, died in her Sacramento home Thursday. The cause was cancer-related, her family said.

Mrs. Nelson, 51, had taken early retirement from the state Department of Parks and Recreation in April for medical reasons. She began her career in 1975 as the first African American woman state park ranger and rose through the ranks. When she retired, Mrs. Nelson was a field services division chief.

"I'll remember her ... with great fondness," said her husband, **Roger Nelson**, a retired state park ranger. "She had a deep sense of caring and was committed to diversity."

Her colleagues described her as a pioneer. "Carol came in in the early 1970s, when the department was in a state of change," said **Ron Brean**, the department's deputy director for administration. "She handled everything that came toward her with the most marvelous grace."

**Sedrick Mitchell**, the department's deputy director for external affairs, said Mrs. Nelson "will be greatly missed." Besides providing leadership and motivation, she inspired others with her insights, he said. "She was a pioneer in blazing new opportunities for women and minorities within the state park system," Mitchell said.

The former Carol Ann Steward



was born in San Francisco in 1951. At first, she dreamed of becoming a professional musician. Pursuing that dream, she

mastered the cello and earned a bachelor's degree in music at San Francisco State University.

In early 1973, she performed at Keystone Korner, one of the city's most fabled jazz spots, with saxophonist John Handy and his group Bouquet. "Carol wasn't a regular part of the group," Roger Nelson said, "and it was only a few performances. But that was a high point for her."

Nelson, who had met his future wife in 1970 while both were students at San Francisco State, married her May 27, 1972. During her studies, Mrs. Nelson had worked as a seasonal employee for the state parks department. And she spent one season with the National Park Service as a tour guide at Alcatraz, the former prison, her husband said.

Mrs. Nelson continued to play the cello as she settled into a career in the great outdoors. A year after becoming a state park ranger, she was transferred to the San Mateo Coast. In 1982, Mrs. Nelson became a state park superintendent, in charge of managing the Candlestick Point State Recreation Area in San Francisco. Several years ago, while assigned to the Executive Office and Interpretation Section, she developed the Fam Camp Program, which creates camping opportunities for underprivileged people.

The Nelsons' daughter, **Corinne Nelson**, is a 2nd-generation state parks employee at Sacramento's Governor's Mansion.

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### Membership

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For all except "Active" member payroll deduction, please include check for 1 year's dues.

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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. Send to: CSPRA, P.O. Box 247, Carpinteria, CA 93014-0247

Signature

Date





**Gar Salzgeber, Office Manager**

**Correspondence:** Getting personnel notes from our retired members warms the cockles of my heart and sends chills of joy up my spine. [Sorry when we must edit for space - Ed.]

**Richard Irwin** writes: Of our 4 children, the first to be married will be Jon, on July 12. Jon took after ol' dad here: becoming a State Park Ranger! He was granted his wish to be issued my old badge number. Jon is assigned to Border Field and Tijuana Estuary but works most shifts at Silver Strand.

**Keith Caldwell** writes: I've been working with CAL-PERS and the Retired Public Employees Association. The POOR State! It doesn't look good for retirees. We'll try to make Oct 4&5 Rendezvous this year.

**Don Lawyer** writes: Thanks for the "Heads Up" on the 2003 "Retirees Rendezvous." I'm sorry that Lou and I won't be able to attend. Lou has Parkinson's disease with dementia and as a result we have ceased all of our travels. In looking through my old membership cards, I found my "Charter Member" to CSPRA, signed by **L. Paul Griffith**, President.

**Bill Miller** writes: I'm still doing my RA thing as an armorer and firearms instructor. My latest love is a 22 foot Grady White fishing boat - I've spent most of the spring and early summer getting her ready.

**Sam Bitting** writes: Hope to see you in October! And many others.

**Al Ulm** writes: Thanks for doing all this work for us - we'd happily pay more/bring more food so that the Stricks & Wallace's et al don't do so much work! Well, we'll bring lots of food anyway

**Ted Wilson** writes: Good to hear from you and know that the Assn. is in good hands. Would like to make the Rendezvous, but I'm still nursing that broken hip of last Nov. Add that to the 2 cataract replacements last June and July don't leave much slack. Give my best to all anyway.

**Don Grant** writes: I look forward to the Rendezvous gathering each year; it's the highlight of the year for me. In Feb. we took a trip down the coast with stops in Monterey, Hearst Castle, Pismo Beach and Santa Barbara and I gave my wife a tour of Carpinteria. We're saving our energy (and money) for our Panama Canal cruise.

We have 1 new Supporting Membership: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority of Los Angeles, and 3 new Active Members. **Brian O'Dowd**, a Naturalist from Pacific Palisades, **Jaime E. Mendez** a Guide from Hearst Castle, and **Michael Whelan**, a Ranger from Brannan Island. Retirement plaques were presented to **Carolee Moore** and **Greg Hayes**.

BOARD MEETING Sacramento, 6/10/03

Joe, Gar, Bud, Dana, Ron, Val, Angy  
**1.** Review the last months meeting notes. **2.** It was agreed to mail the minutes to Janet for the newsletter once all board members review the minutes. **3.** GEC minutes accepted. **4.** Gar reviewed notes regarding financial status. **5.** Dana asked Angy to write a letter to State Parks Foundation regarding membership. **6.** El Morro Trailer Park decision issued by coastal commission tomorrow. Dana will call Rick Rayburn for update. **7.** Parks conference wrap up. Waiting for the money to come, estimated the total to be around \$6-7,000. **8.** Conference for 2004 Mar. 8 to Mar. 11. Dana will meet with them to advise. Rain Swank volunteered to represent CSPRA. Bud would like to see more management attend. **9.** Supervising Maintenance Association. Joe will talk with Chuck to close account and transfer money. **10.** Research logo, Bud will call Donna Pozzi regarding the TM. **11.** Need to do a cost analysis of what each member actually costs, to review the fee structure Retiree, to Seasonals. **12.** A consensus was reached regarding an organizational retreat to make a plan for the next 5 to 10 years...at McConnell SRA during the Retirees Rendezvous, in addition to the regular board meeting...on Sun. and Mon., Oct. 5 and 6. Gar will contact park staff to inform them. Gar says campsites are first come first served but should not be a problem.. Val will be in charge of the meals. Ron suggests that we invite Dave Gould, Scott Wasman to help us out on that task. We will be their guests! **13.** We agreed that Gar should get and upgrade laptop computer, with a budget of \$3500. Ron suggested that while

working on the 5-10 year plan that we allocate funding for an assortment of equipment such as this. **14.** Bud suggested we look into dealers to support display at the conference. He attended a Birding Association Conference in Oregon...gave away \$1000's of dollars of equipment and the companies exhibit at the conference in lieu of paying for the space. **15.** Corporate memberships: discussed limiting to Green Companies with board approval. Ron suggested that it is something to do even if we don't have a long term plan. We have the rudiments as to how it should look based on the GEC at Tahoe. Would involve a change in the by laws. Val volunteered to do the research and come to the table with suggestions on the language to draft the brochures and by law changes. **16.** Gar was approached by the Walnut Creek City Parks Department who want to advertise through the WAVE. If they are not on the same time schedule then they would like to buy our mailing list. He told them no. They offered to give us the flyers and have us send them out. Val suggested that they send the flyer to the department and ask the department to send it out with the opportunity bulletin. They will do it for free to all employees.

*New Business:*

**17.** International Rangers Federation Conference. Bud was the only member of CSPRA who attended. 600 people attended and about 50 nations were represented. Bud and Mike Lynch got CSPRA Nation status so that we have a vote. This year's conference was at Wilson's Promontory in Australia. The main concern this year was the number of deaths. They petitioned the UN to put it on their agenda to devise a way to slow down the death rate. We lost somewhere around 35 Rangers since the last conference. The next conference will be in Sterling, Scotland in spring 2006. **18.** What can we do? Dana asked what can we as CSPRA do to help with keeping the parks open and staffed? Val suggested that we remind the legislator that public safety is not only the Rangers in the field but the Park Aide in the Kiosk, the Resource Ecologist making sure the hazard trees are taken care of, all of it to provide a sense of safety. We need to talk to the Director. TEAM Parks need to be the concept. Dana offered to E-mail her and make an appointment. Bud said that he would like to attend, Val offered as well. **19.** Sheila Kuhl is the author of a bill that Department of Parks and Recreation would provide active recreational sports such as soccer and baseball on State Park Land within an urban area of more than 500,000 residences. Bud says that this will take a change in the Public Resources Code, if passed this will also change the Departments Mission Statement.



## **RETIREES RENDEZVOUS COMING SOON**

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Retirees Rendezvous will be at McConnell SRA on Oct. 3-5, 2003. Events kick off with a "Road Kill Grille" BBQ and potluck on Friday evening (bring your own meat and a dish to share), a Saturday morning pancake breakfast, a "pitch and putt" golf match, and a tri-tip/chicken BBQ and raffle on Saturday afternoon.

Everyone pays a \$5 registration fee. The Saturday night dinner is free to retired DPR employees and their spouses and \$8 to all others. The group camp has been reserved; no individual reservations are necessary. But let Kirk Wallace know you're coming at [kirkw@mlode.com](mailto:kirkw@mlode.com). All current and retired park employees and their guests are welcome.

### **Do you know someone who is retiring?**

**CSPRA provides a plaque for each member when they retire. Contact CSPRA at (800) 749-8749, or make a request at [www.cspira.com](http://www.cspira.com), or write to CSPRA, P.O. Box 247, Carpinteria, CA 93004-0247, or email: [Officemanager@CSPRA.com](mailto:Officemanager@CSPRA.com)**

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**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***