



Summer 2007

Excited Citizens Welcome Rio de Los Angeles

By Roy Stearns, Deputy Director of Communications

In spite of a rainy day and a steady downpour, more than 400 people showed up on Friday afternoon, April 20, as California State Parks and the City of Los Angeles officially dedicated and opened the newest park in the city, Rio de Los Angeles State Park. Formerly known as Taylor Yard, the site was a litter-strewn, brown-field that was destined to become warehouses, until neighborhood residents organized and fought for a decade to get what many have said is their "Field of Dreams."

"This is truly a neighborhood-involvement and government-action success story,"

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State Parks Director Ruth Coleman was part of the group opening Rio de Los Angeles State Park. To her right is Los Angeles City Council member Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and State Assembly member Kevin DeLeon.

Superintendent Wins National OHV Award



Kathy Dolinar

Superintendent Kathy Dolinar, of the Ocotillo Wells District, received the Land Manager of the Year award from the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC).

The award was presented on May 5. It is given to the land manager who best exemplifies the principles of active land management based on; education, engineering, enforcement, evaluation, and the building of partnerships.

Two particular projects which were highlighted included a native plant garden and a children's practice area. Kathy has worked actively to establish strong relationships with diverse communities of interest.

The NOHVCC is a non-profit educational foundation that provides recreation organizations with tools to meet the needs of the OHV public while protecting natural, cultural and historic resources.

The plaque which accompanies the award bears the inscription, "A High Road to service is traveled with integrity, compassion and understanding...People don't care how much we know until they know how much we care."



**Ruth Coleman,
Director**

Creative Approaches

We recently lost a very important person in the state park family, Walter Gray, our chief of the Archeology, History and Museums division. Walter played an important role not just as the chief of all our cultural resources, but as someone who approached challenges with creativity, optimism and a sense of humor.

We currently face a challenge of immense proportions that will require us all to strive for a creative and optimistic approach. It is the type of approach that served as Walter's gift to all who worked with him. The challenge is global climate change. We all read the same stories and statistics and it is very easy to be overwhelmed with the immensity of the problem and the limits each of us face as we seek ways to reverse this trend. Yet, as a state agency that comes into contact with 86 million visitors

a year on 1.5 million acres, we have a unique opportunity to make a difference collectively.

On that front, we are currently studying several different ways that State Parks could positively affect climate change. For example, we are seeking ways to reduce greenhouse gases through acquisitions of lands that might otherwise be subdivided or logged, reforestation where appropriate, or forest management techniques that will bring recently purchased second-growth forests sooner to an old-growth condition.

The Governor has directed us to seek a 20 percent reduction in our energy use by 2017. We cannot meet this goal through a headquarters-centric approach. State Parks has the most creative staff in the state and that will be the force that will enable us to reduce our energy use through innovations at the park unit level. That innovative spirit must also spill over into the interpretive message we communicate to our visitors that educate them and inspires them to reduce their own carbon "footprint."

Delivering that message will require innovate approaches so that we avoid depressing people into inaction. Climate change is arguably the greatest challenge humanity has ever faced. State Parks can be a leader in meeting this challenge for the state.



Enthusiastic Rally

By Sheryl A. Watson

A high-school band played loudly, as the crowd waved pompoms, held signs and chanted, "Better Sports for Kids, Better Kids for Life." When the speeches began, it was silent.

"We are the solution to this crisis," said Chief Deputy Director Paul Romero of California State Parks, speaking of the crisis of childhood obesity.

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Rio de Los Angeles

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said State Parks Director Ruth Coleman. “From the very start, this community had a vision and a will. They turned out in record numbers to tell us what they wanted and we are proud to be delivering their Field of Dreams.”

“This park represents what can happen when the community, state and city all realize that we share the same interests and work together to make them happen,” said Mayor Villaraigosa. “This dedication opens up yet another chapter in the re-greening of Los Angeles that I hope will include 35 more parks in the next five years.”

In August 2003, the City and State Parks unveiled the framework for the joint partnership agreement that led to construction of the park. The State leased approximately half of the 40-acre site to the City for 25 years. The City was charged with designing a local recreational park on their half of the property, while State Parks was tasked with creating a natural area park on their half.

In June 2005, the California State Park and Recreation Commission voted to approve the naming, classification, General Plan, and Environmental Impact Report for this unique park venture.

City and State planners who worked on this park have said they know of no other public park project that has had more public input from a more engaged community.



In the opening ceremony, State Parks Director Ruth Coleman helps plant trees with State Senator Gil Cedillo on her right and Larry Smith on her left. Smith is the executive director of North East Trees of Los Angeles, which donated over 200 trees for the event at Rio de Los Angeles State Historic Park.

Rally: Legislators Give Their Support

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More than 1,000 park and recreation providers from across the state gathered for the California Park & Recreation Society conference in March. Attendees rallied on the steps of the capitol asking legislators to do more for parks.

“We offer the cure through our youth sports programs, recreation activities and healthy food advocacy,” Romero said.

Five legislators spoke in support of parks as follows: Kevin De Leon, D-Los Angeles; Anna Marie Caballero, D-Salinas; Cameron Smyth, D-

Santa Clarita; Hector De La Torre, D-South Gate; and Mike Davis, D-Los Angeles.

“The best crime prevention program is a good park,” said Davis. “You have a friend in the appropriations committee.”

“I’ll carry legislation on your behalf,” said Smyth. “I need your help and I won’t let you down.”

His district includes Santa Clarita, the nation’s second safest city, where more is spent on parks, recreation and community services than on law enforcement.

Parks Award Winners

Caryl Hart Selected as Honorary CSPRA Ranger

The California State Park Rangers Association presented its most prestigious award, Honorary Ranger, to Commissioner Caryl Hart at their annual Parks Conference at Yosemite in March 2007. Mrs. Hart was honored for her years of support for State Parks, willingness to protect and defend the integrity of parks for present and future generations, and her distinguished public service while serving on the California State Parks Commission.



Railroad Museum Volunteers Lauded by Historical Society

The volunteers of the California State Railroad Museum's Sacramento Southern Railroad program received this year's Sacramento County His-

torical Society's Preservation Award on March 27. Over the last 25 years, a cadre of well-trained individuals has quietly and efficiently maintained and

operated the Museum's historic railroad equipment and track, giving rides and interpreting the locomotives and cars to more than a million visitors.

Park Ranger Receives Mothers Against Drunk Drivers Award

On March 31st, Supervising State Park Ranger Kent Miller of Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area was honored with the

Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) Award of Excellence for his leadership role in lowering the number of alcohol-related accidents and fatalities at Ocotillo Wells SVRA. His participation in the Policy Panel to Prevent Youth Access to Alcohol, his ability to bring other agencies to the park to assist our rangers in targeting alcohol activities, and his securing of a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety has demonstrated his commitment to MADD's mission. Miller was selected from a listing of officers from across California for the honor. The award was presented at the Sheraton Grand in Sacramento at the 2007 Statewide Law Enforcement and Community Recognition Awards Banquet.



Kent Miller is flanked by OHV Division Chief Phil Jenkins on the right and Sector Superintendent Nedra Martinez.

2006 California State Parks Director's Recognition Awards Announced

By Summer Kincaid, Training Division and
John Arnold, Communications Division

SACRAMENTO – California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman has announced the 27 recipients of the 2006 Director's Recognition Awards. The awards go to state park employees who have distinguished themselves for their extraordinary achievements.

"We want to recognize California's public servants at state parks who day in and day out go well beyond their job requirements," said Coleman. "It is this kind of dedication that has made California State Parks one of the finest park systems anywhere in the world."

The awards are presented once a year. The 27 were selected by the director from among nominations submitted to Sacramento headquarters by the department's 5,000 employees from across the state. Among them are individuals who identified a long-standing problem and found a creative solution; recognized a

need and found a way to fill it against the odds; and built unity among diverse groups to reach common goals beyond expectations.

"I am proud to recognize these talented and innovative individuals at state parks," Coleman said.

The awards will be presented from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on June 4 in the Resources Agency Auditorium, at 1416 9th Street in Sacramento.

The Olmsted Award for Leadership and Vision

Barry Breckling, Park Ranger, Monterey District

Ranger Breckling initiated and maintained the Henry W. Coe State Park uniformed volunteer program. The program began in 1980 with eight volunteers and today is 140 members strong. Volunteers lead hikes, work in the visitor center, build and maintain trails, and develop interpretive programs, books, and pamphlets.

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Del Norte County Employees Recognized

State and National Parks employees in Del Norte County have been recognized by Caltrans as Volunteers of the Year. The employees, who have been involved since 2004, maintain both sides of Highway 101 north of Crescent City

as part of the Caltrans "Adopt-a-Highway" program. They were chosen from among 302 volunteer groups that make up the program's District 1. These 302 groups were collected 5,000 bags of litter.

Dutschke Wins California Indian Heritage Preservation Award

Congratulations to Dwight Dutschke, Associate Parks and Recreation Specialist and recipient of this year's Society for California Archaeology's California Indian Heritage Preservation Award. Dutschke, an enrolled member of the Lone Band of Miwok Indians who has worked for Parks in various capacities for 32 years, was chosen to receive this award to honor California Indians who have contributed to the preservation of American Indian heritage in California.

Dutschke's interest in his heritage began at an early age. He first began learning about Miwok culture from his grandparents and great-

grandparents. He has continued to expand his knowledge of Miwok customs and practices, including studying basket weaving from renowned weaver Elsie Allen.

He serves as Chair to the Sierra Native American Council, sponsor of the Big Time Celebration at Chaw-se Indian Grinding Rock, and is also on the Cultural Committee of the Lone Band of Miwok Indians. Dutschke also received the 2002 Thomas F. King award from the Society of California Archaeology for his "outstanding contributions to cultural resources management" in California. He lives in Lone, where he was raised,

Publication Honors Los Angeles State Historic Park with Downtowners of Distinction Award



Sue Laris, owner-publisher of “Downtown News,” awarded State Parks for exciting the community and attracting national attention with Los Angeles State Historic Park. Accepting on behalf of State Parks were (left to right): Angeles District Superintendent Ron Schafer, Landscape Architect Jeff Brown and State Historian Jim Newland.

On February 27, “Downtown News” recognized 13 projects at their annual Downtowners of Distinction awards ceremony. The honorees were selected from the 13 districts of the downtown area. One of the projects receiving an award was Los Angeles State Historic Park.

The following is the award summary that appeared in the Downtown News:

“Winner: Work on the Los Angeles State Historic Park

In 2006, the California State Parks Department did something unlikely in Downtown. It got the concrete-clad community excited about a park. Twice. In September, the Department built upon the groundwork laid by artist Lauren Bon’s ‘Not a corn-

field’ project and opened an interim park on the land long known as the Cornfield. Suddenly, downtowners and their families had a vast, grassy expanse upon which to escape the traffic and hub-bub of the city. Additionally, the Department captured the imagination of international planners and architects with its design competition for a future permanent park on the 32-acre site. Major names responded, offering outside-the-box options, and the Department ultimately made a wise choice in selecting the team headed by San Francisco’s Hargreaves Associates and including local architect Michael Maltzan. Now, the Department and Director Ruth Coleman have raised expectations about what a Downtown park can be.”

Parks Wins Two Gold Awards

California State Parks took home two awards from the California State Information Officers Council (SiOC) annual awards ceremony held May 10 at the Dante Club in Sacramento.

The Gold Award for Infographics-Technical Illustration went to Renato Consolini, John Petersen and Laurena Cabañero of the Interpretation and Education Division for “Rumors of Great

Disaster,” an exhibit about the 100th anniversary of the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake that was displayed in the State Capitol Museum.

The Gold Award for publications went to the Spring 2006 Edition of “News & Views,” produced by Roy Stearns Sheryl Watson, John Arnold and Carol Cullens.

Lindsay Oxford attended the event and accepted on behalf of the winners.

Columbia Building Receives Award

By Linda Dick Bissonnette,
Associate State Archaeologist

The Tuolumne County Historical Society held its annual Lamplight Dinner at the historic Sonora Opera Hall on Saturday April 21. Roughly 200 members and guests attended the event to celebrate Mother Lode history. The evening included awards for the best restored or well-maintained historic homes and buildings in Tuolumne County, as selected by the Society's Landmarks Committee.

Society President Joe Sparagna gave PowerPoint presentations illustrating before and after views of the treated buildings. The 1850s red-brick Knapp Block in Columbia State Historic Park was presented with a Gold Nugget Award. It had been restored by the Northern Service Center and the Department of General Services. This project also involved a historic structures report by Edna Kimbro, and archaeology by district staff and Applied Earthworks, Fresno. Accepting the award and State Senate Proclamation on behalf of the Central Valley District was Calaveras Sector Superintendent Pam Armas. Also in attendance were Terry C. Wearin, project restoration mason, and Linda Dick Bissonnette, district cultural resources program manager. Jim Jackson and Manushan Azam were the project architects, Donald Bybee was the construction manager, and Columbia maintenance supervisor, Alec Varner, was the DCU field superintendent. Kim Baker and staff reinstalled Columbia's



Pam Armas and Alec Varner with the Gold Nugget Award, Columbia SHP, April 2007.

Cavalier Museum cases, and the People's Market butcher shop, and Chinese joss house and herb shop interpretive exhibits in three of the seismically-reinforced brick buildings.

Previous Gold Nugget award winners include the Columbia Collections Storage Facility (aka Tin Barn) in 2004, the Fallon House in 1988, and the City Hotel in 1976. A Heritage Home award was presented to the Wilson-McConnell Home in 1973, then owned by Mrs. Geraldine McConnell. The historical residence on Columbia's Main Street was acquired by the State in 2005 and is slated for restoration treatment soon.

Director's Awards

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The Hill Award for Inspiration

The Gaviota State Park Boat Hoist Team:

- Bob Byrnes, Volunteer Chair
- Jeff Chamberlain, volunteer
- Wes Chapin, District Interpretive Specialist
- Al Fimlaid, Lifeguard Supervisor (Team Leader)
- Tom Miller, volunteer
- George Sorum, Seasonal Lifeguard II
- Dion von der Lieth, Lifeguard

The team was formed to keep the popular Gaviota State Park pier and public boat hoist operational. They secured a grant from the Califor-

nia Department of Boating and Waterways and in 2006 developed the Gaviota State Park Boat Hoist Users Guide. Over 350 boat owners and deck hands were trained in the proper use of the boat hoist, which is the only self-service facility of its kind between Santa Barbara and Avila Bay that is open seven days a week.

The Drury Award for Professional Integrity

Jeff Bomke, Maintenance Chief, North Coast Redwoods District, Eureka.

Since 1991 he has worked to create a lasting partnership between Redwood National and State Parks as well as with the Tolowa Tribe

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Park Dispatchers Win Public Safety Award

On April 14, the Organization of Public Safety Telecommunicators (OPST) held its 11th annual Dispatcher Appreciation Banquet in Sacramento. This year, two California State Parks employees received awards: Carol Smith and Nick Coker. Public safety communicators daily serve the public in countless ways without due recognition by those whom they serve. Dispatchers handle literally tens of thousands of calls per year, answering "911" calls and routing crucial life-saving services where needed.

Excellence in Financial Reporting Award

By Dorothy Kroll, Accounting Administrator II

The department has been selected to receive the State Controller's "Award for Achieving Excellence in Financial Reporting" for year-end financial reports for the 2005/2006 fiscal year.

To qualify for this award, state agencies must follow specific criteria outlined by the State Controller's Office. Part of the criteria requires submitting accurate and timely reports. In addition, the financial information in the reports must be comparable with the expenditure and revenue budgetary schedules submitted to the Department of Finance during the same fiscal year. Our department successfully met all of the program's requirements for 27 out of 32 eligible funds for the 05/06 Fiscal Year. The department will also receive the award for six out of nine eligible funds for the 05/06 fiscal year financial reports we submitted for Baldwin Hills Conservancy, Coachella

Superintendent Promotions

Superintendent II

Richard A. Dennison
Historic Sector Superintendent
Public Safety Coordinator
San Diego District
1/26/2007

Michael J. Fehling
Sector Superintendent
Cascade Valley Sector
Northern Buttes District
4/1/2007

Superintendent I

John C. Rowe
Visitor Services Superintendent
Lake Perris SRA
Inland Empire District
3/8/2007

Mark P. Hada
Park Superintendent at
Railtown 1897 SHP
Capitol District
1/11/2007

Superintendent I

William D. Salata
Investigator
Public Safety Division
3/12/2007

New Leadership



Manuel Lopez Deputy Director, Administrative Services

Manuel Lopez was appointed to the position of Deputy Director for the Administrative Services Division in April. Manuel

has broad and extensive experience in managing large and complex administrative programs. For the past two years Manuel has been the Department's Budget Officer and throughout his tenure he has shown a deep and genuine commitment to our mission and values. Prior to his arrival at State Parks, Manuel managed the Capital Outlay, Support/Local Projects Program Branch within the Division of Budgets at the California Department of Transportation, where his responsibilities included the development and administration of a \$10.8 billion budget. He is a graduate of California State University, Sacramento with a bachelor's degree in economics; in addition he holds an associate degree in accounting from Sierra

Valley Mountains Conservancy, and San Joaquin River Conservancy.

It takes everyone in the Business and Fiscal Services Section and the district's administrative staff working cooperatively and diligently all year long to achieve these wonderful results. Thanks to all for doing a great job.

Plaque Permanence

By Crystal Shoaf, Ranger,
Petaluma Adobe SHP
Sara M. Skinner, Interpreter II,
Mott Training Center

In January 2004, Ranger Crystal Shoaf and Guide Sara M. Skinner from the Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park in Petaluma embarked on a journey to remove and replace State Historical Landmark plaque #18. The plaque, located on Old Redwood Highway and Adobe Road in Penngrove provided incorrect directions to and facts about the Petaluma Adobe. They proposed to remove the old plaque from its location and have a new one cast to be located within the park boundaries of the Petaluma Adobe. Crystal and Sara worked closely with Marilyn Lortie from the Office of Historic Preservation to obtain the proper permissions and contacts. State Historian Mari-

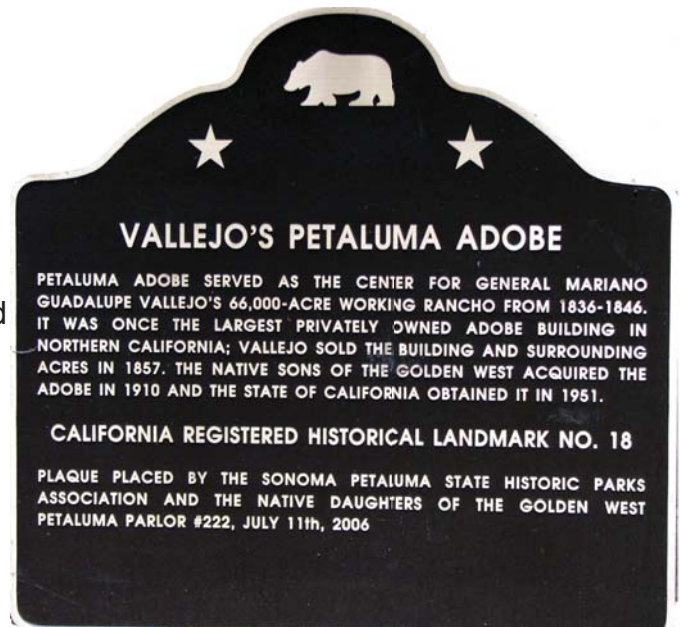
anne Hurley was instrumental in helping the PEF process along.

The plaque was originally placed by the Native Sons of the Golden West and they gave permission for it to be removed. The most difficult challenge was determining which agency was responsible for the property under the plaque and getting someone to remove it from that location. Caltrans, Sonoma County, and Penngrove all said it wasn't on property they controlled. After a year of finagling, verbal permission was granted to remove the plaque.

In January 2005, the Native Daughters of the Golden West stepped forward with a fundraising effort and by sum-



A new plaque and wall introduce General Mariano Vallejo's Petaluma Adobe with accurate information.



New Plaque at Petaluma Adobe SHP

mer 2006 they raised \$500 to contribute toward the plaque.

Sonoma Petaluma State Historic Parks Association, The nonprofit cooperating association that supports interpretive efforts at the park, funded the remaining \$2,700.

RNM Properties and Devcon Construction were incredible in their donations of labor and materials to construct the historical landmark plaque wall within the park and for removing the outdated plaque.

The wall contains the new plaque and the National Historic Landmark plaque.

The Sonoma Petaluma State Historic Parks Association, the Native Daughters of the Golden West Petaluma Parlor #222, and California State Park staff unveiled the new State Historical Landmark #18 plaque on Saturday, October 21st, 2006.

Come visit the park, see the new wall and plaque, and tour the building. Visit online at: www.petalumaadobe.com

A Warehouse of Unburied Treasure

By Sheryl A. Watson, Information Officer

A windowless warehouse in West Sacramento is thick with artifacts in boxes that rest on racks of stackable shelves, two deep. Among them are Native American grinding stones, 49'er era picks and shovels, Victorian-era medicine bottles, porcelain tea sets, china, leather objects, and even animal skeletons.

The broken pieces are carefully stacked, catalogued and kept together in plastic zip-lock

baggies. These items have many stories to

tell. It is the job of archaeologists to learn the stories and preserve cultural history by painstakingly excavating sites and recording their findings.

"You only get one chance to do it and whatever you record or fail to record creates the lasting picture. Once you disturb a site, it is disturbed forever," said Senior State Archaeologist Glenn J. Farris, Ph.D.

Farris heads the State Archaeological Collections Research Facility in West Sacramento, a repository of many artifacts unearthed during excavations within California's 278 state parks. It is also the only archaeological research facility in California state government. So, he often receives requests to house items not just from

within state parks, but also from other state agencies. Unfortunately, the current lack of space available necessitates him to decline these requests. Usually items are uncovered as a

result of a capital outlay project. Whether the project is to install a new septic tank, engineer a new trail or build a new visitor center, contractors are not allowed to turn a shovel of dirt until the site has first been examined by an archaeologist who then follows the project to carefully record any new discoveries.

Farris is acutely aware of the historic significance of his job and that of the 28 other state parks archaeologists. Their work will be scrutinized by archaeologists hundreds of years from now, just as they scrutinize the work of archaeologists that came before them.

There is an internal debate among archaeologists that has been going on since the beginning of the profession. It is in deciding what is historic.

"Newer archaeologists want to save everything, including cigarette butts and beer can pop tops," said Farris. "I disagree. But who knows? Fifty years from now, they might be valuable to our view of the history of the time."

Visit by going online at

http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=789



Above: Glenn Farris uncovers a table of artifacts at the State Archaeological Collections Research Facility in West Sacramento.

Left: This lower jaw of a grizzly bear found during excavation of the Cooper-Molera Adobe in Monterey. It was found with ceramic items that date the jaw to the 1830s-1840s. It may have come from the loser in one of the bull and bear fights common to Mexican California.



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Director's Awards

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in the area. He has met with both national and state park scientists to determine alternative water sources to protect the Mill Creek campground resources. He meets regularly with the Tolowa Tribe to find solutions to both protect the area and maintain a campground at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park near Crescent City.

The Mott Award for Innovation

Joe von Herrmann, State Park Interpreter, Interpretation and Education Division, Sacramento.

He is being recognized for his work on the Parks On-Line Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS), the department's distance learning program. In 2006, this program of live park visits through video conferencing reached more than 12,000 students.

The Dewitt Award for Partnership

Ray Murray, Chief of Partnerships Programs, Pacific West Region, National Park Service.

For nearly 15 years Murray has worked closely with both national and state parks to develop and implement a series of cooperative agreements that have resulted in improved communications, resource sharing, and enhanced recreational opportunities that cut across jurisdictional lines. As a result, both departments have saved funds, shared equipment, participated in joint natural and cultural resource projects, and produced

several joint general plans. Additionally, for nearly 20 years Murray served as primary contact for the California Outdoor Recreation Plan. The plan has shaped the way our department identifies long-range actions to address recreation needs and deficiencies.

The Ingenuity Award

Abel Diaz, Angeles District Sector Maintenance Staff, Los Angeles.

He formulated a cost-effective plan to repair a 40-year-old chain-link fence that borders Los Encinos State Historic Park in Encino with a commercial parking lot. While he contracted out the installation, he was able to complete most of the project in-house, saving the department thousands of dollars. He found the complete chain link fence material at Los Angeles State Historic Park where it was no longer needed for an interim project. He then obtained labor for fence removal and site preparation by getting help from the entire maintenance staff. The end result is a secure site to enhance community events held within the park.

Director's Special Commendations

This award was presented to the following teams and individuals:

The Housing Team made up of people from the Park Operations Division and Administrative Services Division:

- Laura Aguon
- Caryn Gordon
- David Barraza
- Dee Kirschman

- Val Bradshaw
- Margie Popoff
- Giz Bueno
- Karl Poppelreiter
- Carl Drake
- Doug Purdy
- Trayce Gilkey
- Janene Woolley

The team will be recognized for their work on behalf of employees residing in state-owned housing. In the past year the team has completed the operations manual for department housing, which passed division level review and Department of Personnel Administration review.

Dan Carroll, water and sewage plant supervisor for the Santa Cruz District, will be recognized for his work to ensure that the department's \$2.5 million wastewater project will receive all upgrades needed to be in compliance. He has also researched designs that provide alternatives to improve the wastewater treatment process.

Ken Wilbur, of Escondido, chief armorer and retired annuitant with the department's Northern Buttes District in Oroville, will be recognized for his work as the department's first armorer. As lead firearms instructor, he identified a cost savings in training himself to maintain weapons, rather than have the department contract out for such services. After showing the need for the program, the department began to send others through the necessary schooling to become an armorer. Twenty-five years

Outdoor Youth Connection: A Partnership Program from the Office of Community Involvement

By Michaele DeBoer, Superintendent,
Community Involvement Section

"This training was a lot more fun than I expected. I started to open up and enjoy myself."

"I not only went on a trip, cooked, cleaned, set up tents... but learned how to put a trip together and be a leader."

These are just some of the comments from teens about their experiences at Mount Diablo State Park Live Oak Campground the weekend of Friday, March 16th. That's where the Outdoor Youth Connection (OYC) kicked off the 2007 season with youth participants and their adult chaperones from three Sacramento community-based organizations.

The Outdoor Youth Connection is a collaborative effort of California State Parks, the California State Parks Foundation, and the Pacific Leadership Institute, a San Francisco State University non-profit organization. With funding provided through the Stewardship Council, teens ages 14 through 17 experience teambuilding, camping and other outdoor activities. With their new skills, participants organize and lead their own outdoor trips and projects for their peers and community.

The Outdoor Youth Connection consists of a three-day and two-night camping trip with training in leadership, teambuilding, outdoor safety, and trip planning. They learn the fundamentals of outdoor recreation and experiential education theory. Using the skills learned and connections built, each youth



Julian Vela and Harold Williams: Having fun and participation are key ingredients as youth learn leadership skills.

graduate is required to plan, lead, and facilitate an outdoor adventure for their peers and conduct a community service project.

The purpose of OYC is to empower local communities to address the growing problems of childhood obesity, declining self-esteem, juvenile delinquency, and other social problems affecting today's youth. Currently, the OYC program serves Oakland, Sacramento, San Francisco, and Stockton. Plans are in the works to expand to Fresno and Bakersfield in 2008. OYC provides innovative leadership programs that reconnect urban youth with the outdoors. The OYC provides leadership training that is both culturally relevant and individually challenging to our participants.

OYC provides a structured and powerful introduction to outdoor experiences that unlocks their individual potential, and also inspires them to become catalysts for change in their communities. Graduates receive ongoing support and guidance from the OYC network and their local organizations. The Outdoor Youth Connection provides compelling and meaningful outdoor experiences that not only benefit the diversity of youth in our state, but enrich their communities as well.



Participants learn to build trust in this 'Trust Lean' teambuilding initiative.

New Publication Greet Visitors

By John Garlock

This spring a new publication will greet visitors throughout California State Parks.

It will be a combination of the Welcome Kit and California Escapes®, the official guide to California State Parks.

The previous California Escapes® publication was funded by paid advertising from corporations, organizations and other groups. Advertising over the past couple of years has been difficult to obtain, therefore an alternative had to be sought.

A team of staff consisting of district and sector superintendents as well as staff from headquarters and the OHV/MR Division met in December to determine what content from both publications would be most important while still meeting the



visitor's need for information. To stay within budget, they decided to reduce the content and develop a leaner, more portable publication. Government Solutions Group of Los Angeles stepped up to the challenge and created a new publication that is informative and educational while providing visitors with necessary information.

Some new features of

the Welcome Kit/California Escapes® combination include:

- A newly designed envelope in the State Parks Branded Colors
- A map of the entire state of California
- California Escapes® activity grids and park phone numbers listed.
- Two versions have been created--one for Northern California and one for Southern California.

The Welcome Kit/California Escapes® publication became available in May, when initial shipments were sent to Districts for the park units.

To order more, please contact John Garlock in Partnerships and Consumer Strategies Division at (916) 653-5682.

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ago he took it upon himself to create a Firearms Inspector Manual and class and has coordinated the classes at the William Penn Mott Jr. Training Center. Because of his efforts, there are currently 13 armorers and 64 active firearms inspectors throughout the department. Now, all departmental weapons, including semi-automatic pistols, shotguns, and rifles are inspected in-house once a year and replaced as necessary.

Curt Lawrence, Park Maintenance Mechanic with the department's San Diego Coast District, will be recognized for his contributions to the district's interpretive programs. In addition to his regular park maintenance duties, he took it

upon himself to develop an Astronomy Program that has benefited both school age children and adults from neighboring urban areas. At first, he used his own equipment. To keep the program growing, he has developed partnerships with groups like the San Diego River Park Joint Powers Authority, the San Diego Astronomy Association, and Oceanside Photo & Telescope. Palomar Community College has added his program to their curriculum as extra credit. As the program continues to expand, new ideas and partnerships are becoming established that will allow even more expansion in the coming years.

A Visit to Point Lobos State Reserve

By Chuck Bancroft,
Supervising State Park Ranger,
Monterey Sector

I have always known Point Lobos State Reserve as a worldwide destination. During my 26 years at the reserve, I've met painters, photographers, school children, college students, and poets from far and wide.

I provided a tour to executives from the Bechtel Corporation and shook hands with Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. I led a nature walk for wives of former Secretary of State George Shultz and Rwandan President Paul Kagame. I've sat down with Ansel Adams to talk photography and became friends with two of his students, John Sexton and Bob Kolbrener, who are now leaders in black and white photography.

I presented a program on our pine forests to a group from the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, attended by more than 60 scientists from all over the world, including Spain, France, Australia, Finland, Japan, Sweden, Canada, Poland, and Slovakia. I've even traded art with poets John Dotson and Elliot Roberts, their poetry for my photography.

Then, on April 11, I had an experience that has been the most rewarding of all, one that made me feel like I was making a big difference in a little country far away. Sector Superintendent Dana Jones and I hosted a group of mayors from Montenegro in Southeastern Europe. They were visiting several state and national parks across the United States to learn about balancing resource management with attracting tourists to their recently independent Balkan country. The trip was organized by the International Visitor Leadership Program in San Francisco.

The visiting mayors were Rajko Kuljaca from the coastal town of Budva, Milovan Jankovic from the mountain town of Cetinje, Marija Catovic from the coastal town of Kotor, and Isalio Slijvančanin of the mountain town Zabljak. With them were language interpreters Gordon Matic and Inda Swanke.

We greeted our guests on a cool, rainy morning at Point Lobos State Reserve. The translators helped us create a wonderful dialogue and answer a variety of questions about organi-



Left to right: Mayor Rajko Kuljaca, Monterey Sector Superintendent Dana Jones, Mayor Milovan Jankovic, Mayor Ms. Marija Catovic, Mayor Mileta Bulatovic, Supervising Ranger Chuck Bancroft and Interpreter Inda Swanke.

zation, structure, funding, interpretation and education, resource protection and rehabilitation, law enforcement, and all the fun recreational activities in our premier state park system. They wanted to hear it all. It was as if they were hanging on our every word, taking it all in and carefully considering how what were telling them could be applied in Montenegro.

When the weather cleared to reveal a magnificent day, we walked through the Allan Memorial Grove to be inspired by the beauty of the reserve. They walked in wide eyed wonder at the plants, animals and trees that don't exist in their part of the world. They had never seen sea lions, otters and the birds that were there. They would point asked, "What is that, what does it do, how do those animals live?" The ocean provided a powerful background to look for gray whales migrating north, harbor seals in the coves with their new pups, and sea lions barking from their offshore islands. The wind-swept and contorted Monterey cypress provided a canopy of protection

► **POINT LOBOS, Page 15**

Coast Dairies Added to State Park System

After more than a decade of effort, the coastal portion of the Coast Dairies property was conveyed to our department. The property, located along California's central coast in northern Santa Cruz County, represents one of the last major sections of undeveloped coastline in the region. The entire 7,000 acres of property consists of six distinct watersheds, more than seven miles of stunning coastal resources, hundreds of acres of agricultural lands, and over 700 acres of redwood forest.



On a cold and windswept coastal bluff, a large group gathered to officially dedicate the Coast Dairies property as a part of California State Parks.

On April 5, the Trust for Public Land sponsored an event to celebrate the public ownership of both Coast Dairies and a smaller adjoining property known as Sand Hill Bluff.

All of the people and organizations that worked diligently to make these acquisitions possible were invited guests. Director Ruth Coleman represented

the Department and spoke of the legacy that we are leaving for future generations when we work collectively to preserve open space like Coast Dairies.

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Point Lobos

► **FROM PAGE 14**

in the light drizzle, and the wildflowers dazzled us with their myriad of colors.

When we told them about our 150 volunteers at Point Lobos, they expressed amazement and said they had never utilized volunteers. We talked about law enforcement and resource management.



From the south side of the Cypress Grove Trail looking south and west across Headland Cove to the Sea Lion rocks offshore.

They would come back with comments about things they were trying to do. I saw lights come on in their eyes.

We could have spent all day with these enthusiastic representatives from Montenegro, but, alas, they had to leave for their next appointment with city officials from Monterey.

For a glimpse of the wonderful country of Montenegro, visit <http://www.visit-montenegro.com/>

Tales from the Field Special Edition: *Earth Day 2007!*

Earth Day at Malibu Lagoon

**By Lindsey Templeton,
Supervising State Park
Ranger, Malibu Lagoon State
Beach**

Earth Day came on April 21 this year and was a huge success. The location was the Malibu Lagoon and our goal was to spray paint under the Lagoon bridge, makeover the entrance planter that had been overtaken with weeds, and pick up trash. The Malibu Creek Docents (thanks Dean!) also provided a display and added an educational component.

The bridge has been covered in gang graffiti and trash has been piling up for some time. The rains came down the day before the event which gave us even more trash and debris to pick up. We had over 130 volunteers of which 100 were from the surrounding Wal-Mart stores. Some came

from as far away as Palm-
dale and Lancaster. The
other group was from the lo-
cal Malibu Thrift store called
the Artifact Tree. The Wal
Mart volunteers were fantas-
tic and completely cleaned
up the Lagoon. Near the end,
some of the volunteers were
play fighting over the last bits
of trash! What an enthusias-
tic group of people and hard
workers!

The Artifact Tree was
the only Malibu business to
show up and accounted for
the only two citizens of Mali-
bu in attendance! The Artifact
represented well! The volun-
teers from the Artifact took on
the giant task of assembling
a new airless paint sprayer
that was generously donated
by the State Parks Founda-
tion as well as the Malibu Creek
Docents, and painting years of



**Employees of The Artifact Tree
in Malibu donated their time to
help their town.**

graffiti under the Lagoon Bridge. This job was difficult due to the fact that the sprayer, paint and generator had to be hiked in through the brush. I never heard a complaint and they did an incredible job. Many thanks go out to the Artifact Tree.

At noon, more than 800 pounds of trash had been removed and our bridge had a make-over and the Lagoon entrance planter looked beautiful. Our event was truly a success!

Many thanks go out to Wal-Mart, Edison of California, The Malibu Creek Docents and the California State Parks Foundation.



Volunteers from local Wal-Mart stores provided three quarters of the labor for the Malibu Lagoon State Beach Earth Day Cleanup.



Joe Hopkins, Environmental Services Intern at Ocotillo Wells, shares the park's native plant garden with visiting Girl Scouts.

Earth Day at Ocotillo Wells

By Nancy Frost,
Environmental Scientist

The Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) Earth Day 2007 celebration began on the evening of April 20th with a campout that was attended by 40 Girl Scouts and their leaders from Brawley, Carlsbad, Poway, and San Diego. Inclement weather, including pouring rain near the coast and falling snow in Julian, did not stop them from getting to Ocotillo Wells SVRA, where they were treated to the rare sight of a double rainbow. After a barbeque dinner, Environmental Services Intern Joe Hopkins put on an excellent evening program about arachnids. The girls learned about tarantulas and scorpions; got to look at a live solpugid, commonly known as a wind scorpion; and used a black light to locate scorpions, which fluoresce under ultraviolet light.

The next morning, 90 volunteers from the Girl Scouts and off-road clubs, including Clean Desert, Tierra Del Sol 4X4, Drifting Jeepers, Rockbrawlers, VIP, Hellraisers Off Road, and ACORA, participated in the Earth Day desert cleanup. The cleanup volunteers were energized with donated Starbucks coffee and Blu-In donuts. The volunteers collected a total of 93 bags of trash and 24 bags of recycling. After the cleanup, the volunteers were able to cool off with water, donated by Borrego Springs Bottled Water and ice, donated by Desert Ironwoods. Olive Garden in Palm Desert donated salads and breadsticks for the hungry volunteers.

After the clean up, Ocotillo Wells Natural Resource staff led environmental education activities. Senior Environmental Scientist Eric Hollenbeck gave a presentation with live desert

reptiles and Joe Hopkins led an interpretive walk through the native plant garden, during which a resident coyote just happened to stroll by. Archaeologist Jennifer Parker presented a hands-on activity in which the Girl Scouts made beaded raffia bracelets using Native American rope-making techniques. Environmental Scientist Nancy Frost discussed the important contribution that the clean-up volunteers made by picking up trash and recyclable items. Nancy and Richard Bye, volunteers from the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association showed the Girl Scouts how to use newspaper to make biodegradable pots that can be used to propagate seeds. The Girl Scouts' evaluations of the event were very positive. We thank all of the sponsors and volunteers that made Earth Day 2007 a success.

Park and Recreation Commission Meets at Sonoma Coast



State Park and Recreation Commission

Sonoma Coast State Park – On May 3, the State Park and Recreation Commission toured various sections of the park. The Commission and others stopped for a briefing in the newly acquired Upper Willow Creek area. The next

day, meeting in Sebastopol, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the reclassification of Sonoma Coast State Beach to Sonoma Coast State Park, a name deemed more appropriate with the addition of more than 3,300 acres of the Upper Willow Creek property, which extends the property well beyond the beach area. In addition, the Commission also voted unanimously to approve the Preliminary General Plan/Final Environmental Impact Report, a document that now reflects the addition of the Upper Willow Creek

property. With the 667 acres of leased land from the State Lands Commission, and the 3,378 acres of Upper Willow Creek, the park now has a total of 10,286 acres.

Boat Rescue Highlights Teamwork, Quick Response of Parks and Local Law Enforcement

By Mike Brouard, Lifeguard Supervisor, Orange Coast South Sector

At Doheny State Beach on May 14, on-and-off-duty State Parks employees and members of the Orange County Sheriff's Office participated in a boat rescue. The vessel operator fell asleep at the wheel, and ran himself and his 35-foot boat aground. It was a great multi-discipline response. A Park Ranger, former lifeguard Brian Kummer, was the first rescuer in the water, followed shortly thereafter by Lifeguards G. Harvey and R. Bancroft, who responded from Dana Point Harbor with the Orange County Sheriff's fireboat. A line was swum into the vessel, and attached. Several off-duty guards who happened to be working out nearby saw the commotion and also rendered aid. After about 10 minutes of rocking and pulling the vessel from outside the surf line, the vessel was freed. It suffered significant damage, but it is still seaworthy, and will live to sail another day.



Grounded sailboat

CALENDAR

PACHECO STATE PARK'S SIXTH KITE DAY

Pacheco State Park, June 16

The Sixth Annual Family Kite Day will be held 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., when the sky will dance with clever and imaginative kites. Other activities include kite making, face painting, pie eating contest, bubble gum blowing contests, and a 'candy-drop' kite. Fee: \$5 Day Use Fee per car. (209) 826-6283

PONY EXPRESS RIDES INTO OLD SACRAMENTO

Old Sacramento SHP, June 21

The Pony Express will ride again across the American West. On June 11th, a rider will leave St. Joseph, Missouri, and by proxy, deliver the mail on horseback to Pony Express Plaza in Old Sacramento on June 21st at 11:30 a.m.. at 11:30 a.m. (916) 332-8382.

HISTORIC 4TH OF JULY

Old Town San Diego, July 4

Experience Independence Day in true 1800s style! Staff in period attire will hold children's games, demonstrations, contests and more! 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (619) 220-5422.

CULTURAL HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION OF RUSSIAN AMERICA 1812-1841

Fort Ross SHP, July 28

Celebrate the cultural diversity that existed at the park from 1812 to 1841. The Russian-American Company Settlement was home to Russians, Creoles, Native Alaskans, and Miwok Native Californians. Fee: \$20 a car (Seniors \$15), Bus with 10+ passengers \$3.00 a person (handicapped shuttle available). (707) 847-3286.

GOVERNOR'S DAY LIVING HISTORY EVENT

California State Capitol Museum, August 11

Turning back the clock to 1899-1917, volunteers will portray various governor's of the time discussing issues and events that defined their administrations. Events include the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire and the political influence of the Southern Pacific Railroad. (916) 324-0333.

GRIZZLY BEAR FESTIVAL

Big Basin Redwoods SP, Aug. 19

Waddell Creek and Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Discover the culture and history surrounding grizzly bears. Learn the myths and truths, as stories unfold with local actors. There will be children's games, storytelling, and crafts. (831) 427-2288.

Coast Dairies

►FROM PAGE 15

The Santa Cruz District's Archaeologist, Mark Hylkema, was on hand to lead tours of a significant archaeological site on the Sand Hill Bluff property. This particular site represents over 6,000 years of continuous occupation by the Ohlones.

"The site is a really important bank of information that becomes a window into the past environment," Hylkema explained to the group. Environmental Scientist Chris Spohrer was also available to speak about the department's plans to restore the mouth of the nearby Laguna Creek, which is home to several endangered species.

Ultimately, Coast Dairies will be managed in partnership

with the Bureau of Land Management and an agricultural education nonprofit called Agri-Culture. BLM will manage most of the inland portion of the property minus the existing agricultural leases.

Agri-Culture will manage the agriculture leases on the inland portions of the property, while State Parks will manage the agricultural leases on the coastal portion of the property and the

beaches.

Fortunately, staffing and equipment came with the property so all effort is now focused on opening this part of the coastline for future park visitors.



History Lesson – At a tour stop, Mark Hylkema, State Parks archaeologist, explains that the site they are standing on was occupied by Native Americans about 6,000 years ago.



John Arnold's Mailbag

Dear California State Parks . . .

Thank you for a wonderful year of video conferences. It has been such a positive experience in enhancing our students' curriculum. Every month our students and parents look forward to a new video conference experience. The presenters are extremely competent in their area of expertise and have great rapport with the students.

Our experiences with the State Parks have been a valuable resource for our parents. Home schooling families are always looking for opportunities to enrich their children's learning. Many families have independently visited your parks. One of our students was so taken by the art lesson at Crystal Cove that her family planned a vacation there. They enrolled their daughter in art lessons at the cove and she painted the exact cottage from your lesson. She now paints all the time! Because your Butterfly video conference was so enthusiastically

received, students did further research, art, and field trips to the butterfly exhibit at the Living Desert Reserve in Palm Desert.

We appreciate all that you do for Horizon School and their families. We look forward to continuing with you next year. Sincerely,

Horizon School Teachers

Last year about this time I made a complaint about visiting Folsom Lake and not being able to launch my boat from the Granite Bay ramps. Actually, both my buddy and I made complaints.

So I figure I should give a compliment when it's due, also. And I do want to complement (sic) you. On a recent trip to Folsom Lake, we noticed that you've installed a ticket machine at the Granite Bay entrance. I think that was a great idea. It's not only quicker for us, but it also ensures that if for some reason we can't launch from Granite Bay after paying and entering then we can go to another ramp and not have to pay again.

Kudos to you folks at Parks and Rec for coming up with that idea.



Ticket Machine

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News & Views

Summer 2007

**Ruth Coleman,
Director**

Communications Office

- Roy Stearns, Deputy Director
- Sheryl Watson, Editor
- John Arnold, Assistant Editor
- Carol Cullens, Proofreader
- Lindsay Oxford, Layout and Design

Submit articles to:

newsandviews@parks.ca.gov

Please include the topic in the subject line.

Submit captions and photographer's name with all photographs.

Photographs need to be in TIFF or JPEG format.

Please keep article length to 400 words. The next submission deadline is July 30.

Mailbag

► FROM PAGE 20

I just wanted to let you know how impressed me and my family are with some of the state parks that we have been lucky to stay at and visit this easter vacation. We used San Luis Reservoir as our jumping off point truly a diamond in the rough. San Luis Creek Campgrounds has truly the nicest camp host and team of highly trained staff of rangers who take very good no great care in watching over and protecting the public. On our four day stay we ran to the sea to visit sea cliff sp and once again were impressed at the way it is maintained and the friendly staff that work and live there. So well trained and knowledgeable on history of the area. San Juan Bautista mission on Sunday my kids were impressed mass was just finishing what a live memory see a mission in use i as a child visit many missions and all of them were under remodel or construction. How real. We just wanted say thank all of your many employees and volunteers' for all they have done to keep California alive and well

Just to let you know that Dan and Cathy (?) from Clear Lake State Park both responded to my inquiries. They should be commended for maybe not as quick a response as we all would like (you

actually probably could have answered my questions first) but they did take the time and call back and straightforward answered all my questions. Cathy (?) even noticed that one of our parties had reserved a handicapped site and was willing to try to make adjustments to accommodate them. That was admirable.

I hope you let their supervisor and them know their efforts were appreciated because I can't find a way other than through you.

Dear Sir,

i dont know which Department or the right person to contact regarding the REAL TEMPLE OF SOLOMON IN JERUSALEM. i believe this temple will be the biggest discovery in this world & i know exactly the location of the temple (tunnel), i saw it my self & it was by chance, i fall down into big hall in one land in Jerusalem, i went inside, i saw very big hall & on the front 2 big chairs from stone, its for Solomon (Suleiman) & his wife thrown,,, many wrote & pictures on the walls, also i saw in the middle like fountain & around 7 open doors, but i scared to enter inside,, its really huge temple. its a big city under the ground. i would be very appreciate if you can guide me to the correct people,, i was born in Jerusalem, thats why i discovered this tunnel (Temple). iam so sure it will be the biggest discovery in the world. Thanks in advance



Health Fair

California State Parks was one of 40 organizations with a booth in the 2007 Step Into Fitness Faire at the State Capitol on May 23.

Welcoming guests are Jay Walsh, special assistant to the director, John Garlock of the Partnerships and Consumer Strategies Division and Terry Gerson, with the Office of Community Involvement. The event was organized by the California Task Force on Youth and Workplace Wellness

State Parks Recognized for Charitable Employees, \$53,000 Pledged

By Lynn Black, Administration Division

Congratulations have been extended to California State Parks employees by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell who led the 2006 California State Employees Charitable Campaign (CSECC).

The final report indicates that 353 California State Parks employees pledged \$53,172 through the campaign last year. The contributions will improve our communities and our state by ensuring nonprofit organizations receive the support they need to be successful.

California State Parks ranked 28th out of 214 state departments in the amount of money pledged in this campaign.

State employees from all departments combined pledged more than \$7 million statewide, reflecting a total of 48,364 donors. That is a 2.45 percent increase in donations from 2005.

The department was recognized for outstanding employee participation and overall dollars pledged through CSECC. These awards to DPR employees are as follows:

Red Shoe Award

This award recognizes departments that increased contributions by more than 20 percent.

Bronze Award

This award acknowledges an increase in employee participation of between 20 percent and 39 percent.



Certificate awarded for generous giving Bronze Award

This award is given for contributions that average between \$50 and \$64 a person.

Much of the credit for campaign results go to employees who graciously volunteered their time and energy. Employee volunteers play an essential part because they assist with the pledge forms, answer questions, and become advocates of the campaign and the nonprofit community. Volunteers also encouraged their peers to give back to others when we are so fortunate to have so much. California State Parks employees' willingness to assist in this effort truly helped "Make a Difference" in 2006.

Team Donate Life Raises Awareness of Organ Donation

Karen Lehman, chief administrative officer and clinic manager of UC Davis Medical Center and wife of Steve Lehman, State Parks' deputy director of Acquisition and Development, will participate in Race Across America as part of Team Donate Life. Team Donate Life is comprised of medical professionals and organ donors and recipients who bike across the country to raise money and awareness for organ donation.

One donor has the capability of providing eight people with organs, and aiding another fifty people through tissue donation. If you would like to donate on behalf of Karen Lehman and her team, Heels on Wheels, please visit <http://www.teamdonatelife.com/donateheels.php>