

# NEWS & VIEWS

Celebrating 65 Years as the Employee Newsletter of California State Parks



December 2009

## Governor Honors State Park Peace Officers

By Sheryl A. Watson, Information Officer

The highest honor available to state employees was presented this month to two state park peace officers for their selfless acts of heroism.

State Park Lifeguard James W. Nothhelfer and State Park Ranger Timothy B. Fellars of Half Moon Bay in the San Mateo Coast Sector of the Santa Cruz District were among 27 honored with the Governor's State Employee Medal of Valor. In a grand ceremony before nearly 1,000 onlookers, this month, Director Ruth Coleman escorted them to the podium where Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger placed a gold medal on a ribbon around their necks and shook their hands. Later that evening, they were honored again, during the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, also called the Tree of Heroes where 27 ornaments were dedicated, one to each honoree.

"I played action heroes in movies," said Schwarzenegger, during the lighting ceremony. "These are the true action heroes."

A family of six was cast into the ocean when their boat capsized on June 22, 2009, in an area near Moss Beach known for boat accidents due to a hazardous, shallow reef. Lifeguard Nothhelfer paddled out 300 yards on a rescue board to reach the

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## The 2009 Christmas Stamp Features Hearst Castle Painting

By Sheryl A. Watson, Information Officer

A Hearst Castle painting was chosen from among thousands of images chosen to be on the nation's 2009 Christmas stamp.

"Sassoferrato's Madonna and Sleeping Child provides a symbol of the endearing and enduring bond of family," said James Bilbray, member, U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors, in dedicating the stamp. "The beauty of a mother cradling her child and the symbolic message of purity, love and sacrifice

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Brian Baer, Photographer, California State Parks

State Park Lifeguard James W. Nothhelfer and State Park Ranger Timothy B. Fellars.



Hoyt Fields, Museum Director; Ruth Coleman, Director, California State Parks; James H. Bilbray, U.S. Post Office Board of Governors; and Tony Cipolla, KSBY TV anchor, pose with an enlargement of this year's Christmas stamp.

Victoria Garagliano, Sr. Photog., Hearst Castle

# Rethinking Summer: California State Parks Pioneer Summer Enrichment Programs to Lessen the Summer Achievement Gap

By Nina Gordon

Hundreds of children discovered that learning is joy—tilting your head back to look at a redwood tree, finding a hidden nest, balancing antlers on your head, and bounding out of a tent at 7 a.m. to hike two miles and explore a creek.

Thanks to funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, California State Parks piloted a Summer Enrichment Program to provide learning opportunities in outdoor settings for over 700 disadvantaged children.

Numerous studies document the achievement gap when (primarily economically disadvantaged) children have no chances to learn over the summer. The Packard Foundation responded by funding a pilot program with after-school care providers in Oakland, Fresno and Gilroy. The State Park Foundation

funded State Parks staffing, travel, some camping equipment and interpretive materials for selected parks. State Parks staff, volunteers and cooperating associations at Diablo Vista, Marin, Monterey and Central Valley Districts worked together to ensure awe-inspiring experiences for the youth.

Children camped and explored at Sugarloaf Ridge and Mount Tamalpais State Parks. At Monterey State Beaches, kids learned about marine mammals and water safety, went on a geocache treasure hunt and boat tour at Millerton Lake



Brian Baer, Photographer, California State Parks

Ranger Cameron Bowers with a group at Henry W. Coe.

State Recreation Area, and explored the grasslands and creeks at Henry W. Coe State Park.

The California State Parks Foundation was instrumental in securing the grant and transferring the funds.

Each of the state park grant programs recorded a marked increase in children's knowledge of the natural and cultural history, while increasing understanding of their role in the environment. Most of the children experienced camping and/or the wonders of the park for the first time.

Huge thanks to the foundation, all the state park rangers, lifeguards, interpreters, seasonal staff, FamCamp® staff and others who guaranteed the success of this pilot program. You can bet that over 700 kids returned to school and excitedly told their classmates about their "awesome" summer!



Brian Baer, Photographer, California State Parks

Camping at Mount Tamalpais.



More photos from this year's Summer Enrichment pilot program. Parks shown in these photographs include Henry W. Coe State Park, Mount Tamalpais State Park and Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. All photographs by Brian Baer, Photographer, California State Parks.

# Hearst Castle Painting Chosen for Stamp

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are brilliant. It represents the best of all that is good about Christmas and its traditions – home, family, love and togetherness. It is no small wonder why it was selected.”

The U.S. Post Office and California State Parks’ San Luis Obispo Coast District launched the stamp with a “First-Day-of-Issue” dedication ceremony at the Hearst Castle in October. More than 150 people attended and received a commemorative

envelope featuring the stamp and dated cancellation seal with an event program inside. Afterward, event speakers autographed the program, increasing its value for collectors.

“We hope that as people receive their holiday greetings around the world this year, they will be reminded of the many treasures like this painting that exist in California’s state parks,” said California State

Parks Director Ruth Coleman.

The U.S. Post Office nearly sold out of the stamps they brought to the event, having sold 8,500 stamps (425 books). In all, USPS printed 600 million to be sold across the nation this holiday season.

“We are proud to be here today, recognized nationally with this stamp dedication ceremony by the USPS,” said Museum Director Hoyt Fields, during the ceremony. “We are very fortunate that the Hearst family and Corporation deeded the Castle and its contents to the State of California in 1957 and that we have been able to share this magnificent estate with almost 36 million visitors in 51 years as a California State Historical Monument.”

Since 1978, the theme of each “traditional” Christmas stamp has been the Madonna and Child. This year, the U.S. Postal Service’s Citizens Stamp Advisory Board selected the Hearst Castle’s Madonna and Sleeping Child, a painting by Italian artist Giovanni Battista Salvi (1609-1685), more commonly known as Sassoferrato. It was one of more than 7,000 submitted. The artist is also known by his place of birth, Sassoferrato. The issuance of the stamp coincides with the 400th anniversary of the artist’s birth. The year of the painting is unknown, but William Randolph Hearst bought the painting in 1926.

It is the second time Hearst Castle was depicted in a stamp. The first time was in 1988 when a First-Day-of-Issue post card with an artist rendering of the estate was published. This was the first to highlight a specific piece of the art collection and the first stamp ceremony.

Victoria Garagliano, Sr Photog., Hearst Castle



James H. Blibrary, of the USPS Board of Governors, and Director Ruth Coleman sign programs from the “First Day of Issue” ceremony at Hearst Castle. Below: Ruth Coleman with the original painting.

Victoria Garagliano, Sr Photog., Hearst Castle



# Governor Honors Two Parks Employees

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family, negotiating around the reef in 9-foot-high choppy surf, and through gasoline and debris from the overturned boat. Once he arrived, he discovered that only the two children, both under the age of seven, were wearing lifejackets. After assuring that five of the victims were able to temporarily stay afloat holding on to floating debris, Lifeguard Nothhelfer then paddled over to the sixth victim who was clinging to the bow of the boat, the only part of the boat still above the water. Lifeguard Nothhelfer got the sixth victim onto the paddleboard and then swam him back to the other victims just before the boat vanished underwater.

Lifeguard Nothhelfer then directed all of the family members to hold onto the handles of his 11-foot rescue paddleboard. Nothhelfer held the family together for 30 minutes in shivering 54 degree water, as they waited for the rescue boat to make its way to the remote location. The victims were then shuttled on a personal water craft sled in pairs or one at a time to the rescue boat. At times, the victims' hands would lose their grip as large waves washed over them, and Nothhelfer would grab hold and get them back to the board. As the group drifted toward the rocky reef, Nothhelfer used his fins to push the board into deeper water.

Ranger Fellars, a trained aquatic rescuer, swam out through the rough surf with a rescue tube and joined Lifeguard Nothhelfer. Together they continued to keep the



Brian Baer, Photographer, California State Parks



Top: Governor Schwarzenegger shakes hands with Fellars and Nothhelfer. Bottom: The recipients with Director Ruth Coleman.

victims afloat until all six could be shuttled to the rescue boat.

All the victims survived the life threatening ordeal. One of the children was transported by medical helicopter for severe hypothermia and near drowning. The other five family members were transported by ground ambulance to area hospitals and treated for hypothermia.

"I feel a little embarrassed and humbled at being singled out," said Fellars. "James and I are being recognized for the whole department and what

the department does."

Nothhelfer had a word of advice to state park employees, "Keep up the good work."

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Governor's Medal of Valor awards. Over the years, 26 California State Parks employees were honored, including those from this year. Their stories are available at a new touch-screen kiosk near the east entrance of the State Capitol, as well as on a new Web site at <http://medalofvalor.ca.gov/>.

# State Parks, CCC Energize Montaña de Oro as a “Cool Park”

By Dan Eller, Communications Director, Hearst Castle

California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman and California Conservation Corps Director David Muraki were joined by members of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and State Parks staff at Montaña de Oro State Park to celebrate the final installation of photovoltaic panels at Spooner’s Cove on Saturday, December 5.

In the latest chapter of an enduring inter-agency partnership between State Parks and the CCC, corps members embarked on a comprehensive training program led by State Parks stationary engineer Lawrence “Sparky” Ross. The project began with class room training of basic wiring, electrical theory, and photo voltaics in September. In Montaña de Oro State Park, a total of 39 photovoltaic panels were installed at three locations as part of the “Cool Parks” initiative which will lower the carbon footprint within State Parks, reduce operating expenses, and transfer a new set of skills to corps members.



Members of the California Conservation Corps were essential to the installation of photovoltaic panels at Spooner’s Cove

As part of an interpretive display, six solar panels were installed on the roof of a pump house next to the Spooner Ranch Visitor Center, along with an interpretive panel explaining how solar electricity is generated, and the benefits of using alternative energy. On average, the solar panels will generate 75 percent of the electricity consumed at Montaña de Oro State Park.

On sunny summer days when photovoltaic generation is at its peak, any excess electricity generated will flow back into the power grid. In 2010, corps members will install solar panels at several locations in Morro Bay State Park. The \$190,000 project was funded by PG&E as settlement of a lawsuit brought by the Coastal Law Enforcement Action Network (CLEAN) and in addition to the solar panel installation, includes a raptor introduction program. This solar project is the latest in a series of conservation measures under the “Cool Parks” program which began in 2007. As members of the California Conservation Corps perfect their green technology skills, it is hoped that they will undertake similar Cool Parks projects in park units throughout the state.



After completion, the panels were installed on top of a pump house at the Montaña de Oro State Park visitor center.

# American Express Helps Anza Borrego Go Solar

By Jason Duke

District Maintenance Chief  
Colorado Desert District

The Begole Archeological Research Building (BARC) located at the Colorado Desert District Office received a new hat in September. Forty photovoltaic panels producing 7.8kw of power are now offsetting our energy consumption at the district office. This district-funded project will reduce our operational cost for the headquarters office, the Anza Borrego Foundation trailer and the GIS building by nearly half. This reduction will allow the district to contribute these savings, each year, to more panels and continuing upgrades to the existing systems. Ultimately these savings will free up enough money to generate more systems throughout the district.

The next phase of solar power has already begun. The new restroom at the Anza Borrego Visitor Center will be the new home to a 3.5kw system comprising twenty-two panels, which will begin the offset of our energy obligation there as well. While this system may not



Jason Duke

A typical summer day in Borrego Springs provides lots of sunshine for the newly-installed panels on the BARC at District Headquarters. The new system will reduce operational costs for District headquarters, the Anza-Borrego Foundation trailer and the GIS building by nearly half.

provide a total offset of our current consumption, we will be able to generate savings that will allow us to add more in the future. This system was funded by American Express through a public-private partnership with the park. There will be a plaque with their name on the side of the building to recognize their help in reducing our carbon footprint.

As we peek into the future of photovoltaic systems we find new and brilliant ideas, i.e., a nylon shade canopy that has a photovoltaic membrane woven

into it, a spray-on film that produces power and much more.

“We are grateful to American Express for helping us to get these projects moving,” said Jason Duke, district maintenance chief. “We are moving forward with the department’s “Cool Parks” initiative and reducing our greenhouse gas production. There are so many opportunities for alternative energy in this region—sun, wind and water—which could ultimately be used to make our parks self-sufficient.”

## News & Views

2009

Ruth Coleman  
Director

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Submit articles to [newsandviews@parks.ca.gov](mailto:newsandviews@parks.ca.gov)

Please include captions and photographer's name with all photographs.

Photographs must be TIFF or JPEG format. We cannot use pictures embedded in Microsoft Word documents.

Please limit article length to 300 words. Articles may be edited for clarity and length.

Articles are accepted on a rolling basis.

# Sierra District Interpreter Earns National Honor

Bill Lindemann, Regional Interpretive Specialist in the Sierra District, received the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) Master Front-Line Interpreter Award for 2009.

“Bill is a consummate interpreter—part artist, part storyteller, part master craftsman and clearly one who knows how to weave magic for park visitors,” wrote NAI Executive Director Tim Merriman, in a statement. “He has a reputation for getting things done with very little resources.”

The award was presented at NAI’s national workshop on November 21st in Hartford, CT.

Lindemann’s interpretive work has included first-person living history characters such as a guitar playing, singing railroad conductor from the 1870’s; a crusty mountain man; General William Phipps, the first Lake Tahoe settler who homesteaded Sugar Pine Point in 1860; and even the legendary “Snowshoe Thompson” who, on foot, carried the mail over the Sierras for 20 years until 1876. NAI described Lindemann as



National Association for Interpretation

Presentation of 2009 Master Front Line Interpreter Award to Bill Lindemann in Hartford Connecticut. From left to right: Jim Covel (NAI President), Bill Lindemann, and Donna Richardson (NAI Vice President).

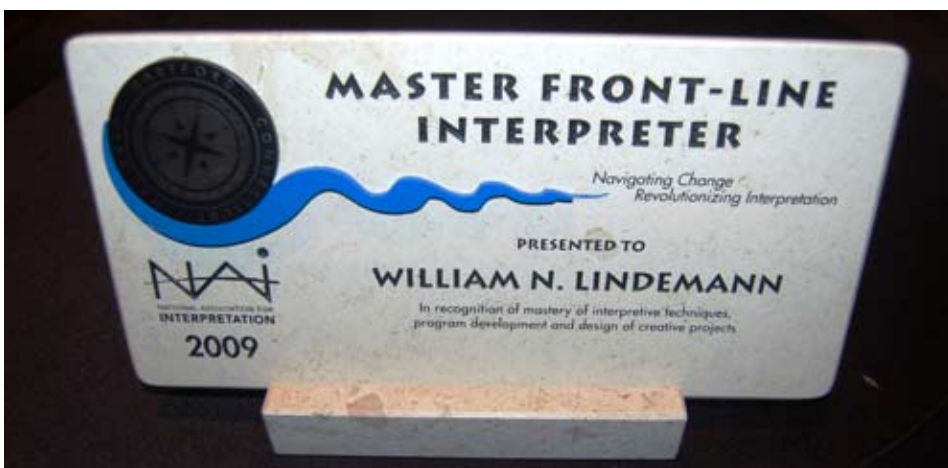
having a tremendous breadth of knowledge and experience, as well as an inquiring mind and ability to quickly connect with people of all ages.

“I am always amazed about Bill’s depth of knowledge on the very extensive history of these California State Parks,” said Sector Superintendent Susan Grove of the Sierra District’s Lake Tahoe Sector. “He is a wealth of information, and is always willing to take

time to share what he knows.”

The Master Front-Line Interpreter Award is presented to an NAI member who has worked for more than five years in the profession and whose current duties are at least 60 percent front-line interpretation. Recipients must demonstrate a mastery of interpretive techniques, program development and design of creative projects.

The National Association for Interpretation is a professional organization for park historians & naturalists, heritage interpreters, zoo and museum educators, park managers, and others affiliated with interpreting the natural, historical and cultural environment to the public. The organization has more than 5,000 members. For more information visit <http://www.interpnet.com/>.





## Parks Interpreter Honored For Helping Develop Multi-media Lessons



Regional Interpretive Specialist Mary Stokes was honored for her work as liaison between California State Parks and the California Institute for Biodiversity (CIB) in their “Eureka! Series” programs.

**By Donna Pozzi,  
Chief, Interpretation & Education Division**

Regional Interpretive Specialist Mary Stokes was honored for her work as liaison between California State Parks and the nonprofit California Institute for Biodiversity (CIB) in their “Eureka! Series” programs. The programs offer teachers all the tools they need to have their students explore the world-class resources within California’s state parks and elsewhere.

Through public-private partnerships, CIB has developed interactive multi-media lessons, hands-on field activities and in-depth professional development training for teachers interested in bringing students into the outdoors for inquiry-based learning. Mary’s role was to assist in developing content about California’s state parks, as liaison between the parks and CIB. The materials are aimed at capturing students’ interest and encouraging achievement in science, math and language arts.

The award was presented October 3, during CIB’s annual fundraiser in the Oakland Hills. The event was attended, on their own dime, by

Donna Pozzi, Chief, Interpretation and Education Division; Dave Gould, District Superintendent, Diablo Vista District; Karen Barrett, Regional Interpretive Specialist, Diablo Vista District and Margo Cowan, Volunteer Programs Coordinator. They cheered Mary on as she graciously accepted her award.

State Parks has been partnering with CIB in the development of new educational resources for 5th through 10th grades. Other partners include the California State Park Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Game, and the East Bay Regional Park District.

Several State Park Districts have hosted “Eureka! Series” teacher groups, including Angeles, Central Valley, Channel Coast, San Luis Obispo Coast, Monterey, and Diablo Vista districts.

To learn more about the “Eureka! Series,” please visit [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=735](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=735) or <http://eukaseries.org/main/>

# Fort Tejon Dragoons Honor Veterans At Santa Barbara Presidio



Costumed volunteers dressed as United States cavalry members recreated events of 1859 in honor of Veteran's Day. Here, the conclusion of the ceremony is marked by the firing of two shots from Fort Tejon's Mountain Howitzer cannon.

**by Sean T. Malis, State Park Interpreter I**

In the early morning darkness of Wednesday, November 11th 2009, Veteran's Day, Fort Tejon State Historic Park volunteers gathered in the cold at this mountain park to assemble the uniforms, horses, saddles, and artillery equipment, and start loading vehicles for the two hour drive to Santa Barbara. Nine volunteers from Fort Tejon State Historic Park journeyed to Santa Barbara to be part of the Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park's Veterans Day commemoration.

Volunteers recreated a moment in history, 150 years

ago, when troops from Fort Tejon were called to restore law and order in the town of Santa Barbara. In August 1859, tension grew between newly arrived American settlers and established Californios over the hanging of two Californios for suspected cattle rustling.

As the US Dragoons rode into town on their cavalry horses, order was restored at the end of a saber. Slowly tensions between old and new immigrants subsided. Major James H. Carleton, the US Army commander, criticized both sides. "Both classes seem to have lost sight of the fact that they are American



Volunteers prepare the cannon at Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park.



Left: The Fort Tejon Dragoons arrive on horseback at Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park. Right: the horses were just as popular as their riders.

citizens in common—having equal rights and bearing equal responsibilities.”

The arrival of modern day Dragoon volunteers was met with much more celebration. Volunteers from the Santa Barbara Presidio were also in attendance depicting the Soldados Real de Presidio de Santa Barbara or Presidial Soldiers of the 1780s.

The Dragoons and the

Presidio Soldiers marched into the dirt Plaza de Armas or courtyard of the Presidio with drums beating and flags waving. Dr. Jarrell Jackman, Executive Director for the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation presided over the ceremony. Speakers celebrated the contributions of America’s war veterans from 1775 to present.

The Fort Tejon Dragoons

raised the flag over the Presidio before lowering it to half staff. Later the Dragoons fired two shots from Fort Tejon’s Mountain Howitzer, concluding the ceremony.

The event was a historic tribute to America’s veterans of the last 234 years and fitting recreation of Fort Tejon’s Dragoons who had journeyed to Santa Barbara to restore order to the city so long ago.

## Foundation Donates Funding for Banners

The merchants at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park got a small boost this year when the California State Park Foundation funded parking lot banners that merchants could not afford themselves.

The banners herald visitors to visit the individual shops in Old Town. In the early fall 2008 only 10 of the usual 20 banner slots were filled. The empty slots were noticed by a California State Parks employee, who learned from the Merchant Association that the economy was to blame.

He then requested and obtained assistance from California State Parks Foundation to fund the remaining 10 banners. Not only does this effort help to the merchants, but also to the state park, as the banners bring in more business and thus more revenue to the merchants and the state.

Thank you to Jerry Emory of the California State Parks Foundation for your partnership!





# John Arnold's Mailbag

We enjoyed our time at Patrick's Point Park and marveled at the redwoods on our hike from the Prairie Creek Visitor Center to Fern Canyon.

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We went (to Calaveras Big Tress State Park) last week and had a wonderful time. Waking up to the snow was an added treat!

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Me and few of my friends, students of Futures High School from Sacramento, would like to thank all of the rangers and other people from Sugarloaf Ridge State Park for helping us to accomplish our goals for the school. We had recently done a project, of sending a weather balloon up into the atmosphere and attaching a box with a camera inside it to take a few nice pictures of our earth. The balloon rose to about 17 miles and popped, and landed safely with a parachute into the Sugarloaf Ridge SP, on someone's private property. Thanks to the friendly rangers there, we were able to retrieve our parachute and the box with all of our electronics inside. We also want you to see few of the pictures we have recovered from the camera, and we will attach them here

to this email. We would've never gotten them if it wasn't for all the rangers that help us in the evening of 09-26, and early morning 09-27. We also remember one of the names of the rangers that helped us, Robin, and would like her to see the pictures too, because we wouldn't be able to retrieve the box without her help. Thank you very much.

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We are writing to commend Ranger Cecilia for her helpful actions in dealing with a situation at China Camp SP, Sept 25 to 27. She was courteous, firm, and effective in dealing with a group of disrespectful campers (see attached letter). Please thank her on our behalf.

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I'm writing to thank everybody at the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook for your support of my elderly parents, Fred and Ilse Kornfeld, who walk in the park almost every day. A couple of weeks ago, my wife and I were visiting my parents who took us to walk in your beautiful park. As we were walking in front of the Visitor Center, my father, who is 95 years old, tripped and fell. Instantly, one of the groundskeepers was at

our side. He got hold of the rangers who were there about a minute later. After evaluating my father's condition (he had a cut under his eye and a broken wrist), the ranger called the EMTs. While we were waiting for them to arrive, everyone stayed nearby, wrapping him in a warm poncho, holding the ice pack on his wrist, dabbing his bleeding face, and, generally, keeping us calm and upbeat. When the EMTs decided that we ourselves could take my father to the emergency room, everyone helped us load my dad into our car.

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Last week I was back in LA with my daughter for my father's surgery to repair his wrist. My daughter and I went up to the park so I could show her where my father had fallen. We met another ranger who had not been present when my father fell but who had heard about the accident. He told me how everyone knows my parents and enjoys seeing them most days. He expressed his concern and said he hoped to see them again in the park.

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I live in a small town where people greet each other on the

street and are on a first-name basis with the ranger at our local park. I would never have expected to see that same kind of small-town friendliness and concern in a huge metropolis like LA; but, clearly, my parents have found it at Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook. It is an amazing place, not only because of the incredible views and terrific Visitor Center, but, more important, because of the people who work there. I want to express my deep gratitude to everyone at the park for your professional response to my father's accident, as well as for the care and attention that all of you provide whenever they are in the park. Living 500 miles away from them, I worry about their well-being when they are out and about in Los Angeles; so you can imagine how comforting it is for me to know that people are watching out for them when they are at the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook.

My father's surgery went well and he is eager to return to the park. I hope he will see you all soon!

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Thank you so much for continuing to maintain the Will Rogers State Park. Four friends and I went today, took the tour and truly enjoyed everything that we were exposed to. Such an important piece of history in general, California history, and

equestrian history.

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I recently applied for and received my California State Parks Disability Pass. I wanted to say thank you for the very prompt response and especially for the beautifully handwritten addressed envelope and filled-out pass.

I am writing to praise a lifeguard named Bethany who works in Santa Cruz. While we spent a lovely day in Santa Cruz on November 15th, we stopped at the Crow's Nest restaurant and parked along the beach near there. When we came back to our car we could not move it because the front tires were caught in the sand. Another motorist stopped to help us push, but the car was really stuck. All of a sudden this girl in a wet suit shows up and is asking us to open the trunk to see if she can hook her winch up to the car. As I opened the trunk I was thinking, "who goes around with a winch in their car?", but I was happy for the help. Then she says that she doesn't want to damage the car so she goes to her truck and brings back a shovel - that's when I realized that she was a lifeguard. While I was trying to call CSAA she had dug the sand away to the asphalt that I had parked on and we were able to drive away in minutes! I just wanted to let you know

that Bethany did a great job and you have one great gal there, I know these are tough budget times, but she is doing a super job.

Please let everyone on staff at Sutter's Fort how great the living history event last Saturday evening was. My husband I went to the candlelight tour, and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We were so impressed with the "actors". Before heading out I called and spoke with Kathy Gallup. She was so friendly and helpful, and knowing she was busy, she spent time thoroughly explaining how the evening was to unfold. If all "customer service" could be like that!! Thank you for the pie and coffee too - what a perfect way to end the evening!!

---

I have stayed, as a Hiker/ Biker traveling down the coast, in many of your wonderful campgrounds so I would like to say:  
THANK YOU

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I just visited the Big Basin State Park last week—what a gorgeous park!!!

**Interested in writing for News & Views? See page 7 for submission information or e-mail [newsandviews@parks.ca.gov](mailto:newsandviews@parks.ca.gov).**

# Promotions Through November 2009

## **Accounting Officer (Specialist)**

Min Min Ku  
Accounting Services Section  
7/1/2009

Konjit Mekuria  
Accounting Services Section  
7/1/2009

## **Administrative Officer I**

Mary F. Fitzsimmons  
Northern Buttes District  
11/1/2009

## **Administrative Officer III**

Marilyn L. Knollenberg  
Oceano Dunes District  
11/1/2009

## **Associate Budget Analyst**

Sherry L. Thompson  
Budget Section  
7/1/2009

## **Carpenter Supervisor**

Timothy L. Reynolds  
Accessibility Section  
9/1/2009

## **Communications Supervisor**

Tammy R. Juarez  
Southern Communication  
Center  
10/1/2009

Kristine L. May  
Northern Communication  
Center  
11/1/2009

## **Maintenance Mechanic**

Joel M. Mueller  
Oceano Dunes District  
7/31/2009

## **Mechanical Engineer Technician II**

Chad E. Rowan  
Facilities Management Division  
9/1/2009

## **Management Services Technician**

Deborah J. Brown  
Northern Buttes District  
11/1/2009

Kristi A. Putt  
Central Valley District  
7/16/2009

Jennifer S. Wilkins  
Oceano Dunes District  
10/1/2009

## **Office Technician (Typing)**

Amelia M. King  
Oceano Dunes District  
7/31/2009

## **Park Maintenance Worker I**

Brandi L. Melchor  
Gold Fields District  
7/31/2009

## **Park Maintenance Chief I**

Victor M. Bjelajac  
Marin District  
8/1/2009

## **Park Maintenance Supervisor**

Angel S. Alba  
Angeles District  
7/31/2009

## **Senior Park & Recreation Specialist**

Stephen J. Bachman  
Diablo Vista District  
7/31/2009

Sixto J. Fernandez  
OHMVR Division  
7/31/2009

## **Staff Information Systems Analyst Specialist**

Adam J. Lum  
Information Technology Office  
7/31/2009

## **State Park Interpreter II**

Gregory Schumaker  
Twin Cities District  
7/31/2009

## **State Park Interpreter III**

Ellen M Clark  
Ohmvr Division  
10/1/2009

## **State Park Superintendent I**

Jenny A. Donovan  
Russian River Sector  
7/1/2009

Gary F. Olson  
Central Valley District  
11/17/2009

## **State Park Superintendent II**

Daniel L. Falat  
Channel Coast District  
10/2/2009

Brent C. Marshall  
Oceano Dunes District  
7/31/2009

Kirk G. Shea  
Ocotillo Wells District  
10/15/2009

## **State Park Superintendent III**

Brian C. Ketterer  
San Diego North Sector  
9/1/2009

**State Park Supervising  
Ranger**

Ralian N. Fogarty  
Diablo Vista District  
7/1/2009

Phillip A. Hill  
Oceano Dunes District  
7/31/2009

Wendy K. Aoki Radley  
San Diego District  
7/31/2009

Christopher A. Lozano  
San Diego District  
7/31/2009

Nicole L. Shannon  
Oceano Dunes District  
8/16/2009

**Staff Park & Recreation  
Specialist**

Warren A. Dingman  
Tehachapi District  
7/31/2009

**Staff Services Analyst**

Talina M. Sihner  
OHMVR Division  
8/17/2009

**State Park Equipment  
Operator**

Matt L. Courtney  
Central Valley District  
9/7/2009

*Promotion information  
provided by Nancy Sechrist,  
Personnel Unit.*

**Director to Address National Convention**

**By John Mott, Cooperating  
Associations Program Manager**

Director Ruth Coleman will be delivering the opening keynote address to over 400 delegates at the Association of Partners for Public Lands (APPL) annual national convention in San Diego, February 7-10, 2010. APPL members are cooperating associations and other nonprofits who work closely with National Park Service, US Forest Service, and other land management organizations.

Director Ruth Coleman will be the first of three keynote speakers that will address ways to move from ideas to actions utilizing public/private partnerships to further engage the public. Convention participants will be able to customize their own schedules from more than 40 sessions covering best practices, latest trends, and resources. The convention will also host an innovative Tradeshow with over 100 exhibitors featuring educational and theme-related merchandise and services focused on parks and public lands.

Cooperating Associations Program Manager John Mott will be joining District Superintendent Ken Kramer, and Crystal Cove Alliance founder Laura Davick to present a pre-Convention field trip to Crystal Cove State Park. Senior Park and Recreation Specialist Nina Gordon has organized three sessions (California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and

Tourism, Promoting Health on Public Lands, and Youth Involvement—From Indifference to Advocacy).

Due to the state’s fiscal crisis, APPL is graciously using convention sponsorships to assist with travel and registration expenses for state employees presenting convention sessions.

APPL is offering a special invitation to California State Parks associations and employees to attend the convention.

For California State Park employees, APPL is extending the convention “Government” registration rate normally reserved for federal employees, resulting in \$100 savings.

For California State Park cooperating associations, APPL is extending the APPL member rate to California League of Park Association (CALPA) members, saving them the additional \$100 fee charged to nonmembers.

Register by December 31 for the greatest savings. For more details go to [www.appl.org](http://www.appl.org).

The California League of Park Associations (CALPA) provides mutual support and networking among the 83 California State Parks cooperating associations through conferences and other activities. Their annual conference will be April 4-8, 2010 in Morro Bay. To learn more visit <http://www.calparksleague.org>

# Trails Team Earns 2009 Universal Access Award

By Melanie Tolmachoff,  
Human Rights Section

Even before national standards for accessible trail design were established, the North Coast Redwoods District was designing and constructing trails that accommodated our visitors with disabilities. The staff involved in building these trails was a ground-breaking group of State Parks employees who recognized the need for universal access in trail design. As a result, the district created what is known today as the Roads, Trails and Resource Maintenance Section (RTR).

State Parks Director Ruth Coleman and the Director's Disability Advisory Committee (DDAC) have selected RTR to receive the 2009 Universal Access Award. The award is presented to an individual, group or organization that has made significant contributions to creating universal access for all visitors to state parks. RTR was selected for its innovation, dedication and contributions to accessible trail design.

"I'm proud to help select this group of dedicated individuals for this award," said Director Ruth Coleman. "Not only have they created more accessible miles than any other district, they were sought out and participated in developing the first ever national standards for accessible trail design that continue to be in use today."

Crew members who participated in recent projects include Park Maintenance Chief Don Beers (retired), who founded the RTR program;



The Dorn Nature Trail at Clear Lake State Park is an example of the accessibility projects completed by the RTR Section.

Senior Engineering Geologist Brian Merrill, who manages RTR; Park Maintenance Chief Sam Allsop; Park Maintenance Supervisor Stephen Fisher (retired); Park Maintenance Supervisor Brian Hall; and Skilled Laborer Yony Rivas. Others have also served on the crew off and on, based on availability.

Recognition is being given for projects RTR has completed in the previous two years, including rerouting a trail, reconstructing two existing overlooks, adding a new overlook, and constructing accessible benches at the Dorn Nature Trail at Clear Lake State Park. RTR also rerouted an existing trail to make a one-mile loop trail and an associated trail spur that leads to a newly constructed overlook point in the Stone Creek

Campground at the Panorama Point Interpretive Trail at Mount San Jacinto SP.

RTR has also lent their expertise and staff to assist in designing and constructing more than six projects throughout the Park System.

Brian Merrill, Manager, RTR, said he is, "pleased to be associated with a pioneering team rich with a history of improving accessibility and increasing the enjoyment of state parks by visitors of all abilities." RTR continues to be at the forefront of accessible trail design and is dedicated to creating universal access for all visitors.

Their work, as well as that of all the nominees submitted, reinforces State Parks employee commitment to increasing universal access so all visitors feel welcomed.

Jason Spann, Associate Landscape Architect, Accessibility Section.