

NEWS & VIEWS

Celebrating 65 Years as the Employee Newsletter of California State Parks



December 2008

Pfeiffer Big Sur Closes

By Mat Fuzie, Superintendent
Monterey District

As fire burned through Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, we had a sense of relief that there was very little damage done to visitor facilities in Big Sur. With a false sense of “all is well” after the fires passed, we reopened our campgrounds to visitors.

However, having been through several of these large wild land fires in parks in the last several years, I was aware that the true danger was yet to come. The true test of the fires of summer 2008 would be the winter of 2008.

After the Basin Complex Fires, the Governors’ Office of Emergency Services put together a team of experts who completed an assessment of the future threats within the burned areas of Big Sur. The report, entitled the Basin-Indians Fire State Emergency Assessment Team Report, stated that the current conditions existing post fire and pre-rainy season constituted an emergency. The actual language in the report states, “the possibility and likelihood of increased runoff and debris flow during rain events puts all resources at risk. Immediate

►BIG SUR, Page 5



After the fires during the summer, State Parks moved swiftly to address the concerns of flooding, mud slides and debris flow down local streams, by removing two bridges to the campground. Workers with a large crane remove steel supports.

Locke Boarding House Grand Opening

By Scott Nakaji
Superintendent
Gold Fields District

It was a beautiful, but windy day in the Delta community of Locke with over 200 people in attendance at the Locke Boarding House Grand Opening Ceremony on October 11. The crowd heard from such dignitaries as State Historic Preservation Officer Wayne Donaldson; Sacramento County Supervisor Don Nottoli; Terri Gillen, representative

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Gold Fields District Superintendent Scott Nakaji addresses the approximately 150 attendees at the Locke Boarding House Grand Opening Ceremony.



Director Ruth Coleman

In this edition of News and Views, I wish to make note of a timely and innovative editorial published in the Sacramento Bee on December 1, entitled: Think big; think parks, reprinted below.

As noted in the editorial, the job-creating Civilian Conservation Corps of 75 years ago built much of our State Park System. However, it is important to note that the CCC didn't just build parks, it created opportunities for dozens of new businesses serving thousands of park visitors.

Today's State Parks host more than 75 million visitors yearly, with thousands of businesses dependent on the local spending of those visitors. Lodging, dining, tourism and other businesses depend on parks to draw customers. State parks act as economic engines driving local economies.

However, after 75 years of heavy use, the infrastructure - roads, buildings, campgrounds, water systems, and more - is in need of rejuvenation. Our inability to adequately maintain our parks could negatively affect businesses that depend on park visitor spending.

Despite a dire fiscal situation, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger ensured that we received sufficient funding to avoid closing parks. The Governor also allocated \$75 million from Proposition 84 and other sources to address the maintenance backlog.

Today, as talk of economic stimulus plans dominate the news, a re-investment in state parks could put money into local economies across California. We have an opportunity today to take the legacy of the CCC and make it work again.



Think Big; Think Parks

From the Sacramento Bee, December 1 2008

In the mid-1920s, forward-looking Californians launched a movement to create a California state parks system. Today, with that legacy literally crumbling, the earlier period is an inspiration that should jump-start renewal.

In 1927, Gov. C.C. Young, a Republican who championed infrastructure, supported a bill to create a state parks system. A year later, voters passed a parks bond referendum and land acquisition began. Then the Great Depression hit, bringing everything to a halt.

In stepped President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who launched a federal public works program in 1933. For California state parks, the Civilian Conservation Corps built rustic campgrounds, lodges, visitor centers and museums; used native woods and stone to make bridges, fences, trails and amphitheaters; and built electric, water and sewer systems.

So now we come to 2008. California's state parks infrastructure has suffered 20 years of deterioration and budget cutbacks - with

a \$1.2 billion backlog of needed repairs and rehabilitation.

In the 80th anniversary of California's first state parks bond and the 75th anniversary of the CCC, it is time to make state parks a priority again. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has urged President-elect Obama to invest immediately in national infrastructure. As in the 1930s, state parks should be a vital part of that.

And Schwarzenegger and legislators should revive the idea of a \$10 car surcharge each year in exchange for free access to state parks. This would raise about \$280 million a year in new funding for parks. A similar proposal in Montana passed a Republican legislature and was signed by a Republican governor.

California state parks projects could put 2,700 people to work immediately on 8,000 projects. Most of these would be done by small contractors who are really hurting during the downturn. Now is a great time to act boldly to restore the luster of the state parks for a new century.

State Park Commission Acts on Año Nuevo

Three New Commissioners Attend First Meeting, Tour Two Coastal Parks

As rain began to fall, the gathering of commissioners and others retreated to the only place of shelter in sight. They walked carefully over the unstable and spongy forest floor, down a steep slope, stopping beneath a group of giant coastal redwoods. They were adjacent to a Native American village site in the midst of the Quiroste Valley, an inland section of Año Nuevo State Park, located along the Pacific Coast south of San Francisco.

There seemed to be an eerie, sense-of-place, experience and sensation in this dark and damp forest grove. They listened to Mark Hylkema and Chuck Striplen explain that thousands of Native Americans of the Quiroste Band, a part of the larger Ohlone group, had walked this same ground and lived in a



Año Nuevo State Park - California State Park Commission members and others took refuge from the rain in a protected coastal forest area to hear a briefing on future plans for the newly created Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve, a place that was home to Native Americans for thousands of years

large village on this spot for thousands of years, until about 225 years ago. This was also the site where the first Span-

ish land expedition was hosted by the Indians on the eve of

► **COMMISSION, Page 14**

Shasta State Historic Park Evacuated



**By Joe Zeno, Senior Park Aid
Cascade Sector**

Early on the morning of June 21 a series of thunderstorms touched off hundreds of wildfires in Northern California. Dry lightning strikes ignited several fires in the 13-acre Shasta State Historic Park.

As June turned into July, the “Motion Fire” slowly but surely encroached upon the town of Shasta from the north. Conditions became volatile due to increased winds, low humidity, and near record heat; as a result, information from fire officials was changing daily. The situation was monitored closely by park personnel. On July 9, preparation began in earnest for a large-scale evacuation.

The first task for staff and volunteers entailed securing the artifacts housed in the 1850s era Coyle-Foster Pioneer Barn. Saddles, bridles, and other tack had to be removed from the structure for safekeeping. After clearing the smaller pieces, the west side of the barn was dismantled to create an opening large enough to facilitate the removal of the stagecoach. A ramp was built to allow workers to navigate the coach

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Locke Boarding House Opens

►FROM PAGE 1

Laura Correia



The Chinese Lion dances before the ribbon cutting at the Locke Boarding House Grand Opening ceremony.

from Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher's office; former Boarding House owner Clarence Chu; Connie King, resident in Locke since 1949 and Sam Kuramoto, another former owner of the house.

The town of Locke, located along the Sacramento River in southern Sacramento County, was built in 1915. It remains today as one of the only examples of an American town built by the Chinese for the Chinese. The Locke Boarding House was built around 1915. From 1921 to 1942 it was owned by Sukeichi and Nobu Kuramoto, immigrants from Japan. The Kuramoto family lost the boarding house in early 1942 when they were interned during World War II and sent to an internment camp in Gila River,

Arizona. They never returned to Locke.

State Parks purchased the Locke Boarding House in April 2005. Work began in earnest on the Locke Boarding House project in late 2005 and early 2006. It was a project that was the product of many partnerships. First and foremost, the project would not have been possible without the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA). Construction to rehabilitate the Boarding House began in June 2007.

After the speeches at the grand opening ceremony were over, the building was blessed for good luck in a traditional Chinese Lion ceremony. Once Connie King cut the ribbon signifying the official opening of the building the crowd walked

through to enjoy the restored building and the interpretive exhibits. The Kuramoto sisters, now 94 and 91 years of age, were among the first visitors to enter the building. They were very pleased and excited to see photos of themselves in their youth on the interpretive panels telling the Kuramoto family's story after all these years.



Locke Boarding House.

Big Sur Closes

► FROM PAGE 1

Joan Carpenter



Left: The main bridge to the campground before removal. Right: A crane lifts one of the steel supports for the main bridge to the campground.

preventative action should be taken to prevent possible risk to life and property.”

In our Big Sur State Parks these recommendations were staggering to some and I have to admit on first release seemed drastic. The most expensive and least palatable recommendation was for us to remove the bridges in our parks that span the rivers and major drainages. This recommendation alone meant closing our parks to the public.

Long story short, we have closed the Pfeiffer Big Sur campground by taking out the bridges and eliminating access at a cost of approximately \$300,000. We will close the campgrounds at Andrew Molera State Park and Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park before every rain and we have fortified the Big Sur Lodge with bar-

riers that have already been proven effective by the first rain of less than two inches. During this rain a major debris flow directed at the lodge was deflected and saved the lodge from at least two feet of debris. With this action, Big Sur lodge will not close, but operate on a limited basis. We have also fortified the Waste Water Management Plant.

Taking out the bridges was no small feat. Granite Construction Company had to dismantle both bridges across the Big Sur River and bring in a giant crane to remove the spans of one of the bridges. Coordination of this and over 40 other projects fell directly to Joan Carpenter (Senior Civil Engineer), Larry Tierney (District Maintenance Chief III), Rain Greenslate (Park Maintenance Chief I) and C.L. Price (Big Sur Sector Superin-

tendent III). They did an outstanding job getting the parks ready to weather the storms.



Crane used to lift and remove the bridge to the Big Sur campground

Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park 75th Anniversary



Sara Howlett, Interpreter I, and Student Conservation Intern Amy Lovallo.

By Patricia Clark-Gray District Interpretive Specialist Monterey District

To celebrate Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park's 75th anniversary this year, we had a public event on August 23rd that attracted more than 700 participants.

The public celebration was originally planned for July 12, but had to be postponed because of the Basin Complex Fire in Big Sur. So we added a community thank-you as part of the August 23 event to show our appreciation for the hard work of the firefighters. We had the Big Sur Fire Volunteer Brigade, CAL FIRE and the Forest Service firefighters at the event.

We also celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which was created on March 31, 1933. The CCC started working in the park in December of 1933, constructing numerous buildings, structures, parking lots, and bridges. Many of these struc-

tures can still be found in the park, such as the Diablo stoves and restrooms. One of the most unique structures is the Warden's Cottage that shows the park's rustic architectural style that was developed by the CCC.

During the public event, we hosted children's games of the 1930s, local community booths, displays on the Civilian Conservation Corps, special walks and campfire programs.

District employees developed two posters commemorating the anniversary. One poster features the Big Sur River, the plants, and animals of the park. The other features the Civilian Conservation Corps with three historic CCC photos. We are selling the posters through the Big Sur Natural History Association at a reduced rate of \$3 for one poster and \$5 for two.

The Big Sur Natural History Association funded the educational materials and supplies. The Save the Redwoods League funded three banners advertising the anniversary. Through a California State Park Foundation grant, we purchased commemorative pencils for children. The Big Sur Lodge sold barbecue tickets and provided complimentary barbecue lunches to all the local firefighters and staff and volunteers who worked the event.

Extending the anniversary celebration into the new year, we are planning a former staff reunion for both Pfeiffer and Point Lobos staff in the fall of 2009 at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. For more information or to purchase a poster, please contact Patricia Clark-Gray, District Interpretive Specialist at (831) 649-2855 and pgray@parks.ca.gov



Pfeiffer Big Sur.

CCC 75th Anniversary: From the New Deal to a Great Deal

Linda Stonestreet, Salton Sea Sector Maintenance Chief



Members of the California Conservation Corps work closely with California State Parks Staff.

By Fredda Stephens State Park Interpreter I Salton Sea SRA

The Salton Sea State Recreation Area wants to recognize the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) on their 75th Anniversary by sharing some experiences.

The Cs have been involved on many projects in our area, including non-native tamarisk removal and restoration work planting native species at Dos Palmas.

Most recently the crew of 11 members from San Diego helped the Salton Sea SRA staff with a huge project. The Bombay Beach section of the park has been plagued by illegal off-road vehicle use and constant damage by cars and RVs getting stuck in the sand. The goal was to protect our resources and our visitors alike by restoring the salt flat and constructing a vehicle barrier to improve

the facility and prevent further damage. This crew did an admirable job in adverse conditions and finished the barrier in a week's time.

As Salton Sea Sector Maintenance Chief Linda Stonestreet wrote of a recent experience with the CCCs:

“The CCC crew led by Rogelio Ramos out of San Diego did a fantastic job in temperatures in excess of 110F! They reported at 5:30 a.m. and worked until 1:30 p.m. In the evenings, they loaded up their gear for the following day. Despite the heat and horse flies the size of small hummingbirds, the crew persevered with great attitude. They just kept moving their shade structure over the work area and kept on keeping on.”

Back when I was in the CCC as a corps member in 1984 the motto was ‘hard work, low pay and miserable conditions.’ In

fact, we used to chant that slogan. But the corps members of today say they can't say that anymore. However, they all smiled when I said it and we nodded to each other in knowing the truth in that former disclosure.”

The maintenance crew at the Salton Sea knows this agency well. Stonestreet and Park Maintenance Assistant Lynn Jamerson started out their careers in the Cs.

The CCC was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933 as part of the “New Deal” to relieve some of the strain of the Great Depression. The economy might be better now, but we all realize how hard it is to make a living and build a good life for ourselves. Well, the CCC can still help. And they certainly are helping our parks. If you know anyone who has some interest in joining the Corps, log on to www.ccc.ca.gov. It might just be the perfect deal.

Adapted from Tracks, the newsletter of the Colorado Desert District



Salton Sea vehicle barrier.

Linda Stonestreet

Hearst Castle Celebrates 50 Years of Tours

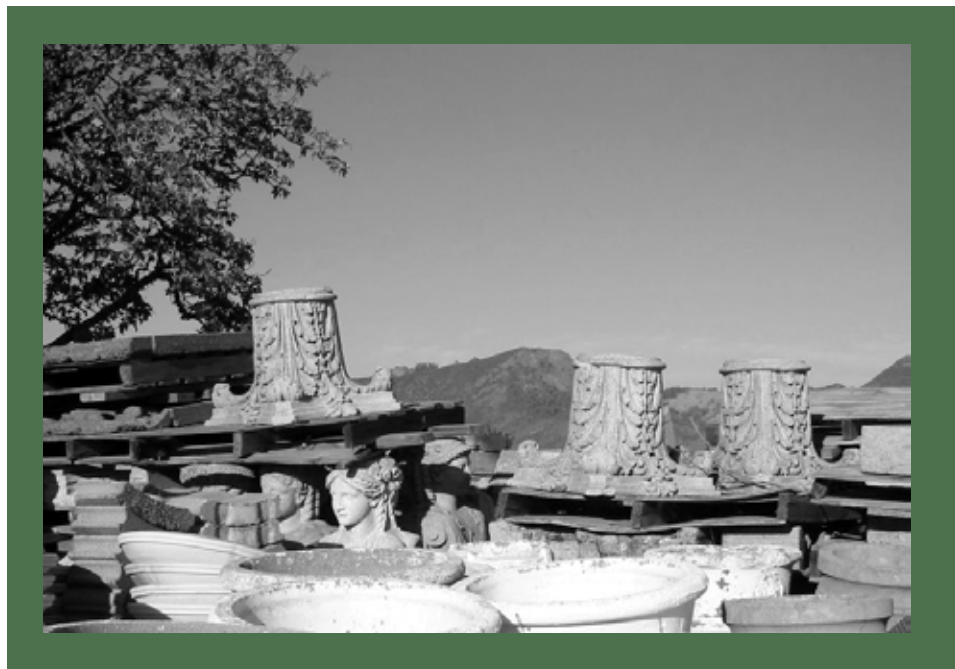
By Constance Gordon, Guide I
Hearst Castle

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of giving tours at Hearst Castle, California State Parks began offering two new tours in September, “Behind the Scenes” and a tour especially for photographers, “Hearst Castle - Through the Lens.”

“The 50th anniversary year is a pilot program for these tours,” said Diane McGrath, Chief of Museum Interpretation. “We’ll have to see if they are popular enough to continue offering them.”

So far so good. Some of the tours have sold out and others have come close. The next tours are scheduled for Sunday, March 15 for Behind the Scenes and Sunday, April 19 for the photography tour. The last tour will be held in May, after which a decision will be made as to whether to continue offering them.

To maximize opportunities for composition, the photography tour is limited to 12 guests. The “Behind the Scenes” tour is open to 24 guests, to be divided into two groups.



The “Boneyard” on Elephant Hill, where cast stone pieces are abandoned, is off the beaten path of regular tours.

“Guides giving the tours this first year are members of the planning committee who volunteered to work on this project and develop the tours several months ago,” said McGrath.

The committee members are Sharon Anderson, Liz Caldwell, George Cartter, Muna Cristal, Debbie George, Michelle Hachigian, Patti Rowe and Eric Weiss, led by Guide II Supervisor Brandi Bohey.

So what’s new? Both tours begin at the Roman Pool, but offer different experiences from there. The “Behind the Scenes” tour focuses on the lives of craftsmen and workers in the castle and how their work has changed from Mr. Hearst’s time through to

today. Visitors will see the filter area and archives behind the Roman Pool, the mold shops, the north wing basement, and employee housing in the south wing.

Photographers can enjoy taking pictures from the main library balcony and from the west-facing terrace of lower A House (Casa del Mar), with its fountains and tiled stairs. Photographers will also be able to take advantage of the late afternoon light and will be allowed to use monopods.

“The tours will not be offered in December since we don’t have a Sunday without night tours,” says McGrath, “In January and February there isn’t enough light at the end of the day.”

The two new tours will cost \$75 a person. Guests will enjoy a leisurely two hours on the hilltop plus 30 minutes for the bus ride up and down.



This view from inside the book vaults in the Gothic Study is only available as part of the “Behind the Scenes” tour.

Lake Oroville Forebay Litter Cleanup a Heaping Success

By Dave Garcia, Retired Ranger/Volunteer

Water is the life blood of all living things. California State Parks North Forebay Unit is a revealing example with its teaming diversity of wildlife. Beaver, muskrat, river otter, bald eagle, osprey, whitetail kite, great horned owl, hoards of waterfowl, freshwater clam, carp, and western pondhawk are just a few of the species found in this fabulous natural treasure full of life.

Maybe this is why 21 energetic volunteers braved a smoky blazing morning to help clean-up the littered shoreline of this marvelous community resource. State Parks Administrative Chief Kim Preston was on hand with her kayak and ready to get down and dirty wading through the rushes picking up trash. Kim is also a Committee Chair of Boy Scout Troop 29. She said that in her 27 years at Lake Oroville, she has never seen a volunteer clean-up project of this magnitude attempted.

The two full dumpsters containing more than 1 ½ tons of trash was a testament to the cache of trash concealed by the sedges, rushes, and willows. The aged trash included a decomposing bed mattress, a car bench seat adorned with flowers growing out of the seat springs, nearly a dozen tires with rims still attached, a dozen escaped and battered hazard buoys, vandalized park signs with posts still attached, hundreds of pounds of plastic



Volunteers pose with litter they found during the cleanup.

containers, glass bottles, soda and beer cans, toys, balloons, and weathered, worn-out flip-flops galore.

The great success of this effort is attributed to the many organizations that participated. The trash clean-up project was developed and coordinated by Sierra Club National Service Leader Dave Garcia. The Sierra Club Yahi Group brought six members. CSU Chico Forebay Aquatic Center Manager Joel Robinson donated the use of his kayaks. Chico Paddleheads co-president Calvin Hamilton was present with seven other members of the local kayak, canoe, and rafting club. Lake Oroville Superintendent Steve Feazel approved the special events permit and provided a State Parks boat to haul the trash out. Park Maintenance Supervisor Shawnee Rose made sure there were extra trash

dumpsters, trash bags, and gloves. There were also eager and energetic people from the general public coming in from the cities of Oroville, Chico, Paradise, Magalia, and Yankee Hill.

As they removed trash from 1½ miles of shoreline, volunteers had the opportunity to explore the wetlands and observe wildlife, while eating the fresh wild blackberries. To add fun and entertainment, prizes of aluminum water bottles and Chico Shopping Recycle Bags were awarded in a trash scavenger hunt. The project ended with chips, salsa, hotdogs, and refreshments being served in the shaded ramada area.

With broad smiles of accomplishment on their faces, many volunteers said we should do this more often, or at least once a year.

Promotions: July, August, September & October

Accountant Trainee

Maria L. Bravo
Administration/Accounting
Services Section
10/1/2008

Accounting Administrator I (Supervisor)

Eliza R. Trejo
Accounting Services Section
7/10/2008

Assistant State Archeologist

Eric Schaffer
Colorado Desert/Salton Sea Sector
9/1/2008

Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Lisa P. Anthony
Acquisition & Development Division
9/15/2008

Marsha Evanikoff
Northern Service Center
7/31/2008

Associate Management Auditor

Dennis R. Carlson
Executive/Audits Office
10/2/2008

Raymond H. Van
Executive/Audits Office
10/2/2008

Associate State Archeologist

Cheryl A. Foster-Curley
Office of Historic Preservation
9/8/2008



Chet Bardo, Santa Cruz District Superintendent

Chet Bardo began his State Park career in 1980 as a Seasonal Park Aid at Año Nuevo State Reserve. He became a State Park Ranger in 1982, and most recently served as the San Mateo Coast Sector Superintendent for the Santa Cruz District. While working as a Seasonal Ranger, he attended College of San Mateo and later Humboldt State University where he majored in Wildlife Biology.

He is dedicated to the Department's Training Program, having provided instruction and training in various programs over the years to Department employees through the Mott Training Center, including basic and advanced peace officer training, resource management, instructor development, and most recently as a facilitator for the Supervisory Practices course. He believes that strong leadership is critical for personal and employee development and should include balanced participation in all of the Department's core program areas.

Bardo is happily married and has a wonderful daughter who is currently in her second year at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, majoring in Animal Science-Pre Veterinary Medicine. He enjoys many outdoor recreational activities including hiking, fishing, bike riding, and distance running.

Carpenter I

Vincent E. Barajas
Acquisition & Development/
Accessibility Section
9/1/2008

Communications Operator

Teresa M. Meras
Southern Communication Center
10/16/2008

Construction Supervisor II

Jack R. Kirchner Jr.
Northern Service Center
10/31/2008

Laborer

Candelario G. Reyes
Monterey District
10/15/2008

Lead Groundskeeper

Evaristo A. Montoya
Perris Sector
7/1/2008

Lifeguard Supervisor II

James S. Bilz
San Diego North Sector
7/1/2008

Jeffrey J. David
Orange Coast North Sector
7/1/2008

Office Assistant (Typing)

Craig S. Holden
Santa Cruz/Mountains Sector
10/31/2008

Andrea N. Kelly
Capital/Sacramento History &
Railroad Sector
10/1/2008

Park Maintenance Assistant

Alejandro G. Garcia
Acquisition & Development/
Accessibility Section
10/27/2008

Park Maintenance Chief I

Glyne M. Johnson
Four Rivers Sector
7/1/2008

Filiberto R. Osorio
Acquisition & Development/
Accessibility Section
10/1/2008

David L. Pitz
Cascade Sector
7/31/2008

Park Maintenance Chief II

Lynn R. Earls-Holliday
Facilities Management Division
7/15/2008

Park Maintenance Chief III

Mike Carbahal Jr.
Marin District
7/1/2008

Park Maintenance Supervisor

Jacob E. Bentley
Monterey District
7/1/2008

Ken Kramer, Orange Coast District Superintendent

Ken Kramer is the new District Superintendent for the Orange Coast District. The assignment is something of a homecoming for Ken as he grew up in San Clemente and began his State Parks career over thirty years ago as a junior lifeguard and then seasonal lifeguard at San Clemente State Beach.

In 1983, Ken became a permanent lifeguard and worked for twenty years as a Lifeguard Supervisor at Huntington State Beach, Bolsa Chica State Beach, Santa Monica Bay, and Crystal Cove State Park. In 2003, Ken was appointed as Sector Superintendent for the Crystal Cove State Park sector of the Orange Coast District. Ken has provided leadership for the Department in a variety of programs including law enforcement and public safety, resource management, interpretation and education, concession operations, partnership development, and capital outlay project management. Ken is married, has two children and enjoys all things aquatic, traveling, and reading adventure novels.



Victor M. Bjelajac
Marin Sector
7/1/2008

John M. Campbell
Central Valley/San Joaquin
10/7/2008

Elisabetta Cian Cibilich
Angeles/Malibu Sector
10/1/2008

Thomas C. Jager
Silverado Sector
7/31/2008

Matthew R. Liebenberg
Mendocino Sector
7/1/2008

Jeffrey J. Long
Pajaro Coast Sector
7/15/2008

Mike Stanley
Central Valley/Four Rivers
10/14/2008

Terry L. Stevens
Channel Coast/La Purisma Sector
9/1/2008

Park Maintenance Worker I

Jesse Nungaray
Acquisition & Development/
Accessibility Section
10/22/2008

Jeff A. Ruth
OHMVR/Twin Cities
10/1/2008

Personnel Supervisor I

Laurie A. Coffman
Administration/Personnel
Services Section
10/1/2008

Senior Environmental Scientist

Brendan Joseph O'Neil
Russian River District
10/31/2008

Tamara L Sasaki
Sierra District
10/1/2008

Senior Personnel Specialist

Sara J Melson
Administration/Personnel Services Section
10/1/2008

Senior State Archeologist

Richard T Fitzgerald
Cultural Heritage Section
8/1/2008

Skilled Laborer

Richard M D'Alessio
OHMVR District
10/1/2008

John J. Hiles
Monterey District
10/15/2008

Christopher P. Riley
OHMVR District
10/1/2008

John E. Vallez Jr.
OHMVR District
10/1/2008

Senior Accounting Officer/Specialist

Barbara L. Cummings
Accounting Services Section
7/10/2008

Staff Information Systems Analyst (Specialist)

Johnnie L. Painter
Acquisition & Development Division
10/1/2008

Staff Park & Recreation Specialist

Richard D. Rendon
Grants & Local Services Division
8/18/2008

Staff Services Manager II (Supervisor)

Theodore B. Novack II,
Administration/Business Management Services
9/24/2008

State Park Interpreter I

Marilyn D. Sommerdorf
Capital/Sacramento History & Railroad Sector
9/1/2008

State Park Superintendent I

Kim M. Baker
Capital/Sacramento History & Railroad Sector
9/15/2008

Gregory D. Martin
Central Valley District
7/1/2008

State Park Superintendent III

Richard M. Haydon
Orange Coast South Sector
7/1/2008

State Park Superintendent IV

Tina L. Williams
Training Unit
7/1/2008

Ranger & Lifeguard Cadets

Jesse L. Adams
Corey M. Alderson
Jason A. Archuleta
Jordan K. Baculpo
Emily M. Bertram
Iain G. Beveridge
Elisabeth M. Bray
Zachery Daniel Burke
Nicholas A. Chase
Shalon F. Cunningham
Mike S. Dippel
Erik J. Dodos
Shannon M. Goan
David D. Gunn
John C. Harcastle
Timothy L. Harden
David R. Hart
Philip A. Hauck
Brady Her
Onesimo I. Hernandez
Sandy A. Hudson
John T. Hunt
Trevor W. Irace
Christian J. Lambert
Christopher M. Larkin
John G. Lucich,
Daniel J. Marinella
Justin S. McHenry
Brian H. Meyer
Nathan P. Mills
Robert M. Mullins
Vaughn T. Pani
Darren R. Parker
Erik M. Plute
David G. Richards
David A. Rodrigues
Todd Michael Shanklin
Michael J Stockinger Jr.
Luke M. Stone
Stephen R. Van Etten
Roberto I. Walton
Gregory J. White
Paul L. Wissler Jr,

Shasta State Historic Park Evacuation

►FROM PAGE 3



Staff members work together to safely evacuate artifacts from Shasta State Historic Park.

over the threshold and onto the awaiting trailer. Next, the freight wagon was pushed from the lean-to and loaded onto a second trailer. Once they were tied down, the two were then transported to Oroville for storage.

On July 11, the entire town of Shasta was placed on “voluntary evacuation” with “mandatory evacuation” imminent. Under direction of the CAL FIRE Incident Command Post, the decision was made to evacuate artifacts from the historic courthouse museum. Employees and volunteers from West Sacramento, Lake Oroville, Weaverville, Ide Adobe, McArthur-Burney, Castle Crags, and Palo Cedro came to the aid of staff at Shasta.

The plan called for the Boggs art collection to be prepared

for transport before anything else. Staff pulled 98 paintings from the gallery walls and many more from the basement storage area. Each piece was wrapped in protective archival materials before being loaded into the truck. Of more than 140 pieces of artwork evacuated, only one sustained minor damage during the move. The basket and weapon collections followed, each object boxed or wrapped as securely as the others. As soon as the aforementioned artifacts were cared for, remaining items were removed by level of importance and rareness.

Also under evacuation orders were the Collections Storage Facility, the Curator’s Office, and the Green House, which is an auxiliary storage building. Files and stored artifacts from

these buildings were likewise loaded onto various trucks.

After gathering as much as possible within time constraints, staff members then drove the trucks to the State Park storage facility in West Sacramento and to the old Redding Library where the cargo was unloaded for temporary holding. There the museum pieces stayed in climate controlled buildings until the fire was contained and the “all clear” given for a return to Shasta.

On July 28, shortly after the fire was fully contained and the park was deemed safe, staff retrieved the artifacts from the storage locations.

On August 2, the Courthouse Museum re-opened to the public and operations at Shasta returned to normal.

California Escapes®: New Newsletter, Familiar Name

By John Garlock
Partnerships and
Consumer Strategies

In July, California State Parks debuted an online newsletter called California Escapes® (named after the now-discontinued magazine). The content of the newsletter is compiled and determined by the Communications and Partnerships and Consumer Strategies Divisions. The quarterly newsletter is distributed by Reserve America via e-mail blasts to their customers that request it, potentially reaching 330,000 visitors. California Escapes® covers five topics with a lifestyle feel. Some of the past and upcoming topics covered in the newsletters include:

- Profiles on Lifeguards Eric Sturm and Brit Horn and Rangers Gary Strachan and Kelly McCague
- The 100th anniversary Celebration of Allensworth.
- Park Profiles on San Luis Reservoir SRA, Bothe Napa-Valley SP and Columbia SHP.
- “Green” Products sold on the State Parks e-store
- Segway tours on Angel Island
- The 50th anniversary of public tours at Hearst Castle®

The newsletter is available by subscribing when making a reservation with Reserve America or by visiting <http://www.parks.ca.gov/calescapes>.

Commission

► FROM PAGE 3

finding San Francisco Bay. Hylkema is an Associate State Archaeologist with the State Parks’ Santa Cruz District and Striplen is a Research Associate with the San Francisco Estuary Institute, a doctoral candidate at UC Berkeley, and an Ohlone tribal member.

Joining the group for the first time were three new commissioners: Lindy DeKoven of Los Angeles, Alice Huffman of Sacramento and William Kogerman of Laguna Hills. The Commission now has a full compliment of nine members.

The Commission moved in a caravan through Año Nuevo State Reserve and Butano State Park, on Thursday, October 30, stopping at the village site and multiple other locations. Santa Cruz District Superintendent Chet Bardo, Supervising Ranger Gary Strachan, Hylkema, Striplen and others were there to assist the Commission in their understanding of the issues being presented to them on their meeting agenda, allowing them time to examine the environment and the many maps that displayed the proposals they would be voting on the following day.

On Friday, October 31, the Commission took action on the following proposals for Año Nuevo State Reserve: First, they voted to combine the coastal Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve into the inland and existing Año Nuevo State Park and approve a new Preliminary General Plan and Environmental Impact Report for the park. Next, within the park, they established two sub-classifications: a Cultural Preserve named Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve; and, a Natural Preserve named Año Nuevo Coast Natural Preserve.

In addition, the Commission approved a new Preliminary General Plan and Environmental Impact Report for Butano State Park. And finally, they voted to classify and name the Martial Cottle Project property in San Jose as a State Recreation Area named Martial Cottle Park, a location they had toured previous to this meeting.



Taking a stroll before the meeting.

Internships See Students Become Employees



Bryan Lane and Ranger Rich Levin pose for a photo near the main entrance to the park.

By Ranger Rich Levin San Luis Obispo District

California State Parks has had the honor of facilitating internship programs that create outstanding relationships with college and university partners, as well as future employees. After experiencing our internship programs, many enthusiastic and educated students have returned to our agency as employees, leaders in resource enforcement and in visitor interactions. They serve as outstanding representatives of the next generation in state parks.

In 2007 at Los Encinos I hosted my first undergraduate internship with California State University, Northridge. My intern was Jennifer Daundurand. What made her program so special is that she is accessibility challenged. After our successful internship program she was sought out by the Los Angeles Sector to fill a unique and coveted park aid position. Jennifer, a graduate student in history, is currently assisting in tours, curation, maintenance and resource protection of the newly completed renovation of the 1849 De La Ossa Adobe and historic Garnier building visitors center museum and grounds.

This summer at Limekiln State Park in Big Sur we hosted an internship for Unity College, Maine. It is known throughout the country as

“America’s Environmental College.” Intern Bryan Lane came to us while majoring in Conservation Law Enforcement. So we made his internship resemble a field-training program for resource enforcement, historic preservation, interpretation and park operations. His program included more than 195 volunteer hours, which lead to him being hired as a park aid for his last month of service. During his stay, he endeared himself to many members of the local enforcement community including the Department of Fish and Game, CHP, and NOAA. His adaptability to changing park conditions was exemplified by our recent evacuation during the fires. He played an integral part in notifying campers and hikers by thoroughly checking the park and its trails to warn all visitors of the parks immediate closure. Bryan assisted the San Luis Obispo Coast District by working with our district interpreter during the evacuation period. He was recruited and filed an application for ranger cadet, passed the exam and was invited to an interview for that position. Bryan has returned to school for his final semester and he has expressed his thanks to everyone!

My hope is that our 2009 internship program will include another motivated student.

Mercedes-Benz Rolls Into Silverwood

By Tom Gunther, Supervising Ranger
Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area

Mercedes-Benz rolled into Silverwood Lake SRA as a stop-over on a test drive from Los Angeles to Palm Springs. This special event was truly special as Mercedes-Benz spent 11 days entertaining international journalists as they took a break halfway through their journey.

The stopover was more than just a rest stop. Mercedes-Benz VIPs arrived to the park after being flown in by helicopter to a nearby ranch.

They held a special reception for representatives and international journalists that featured a black-tie caterer serving exquisite cuisine, including an ostrich & alligator jambalaya.

The setting was beautiful as the lake was just a stone's throw to the north, with a duck pond to the south. Seven of our ramadas had been converted to a beautiful structure made of redwood right in the middle.

As you entered the structure the first thing you would see is a classic 1958 Mercedes-Benz.

There were other cars representing different eras and interpretive displays throughout depicting the latest technology on steering and headlights and the history of Mercedes-Benz. The event was a success all around.

The staff at Silverwood is truly grateful to Mercedes-Benz for their donation of 20 bear-proof trash cans and the refurbishing of 27 ramadas.



Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area

Railtown 1897 Earns Tuolumne County Award

At its 25th Anniversary Annual Awards Dinner in July, the Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau presented its highest honor, the coveted President's Award, to two individuals for their work in preserving and protecting a local treasure, Railtown 1897 State Historic Park in Jamestown.

Kathy Daigle, Associate Director of the California State Railroad Museum Foundation, and Paul Hammond, Museum Director of the Sacramento History and Railroad Sector, were the recipients of this prestigious award "in appreciation for their valuable time, talent and support of Railtown 1897 State Historic Park and the Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau."

Daigle and Hammond also received commendations that evening from representatives of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Congressman George Radanovich, and State Senator Dave Cogdill.

Railtown 1897 State Historic Park has been celebrating its 25th anniversary as a state park this year - amid earlier threats of being closed - working closely with Tuolumne County Visi-

tors Bureau on a community outreach campaign and 25th anniversary events, including a commemorative coin, posters, and postcards. The campaign celebrated the park's rich history, its legendary Hollywood connections, and its importance to tourism and filming in the region marked for many years as "The Movie Railroad." It contributes \$15 million annually to the local economy.

Historically, mining and timber industries were the lifeblood of Tuolumne County. Now, with heritage tourism becoming vitally important to the county's economic health, film and television production have the potential to bring even more significant economic benefits. Railtown 1897 receives substantial support from the California State Railroad Museum Foundation. The Foundation raises funds to assist State Parks in fulfilling Railtown 1897's mission of education and preservation. To learn more visit Railtown 1897 in person or online at http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=491.

Biodiversity Council Meets on “Children in Nature”

By Nina Gordon

Senior Policy Coordinator

Interpretation and Education Division

The California Biodiversity Council (CBC) met in Oakland on October 8 and 9 to learn more about the increasing disconnect between children and nature, focusing on the youths’ perspective and how land management agencies can and should address this issue. The CBC consists of 42 directors of federal, state and local land management agencies and is co-chaired by Mike Chrisman, Resources Agency Secretary.

The first day included three concurrent field trips, designed to allow CBC members to interact with youth to get a personal insight into their environment, challenges and successes. They went to San Francisco, East Palo Alto and the Richmond area.

The San Francisco field trip highlighted the impoverished Hunter Bay-View Point Area and the partnership between Literacy for Environmental Justice (LEJ) and Candlestick Point State Recreation Area. LEJ youth proudly discussed their rise to leadership positions inspired by their roles in building the native plant nursery at Candlestick Point SRA, speaking engagements at State Park Advocacy Day and serving as team captains in Coastal Cleanup Day. Charles Jordan, recently retired Chair of the Conservation Fund, was a keynote speaker.

On the second day, there were additional youth and agency presentations. One presenter, Juan Herrera, told how he went from a violent past



Participants at the native plant nursery at Candlestick Point State Recreation Area.

and homelessness to become an instructor in the organization Outdoor Outreach which introduced him to outdoor activities. Other presenters included Dr. Bonnie Sorenson, Deputy Director of the Department of Public Health; Connie Tate, a member of the State Board of Education; and Steve Hagler of the Stewardship Council Youth Investment Program. They outlined how the three agencies provide additional resources. State Parks Director Ruth Coleman presented the interagency Web Site of the National Association of State Park Directors and National Park Service as a way to promote best practices: www.nps.gov/childreninnature/bestpractices. The day concluded with the CBC members officially endorsing the California Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights. For more information, visit the CBC website at <http://biodiversity.ca.gov>.

News & Views

2008

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Submit articles to newsandviews@parks.ca.gov

Please include captions and a photographer’s name with all photographs.

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

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

The next deadline is February 2 for the April Issue.

Docent Training Leads to Successful Tours

By Peter T. Larsen
Staff Services Analyst
Capitol District

Docents are highly trained volunteers who interpret for visitors the cultural, natural and recreational resources of state parks. Extensive docent training programs keep the Capitol District's tours running.

"We perform extensive volunteer training at all of our museums and historic parks, including the California State Railroad Museum, the California State Capitol Museum, Leland Stanford Mansion SHP, Governor's Mansion SHP, Sutter's Fort SHP, and the State Indian Museum," said Cathy Taylor, Capital District Superintendent.

More than 1,300 well-trained volunteers, many of whom are docents, interpret the museums and historic parks of the Capital District to more than 1.3 million visitors each year. In 2007 the Capital District volunteers worked 169,573 hours, managed by 58 staff.

Capital District volunteer training programs have undergone many improvements and are striving to stay current not only in subject, but also in technology. Gone are the days of slide presentations and mass amounts of handouts. Power-Point presentations and CDs have taken their places. Volunteer applications and training schedules are available online.

Volunteer training programs



California State Railroad Museum volunteers receive hands-on training.

ensure docents receive a wealth of information on history, customer service, and basic interpretation prior to working with the public. Because of these great training programs, the Capital District has been able to recruit large numbers of volunteers and retain them for many years. Some volunteers at the California State Railroad Museum have logged over 15,000 hours. Many have been contributing their time since before the Museum's opening in 1981.

Docents are encouraged to research topics on their own and add their unique approach and experiences to sharing that information. One example is Clem Dougherty. Clem is interested in California's Governors. He designed a California Governor's tour where he takes tour groups through the Capitol, stopping at Governors' portraits and interpreting the

Governors' lives. Other docents were so enthused about Clem's tour that he began training them to give the tour. This is a great example of museum staff identifying a volunteer's talents and utilizing them to improve the experiences of visitors.

As we read in the 2007 Volunteer Annual Report, "Volunteers are vital to the effective operation of California State Parks—and their commitment to helping meet the department's mission is truly extraordinary. In calendar year 2007, a total of 15,411 dedicated individuals provided 984,538 hours of service, representing an equivalent dollar value to State Parks of over \$19 million."

If you want to learn more about the Capital District Museums and their volunteer programs please contact Peter Larsen at plarsen@parks.ca.gov or visit <http://www.parks.ca.gov/capitaldistrict>.



John Arnold's Mailbag

I would like to express my deepest gratitude and respect for the State Park personnel who evacuated all the campers off of Angel Island on Sunday night. My family and I were camping with our friends that night. Our group included four children, an 11 year old, an 8 year old and two 5 year olds. The children were terrified and your employees kept everyone together, safe and calm as they arranged to have us taken off the island. The employees did not show any signs of stress in what was clearly a very stressful and dangerous situation for them as well as for us. They knew exactly what they needed to do and they got it done very quickly. They truly saved all of our lives that night. While I hope to never go through such an experience again, I feel confident in our State park employees and their abilities. They were heroic in their efforts. Once we were safely in Tiburon, I looked back and saw half the island on fire and I realized what a truly courageous group of employees were on the job that night.

...We wanted to let you know about a fine State Parks employee we recently encountered. We camped for a few days in Henry Coe State Park in Morgan Hill, and we met several times with a Ranger named M. Hyland. He was friendly, attentive, and very

familiar with the hiking trails of the park. We camp a lot, and a good Ranger can make the experience so much richer. He did so, and we wanted to extend our compliments and thanks....I hope you will pass along to Mr. Hyland our thanks for his cheerfulness and his knowledge of his park.

I visited Hearst Castle on October 16 and attended the Experience Tour at 12:00 PM. What a treasure you have in our tour guide Wayne B. Fiske! He was knowledgeable, funny and made a wonderful experience more memorable than I had imagined. I look forward to returning and experiencing the other tours in future trips.

I would like to tell you that your employees at Ocotillo Well SVRA saved the day this weekend. I was camping with friends and family this weekend, and right before sundown my dog decided to wander away from camp. Frantically, I searched for her for hours on my quad and I could not find her. She spent all night in the desert by herself. I woke up and searched at first light and still could not find her. I went to the ranger station and talked to a lady that was very helpful, she informed the maintenance workers passing by of the lost dog. Fearing the worst at this point, I was happy

they agreed to help look for her. They found her later that day. She is just fine now. Hopefully this message makes it to someone who can tell these guys they did an excellent job and I really appreciate it. I really would like to sincerely thank Adam Borello for bringing my dog back to me that night, and the unknown maintenance people who actually found her. They need to get recognition for their work.

I'm from San Diego and make a pleasure trip or two to Monterey every year. While I've taken self-tours through the State Historic Park, this last trip was the first time I took the guided tours.

I just wish to say that these tours through the houses are exceptional!...[I]f all of your tour guides are as knowledgeable and proficient as John Klein is, then every tour must be just unbelievable! He was very attentive to everyone's needs and questions. I thoroughly enjoyed myself, and heard the same from others I met on a few of the tours.

So thanks for a very memorable trip! I will be sure to support the park even more the next visit.

News & Views needs you!
See page 18 for submission
information.

A First for California State Parks: A Sister Park in Mongolia

By Lynn Rhodes

Law Enforcement Division Chief

In May, the California State Parks Commission passed a resolution recognizing the Sister Park relationship between Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and the Ikh Nartiin Chuluu (Ikh Nart) Nature Reserve in Dalanjargal Soum of Mongolia. Additionally, Governor Schwarzenegger sent a formal message to Mongolia also in recognition of the Sister Park relationship.

The Ikh Nart Nature Reserve has many similarities to Anza Borrego Desert State Park relating to biodiversity, environmental protection, species, natural and cultural resources, park management strategies and challenges, as well as strong links to education with the local schools and community.

A small delegation of State Park managers including Anza Borrego Desert Park Superintendent Mark Jorgensen, Colorado Desert District Superintendent Mike Wells, myself, and with Anza Borrego Foundation & Institute President Ray Mouton and Board Members Chuck Bennett and Diana Lindsey) traveled to Mongolia during September of 2008 to deliver the Sister Park Resolution, the Communication from Governor



Representatives of California State Parks meet with Mongolian officials.

Schwarzenegger and much-needed, donated equipment.

The delegation was met in the Darlanjargalan Soum by Governor D. Bold of the Mongolian Daornogobi Province, the Superintendent of Schools, Minister of Resources and other community leaders. Richard Reeding, Ph.D., of the Denver Zoo Foundation was also present. The foundation provides management support for the Reserve.

Governor Bold traveled to the Nature Reserve with the State Parks delegation where he hosted a dinner in honor of the visit. Governor Bold drove his jeep into the nearby area to purchase a goat from a local herdsman for the dinner. The local herdsman was honored to be asked to provide the goat. He presented it as a gift in honor of the recognition given by California to the Sister Parks.

The group spent several days in the Reserve studying, working with researchers, hiking, and meeting with managers, park rangers and research investigators. Additionally, the delegation brought donated equipment, including binoculars, spotting scopes, computers and other items to help the researchers and park rangers with their challenging jobs.

Enforcement and protection in and of the Ikh Nart Nature Reserve are two of their highest management priorities. State Parks has committed to provide expertise in these and other areas.



Members of the California delegation were treated to a camel ride in Mongolia's Ikh Nart Nature Reserve.