

NEWS & VIEWS

The Employee Newsletter of California State Parks for Over Six Decades



Fall 2010

A Star Returns, Ready For The Big Screen

By Jordan Arnold, Park Interpretive Specialist, Capital District

Met with flashing cameras and hundreds of adoring fans, Railtown 1897 State Historic Park's movie star, the Sierra No. 3 locomotive, made her long-awaited return debut.

After a \$1.5 million makeover that took more than four years, Sierra No. 3 is back in the spotlight and ready for her close-up.

This famous locomotive, built in 1891, was among more than 6,000 locomotives constructed by Rogers Locomotive Works.

Today, Sierra No. 3 is one of only

► **Sierra, Page 4**



Photograph By Dave Henry

The Sierra No. 3 Steam Locomotive made its long awaited debut at Railtown 1897 SHP in Jamestown.

Marijuana Gardens Found In Dozens Of State Parks; Resource Damage Severe And Costly

There were piles of trash surrounding camouflaged campsites. There were piles of human waste in a makeshift toilet in a rocky crevasse. There were animal poisons, pesticides, and herbicides spread about. There was a fine screen of monofilament netting strung between trees, apparently to keep birds out, but it can snag and kill them.

There was fencing to keep deer and other animals out. Large portions of a madrone forest had been hacked down to stumps, the slash and trash thrown down a hillside.

The hike to get to this marijuana field in Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, located in the Napa Valley north of Sonoma, was difficult and exhausting, straight up a rocky, watershed canyon. This trip took place on



Ranger Dave Mathews pulls out a marijuana plant at Sugarloaf Ridge SP. The plants were concealed under native trees and bushes, making them difficult to spot from the air, but giving them enough sunlight to provide for growth.

► **Illegal Growth, Page 8**



Director Ruth Coleman Giving While Living

Photographer Jim Block

This past month we lost several employees of State Parks. This edition commemorates Ron Schafer (page 3) who gave more than 30 years years of service to this department.

We also lost Ambassador Bill Lane, a longtime supporter of State Parks. He was the only person to be named an Honorary State Park Ranger and Honorary National Park Ranger. While he made his fame and fortune as the publisher of Sunset Magazine,

he made countless contributions to various parks. The most powerful illustration of his generosity came when several of our staff lost their homes in the 2003 fire. I asked the State Parks Foundation to set up an account to which park staff could send funds to help those who had lost so much

As a State Parks Foundation board member, Bill was there and heard my plea. As soon as the board voted to create the account, he announced he was making a donation of \$100,000. Bill embodied the philosophy of “giving while living”.

After attending Ron’s and Bill’s memorial services within a week of each other, I found myself making lists. Life lists. Lunch dates, overdue thank-

you notes, family members to call, staff to talk to, friends to visit who are physically unable to get out. ‘Giving while living’ is a life philosophy we can all aspire to. It’s about giving time and talent as much as treasure. It’s how people like Gary Slattery, Environmental Scientist at Ocotillo Wells, and Tim Lowe, Park Maintenance Supervisor for the Channel Coast District, lived their lives. They embodied the State Park spirit of dedication to the mission, even in the face of these unending budget cuts. They would not want us to give up on our work here, but instead, keep pushing forward to make State Parks better in their honor. And remember to hug those who matters to you most.

Junior Ranger Program Inspires Youth

By Scott Cramolini, Supervising Ranger, Channel Coast District, Carpinteria Sector

One of Carpinteria State Beach’s biggest fans is 7-year-old Mr. Brandon Young! He loves rangers and especially our awesome Park Interpretive Specialist, Carissa Dragan.

Brandon was attached to Carissa’s hip all week and was excited to complete the Jr. Ranger program. In fact, Brandon loves the program so much that he stated to Carissa “If I’m not doing Jr. Rangers I would be at my campsite with my brain rotting away.”

Later, I promoted Brandon to Chief Jr. Ranger of the Week. Afterward he commented to me “This is the bestest camping trip I’ve ever been on in my life!”

Thanks to our interpretive programming and EVERYONE involved (from the interpretive



Chief Jr. Ranger Brandon Young with Park Interpretive Specialist Carissa Dragan.

designers and printers in Sacramento to the rangers, lifeguards and interpreters in the field) who put forth effort to make the program what it is!

State Parks Leader, Visionary Remembered



On Wednesday September 15 California State Parks lost one of its finest leaders, Superintendent Ronald P. Schafer of the Angeles District.

Few other Parks employees had such an impact on so many people.

His impact on Parks could be seen at the various districts he served in over his 36 years with the Department, especially his recent dynamic work with the National Park Service and the Santa Monica Conservancy in the Angeles District.

Growing up as a competitive swimmer and eventually collegiate swimmer, Ron's love for Parks was an easy match. He first started with the department as a seasonal lifeguard and eventually completed peace officer training in 1984. His travels brought him through Huntington State Beach, Chino Hills State Park, and the Bay Area parks to name just a few. "Ron inspired and mentored

many people. He had an amazing sense of humor and was a great friend. He leaves behind a legacy of park protection and a deep sense of respect that will live on for many people for years to come. Ron deeply touched people's lives and will be terribly missed," said Director Ruth Coleman.

On Saturday September 25th, Park family members gathered at Huntington State Beach for a memorial and celebration of Ron's life. After a few prayers, attendees paddled out into the ocean in commemoration.

For those that could not attend that event, there was a memorial party at the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook on October 7. Food and refreshments were provided for all.



The remembrance service on the beach and commemorative paddle-out in Ron's honor drew many people.

Sierra No. 3 Is Once Again A Movie Star

► FROM PAGE 1

Photograph By Dave Henry



A closeup of the Sierra engine.

four that are still in operation.

While her operating condition is impressive to say the least, most of Sierra No. 3's fame comes from her lengthy resumé. With appearances in more than 100 Hollywood movies and television productions alongside world-famous celebrities, Sierra No. 3 has likely entered into every American living room at one point or another. Some of Sierra No. 3's most notable appearances include *The Virginian*, *High Noon*, *The Great Race*, *Bound for Glory*, *Back to the Future III*, *Unforgiven*, *Petticoat Junction*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *Lassie*, and *The Wild, Wild West*.

Sierra No. 3 had an indisputably remarkable past, but her future wasn't quite as promising. Plagued with rust and corrosion, the locomotive was dismantled—unrecognizable and unavailable for public display.

Fortunately, California State Parks, in collaboration with the California State Railroad Museum Foundation, recognized the need to preserve the "Movie Star" locomotive and undertook a major fundraising drive. Four years and many signed checks later, Sierra No. 3's restoration is complete, and she is back in the spotlight, reaching, captivating, and educating fans.

The future of this famous locomotive is no longer in question; her potential is limitless.

As stated by Clint Eastwood, one of Sierra No. 3's co-stars, "The Sierra No. 3 is like a treasured old friend...Even in the business of 'make believe,' you can't beat the real thing. Sierra No. 3 resides...in the original roundhouse which is still in use. Together these two assets provide a rare opportu-

nity to experience history just as it was 109 years ago."

The successful completion of this project is truly a victory for the people of California and railroad enthusiasts around the world. An important relic has been preserved, and will continue to educate the public about California's rich railroad and Hollywood history. This special locomotive will continue to have a positive impact on future generations in a way that is unrivaled in steam engine equipment.

Many thanks go out to everyone who had a part in this tremendous restoration. Whether it was a simple act of cleaning parts, ordering materials, raising funds, or picking up a wrench, every effort was appreciated. This project wouldn't have been possible without your help!



Photograph By Dave Henry

The movie star train cuts through a celebratory ribbon at the debut.

Twenty-Five Become Citizens At Angel Island

Twenty-five new Americans will never forget their day at Angel Island State Park. On Friday, September 17, they became new citizens of the United States as part of a nationwide naturalization ceremony commemorating Citizenship Day and Constitution Week.

Many others at the same ceremony have different memories of Angel Island. They applauded the new citizens, but their memories go back 100 years to the days when their parents and grandparents were unwelcome detainees on the island.

Hosted by California State Parks, the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF), and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, the point of the day's ceremony was to join the two events into one as a commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Immigration Station

on Angel Island.

For the new citizens, it was a day of happiness and rejoicing. For those remembering the early 1900s, when Chinese immigrants were detained under the Chinese Exclusion Act, it was a recollection of a painful chapter in immigration history.

Those attending the ceremony got a tour of the barracks where immigrants were detained, some for weeks, others for many months. And outside, they were among the first to see the new interpretive displays that add names, pictures, and details of how the first immigrants on this site were treated.

One panel is a casting of the many buildings that occupied the site, including the large administration building that burned down. Another display stands as the interrogation table, near where the real interrogation table stood within

the administration building.

This table contains graphic inlays of pictures and stories of those who had to stand before it and be interrogated in grueling detail about their family history and village life in China. It was the place where the futures of so many were decided by the right, or the wrong answer. As stated on the table, "Even legitimate immigrants were known to fail the examination." There is a quote from a Mr. Tong, who was at Angel Island in 1932. Tong said he was "interrogated for three days."

The new displays are extremely well done. Even if you have seen the barracks building before, it is worth going again to see the new interpretive panels, tables and other displays.

The story is a powerful and painful page from our nation's history.



Left: Felicia Lowe stands before the Interrogation Table, one of the new interpretive displays now completed at the Immigration Station. Lowe is reading the panel on the table, just above her fingertips, that shows the immigration document and picture of her father, Lowe Wing Sun, who came to the station aboard the S.S. President Taft on March 1, 1938 as one of the detainees who was held at the station; Right: At the Angel Island Immigration Station, twenty-five new citizens of the United States raise their right hands and take the oath from Larry Crider, Acting District Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service from San Francisco. The new citizens come from 17 nations.

New Task Force To Ensure Equality For All

By John Garlock,
Communications Office

Earlier this year the Women and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) Task Force was formed at California State Parks.

The selected task force members are Jenny Donovan, Chairperson (Russian River District), John Garlock (Communications Office), Alexis Jones (Russian River District), April Malone (Tehachapi District) and Wendy Martin (Accessibility Section). The five members are trained EEO Counselors and bring a wealth of knowledge, diversity and skill sets to the task force.

Reporting to Joyce Sathre, Manager, Human Rights Office, the mission of the task force is to ensure a departmental culture that maximizes the benefits of our differences by using innovative approaches to promote equality.

The group had their first meeting in April where goals and the above mission were determined.



From Left To Right: April Malone, Alexis Jones, John Garlock, Jenny Donovan, and Wendy Martin

The task force has some specific goals to accomplish in the near future, including but not limited to:

- Promoting equal employment opportunities at all levels.
- Identification and removal of barriers to equality
- Pursuing accountability in hiring practices
- Promoting a mentoring and career development program

- Promoting a safe, accepting work environment for all employees
- Promoting diversity in recruitment
- Opening dialog among Department employees

A website for the task force is currently online on the California State Parks employee intranet. The link to the website is <http://isearch.parks.ca.gov/>

News & Views

Fall 2010
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Submit articles to 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.

We accept articles on a rolling basis.

May Day in the Redwoods: Armstrong Redwoods

Story and Photos by Linda Rath, State Park Superintendent II, Russian River District

This year's May Day in the Redwoods at Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve, celebrated Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Stewards) Cooperating Association's 25th anniversary. State Park volunteers, partners, and the many generations of park visitors who have supported Stewards and State Parks in the Russian River District, celebrated.

The event started with an opening ceremony. Volunteers Bill Bambrick, Lanny Keyston and Norman Hill received Poppy Awards and Bea Brunn, Joyce Bacci, John Cole and Elinor Twohy received Volunteer Medallions from the Department.

They were also recognized

by County Supervisor Efren Carrillo and by Assembly member Wesley Chesbro, represented by Maddy Hirshfield.

The ceremony was followed by live entertainment, a silent fundraising auction for Stewards, cake and Champagne, carriage rides through the redwoods, and partner booths, including Save the Redwoods League, Sonoma County Water Agency, BLM, and Sonoma Land Trust.

Children's activities included nine stations featuring the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. Stations included Native American dance lessons by Felix Macias, aquatic safety by Alexis Jones, an SPPO Lifeguard, a stream restoration talk by Brendan O'Neil, skins and skulls display by Mike Wisheart. Other stations included Lizzie Armstrong



Carriage rides through the redwoods.

with living history, a photo display by volunteer Doris Dickenson, paper hats by Loving and Learning Center, learning about stars with Annie Crestwell, nature games by West County Health Centers, and a hiking safety talk by Linda Rath. Once they visited each station, the children received a Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights certificate.

The event was attended by approximately 200 people.



Partnership booths.



Felix Macias at his station.



The following volunteers received recognition for their service: Joyce Bacci, Bea Brunn, Lanny Keyston, John Cole, County Supervisor Efren Carrillo, assembly member Wesley Chesbro representative Maddy Hirshfield, Stewards Executive Director Michele Luna, Bill Bambrick.



The "Exploring Nature" station with Interpreter II Mike Wisheart.

Illegal Growth Harms Parks And Habitats

►FROM PAGE 1



The hikers faced a difficult hike to the marijuana gardens.

July 19th and was prompted by a request from Sacramento Bee reporter Matt Weiser, who has been the lead reporter on a series of stories this summer about California State Parks.

Leading the hike into the garden area was Steve Bachman, Acting Superintendent of the Diablo Vista District, David Matthews, Public Safety Coordinator for the district, and Neill Fogarty, Supervising Ranger for the Valley of the Moon area state parks.



One of three campsites used by the growers.

“The cumulative effect of this and other sites, if left unchecked,” said Bachman, “may continue for years after a site is abandoned due to tons of trash left on site, soil erosion, sedimentation of nearby creeks and destruction of sensitive native vegetation that supports wildlife species. We may not see full recovery for decades.”

This marijuana growing site was a series of five gardens and three campsites spaced out around a ridgeline. Large trees hid most plants, with many trees having been cut down to allow some sunshine in for plant growth. Some tree cuts were fresh, but many of the cuts appeared to be three to five years old. Every single

plant was well dug into the ground with what appeared to

be an identical, formula-style topping of thick fertilizer and planting soil. Each plant was watered with its own drip irrigation line coming from the main lines running around the

ridgeline.

Most noticeable was the damage to the hillside. As Dave Matthews put it, “Except for taking a bulldozer to a park, this is probably the worst kind of resource damage that can occur in a park. This is damage that will cost tens of thousands of dollars to clean up and the job here will not be an easy one.”

The campsites supporting the gardens were elaborately constructed with camouflage nets, propane tanks for cooking, and tables, benches and storage shelves made out of cut tree branches. Whoever was there had been there for some time and had perhaps considered it a safe place that

would not be found.

“We may not see full recovery for decades.”

-Superintendent Stephen Bachman

But in July, a Sonoma County Sheriff’s helicopter did spot it from the

air and it was raided the next day, July 21. No one was found or arrested when the raid occurred. The growers likely saw the helicopter and from the looks of the camp sites, it appears they abandoned them almost immediately, leaving many items behind.

In the campsites, there were cases of foodstuffs, tents, sleeping bags and large military-style camouflage nets over the sites. There were thousands of feet of heavy, professional grade, three-quarter inch irrigation tubing with a drip system outlet at every single one of the estimated 4,500 plants.

The heart of the extensive irrigation system was a dam constructed in the small creek adjacent to the site. Large rocks created the dam with sheets of plastic lining the reservoir to provide a pool of water. From that pool, several large tubes created a gravity fed water system that efficiently watered all the plants, with a capability for many more. "It is very depressing to see this kind of damage," said Neill Fogarty, Supervising Park Ranger for the Valley of the Moon state parks. "In this location, this will be very hard to fix because it is so inaccessible."

"Hauling out the trash and other materials and restoring the hillside may cost as much as \$40,000 for just this site," said Bachman. "This site is so inaccessible that the work will have to be done by hand crews with hand tools and it will be a brutal job."

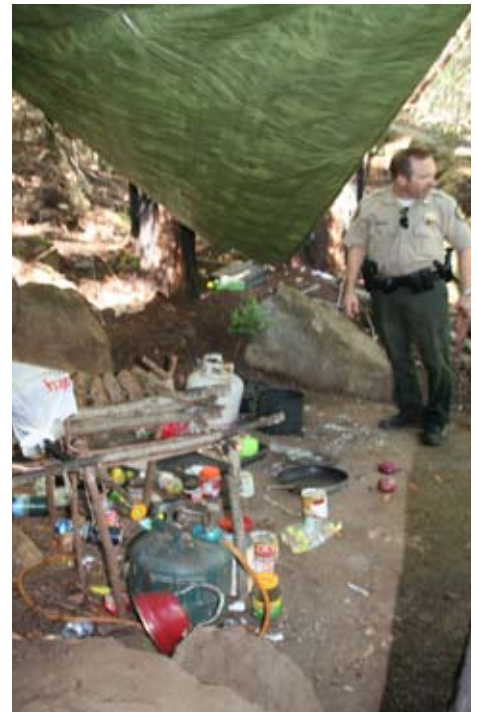
Since 2006, State Park records show that 34 marijuana gardens have been found in 15 parks across the state. Those records indicate that more than 220,000 plants were pulled up

and destroyed.

The size of those gardens ranged from around 500 plants to more than 50,000 plants. To name just a few parks where gardens were found and destroyed: Palomar Mountain SP, Malibu Creek SP, Cuyamaca Rancho SP, Castle Rock SP, Samuel P. Taylor SP, Big Basin Redwoods SP, Bale Grist Mill SHP, Jack London SHP, Austin Creek SRA, and Great Valley Grasslands SP. Weapons found included machetes, rifles and shotguns. At one, a dead body was found.

"The problem of marijuana gardens showing up in our state parks is an increasing problem with each passing year, said Bachman. "There is a whole scale of disregard towards park resources that comes with these sites. The resource damage is severe and we don't have the funding to prevent it."

Financially, this public lands resource damage is devastating. At a time when the State is struggling to make ends meet in its budget, it is clear that the cleanup and restoration cost for this damage takes away critical funding for other important services for all Californians.



Ranger Neill Fogarty inspects one of the three campsites found within the garden. Each was camouflaged, with mounds of trash.



Above: Ranger Neill Fogarty pulls apart the dam made by piling up rocks and lining the reservoir with plastic tarps to hold water. Gravity-fed lines ran downhill to water the more than 4,000 plants. Watching is Sacramento Bee photographer Manny Crisostomo. Left: Around the ridgeline, five marijuana gardens had been planted, with hundreds of trees, like the madrone trees seen in this picture, cut down. The clearing of ground plants and trees greatly increases erosion.



Mount San Jacinto Restoration Project Complete

By Doug Rischbieter, Environmental Scientist, & Ron Krueper, District Superintendent, Inland Empire District

The Round Valley Meadow is an exceedingly uncommon and fragile wetland habitat, made all the more rare by its isolation high above the Southern California desert. At elevation 9100', it is less than 5 miles as the crow flies from the urbanization and often-oppressive heat of Palm Springs, which is at only 400' elevation.

Covering less than 10 acres, Round Valley Meadow is unmatched in its wetness and richness within the nearly 14,000-acre Mount San Jacinto State Park.

An inviting "halfway-point" respite for hikers seeking Mount San Jacinto from the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, Round Valley has been a destination in itself for well over a century, including modern wilderness campers and others seeking



Photograph By Ron Krueper

Ken Kietzer stands at restored grade at the head of the restored area, on top of about 6-8' of compacted fill.

water, tranquility, and interaction with nature and wildlife.

Round Valley Meadow, and its seasonal stream, have been subject to periodic disturbances dating back to seasonal episodes of brief but intense cattle grazing, beginning during a great drought in the 1860s, and continuing until about

1930. More recent disturbances appear to have been associated with "volunteer trails," which occur when foot traffic tramples meadow vegetation during dry periods.

Soil compaction and vegetation damage and removal was a consequence of this visitor activity. In the middle of the meadow it resulted in collection and concentration of surface flow where it otherwise would have been dispersed, standing and low-velocity flowing water.

This unnatural concentration of surface flow accelerated erosion of the meadow's fragile soil, and opened a deep rent in the wetland, soil, and subsoil and at the meadow's eastern (downstream) end.

This scouring erosion, which created a series of "headcuts" up to 10 feet deep, was poised to continue westward and



Photograph By Ken Kietzer

California Conservation Corps workers moving logs into place.

upslope. The largest headcut, a “nick point,” was arrested in the roots of meadow-edge conifers; if these roots had been undermined, the erosion would have accelerated and the damage would have been irreparable.

The restoration of Mount San Jacinto State Park’s hydrologic resources, including the Round Valley Meadow, was identified and adopted as a goal of the Mount San Jacinto State Park General Plan In 2002.

California State Parks began planning this “first ever” wilderness restoration project in 2005, and in the ensuing years has responded to public input through development of a project designed to avoid or minimize significant disruptions to the environment and park visitors.

Over a period of 3 weeks beginning after Labor Day, California State Parks and Conservation crews used various hand and motorized tools and equipment to borrow 800 cubic yards of soil from nearby forest and depositional areas to fill the eroded gully. The California National Guard is playing a key support role in this project, providing a CH-47 (Chinook) helicopter and crew to lift the necessary equipment into and out of the wilderness project site. Their participation provided State Parks the essential helicopter support and gave the Guard a welcome opportunity for a real-life training scenario.

Construction started on September 11, and was completed by September 23.

The following measures were part of the project itself:

- Project work was scheduled during the period of routine annual maintenance (shut-down) of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, when park visitation is historically at its lowest, and during the time of year when the meadow and stream are at their driest, to avoid impacts to wetlands and waters.
- Limited use of construction equipment to the period of 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., which minimized noise impacts upon wilderness campers.
- All trail access was kept available, with minor detours, which allowed continued public access to virtually all areas of the park.
- Work areas were surveyed for plants and wildlife to avoid impacts to any and all sensitive species.
- The construction and disturbance sites were revegetated to a degree where the post-project appearance of these areas will eventually be indistinguishable from surrounding wilderness areas.



An Air National Guard CH-47 helicopter (Chinook) transported soil.

The stream channel now exists at the same elevation as the meadow surface, raising the water table back to its natural elevation. Disturbed areas are being replanted with native meadow plant stock, and the site recovery will be monitored for the next several years.

The project restored the natural topography and hydrology of Round Valley and the stream that drains it. Now that these natural hydrologic processes are restored, natural vegetation and the ecosystems that depend upon them can also be preserved.

Commission Establishes First State Marine Park

The California State Park and Recreation Commission made park history in August by voting 7-0 to establish Cambria State Marine Park.

This was the first State Marine Park classification action to be taken by the Commission, ever. It's a new classification for a new kind of park now under the protection of the park system.

The Commission heard testimony from a half-dozen people. All spoke in favor of the classification; none spoke against it. The central theme voiced by all speakers was that with this action, both the onshore and the offshore areas of this section of the Cambria coastline would now be within a protected area, under the management of California State Parks.

In explaining why this should have a marine park designation, Dave Schaub of State Parks' Natural Resources Division said, "To make this special area a State Marine Park gives it a higher and more respected standing in the public's mind and this area is certainly worthy of that higher protected status."

On a motion by Commissioner Bill Kogerman, the vote was unanimous. Kogerman called it an historic item, the first of what he hoped would be many to come. Commissioner Paul Witt said he was impressed with the beauty of the marine park area. He added, "It is ours to preserve." The action by the Commission renamed and reclassified a coastal area known as the Cambria State Marine Conservation Area. That classification had come about through an extensive public involvement and planning process by the State Fish and Game Commission, to include a Blue Ribbon Task Force of public members, under the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) of 1999.

The MLPA is one of two landmark marine conservation acts aimed at expanding and improving the state's network of special state marine protected areas (State Marine Reserves,



All of the ocean environment in this picture is within the newly created Cambria State Marine Park. The first such park in the system, it is now under the management and protection of California State Parks through the action of the California Park and Recreation Commission on August 17.

State Marine Parks and State Marine Conservation Areas.)

Out of the public planning process, the Blue Ribbon Task Force and the California Fish and Game Commission recommended that the State Park and Recreation Commission reclassify the area. In taking that action at their August 17 meeting, the State Park and Recreation Commission transferred the lead management responsibility for the area from the California Department of Fish and Game to California State Parks.

The newly named Cambria State Marine Park is about 5.8 miles long and extends out to sea about 0.8 miles. It borders the San Simeon-Cambria shoreline and adjoins Hearst San Simeon State Park.

Management goals include providing for recreational and education/interpretation opportunities, in addition to protecting marine species and habitats. Recreational fishing is allowed, but commercial fishing is prohibited.



Members of the California State Park and Recreation Commission and members of the public hear a briefing from Dave Schaub of the Natural Resources Division on the boundaries and values found in the proposed Cambria State Marine Park, represented in the ocean environment seen behind the gathering.

Parks Develops Mobile App For Smart Phones

By Chris Burgess,
Communications Office

In the ever-advancing digital age we have a plethora of technologies at our fingertips. All of which help make communication and information processing easier.

State Parks is utilizing this through its newly developed Mobile Application that allows smart phone users direct access to information on all

278 parks. Although helpful for all users, this app is best suited for the last minute camper in need of recreation information.

Some of the searchable fields include a general listing of each park, corresponding recreation activities at each park, facilities, and seasonal park information. Availability for parks can be checked anywhere from 48 hours to two weeks out. In addition,

a Google map image for each park is also provided.

“We want to give our visitors a user-friendly mobile connection to their state parks. People lead busy lives and don’t have time to plan ahead; this lets them be spontaneous,” said Director Ruth Coleman.

If you have a smart phone just go to <http://m.parks.ca.gov> and find a park near you.

Capital District Hosts Student Travel Conference

By Mindy Orosco, Interpreter II, Capital District

At the end of August, the Sacramento Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) joined with the Capital District to host the 2010 Student Youth Travel Association (SYTA) Annual Conference. This four-day conference showcased a variety of student/youth-friendly destinations in California to commercial group tour operators from all over the United States and international destinations as well.

The theme of the conference was “California Dreaming.” The CVB’s goal in hosting the SYTA conference was to bring awareness of a number of Sacramento attractions. Having had a successful partnership earlier this year with the Go West tour operator meeting and exchange, which focused on commercial adult group tour operators, the CVB and Capital District partnered yet again to host the opening night reception at the California State Railroad Museum. This reception showcased not only the renowned California State Railroad Museum, but additionally Railtown1897 SHP and Sutter’s Fort SHP. It featured a number of interactive youth programming opportunities offered at the state museums and historic parks in Capital District.

As part of this partnership, District staff attended the conference and met with tour operators for one-on-one appointments, informing them of the programming Capital

District State Museums and Historic Parks provide for youth groups. These unique opportunities to market to the adult and student travel industry would not have been possible without a collaborative approach. In these current economic times, it is truly in our best interest to find ways to build partnerships that provide us opportunities for public outreach, while also allowing for cost cutting; thus increasing attendance, and as well as generating revenue and continued support for California State Parks.



Terry and Faith Selk of the Convention and Visitors Bureau try out a hand car.



Sutter’s Fort SHP Volunteer Staff.

Promotions And Appointments

Jay Chamberlin, Chief Natural Resources Division



Since 2008 Jay has been the Chief of the Delta Ecosystem Enhancement Section of the Department of Water Resources' Flood SAFE Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resources Office, where he has led staff responsible for implementing ecosystem restoration projects in the Sacramento—San Joaquin Delta. He previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary at the California Natural Resources Agency, where he guided a number of regional and statewide conservation initiatives across Agency Departments. Jay has also held staff positions with the California Bay-Delta Authority and several nonprofit organizations, including the Pacific Forest Trust, 1000 Friends of Oregon, and the National Parks Conservation Association. Jay earned his bachelors degree at the University of California, Berkeley and his MS from

the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment. He is an enthusiastic hiker, backcountry skier, and cyclist, who has sampled (by bicycle) the coastal parks between San Simeon and Arcata, twice trekked the lost coast at Sinkyone Wilderness, canoed to Ahjumawi Lava Springs, and sampled the trails at a long list of state parks, including Pfeiffer Big Sur.

Accounting Administrator I (Specialist)

Amy Ta
Budgets
6/21/10

Administrative Officer II

Laura L. Barger
San Luis Obispo District
7/1/10

Hannah K. Walloupe
Sierra District
6/7/10

Associate Park and Recreation Specialist

Peggy L. Harwell
Central Valley District
6/21/10

Business Services Officer III

Prakash N. Patel
Contracts and Asset Management
6/16/10

Environmental Scientist

Wesley C. Gray
OHMVR/Hollister Hills
6/1/10

David W. Lyons
Natural Resources
6/2/10

Guide I Historical Monument

Mario E. Cano
Capital District
7/1/10

Tyson Decker
Capital District
7/1/10

Jolene A. Kitchens
Capital District
6/30/10

Lifeguard

Robert C. Egan
Orange Coast District
5/1/10

Maintenance Mechanic

Mathew A. Burggraff
Sierra District
7/15/10

Michael A. Drye
Colorado Desert District
7/1/10

Management Services Technician

Alaina M. Boys
Santa Cruz District
7/1/10

Diane M. Husak
OHMVR/Twin Cities
5/1/10

Rita K. Perry
Sierra District
7/13/10

Charles E. Rennie
OHMVR/Ocotillo Wells
6/16/10

Museum Curator I

Jennifer E. Petterson
Park Operations
6/28/10

Office Assistant (Typing)

Kathryn J. Hansen
North Coast Redwoods
7/1/10

Fleccia Wilson
Monterey District
7/16/10

Office Technician (General)

Kristina L. White
Diablo Vista District
7/1/10

Office Technician (Typing)

Kellie M. Maier
OHMVR/Twin Cities
7/1/10

Carlton A. Parker
Historic Preservation
6/1/10

Alexandrea D. Stutzman
OHMVR/Oceano Dunes
7/1/10

Karen S. Sypniewski
OHMVR/Ocotillo Wells
6/16/10

Park Maintenance Worker II

James E. Schlotter
North Coast Redwoods
6/1/10

Ronald L. Yocum
Northern Buttes District
8/1/10

Pool Lifeguard

Jessica V. Maule
Sierra District
6/15/10

Park Maintenance Chief I

Chad E. Rowan
Colorado Desert District
7/1/10

Mike Stanley
Central Valley District
6/9/10

Park Maintenance Supervisor

Bruce G. Meyer
OHMVR/Hollister Hills
6/1/10

Senior Information Systems Analyst (Specialist)

Michael J. Marchak III
Information Technology
7/1/10

Staff Information Systems Analyst (Specialist)

Shawn M. Brown
Information Technology
7/1/10

State Park Interpreter II

Winter L. Bonnin
Orange Coast District
6/1/10

Berndt G. Stolfi
Interpretation & Education
6/14/10

State Park Superintendent I

Kelly A. Claar
Gold Fields District
7/15/10

State Park Superintendent I (Lifeguard)

Dion M. Von Der Lieth
Channel Coast District
7/1/10

State Park Superintendent II

Kelly L. Elliot
Inland Empire District
7/1/10

Joel Y. Yamasaki
Orange Coast District
7/1/10

State Park Supervising Ranger

James T. Greenan
San Luis Obispo District
6/1/10

Christopher B. Mizeur
Northern Buttes District
7/1/10

Steven O. Schory
Tehachapi District
6/4/10

Staff Services Analyst (General)

Lorraine I. Colby
North Coast Redwoods District
6/1/10

Danielle A. Patterson
OHMV/Oceano Dunes
7/8/10

Staff Environmental Scientist

Amber N. Transou
North Coast Redwoods
8/1/10

Water & Sewage Plant Supervisor

Christopher Ruiz
Colorado Desert District
7/1/10

Allyn Schafer
Marin District
6/15/10

*Promotion Information provided
by Nancy Sechrist, Personnel
Services Section*



John Arnold's Mailbag

As a visitor to the USA from England and taking our very first camping experience here, can I please congratulate you on running such an excellent site?

It was spacious, spotlessly clean with everything one needed. It was quiet too.

I must say a very special thanks to your staff. We will recommend this camp site to anyone thinking of visiting the Redwoods. Thank you and your staff again.

A week ago we had the great pleasure of meeting one of your employees, Bill Cramer, at the Asilomar Natural Dune Preserve. Recognizing we had great interest in the work of dune preservation, Mr. Cramer made a special effort to explain the work, even giving us a tour of the green house where native dune species are propagated.

We applaud your efforts at dune restoration and management, and especially thank Mr. Cramer for his kind attention. This was a highlight of our stay at Asilomar. We will be back.

I am writing to you with regards to the Ghost Town called 'Bodie' in California (near Bridgeport).

I visited Bodie several years ago with my wife whilst on holiday in the area and i have to say it is one of the most facinating places i've ever been to. I've never been anywhere

quite like it. We only decided to call in on the place on route to Lake Tahoe, but im so glad i did as ive been a fan of the place ever since.

I often look at different websites dedicated to it to check in on it and keep myself updated. I think its so important to preserve it in its natural state.

I thought i would write and send in my appreciation for such a wonderful place. I hope that it lasts for many decades to come, so that others have an opportunity to visit it. Kind Regards.

We were just at Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. We had never been there before and it was lovely.

On Wednesday July 21, 2010 my family and I had the pleasure of stopping off at Año Nuevo State Park. We had a wonderful time. We walked to North Point with a docent, and she was so informative on the area and the elephant seals. She showed us pictures, fur and explained everything we ever wanted to know about the elephant seals to us. There were some young children nearby and she also explained things to them so they could understand.

The Ranger at the gate who gave us our visitors permit was also very nice and informative. She explained things well. When she even told us how

many elephant seals we could see we knew we had to go see for ourselves.

Thank you for making the stop so memorable with the volunteers and Ranger.

I'm a huge fan of the CA Parks System and a long-time supporting member of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. I do plan on visiting Bodie Historic Park again sometime in the future as the Eastern Sierras are quite a magical place.

Our park at Lobeiro, on the hill adjacent to Califia State Beach (San Clemente SB), is maintained by a nice person named Patrick (Bauers.) He and his helpers do an excellent job and want his supervisor to know.

Please let Patrick know that we appreciate his good work.

I was camping on 7/23/10 at Pismo State Beach by the dunes on the beach, and I watched first hand Ranger Kyle Trahan defuse a situation. He had a camper giving him a hard time and was able to calm the situation down. I was very impressed and most of all no one went to jail. Thank you very much.

Contact us at
newsandviews@parks.ca.gov