



Winter 2007

Malibu Creek State Park Burns—And Burns Again



Ron Shafer/ Angeles District

At Malibu Creek State Park, Malibu Canyon Road marks a path along the charred canyon near where the Canyon Fire started on October 21. Power lines knocked down by Santa Ana winds ignited the fire that grew to nearly 1,000 acres in the park and a total of approximately 4,500 acres before it could be contained.

By Roy Stearns, Deputy Director of Communications

Twice in this fire season, once in October and again in November, Malibu Creek State Park was hit by wildfires pushed by devastating Santa Ana winds. For Los Angeles District Superintendent Ron Shafer and his Malibu Sector folks, it was the perfect storm – twice—at a time when staffing shortages just made the entire situation worse.

The latest fire, dubbed the Corral fire, began in the early morning hours of Saturday, November 24, at Malibu Creek

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OHP Presents Historic Preservation Awards

By Diane Thompson, OHP

On November 16, the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) presented the Governor's Historic Preservation Awards to sixteen groups throughout the state.

The awards recognize organizations and public agencies whose contributions demonstrate notable achievements in preserving the heritage of California. Three State Parks properties were recognized.

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Bay Area Oil Spill Puts Animals at Risk

By Cyndy Shafer, Environmental Scientist, Diablo Vista District

I tried to act nonchalant as I took a step towards the preening surf scoter. My rubber boots sunk about a half inch into the thick bay mud. The bird stopped preening and looked at me. I froze. It's difficult to look nonchalant in a full white Tyvek suit, carrying a big net.

I knew I was still too far away to out-run the bird if it made a break for the water.



Steve Schindler/DFG

Cyndy Shafer with an oil-soaked surf scoter.

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Director Ruth Coleman

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Parks staff on an enormously successful year and share with you a few highlights. We have a long history of rising to the world's challenges and this year produced more of the same.

We served 2.5 million more visitors this year than last. More people visit our parks than visit all of California's amusement parks combined. We manage and care for a system with more visitors than any other State park system in the nation.

We continue to innovate. At McArthur Burney Falls Memorial State Park, east of Redding, Parks entered into a new public-private agreement that built 24 family-style cabins. Within days, they were sold out for the remainder of the summer, proving the value of this kind of venture to better serve our visitors.

We move beyond controversies to solutions. Our parks team proposed and achieved a unique settlement for preserving and protecting Al lensworth State Historic Park from a proposed mega-dairy. We went to the negotiating table with a developer on the Sacramento Railyards issue and settled for what we wanted all along: two historic buildings and the chance to build a world-class, railroad technology museum. We brought the off-highway-vehicle and environmental communities together with the Legislature to enact an unprecedented ten-year extension of our program of environmentally-responsible OHV recreation.

And the list goes on: At Hearst Castle®, we celebrated the opening of a new, multi-million dollar, privately-funded renovation of the Visitor's Center. We partnered with Travelocity, one of the largest and most heavily used online travel companies in the world, to promote State Parks. We opened Rio de Los Angeles State Park, one of California's most anticipated new urban parks. We completed renovations at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park and of the Jack London cottage at Jack London State His-

toric Park. We suggested that the Governor sign and endorse the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights and he gladly did so. And at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, we began renovations on the popular Jolly Boy restaurant and other historic buildings not to mention holding some innovative and incredibly successful special events that re-branded Old Town as a vibrant venue.

When wildfires struck again and again this year, we rallied from across the State to protect those in harm's way. We moved quickly to save historic artifacts and treasures. And we opened our gates and our hearts to the thousands of people who sought refuge in our parks.

In 2007, we added more than 7,800 acres of spectacular coastal bluffs, wildlife migration corridors, redwood trees, beautiful meadows, open space, historic properties, desert lands and more to the System. We co-sponsored a climate change symposium with UC Berkeley's environmental law and policy program focusing on the effects of global warming on California's public lands and on adapting our policies and practices to help ensure the continued success of conservation, natural resource stewardship, and restoration efforts.

I have to cut this list short even though I know that we achieved much more this past year. But even this shortened list makes my point: Parks people have talent, perseverance, creativity and a huge dose of dedication and it shows up, day after day, year after year, in how we care for our parks and our visitors. Thank you for all the blessings you've given Parks this year.

As for next year, we will have no lack of challenges. The budget situation will be especially tough, perhaps the toughest we have ever faced. The Executive Team is already working hard to meet this challenge and help protect what is so important to all of us. I will provide budget detail as soon as it is made public in January and will keep you informed as the budget winds its way through the Legislature. We all need to remember that there will be many, many changes in the proposed budget before it is finally enacted next year.

In the meantime, spend some time with your family this holiday season. Count your blessings. And remember that we will meet the challenges of the New Year just as we've met so many others.

State Parks and U.C. Berkeley Lead Climate Change Symposium

BERKELEY - Leading scientists warn that we are going to see major changes in our plants and animals, less snowfall, more droughts, flooding of the San Francisco Bay and more, as climate change worsens. They warn that it is time to work together to seek answers on how to deal with a process that is well underway in transforming the planet.

The information was presented in a day-long Climate Change Symposium sponsored by California State Parks, the U.C. Berkeley Law School's California Center for Environmental Law and Policy, the Resources Legacy Fund and the Nature Conservancy on November 15. More than 150 leading policymakers, scientists, academics, public land managers, land trust leaders and others participated in the session, designed to seek answers for how public lands are managed as climate change continues to alter habitats and species across the globe.

State Parks Director Ruth Coleman, one of the initiators of the unique symposium, opened the session by telling the assembled group: "Today, I am hoping to shed more light on this subject of climate change. We need information immediately. We don't have 15 years to wait for science. This is an issue that is transforming

"This is an issue that is transforming the planet now."

- Director Ruth Coleman



More than 150 of California's leading scientists filled the conference room of the Berkeley City Club for a day-long Climate Change Symposium. Those present listened to more than 14 presentations, asking each of the presenter detailed questions concerning their research and information. A main point of the presentations and the questioning was to create a discussion on the best available scientific data concerning the impacts of climate change on future land management decisions.

the planet now and I would ask if we are doing the right things for future land management? If not, what do we change?"

Following Coleman, speaker after speaker outlined greater stresses that are already beginning to show up in various species of wildlife and plants.

Marc Hoshovsky, Senior Environmental Scientist for the State Department of Fish and Game pointed out the evidence of how the Northern Hemisphere is warmer now than it has been in the past 1,300

years, due to the increase in greenhouse gases. Said Hoshovsky, "We will see less snow in the Sierra and more drought periods, the risk of wildfire will increase and sea levels will rise anywhere from six inches to 33 inches." Hoshovsky said climate changes may cause habitat shifts among many animals and that warmer conditions in low level areas may cause an upslope migration of some species. He said Blue Oaks in the Valley may also be affected, some trees dying off at the lower levels. He added that heat tolerant species will likely survive, while less heat tolerant species may not. He

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Climate Change

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said we are not sure what the best solutions are, but we need more workshops and more putting-our-heads-together to find the answers, and soon.

One of the most dramatic demonstrations of what is to come from global climate change came from Will Travis, the Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Travis told the assembled group that over the next century, the land fill put into the San Francisco Bay for development is going to be slowly filled in with rising waters that reclaim the fill lands. Travis said the evidence is clear, the Bay is going to get bigger and that will flood many areas, affecting businesses, housing and transportation corridors. "We cannot allow our cities to go under water," said Travis, "we are going to have to build levees, lots of levees." Travis added that we may find places where we are forced to remove developments that are too close to the bay and return the area to wetlands. Travis closed by saying the challenges posed by

climate change are enormous and future children are going to ask why we didn't do something about it.

At the end of the symposium, many of the participants thanked State Parks and the other sponsors for their leadership in organizing the symposium, saying the information presented was excellent and that more such exchanges and discussions are needed. There was widespread agreement that significant changes seem unavoidable and that all concerned need to collaborate to re-think how public lands are managed. In closing, Coleman told the audience the information gathered needs to be communicated to the public in effective ways in order to motivate them to meet the coming challenge.

The end result of these deliberations will be a set of policy recommendations for government leaders, public lands managers, and philanthropic donors who play a role in the acquisition and restoration of public conservation lands. California State Parks and the California Center for Environmental Law



State Parks Director Ruth Coleman, flanked by the representatives from the organizations that were joint sponsors of the Public Lands and Climate Change Symposium, Michael Eaton, left, Executive Director, Resources Legacy Fund, and Richard Frank, right, Executive Director, California Center for Environmental Law and Policy, University of California, Berkeley.

and Policy will publish the group's conclusions and policy recommendations by early 2008. Those wanting to review the symposium presentations can do so at <http://www.parks.ca.gov/ccworkshop>

News & Views

Winter 2007

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Director

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Submit articles to:

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Please include the topic in the subject line.

Submit captions and photographer's name with all photographs.

Photographs need to be in TIFF or JPEG format.

Please keep article length to 400 words.

The next submission deadline is February 4, 2008.

Oil Spill

►FROM PAGE 1



John Russo / Freelance Photographer

Environmental scientist Cyndy Shafer bolts toward an oiled bird with her net, eager to rescue it from the oily water.

I took two steps closer. This time, the bird stood up, eyeing me intently. I stopped and stood still, willing it to sit down and relax. After a minute, it sat down and started preening.

Sweating in my Tyvek, I took another two steps. The bird lifted its head, stood up, and took a step towards the water, eyeing me warily. I weighed my options. I couldn't run very fast in rubber boots. I had a greater distance to cover to get to the bird than it had to get to the water. Once in the water, I wouldn't be able to catch it. That would almost certainly seal its fate to die from the thick oil coating its feathers.

We stared at each other. I took another step, and so did it. I stopped and stood still. Unable to resist the urge, it started preening again, this time while standing. With its feathers rendered useless by

the oil, the bird's instincts told it to keep trying to clean them, despite how toxic the oil is when ingested.

I took advantage of its preoccupation with preening, and took two big steps. It lifted its head, saw that I was much closer, and started stepping purposefully towards the water. I knew it wasn't stopping this time, so I bolted. As soon as I started to run, so did the bird. I sprinted as fast as I could, and the bird started flapping its oiled wings to get up more speed. Just as the bird reached the water's edge, I lunged with my net and managed to drop my net down over a flurry of flapping wings and splashing water. Success! I scooped the bird up and quickly transferred it from the net to a pillow case I had tucked under my Tyvek suit. Thick, tar-like oil from the bird's feathers stuck to my

latex gloves. Once in the pillow case, the exhausted bird stopped fighting and was still. Of course this surf scoter had no idea that this traumatic event likely saved its life, since it was now headed to the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) facility in Cordelia to be cleaned.

When responding to a catastrophe like a huge oil spill, there's very little time to stop and think about everything that's going on and the full impact of the disaster to our state park resources. Both Angel Island and Eastshore State Parks were heavily impacted by this spill and required immediate response. The four days following the Cosco Busan oil spill of 58,000 gallons of bunker fuel in the SF Bay, were a flurry of phone calls, meetings, agency coordination, hazwopper train-

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It's a Win-Win-Win!

State Public Works Board Approves Deal to Protect Colonel Allensworth SHP



SACRAMENTO - On October 15, the State Public Works Board, meeting at the State Capitol in Sacramento, approved the triple win agreement negotiated by the Schwarzenegger Administration to prevent a landowner from operating a dairy farm near the park. The agreement is seen as a triple win because it protects the park, compensates the landowner and respects the land-use rights of Tulare County. In the agreement, the State will pay dairy farmer Sam Etchegaray \$3.5 million for a Land Use Restriction Easement that prevents any livestock operation on his land near the park. Pictured above are some of the people who worked on or supported

the agreement. First row: Nettie Morrison, resident of Allensworth; Second row, left to right: Acquanetta Warren, State Park Commission; Ruth Coleman, State Parks Director; Beverly Blake, Preserving Allensworth Legacy Support Group; Victor Carter, Friends of Allensworth; and, Warren Westrup, Acquisition Chief for State Parks. Third row, left to right: Steve Etchegaray; Sam Etchegaray, Jr.; Sam Etchegaray, property owner; and, David Wrightsman, State Parks' Land Agent. Back row, left to right : Brad Torgan, Chief Legal Counsel for State Parks and David Albers, Attorney for Etchegaray.

Oil Spill

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ing, media interviews, public contacts, and oiled bird rescue.

As a biologist, my primary concern was the impact of the oil on the natural resources of our parks, in particular the large numbers of waterbirds present at Eastshore this time of year. However, as a state park employee, the coordination and public interaction became the top priority during much of the first four days of response.

Through this experience, I learned that a number of things are critical to the successful response to an unexpected disaster in our state parks:

- Representation and good leadership at the Incident Command Center, which we had in this case with DPR IC Dave Matthews.
- Coordination and cooperation among state park staff from different districts, in this case, Marin and Diablo Vista Districts.
- Flexible schedules - for this response, DPR employees worked all daylight hours, through the weekend, following the spill.
- Patience with, and compassion for, the public, who can hinder response and rescue efforts despite their good intentions.

Every disaster that threatens our state parks has different challenges; however, as long as all the above are in place, I've learned that State Parks can face and make the best of any unexpected incident.

Coastwalk Marks California Coastal Trail

By Linda Rath, Russian River Sector Superintendent

It was a beautiful Saturday morning on August 18 when Sonoma Coast State Park, Coastwalk, and the California Coastal Conservancy launched the state-wide campaign to mark the California Coastal Trail with official emblems.

The first emblem was placed at the Kortum Trailhead. Participants were trail namesake Bill Kortum, environmentalist and activist; Richard Nichols, Coastwalk Board Member and co-author of “Hiking the California Coastal Trail” volumes I and II; Timothy Duff, California Coastal Conservancy Project Manager; and Linda Rath, Russian River Sector Superintendent. To share in the historic moment, each of them inserted one screw.

With that, Sonoma Coast State Park became the first state park in California to receive the emblem that will ultimately unite paths along the entire California Coastal Trail once it stretches 1,100 miles from Oregon to the Mexican border.

The park was chosen for the event because in 1983 it was the location of the first hike led by Coastwalk. The nonprofit public advocacy organization has been hosting hikes and raising awareness of the California Coastal Trail for more than 20 years. Through unique coastal hiking experiences and the development of the California Coastal Trail, Coastwalk is creating a community of stewards dedicated to raising awareness of the profound need to provide access to the coast and preserve its fragile environment.



Mary Agneberg/Coastwalk

Bill Kortum places the first insignia on the California Coastal Trail.

Kortum was selected for his role as chairperson in the former California Coastal Alliance, a coalition of 110 organizations that in 1972 sponsored a ballot initiative that created the California Coastal Commission, the California Coastal Plan and the California Coastal Conservancy.

The emblems were designed and printed with funding from a California Coastal Conservancy grant to Coastwalk.

When completed, the California Coastal Trail will connect cities and towns, historic sites and natural landscapes of beaches, bluffs, bays, estuaries, and mountains. This trail will be one of the great long-distance trails along one of the world’s most diverse coastlines.

The Russian River District, stretching from Salt Point State Park to Bodega Bay, has just under 30 miles of the 280-mile of California State Parks coastline. With help of groups like Coastwalk, Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, and the California Coastal Conser-

vancy, it will all become part of the California Coastal Trail. Currently, the district offers 14 miles of recognized California Coastal Trail and 29 Coastal Access Points.

State Parks staff working to add significant amounts of new California Coastal Trail in the district include Park and Recreation Specialists Gary Shannon and Beth Robinson, and the many volunteers who help with these efforts.

The Russian River District of California State Parks is proud to be a partner in the development of the California Coastal Trail that will provide individuals and families the opportunity to enjoy the spectacular California coast.

For more on the California Coastal Trail, visit <http://californiacoastaltrail.info>



A Whale Tale

By Alex Peabody, Aquatic Specialist

I was attending the annual Park Operations picnic at Folsom Lake State Recreation Area when my ever-present Blackberry rang to tell me that Delta and Dawn needed assistance from California State Parks!

The two wayward whales had caused a national stir when they swam up the Sacramento River in mid-May and decided to visit the Port of Sacramento. Despite the swarming media trucks, reporters, and news helicopters, the two humpback whales were not disclosing the purpose of their visit and declined interviews.

Nevertheless, they became international media stars and their presence activated an incident requiring National Incident Management System (NIMS) activation with the U.S. Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, California Department of Fish and Game and the Sacramento County Sheriff.

We were "tasked" by the Department of Fish and Game to provide a patrol vessel with an operator and deckhand to ferry scientists and protect the whales. Delta, the mother whale, already had sustained an injury due to a boat propeller and there was plenty of boating traffic between Rio Vista and the Sacramento River on the Delta.

In the early morning hours of Wednesday, May 23, Monterey District Lifeguard Eric Sturm and I



Eric Sturm, lifeguard with the Monterey District and Robert Tolin, ranger at Oceano Dunes SVRA pose with NOAA biologists.

rendezvoused with Four Rivers Sector Superintendent Lee Sencenbaugh at the park unit office to borrow the 24-foot Frontier patrol boat. Lee looked a little doubtful about two lifeguards trailering his boat onto Interstate 5, but we merrily waved and smiled as we pulled out of the yard. Fortunately, he didn't see me pull into the nearest gas station to buy a map of the Sacramento/Rio Vista area. Let's be honest, we had no idea where we were going!

We were able to find the command center at the Coast Guard Station and meet the third member of the team, Ranger Robert Tolin of Oceano Dunes SVRA. By noon, we had been briefed, met Lt. Governor John Garamendi, attended a rigorous safety lecture, and received our orders for the rest of the day. We were to play whale songs to the whales! **Really.**

Two NOAA scientists joined us at the Coast Guard dock and we helped wire up their computers and an underwater acoustical speaker. They would play recordings of various whales making distress calls in the hopes of steering the whales downriver, under the Rio Vista Bridge, closer to the San Francisco Bay and eventual freedom.

Trust me when I say that this was not a normal speaker, this was a seventy-five pound plus stainless steel cage surrounding a speaker that the Rolling Stones would have been happy with at a concert. Deckhands Sturm and Tolin were in charge of deploying the speaker over the



Aquatic Specialist Alex Peabody and Four Rivers Superintendent Lee Sencenbaugh pose with Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi.

Whales

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Alex Peabody / Public Safety Division

Ranger Robert Tolin of Oceano Dunes State Vehiclular Recreation Area tracks one of the whales.

side and keeping close tabs on our scientists as I operated the patrol boat.

Within minutes of launching, we were at the center of the incident and in the eye of every news camera in the area. Delta and Dawn didn't seem impressed by us as they led us up and down the river. Instructed by scientists who were connected by cell phones to other scientists in Washington D.C., we carefully maneuvered up-current of the whales, cut the engines, deployed the speaker, played various songs to the whales and observed for behavioral changes. Meanwhile the satellite media trucks and hundreds of concerned citizens followed us along the levee while media helicopters flew overhead.

At times it seemed we were on the brink of success. Our distress calls of whales being attacked by orcas were having an effect! Twice the whales swam right to the Rio Vista Bridge, and our hopes would rise only to be dashed when they would submerge and sneak back upriver.

We called off the operation as darkness closed in, making safe whale tracking impossible. More than once we had "situationally unaware" boaters come speeding towards the whales and we

intervened to protect the whales from being struck again. Memorial Day weekend was just a few days away.

The next morning, the scientists decided to stop using the recordings. We were to track the whales. New scientists joined us with cameras to document the whale activity.

Despite concerns about the whales' health and lack of food in the fresh water, Delta and Dawn took us on a tour of the backwaters. At one point we were nearly 10 miles upriver of the bridge. By noon, we were joined by Sencenbaugh, who had been deployed to relieve me as operator. Sturm and I demobilized from the incident and returned home that afternoon while Sencenbaugh, Tolin, and Seasonal Lifeguard Michael Qualle continued on until Friday.

The following week, the whales decided they had made their point and headed downriver. They made rapid progress past the Mothball Fleet and into the San Francisco Bay. They were last seen swimming past Tiburon towards the Golden Gate Bridge and the open ocean.

For a moment, these two leviathans captured the public's attention, and focused it on the overall health of our whales and the ocean. It was certainly an experience I'll never forget.

Fast Response Meant Little Park Damage

By Sheryl A. Watson,
Information Officer

The morning of Friday, October 21, Public Safety Chief Randy Sederquist advised that there would be a fire watch in Southern California starting Sunday due to the arrival of Santa Ana Winds. He couldn't have known just how telling that warning was.

In the early morning on Sunday, a 50-acre fire was burning out of control through Malibu Canyon, racing on high winds toward Malibu Creek State Park.

By that night, the fire had grown to 2,500 acres, including 900 acres within the park. Park staff had evacuated visitors, removed all artifacts from the Adamson House and readied to do the same at Will Rogers State Historic Park, just 12 miles away, which they did the following day.

Before midnight, California found itself fighting 14 fires on more than 20,000 acres in seven Southern California counties. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger proclaimed a state of emergency for "conditions of extreme peril" in the counties of Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange.

For California State Parks, it meant continuing to mobilize to protect park visitors and resources, and assist other responding agencies where requested.

The department became part of the Unified Command on Canyon Fire in Malibu made up of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Fire Department, California Highway Patrol, Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles County Animal Control, and California State Parks.

The Department Operations Center activated at headquarters to coordinate mutual aid requests, as well as compile and share informa-



Gary Olson/San Diego Historic Sector

The museum at San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park stood strong against the flames, as they licked up the walls that were built to withstand high heat in an area known for its wildfires. It received only minor roof damage.

tion. The first order of business was to ensure all state park employees in the area had been contacted and accounted for.

Managers remained mindful that the fires were impacting communities where State Parks employees, their families, extended families, and friends reside.

Ultimately, the wildfire effort meant deploying 43 park employees from around the state to Southern California, closing 22 parks, canceling 1,500 camping reservations, and assisting more than 3,000 evacuees from elsewhere who spontaneously sought refuge in state parks.

Evacuees were met with open arms at no charge, with space made available not only in the campgrounds, but in day use area parking lots and wherever they could find room in pre-approved public areas. Even livestock were allowed, where practical.

By the time all of the fires were contained in early November, Southern California had suffered 23 wildfires that burned on 518,000 acres resulting in nine deaths, 139 injuries, and 2,180 destroyed homes.

By comparison, California State Parks had escaped with little damage, with the assistance of

Parks Protected Critical Communications

By Sheryl A. Watson,
Information Officer

As fire raged in San Diego County, it became clear that the very communications towers and vaults being utilized to dispatch resources in the area were themselves at risk.

“We came dangerously close to losing a critical component of our emergency response system,” said Randy Sederquist, Chief of the Public Safety Division. “It serves as a reminder of our vulnerabilities and where we may need to reprioritize.”

At Palomar Mountain State Park, Fire Management Specialist Gary Reece and GIS Analyst Don Solleder, a former CDF firefighter, had been clearing brush from park structures and applying foam fire retardant to the home of Supervising Park Ranger Jeff Lee, when the Poomacha Fire approached and forced them into their chosen escape route –Boucher Hill.

The 40-acre hilltop is encircled by a road that acts as a fire break. They knew if they could get there in time, they could burn out the brush on the hill, which would act as a buffer



Don Solleder/Colorado Desert District

A fire crew of two from State Parks light a back fire to protect critical telecommunications infrastructure and a historic fire lookout tower at Palomar Mountain State Park. Behind the fire, Fire Management Specialist Gary Reece prepares to exit his State Parks fire engine. The pickup holds 200 gallons of water.

between them and the fire. It would also protect the historic Boucher Lookout Tower and critical telecommunications infrastructure.

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Corral Fire

► FROM PAGE 1

State Park in a remote area off Corral Canyon road. Local residents have complained about after-hours parties, illegal fires, trash, noise and more. So it was no surprise to Schafer when the finger of blame and the spotlight of media attention turned to that popular gathering spot that was also Schafer’s worrisome trouble spot.

Schafer pointed out that over the past six months, in response to resident concerns for the Corral Canyon Road area in question, known as The Cave, his short staff of State Park

Rangers had increased their patrols to the area, increased the clearing of the after-hours people from the site, and increased the number of citations to those there illegally. And in fact, a ranger had patrolled that site just hours before the fire broke out, finding nothing at the site at that time.

Addressing these concerns has been difficult. The Malibu Sector alone is short seven of its authorized force of 15 rangers and supervising rangers.

Staffing challenges persist in most State Parks including Malibu Creek State Park, one of the most popular and most famous in all of Southern Califor-

nia. It is the place where countless movies have been filmed, as well as the popular television program “M.A.S.H.”

At a press conference during the Corral Fire, Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, pleaded with Governor Schwarznegger for more rangers to patrol the Santa Monica Mountains.

About his abilities to patrol such a wide territory, Schafer told a Los Angeles Daily News reporter, “With the number of vacancies, it’s very difficult to do that. There are some serious challenges in terms of funding.”

Towers

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Don Solleder/Colorado Desert District

State Parks fire crew Don Solleder and Gary Reece prepare to leave in their vehicles as wildfire overtakes the supervising rangers home at Palomar Mountain State Park. The structure, barely visible through the trees, is surrounded by fire on all sides, but survives unscathed protected by their gel.

The summit is home to a collection of telecommunications towers and vaults that enable rangers and lifeguards in San Diego, Imperial and Southern Riverside counties to radio the Southern Communications Center (SURCOM). Without the mobile relay and microwave systems, SURCOM would have no way of knowing what resources were needed or where to send them except by telephone. Rangers and lifeguards within close proximity would still communicate with each other by radio, but not with SURCOM or with others out of range.

The site also serves radio communications for six other agencies: the Department of Justice, CHP,

CDF, Caltrans, Department of Fish and Game; the Department of General Services and the California Mutual Aid Radio System (CMARS).

When they arrived, Reece said, he and Solleder were the only firefighters on scene. The wildfire had already reached the road, which was —so far—holding the fire at bay. They burned off the hilltop’s brush, as planned, and were later joined by the U.S. Forest Service that took shelter in that safety zone.

At one point, an ember caught on the wind and landed atop the lookout tower’s shake roof. The fire burned inside the building and began to consume the historic structure. The Forest Service does not go inside burning structures, so Solleder borrowed the forest service fire hose, climbed the narrow staircase to the third floor and put the fire out. That building is slated to become a state parks museum.

Ultimately, without fuel to reach the summit, the Poomacha Fire below bypassed the hilltop and the fire crews, historic lookout tower and telecommunications equipment were saved.

“The communications infrastructure on that hilltop is extremely expensive,” said Sederquist. “Even if funding were made available, it would have taken months to restore service.”

SoCal Fires

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some quick work, as well as fire retardant gel and foam placed on buildings.

San Pasqual Battelfield State Historic Park was the worst hit among state park properties. Fire consumed all 50 acres of the park, taking out the park’s water supply system, power and sewer. In its wake, it destroyed two modular trailers that were no longer being

used and a small maintenance building. Except for a partially burned roof, the museum remained intact, as did the San Diego Archaeology Center and a residence on the property. The park expects to reopen in the spring.

At Palomar Mountain State Park, fire burned 1,230 acres, which is 65 percent of the park. One house on the proper-

ty was coated in gel. When the fire came through, the house wouldn’t burn, but its detached garage that wasn’t gelled was completely destroyed. Gel also protected a second house and the ranger’s office. Maintenance crews continue work to restore water and power to the park. The park expects to reopen in the spring.

Biological Monitoring at Ocotillo Wells



Nancy Frost/Ocotillo Wells

Shovel-nosed snake on a glove.

By Eric Hollenbeck and Nancy Frost, Environmental Scientists

Every year, the Ocotillo Wells District Natural Resource staff completes a variety of biological monitoring surveys based on the 1997 Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division Habitat Monitoring System, which won the Mott Award for Innovation in 1998.

In the spring, we conduct vegetation surveys on 23 plots. We record each plant species in each canopy layer, and measure density of plants and vehicle tracks in the plot. We take photos for a permanent record of the habitats.

In the spring and fall, we conduct bird and reptile surveys. A total of 12 surveys are conducted. Using the point count method, we record the number of each bird species observed or heard. In the spring of 2007, 52 species were

counted.

For reptiles and amphibians we utilize the pitfall trap array method. Each array consists of four 5-gallon buckets from which radiate three one-foot high by 20-foot long drift fences. We set up one array on each of the 18 monitoring plots. We check each array for twelve mornings and all animals captured in the buckets are identified and released. In the last few years, we have caught flat-tailed horned lizards, desert iguanas, desert side-blotched lizards, long-tailed brush lizards, Colorado fringe-toed lizards, Great Basin whiptails, zebra-tailed lizards, sidewinders, leaf-nosed snakes and many differently patterned shovel-nosed snakes. Incidental captures often include rodents like round-tailed ground squirrels, pocket mice, shrews or deer mice; also invertebrates of many types, like scorpions, wind-scorpions (solpugids), spiders, cockroaches, silverfish, armored beetles, darkling beetles and numerous other beetle species.

In the summer, we set a remote camera for five days at a time at each of the major springs in our park. Species detected in past summers include desert coyotes, black-tailed jackrabbits, desert cottontails, kit foxes, and a badger.

In the late fall through early winter, we monitor the small mammal population



Kangaroo Rat

Nancy Frost

using live-traps baited with bird seed in the late afternoon and checked the following morning. Species commonly trapped include Merriam's kangaroo rats, desert kangaroo rats, round-tailed ground squirrels, white-tailed antelope squirrels, desert woodrats, white-throated woodrats, cactus mice, deer mice, desert pocket mice, and little pocket mice.

In 2006, we started an occupancy survey to monitor the flat-tailed horned lizard. Three-person teams survey about 100 randomly chosen two-hectare plots. Flat-tailed horned lizards feed almost exclusively on harvester ants, so we look for those too. Of the 105 occupancy plots surveyed in 2007, 26% were occupied by flat-tailed horned lizards.



Flat-tailed horned lizard

Eric Hollenbeck/Ocotillo Wells

Calaveras Big Trees Association Wins National Award

By Wendy Harrison,
Interpreter I, Calaveras Big
Trees State Park

Calaveras Big Trees State Park was established in 1931 to preserve and protect two groves of giant sequoias—the largest trees in the world. The 6,000-acre park hosts over 200,000 visitors per year. The Calaveras Big Trees Association (CBTA) was formed in 1974 by a small group of people whose goal was to help provide financial support for interpretive activities that would enable visitors to understand, appreciate, conserve, enjoy and explore the wonders of the park. Since then, the association has grown to more than 600 members and provided significant and sustained support for interpretive and educational programs. They have helped enhance five main areas: improvement of interpretive facilities, staff salaries, event sponsorships, educational materials, and volunteer programs. In addition,



Left to Right: David Bergum, Bruce Thomsen, Bunny Firebaugh, Steve Stocking, Charlotte Hunt, Betty Ann Prescott, Rich Szukalski, Anne Saunders, Dick Watson, and Dennis Pinion.

over the past decade, CBTA has raised \$500,000 towards a new interpretive center that finally is becoming reality. The park would not be able to provide the same level of high-quality service to its visitors without this tremendous support.

It was with this in mind that the staff of Calaveras Big Trees State Park submitted a nomination for “Excellence in Interpre-

tive Support” to the National Association for Interpretation. It was a confirmation of what we have known all along when we heard that CBTA won the award. The award was presented at the NAI National Workshop in Wichita, Kansas on November 8. This award is an honor, and we are very proud of CBTA and its contributions to Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

Brian Cahill Receives National Award



State Parks Interpreter Brian Cahill was presented with the Meritorious Service Award for 2007 by the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). The award honors NAI members who have given their time and expertise to further the association’s mission. It was presented at the NAI National Workshop.

Cahill served as NAI Professional Awards Chair from 2002 to 2005, where he streamlined many of the nomination procedures. He was responsible for communicating with the awards fabricator, soliciting nominations, assembling the committee and facilitating scoring. At the national

workshops, he ensured that awards, scripts, and recipients were at the right place at the right time.

“Brian handled all of these duties with a high level of professionalism and commitment,” said NAI President Evie Kirkwood.

In addition to his work with the awards program, Cahill also served as the National Workshop daily newsletter editor at least three times. Cahill has also served as Region 8’s newsletter editor for several years. He is a life member of NAI and a contributor to the Legacy Trust Fund.

For more information about NAI, please visit <http://www.interpnet.com/>

Border Field State Park Awarded for Landscape Architecture

By Sheryl A. Watson, Information Officer

Border Field State Park, also called the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, received the prestigious Orchid Award for landscape architecture from the San Diego Architectural Foundation in November.

To enhance the interpretive programs and the overall visitor experience, the park expanded visitor amenities with the expertise of designers and construction managers from the Southern Service Center, San Diego Coast District, and consultants, Safdie Rabines Architects. The park now has an upgraded visitor center, with the addition of a conference center, courtyard, shaded amphitheater, research labs and additional offices. Many “green” products were incorporated into the design, making the visitor center complex a model of sustainability.

“With these improvements, the park now has several wonderful outdoor spaces that will ensure that the Tijuana estuary, this once hidden jewel, will stand out and draw the public



Clay Phillips/San Diego South Sector

Between the visitor center and new training center, this outdoor courtyard was designed to serve a variety of uses, with space available for outdoor exhibits, meetings, registration tables for training courses and evening receptions, with room for live music.



Clay Phillips/San Diego South Sector

The upgraded visitor center overlooks the new amphitheater, where shade sails protect visitors from the sun. They were part of the award-winning \$1.3 million project. From there, visitors can enjoy the view of the 2,500-acre estuary, off photo to the right, that leads to the California-Mexico border.

eye,” said Barney Matsumoto, Manager of the Service Center and designer of the amphitheater. “This increase in awareness will allow the operating agencies to reach out to the public and raise the importance of this wonderful natural resource.”

The improvements were made with funds from State Park bonds and grants from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Association.

The interpretive part of the program will contribute to an improved understanding of estuarine processes and dynamics that will benefit the management of the Tijuana Estuary and coastal ecosystems along the southern California coast.

“Congratulations to all the people in Southern Service Center, Acquisition and Development Division and San Diego Coast District who contributed to this program’s success,” said Clay Phillips, South Sector Superintendent and manager of the Research Reserve. “It all looks great and is indeed helping us further the mission of California State Parks and the National Estuarine Research Reserve System by enhancing our education programs. You guys rock!”

Forever Resorts to Operate Lake Oroville Marina

LAKE OROVILLE - California State Parks announced on October 25 that Forever Resorts LLC has been awarded the new 30-year contract for the operation of the popular Lime Saddle Marina at Lake Oroville. As part of the contract, Forever Resorts, will be pumping \$3 million in improvements into the marina resort. Forever Resorts, a major resort company based in Scottsdale, Arizona, operates 70 vacation and recreational properties in the United States and 20 properties in Europe and Africa.

“Those who love the Lime Saddle area of Lake Oroville should be very pleased with this outcome,” said Robert Foster, Superintendent of the Northern Buttes District of California State Parks, which manages the recreational facilities at Lake Oroville. “This is a high quality company and we now look forward to sig-



State Parks Director Ruth Coleman and Forever Resorts President Rex Maughan sign a 30-year concession contract for the operation of the Lime Saddle Marina at Lake Oroville SRA. The company will continue existing services with the addition of houseboat rentals.

nificant improvements for this popular marina.”

Lake Oroville, located in Butte County about 75 miles north of Sacramento near the City of Oroville, is the largest State Water Project in Northern California, with more than 160 miles of shoreline. Lake Oroville Marina at Lime Saddle is located at the north end of the lake off State Highway 70 and Pentz Road. It receives heavy recreational usage from the residents of Northern Butte County, to include the communities of Chico, Oroville and Paradise.

Forever Resorts Executive Vice President John Schoppmann envisioned their new luxury houseboat rent-

als at Lake Oroville Marina to be “another wonderful feature to complement the range of facilities and services available at Lake Oroville State Park,” and added that it “will certainly enhance the overall experience visitors will enjoy at Lime Saddle, and will be a marvelous facility for Forever Resorts.”

At present, the Lake Oroville Marina at Lime Saddle encompasses approximately 250 areas, a 4-lane boat launch ramp, 205 car/trailer parking spaces, a floating marina complex and an array of marina services, including mooring rental for 200 boats, and other facilities. The new contract requires Forever Resorts to invest a minimum of \$3 million in the development and rehabilitation of the marina concession complex, including mooring for 350-500 boats, facilities for boating-related services and concession offices.



Robert Foster, Superintendent of the Northern Buttes District, State Parks Director Ruth Coleman and Forever Resorts President Rex Maughan enjoy a ride on a 53-foot luxury houseboat.



John Arnold's Mailbag

My husband and I are looking for a hike near Sacramento that would help prepare us for a hike in the Grand Canyon. Specifically, we would like a hike that has at least 1,000 feet of elevation change - more would be even better, but that is near south Sacramento. Can you recommend anything for us? Thanks!!

I have heard that the movie Surfer Dude starring Matthew McConaughey is being filmed at this location. We are trying to plan a vacation out that way and since I am a huge fan of his, thought it would be cool to see some of his movie being filmed. Can you help me find out any information on exact filming locations and dates & times? Are any of these filming sessions open sets or all of them closed to the public? Thank you in your help in this matter.

We were fortunate enough to visit your Will Rogers State Historic Park on July 26. We took the ranch house tour and were delighted to have such a wonderful tour guide. Our guide Ganero was very personable and knowledgeable about Will Rogers and his ranch. He was humorous and genuinely friendly. So much in fact that we have decided to return for a future visit. We hope to have him again. Also, your

park ranger at the front gate was very courteous and helpful. Your staff should be commended. Please thank them for a wonderful visit.

I was involved in the incident over the weekend where two quarter midget race cars were stolen from a locked trailer attached to a motorhome in the park. I was the off-duty Stockton Police Officer that assisted in this incident. We are a close group at the park and value our relationship with the park.

I want to acknowledge and pass my thanks to an outstanding member of your law enforcement division, Lieutenant Tony Guzman. Earlier that evening Lt. Guzman had stopped by and spoke with us and offered his phone number if he was needed. Unfortunately he was called by the family who was victimized in this incident in the early morning hours. Myself and another off-duty police officer had located the thieves, engaged in an exchange of gunfire and a high speed pursuit that began in the park. As you know the suspects eventually stopped in a remote area that we were not familiar with. We were faced with armed thieves and the first assistance to arrive was Lt. Tony Guzman. He was a welcome sight in the tense situation. He was an absolute asset, professional and fellow officer. He had no hesitation in assisting us until the additional

officers arrived much later. If Lt. Tony Guzman had not arrived when he did, things could have definitely turned out differently. After the incident his professionalism and concern for us, our families and the American Quarter Midget Club were beyond reproach.

We can now all have a piece of mind that while enjoying Prairie City OHV and our Quarter Midget Track as families will be able to rest easy. I am sure these two dangerous thieves would have continued to terrorize families and your state park.

Again, please pass on my personal thanks to Lt. Tony Guzman and his officers for their commitment to us and the actions that they took on that night. It was a long night for all with a very happy ending.

I wish to express my thanks for the outstanding staff you have at Lake Oroville. We just finished a six night stay on one of your floating campsites. We've been using the floating campsites for years.

As before I have found your staff always friendly and helpful. This trip was no exception. We had the feeling that we were staying in a resort run by people who genuinely cared, rather than just another government agency operation. I wish to point out an example.

Mailbag

►FROM PAGE 17

This year we found some swallows had made a nest in our floating campsite. We were out on our boat for the first few days when your crew arrived for the daily maintenance, so I didn't get to mention it. Then on Tuesday one of your workers stopped by in his boat (the "honey bucket" boat). I showed him the pile of bird droppings on the floor. He said he didn't have a broom on his boat but he knew another worker would stop by later and did have a broom.

20 minutes later the same worker returned. He had obtained a broom. He said he didn't want us to have to wait for the other worker. The mess was cleaned. He left the broom with us so I could keep the floor clean for each of the remaining days. So we got to watch the baby swallows get bigger and closer to that first flight without having to constantly watch our step. This simple act of consideration by one of your workers made our trip much more enjoyable.

When our son graduated from Cal Poly the keynote speaker told the graduates not to look for what people are doing wrong, but to look for what people are doing right and then try to get others to do the same. It is in that spirit that I write this letter of appreciation for the efforts of those who make Lake Oroville such a pleasant place to visit.

You list the address as 7806 Folsom-Auburn, but your map shows a facility south of Lake Natoma. You show Greenback Lane as connecting with Riley Street, and being south of the River, even though both of those things are impossible. HOW DO I GET TO THE FOLSOM POWERHOUSE????????????? I've been to Folsom dozens of times, and have never been able to find it. All going down Riley does is get you back over the river again.

WHERE IS A REAL MAP WITH LEGITIMATE STREET NAMES AND REAL DIRECTIONS THAT WON'T GET A PERSON DROWNED OR IN AN ACCIDENT????????????? WHERE IS A REAL MAP THAT WILL LOAD ON A DIGITAL CONNECTION IN LESS THAN FORTY-FIVE MINUTES <<<NOT AN EXAGGERATION.

I am writing to express my appreciation for the trails you maintain for equestrians. I am a 14-year-old girl and am a member of both the Redwoods Pony Club based in Novato and Novato Junior Horsemen. I have the opportunity to go on trail rides located in Olompali State Park. The trails are so scenic and in wonderful condition.

The trails are great for riders of all ages. I have been riding on these trails just beginning in January of this year, often going out in a group with our trainer. I have also been out with other experienced riders, and have seen people of all ages using these wonderful trails. I wanted to thank you for three things: for designing the trails so well, for maintaining them so well, and for

letting people ride on them. We all love the beauty of the trails over hills and through the trees, and a big favorite is the one where you can get all the way to the top and see a gorgeous view of Novato.

Thank you again for the wonderful horse trails of Olompali State Park and Mt. Burdell.

On October 6th 2007, I was provided with a tour guidance service in the California State Capitol Museum. I appreciated with your terrific service very much.

At that day, this was my first time to visit the California State Capitol Museum. Before coming there, I have no idea about what it looks like. My friends and I arrived there around 2:30 p.m. Then we entered this museum building. Suddenly one of your employees came to us and invited us to join the tour guidance. Then we followed her. During the tour trip, she showed us around the Assembly Gallery, Senate Gallery and the former governor's office. I was so excited about entering into Assembly Gallery and Senate Gallery because she told us that visitors cannot be allowed on their own at the usual time. Moreover, the tour guide gave us detailed information and active stories. Through the tour guidance, I not only know more about the California State Capitol but also developed the interest to know the history of California State. It was a meaningful and valuable trip that I have seldom had before.

Too many “Tules” at Tule Elk State Reserve

By Bill Moffat,
Supervising Ranger,
Tehachapi District

Over the last ten years the tule elk population of the Tule Elk State Reserve has been slowly climbing; in the last three years it spiked. The carrying capacity for the reserve was established at thirty-two elk, but during a drought this number is greatly reduced. Last spring, the population reached forty eight. Too many “tules!” The reserve, established in 1931 in order to protect the then near-extinct native tule elk, has one of the few fenced-in herds, thus creating unique management concerns for State Parks.

Planning the capture and relocation started two years ago when the population was at thirty-two elk. The last relocation program was in 1997. Due to range conditions and the need to have elk in top condition to relocate, an extensive



Scott Moffat

Tule Elk State Reserve is one of few fenced-in reserves.

feeding program was started in January. State Parks teamed up with the Department of Fish and Game, which would do the relocation to existing free ranging herds. Our environmental scientists, Joanne Karlton and Carrie Bemis, worked logistics and capture dates. In preparation for the event, I attended Department of Fish and Game animal restraint and darting classes.

The darting class was held at Tule Elk State Reserve in May, and involved the capture of the first five males. A July darting-capture brought the total up to eight males that were all relocated to Chimineas Ranch, a DFG property west of the Carrizo

Plain National Monument. A capture pen for the cows and calves was constructed with the help of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Volunteers, who also were of great assistance at all the captures. In mid-September, a mixed group of twenty-six cows and calves was captured and relocated. Half went to the Chimineas Ranch and half went to Grizzly Island Wildlife Area in Solano County. The capture was documented by a PBS station from Sacramento and photographed by Scott Moffat.

The Tule Elk State Reserve is back to an elk population that is within its carrying capacity, and will continue to be a unique educational opportunity for the people of California.



Scott Moffat

These adult elk were raised at Tule Elk State Reserve.

Silverwood Lake SRA Hosts Annual Camporee

By Terry L. Gerson, Office of Community Involvement

The day started early for California State Parks Office of Community Involvement staff, Silverwood Lake SRA staff, California Police Activities League (PAL) personnel, and a full compliment of volunteers from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Apple Valley Posse. All were there for one reason: the 10th annual Camporee at Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area held September 7-9.

Every year, children arrive from inner city areas throughout Southern California for sun, fun, and plenty of outdoor recreational activities. The Camporee is truly a special event for these kids.

"For many of them, they will be camping for the first time in their lives. Not only that, many of them will be fishing, kayaking, even hiking for the first time," said Dolores Mejia from the Office of Community Involvement.

There was plenty of work to be done to coordinate and implement the plans made

months in advance. Early in the week park staff moved equipment trailers and prepared the Cleghorn Day Use area for excited campers. A semi-truck trailer brought in a mobile kitchen and refrigerated storage units to store and cook more than 700 meals over three days for the 100 children and 50 chaperones. Friday morning, California State Parks and California PAL split up into two teams. One team met in Hesperia to purchase the massive amount of food. Another team worked furiously to get the camp ready, struggling against Silverwood's gusty afternoon winds.

"The support and can-do attitude of the Silverwood staff and volunteers is what makes this event a success," said Superintendent Michael DeBoer of the Office of Community Involvement.

The participants arrived at dusk to be welcomed by a

wonderful dinner prepared and served by Russ Meure and his volunteer team from the Apple Valley Posse.

"We try to get everyone settled down early the first

night because Saturday is a big day for the kids" said Supervising Ranger Russ Kimura.

And a big day it was as the kids rotated through the activities that included volleyball, kayaking, fishing, hiking, swimming, and a boat tour of Silverwood Lake. After dinner Saturday night, the children from each PAL performed a skit to demonstrate what their particular PAL organization and community means to them. Then everyone settled in for an outdoor movie under the stars complete with popcorn and drinks before collapsing in sleeping bags that night.

"A good time was had by all and we look forward to next year's Camporee" said Steve Schory, Silverwood Park Ranger.



This young man is hoping to land a striped bass.

Michael DeBoer/Office of Community Involvement/



Michael DeBoer/Comm. Involvement

Participants enjoyed a boat ride.

Appointments & Promotions



Kris Lannin Liang, Deputy Director, Public Affairs

Kris Lannin Liang, 43, of Sacramento, was appointed to the new position of deputy director public affairs in October. In this position, she develops relationships with constituency groups in order to enhance external relations, and performs special assignments as needed.

In her previous position, Kris served as senior executive assistant to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger beginning with the transition in November 2003. She was his executive assistant at Oak Productions, a movie production company prior to the special election. From 2002 to 2003, she was director of operations for entertainment management company, The Firm, and held the same position at Artist Management Group from 2000 to 2002. Kris is a California native, married to a nice guy, Michael, and is obsessed with her four cats and two rescue dogs. She is almost always covered in cat hair.

Blaine Lamb, Chief, Archaeology, History and Museums Division



Blaine Lamb was appointed Chief of the Archaeology, History and Museums Division.

Lamb holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of San Diego and a doctorate in history from Arizona State University. He has spent seven years at the California State Railroad Museum. In addition, he served 13 years at the California State Archives.

Prior to his state service, Lamb worked for the Urban Studies program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and was the staff archivist for former U.S. House of Representatives Minority Leader John Rhodes of Arizona. He brings to his new position an extensive background in museum work, a record of successful management of large programs and a solid scholarly reputation in the history of California and the West.

Accounting Administrator Specialist

Modesta Leong
Administration/Fiscal
8/31/2007

Administrative Assistant I

Gayle Burnett
Acquisition & Development
8/20/2007

Administrative Officer II

Lynn Anderson
Santa Cruz District
8/31/2007



Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Antoinette Pettit
Acquisition & Development
9/1/2007

Emelie Suber
Administration: Workers' Comp
8/31/2007

Ulf Ekeroth
Administration: Workers' Comp
8/10/2007

Associate State Archaeologist

Scott Green
Planning Division
9/17/2007

Communications Supervisor

Susan Ferry
Central Communications Center
7/6/2007

Management Services Technician

Jill Danel
Capital District
10/1/2007

Carlita Roberts
Northern Buttes District
7/2/2007



Promotions,

►From Page 21

Museum Curator I

Corrine Mendoza-Sanchez
Monterey District/Asilomar
8/31/2007

Office Technician

Leslie Bellah
Colorado Desert District
8/31/2007

Candace Martinez
Inland Empire District
8/13/2007

Malia Neves
San Luis Obispo Dist./Museum
9/9/2007

Park Maintenance Chief I

Ronald Hansen
Sierra District
7/16/2007

Augustine Ceballos
Santa Cruz District/Pajaro
Coast
8/1/2007

Brian Oliver
OHV District/Ocotillo Wells
8/1/2007

Robert Rice
OHV District/Hollister Hills
8/1/2007

Park Maintenance Chief II

Russell Citlau
Russian River District
7/31/2007

Park Maintenance Chief III

Brian Bashore
San Diego District/Historic
8/1/2007

Jason Duke
Colorado Desert District
9/1/2007

Thomas Kidder
Acquisition & Development
8/31/2007

Steven Moses
Sierra District
8/1/2007

Park Maintenance Worker I

Anthony Galvez
Sierra District
8/31/2007

Kerry Hunsinger
Colorado Desert District
10/1/2007

Janet Tafoya
Marin District
8/1/2007

Skilled Laborer

Alfonso Cornejo
Sierra District
7/2/2007

Mark Ernst
Sierra District
7/2/2007

Silver Hartman
Sierra District
7/2/2007

Nathan Sasha
Sierra District
7/2/2007

Tari Vanderostyne
Sierra District
7/2/2007

Superintendent I

Mark Hada
Capital District/History and
Railroad
7/16/2007

Anthony Hoffman
Angeles District
8/1/2007

Jonelle McKie
Angeles District/Los Angeles
8/1/2007

Superintendent II

Jeffrey Gaffney
OHV District/Hollister Hills
8/31/2007

Brian Ketterer
San Diego District/North
8/31/2007

John P. Russo
San Luis Obispo Coast District
9/6/2007

Supervising Ranger

Kevin Best
Santa Cruz District/Pajaro
Coast
7/1/2007

Gary Hughey
OHV District/Carnegie
8/31/2007

William Moffat
Tehachapi District/Fort Tejon
8/31/2007

Stuart Organo
Monterey District/Gavilan
7/1/2007

Jason Smith
Northern Buttes District/Lake
Oroville
9/1/2007

Water and Sewage Plant Supervisor

Jimmie Coffman
North Coast Redwoods District
8/1/2007

Curtis Griffin
Russian River District
8/31/2007

Parks Welcomes Newest Canine Team

by Jeanne Sisson,
Ranger and K9 Handler,
Folsom Lake SRA

The State Parks Canine Program wishes to welcome our newest team, State Park Peace Officer Daniel Kenney and his canine partner Kilo. Kenney & Kilo completed the 160-hour canine patrol class, graduating on August 3rd, and are assigned to Santa Cruz District North.

There are currently 11 State Park canine teams certified and in service. The primary function of the canines is to act as a deterrent during patrol and enforcement contacts, although some of the Hearst Castle canines have the specialized function of bomb detection duties as well. The canines are also trained in tracking, an exercise in which the dog follows the scent trail left by a fleeing suspect, or a lost visitor. The canines and their handlers are active in many public relation and education functions, such as school



Peace Officer Daniel Kenny and Kilo.

programs, recruitment appearances, career fairs, and other similar events. All of the canines are expected to interact in a friendly manner with law abiding visitors, and with co-workers.

The canines (all German Shepherds) and training are provided by Witmer Tyson Imports located in Menlo Park. Potential police dogs,

mostly from Germany and Czechoslovakia, are evaluated and imported to the United States. New handlers are paired up with a young dog and then enrolled in a minimum of four weeks of training followed by a POST evaluation before the team can be certified to patrol. State Parks canine handlers are further evaluated during an additional rigorous department qualification requiring superior control of the dog. Canine teams must pass both qualifications annually to continue to patrol together.

Being a canine handler is both rewarding and very demanding, requiring a great deal of commitment 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Daniel Kenney has demonstrated the dedication and skills necessary to get through the selection process and the rigorous training. Congratulations, Daniel, and welcome to the State Parks Canine Program!

“State Parks Gets It”



Superintendent Sean Woods, Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) founder Bruce Saito, Los Angeles Councilman Ed Reyes and Maintenance Chief Andre Jones plant a tree during LACC’s Environmental Fair on October 18. Councilman Ed Reyes addressed State Parks’ role in LACC’s conservation vision by stating “State Parks gets it.”

Photo and information provided by Ahrigus Julliard, Los Angeles Sector

OHP Awards,

►FROM PAGE 1

Point Cabrillo Lightkeepers Association & California State Parks

Rehabilitation of Lightkeepers' Residences.

The Light Station was constructed in 1909 and acquired by Parks in 2002, which contracted with the Lightkeepers Association to manage the property for public use. The project is recognized as a prime example of a successful public/private partnership.



Milford Wayne Donaldson, State Historic Preservation Officer; Alice Carey, architect, Carey & Co.; Bill Hole, consultant, College of the Redwoods; James Kimbrell, Executive Director, Pt. Cabrillo Lightkeepers Association; Ruth Coleman, Director

California State Parks

Crystal Cove State Park: Rehabilitation of Historic District Cottages, Phase I
The 22 beach cottages at the park were built in the 1920s and 1930s by private parties who leased land from the Irvine Company. The Company restricted leases and improvements in 1940, so the community was frozen in pre-1940 time when Parks acquired it. The restored cottages are a huge success both historically and financially; they have enjoyed a 99% occupancy rate since the work was completed.



Milford Wayne Donaldson; Jim Newland, Project Manager; Ron Birkhead, Construction Manager; Richard Rozelle, Orange Coast District Superintendent; Laura Davick, President, Crystal Cove Alliance; Stephen Lehman, Deputy Director, Acquisition and Development; Ruth Coleman; Tony Perez, Chief, Southern Division.

California State Parks and Leland Stanford Mansion Foundation

Leland Stanford Mansion Restoration. A National Historic Landmark, this spectacular \$22 million rehabilitation was accomplished by a public-private partnership for use as a house museum and international protocol center for the Governor and California Legislature.

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See <http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/pages/1054/files/2007GovAwards.pdf> for descriptions of all winning projects



Kenneth Reyman, Contractor; Jay Correia, Project Historian; J. Gordon Turnbull, Project Architect, Page & Turnbull Architects; Paul L'Esperance, Carson & Dunlop Design; Maria Baranowski, Project Architect; Susan Peters, President, Leland Stanford Mansion Foundation; Wayne Donaldson; Ruth Coleman.