

# NEWS & VIEWS

The Employee Newsletter of California State Parks for Over Six Decades



Spring 2011

## State Park Commission Approves Plan for Martial Cottle State Recreation Area



San Jose - Members of the State Park and Recreation Commission, the Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation and the public gather at Martial Cottle State Park for a tour of the property and to hear a briefing on the highlights of the State Parks' General Plan and Santa Clara County Master Park Plan for the facility. The two plans are combined documents that came from a collaborative process between the State and Santa Clara County for the future development and use of the property. The property has a number of old and majestic Valley Oak trees like the one in this picture.

For now, residents around this future park probably see it merely as that large swath of fenced-in open space in their neighborhood. However, it is easy to predict that in the midst of this massive urban area—all concrete and asphalt, densely packed with houses and apartments—this place is headed toward a beloved future.

There will be hiking and running trails, picnicking, explorations in creeks and wetlands, green meadows, the historic farm site, and a farmers market ripe with fruits and vegetables from the park itself.

On Tuesday, March 1, the State Park and Recreation Commission, along with repre-

►Martial Cottle, Page 4

## State Parks Receives “Bright Idea” Award from Harvard



HARVARD Kennedy School

**ASH CENTER**

for Democratic Governance and Innovation

The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, selected the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Reforestation project for its newly created Bright Ideas program. In its inaugural year, Bright Ideas is designed to recognize and share creative government initiatives around the country with interested public sector, nonprofit, and academic communities. The project for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park in San Diego County is the first carbon sequestration project to get certified for credits on public lands. The project was officially accepted by the Climate Action Reserve, the organization which verifies such efforts.

►Award, Page 10



## Director Ruth Coleman Park Prescriptions

Our nation's park systems face an unprecedented fiscal crisis. We are all painfully aware of how that crisis includes California's State Parks. Last year, in response to this national challenge, the National Association of State Park Directors (NASPD) launched a [website](#) to highlight America's State Parks and promote the importance of these treasured landscapes. (You can also find the link to this site at the bottom of our [homepage](#).) This site announces several initiatives that promote support for parks including a new partnership with Outdoor Nation.

Outdoor Nation is a youth movement started last year in Central Park which will be sponsoring events across the country this year. Thousands of youth will be attending these regional events and focusing on the plight of America's State Parks. These youth recognize and understand the importance of these resources and accept that they have a responsibility to preserve them.

The [website](#) also includes a clip of a speech by Congressman Lewis expressing the importance of parks to our democratic principles and to our communities. (The clip starts slowly as he thanks many people, but, after a little more than a minute (1:11) it picks up.

During his speech, Congressman Lewis

mentions the fact that parks help improve our health. The notion that our system of public lands promotes the nation's health received a big boost last month during a symposium organized by the National Park Service called [Healthy Parks/Healthy People](#). It built upon a movement started in Australia 10 years ago drawing the connection between parks and health. Our nation's health care costs continue to skyrocket and the bulk of the costs fall into the category of chronic diseases, all of which are greatly reduced when people get adequate exercise. Today, some doctors are beginning to prescribe time in parks for their patients: they call them "park prescriptions". If more doctors start to see this connection, and more Californians see their parks as a place for staying healthy, then our parks will no longer be viewed as "amenities"; instead they will become vital elements of a healthy lifestyle. We know our parks are vital for the mind, body and spirit of all Californians. It is rewarding to hear people in the health profession echo that sentiment.

I realize that the uncertainty of the budget and its impact on our employees and the future of our park system grates on everyone's nerves. What gives me hope is to see efforts from a broad array of citizens demonstrating their support for parks and their increased awareness of the importance of parks to our well being. The stronger the public support, the greater the likelihood of our ability to continue our 150 year tradition protecting our state parks.

# Museum Collections on the Web: Happy Anniversary!

By Linda Walton, Museum Curator I, Archaeology, History and Museums Division

What do Howard A. Edwards, Mrs. Mae Helene Bacon Boggs and William Randolph Hearst have in common? All were avid collectors of art and artifacts from California and throughout the world and they all contributed their collections to California State Parks.

Although many of these collections and others are on public display throughout our parks, we can now provide a wider selection of our collections to the global web community.

This past year we have highlighted special collections ranging from archaeological and natural history specimens, to art objects, documents, ethnographic materials, photographs, historic artifacts and vehicles, just to name a few.

Every quarter we feature four new collections with themes chosen to complement special park events, exhibitions and seasonal activities. The Spring

2011 highlights will include: Works Project Administration (WPA) Botanical Illustrations, Hearst Castle Greek Vessels, Fruit Crate Art, and American Indian Gorgets.

Data for all of the items shown on our Museum Collections website are drawn from a statewide museum collections management system called The Museum System (TMS). Currently, we have over 34,000 object records on line and we have seen a 50% increase in visitor usage.

It is a team effort to maintain and manage this site, Oscar Vasquez and Krishna Maddirala of Information Technology, Social Media issues with Lindsay Oxford in Communications, Museum Services—Linda Walton, Winnie Yeung, and Paulette Hennem—and many of our statewide Museum Collection Managers.

Take a few minutes and peruse the site by going to <http://www.museumcollections.parks.ca.gov> or by clicking on the Museum

Collections icon at the bottom of the Parks homepage. We look forward to hearing from you. For further information or suggestions, please contact Linda Walton at [lwalton@parks.ca.gov](mailto:lwalton@parks.ca.gov), or Winnie Yeung at [wyeun@parks.ca.gov](mailto:wyeun@parks.ca.gov).



This painting by Christian August Jørgensen titled Mission La Purísima Concepción is on display at Sonoma SHP.



This piece by Charles Miller is of a California Acorn Woodpecker from a WPA project at Mt. Diablo.



These transfer printed ceramics can be found at the Cooper-Molera and Diaz Adobes at Monterey State Historic Park.



Take a look through time at different winter activities in state parks, such as snowshoeing.



# Martial Cottle SRA

►FROM PAGE 1



San Jose - This picture shows the buildings that make up the core of the farm that remains on the property. Farming operations began in 1850, but since 1864 were carried out by the Cottle and Lester families—more than 150 years. The buildings include a Victorian style farmhouse, a barn, tool shed, machinery garages and produce storage structures. For now they remain a part of the Life Estate section of the park, but eventually these buildings will be open for interpretation and education programs.

representatives from Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department and members of the public, went on a tour of the 256-acre farm site that is one of the few remaining examples of the Santa Clara Valley's rich agricultural heritage that still exists in what is now an almost entirely urbanized area.

How could such a place, surrounded by tens of thousands of homes, apartment buildings and businesses, have remained as open space under what must have been intense pressure? The residents who will love this park in the future have Walter Cottle Lester, now 85, and his mother, to thank for their hard fought effort to preserve it.

Walter carried out his mother's wishes to find a way to fulfill her life-long dream of preventing development and keeping this land as open space. Walter held fast, as more than 60,000 acres of the surrounding valley farmland

---

**Considering that the property could have sold for half a billion dollars... that translates to a major donation of the property for park use.**

---

was lost to development.

Walter Cottle Lester did not want the City of San Jose to own it because he feared the City would eventually sell it off for development. He wanted the County of Santa Clara and

the State to own the property together, to serve as a check against one another to keep it an open space.

The property was acquired in 2003, when Santa Clara County paid only closing costs for their 120 acres and State Parks paid just \$5 million for their 136 acres. Considering that the property could have sold for half a billion dollars as a development property, that translates to a major donation of the property for park use.

On March 2, the State Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously approved the combined State Park General Plan and the County Park Master Plan and certified the Final

►Continued on next page



Environmental Impact Report for the park.

It is classified as a State Recreation Area to allow for maximum flexibility in developing a variety of visitor use facilities and to continue agricultural uses on the property that are consistent with the donor's vision. It will have four management zones, to allow for such things as a visitor center, interpretive facilities, picnic areas, trails, a seasonal wetlands, production agricultural areas, farmer's market, produce stand, farm café, community gardens and more. California State Parks will participate with the county

in developing, implementing and administering interpretive programs and facilities at the park. Santa Clara County will be the lead agency for operations of the park. Next, the County will begin Phase 1 capital improvements with the \$20 million set aside by the County Department of Parks and Recreation. This phase will focus on necessary improvements to allow for public access and limited recreational activities as well as the basic infrastructure and facilities to enable farming operations to be initiated. The park is scheduled to open in 2013.

As we move toward public

access, think about what has been preserved with this park. It is a remnant of a place once known as the "Valley of the Heart's Delight," from the era when the Santa Clara Valley was lush with orchards and canneries and many other crops.

In the midst of that, the Cottle property has been continuously farmed by the Cottle and Lester families for nearly 150 years, from 1864 to the present. Its open space and farming heritage will continue and the public will be invited in to share what will surely become a beloved bit of parkland like no other in California.



San Jose - On the tour of the property, the group stopped at a bridge across Canoas Creek, which will be changed from a ditch back to a natural, flowing creek and seasonal wetland area that will provide for increased wildlife in the area and the opportunity for interpretation and education programs for school groups and others.



# Management Practices Group Gets Inspiration

By Pam Armas,  
Superintendent, OHMVR  
Division, Headquarters

Management Practices Group 23 had the pleasure of having acclaimed paraplegic climber Mark Wellman speak at Marconi Conference center for the department's mid-manager class. Despite being paralyzed in a mountain

climbing accident, Mark has inspired millions to meet their problems head-on and reach for their full potential. A two-time Paralympian and former Yosemite Park Ranger, Mark's NO LIMITS philosophy encourages individuals to adventure toward new horizons; to go beyond the unreachable.

Mark was faced with seemingly insurmountable obstacles, but with a cache of courage and determination he fulfilled his passion for the outdoors. He shares his story in the autobiography "Climbing Back."

An accomplished wheelchair athlete, Mark is best known

for the first historic paraplegic ascents of the sheer granite faces of El Capitan and Half Dome, in Yosemite National Park.

Mark inspired the mid-managers of the department by illustrating that through the toughest of times people can overcome obstacles and barriers both personally and professionally.

Being a lover of parks, Mark understands the issues that our department faces. Most importantly, Mark demonstrated by showing us how he lives his life, that leadership is about determination and tenacity. Mark says that everyone faces the world with different abilities and disabilities. But everyone has at least one goal in common...to break through their own barriers.



Members of the Management Practices Group 23 pose for a group photo with motivational speaker Mark Wellman.

## Governor Brown Holds Reception at State Railroad Museum

On Sunday, January 2, the new Governor's advance team descended upon the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento and outlined what they needed. It was a long list, but the folks under Cathy Taylor, Paul Hammond and Lyman Gray grabbed their parts of the list and it was like watching a steam locomotive gather speed to get the job done.

For the staff at the museum and those who volunteer or were grabbed to help, it was an exercise in "Not a problem, we can do this." They helped move locomotives and passenger cars, hung large signs, adjusted lights, set up tables and chairs, outlined places for the Farmer's Market and other vendors, set aside places for the press, printed out parking passes, added decorations, provided security and sweeps of the building with rangers and "Thor" the K-9 officer, and much more.

"It was a huge amount of work," said Cathy Taylor, Superintendent of the Capital District, "but our people were actually pretty stoked about the new Governor picking our place as his place to celebrate and they went all-out to make it work. I cannot say enough good things about what I



The California State Railroad Museum was packed full with people, vendors, and staff.

►Continued on next page

saw from our staff in the hours leading up to the celebration. They were awesome!”

The celebration was on Monday, January 3, and lasted from 4 to 7 p.m. When Governor Brown arrived, his first words were “Where’s that Farmers Market I have been hearing about?”

That was his first stop and it is clear he liked what he saw and heard from some of the more than 40 vendors who eagerly showed up, at their own expense, to show off their products and produce for the new Governor.

The theme for the Farmer’s Market was centered on California-grown products.

From all across California, the catering company Ovations and Whole Foods Markets orchestrated a lineup of cheeses, vegetables of all kinds, coffee, wines, chocolate, tri-tip and other meats, olive oil, certified organic products, flowers and more.

In addition, a number of restaurants put their finest



State Parks staff members take a group photo.

Photo by Cole Vyens



Governor Brown and First Lady Anne Gust Brown worked their way through the crowd.

Photo by Cole Vyens

menu items all around the room, filling the room with delicious smells of all kinds.

If you looked around the room and caught the faces of the State Parks’ people who worked hard, you saw nothing but smiles and pride in being able to make-it-happen for the new Governor Jerry

Brown and his wife, Anne Gust Brown.

But here’s the secret: this was not the first time that the museum folks have worked to orchestrate a high-level event for a California Governor.

Governors going back through Arnold Schwarzenegger, Gray Davis, Pete Wilson, George Deukmejian and Jerry Brown, when he was elected the first time, have all picked the museum as a favorite spot for celebratory events.

Stay tuned, this won’t be the last time the Museum is used for an event like

this, since it provides a backdrop that makes a party lots more fun everywhere you turn!

## News & Views

Spring 2011  
Ruth Coleman  
Director

### Communications Office

- Roy Stearns, Deputy Director
- Lindsay Oxford, Editor
- Chris Burgess, Assistant Editor
- Carol Cullens, Proofreader\*

*\*Interpretation and Education Division*

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

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

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

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

We accept articles on a rolling basis.



# Little Basin Becomes Model for New Acquisitions

The Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) and the Sempervirens Fund recently announced that State Parks has agreed to accept the 535-acre Little Basin property to add to adjacent Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

In transferring Little Basin to State Parks, POST and Sempervirens have set aside funding for a land stewardship fund to ensure that Little Basin is well maintained and cared for into the future. The two nonprofit land trusts have jointly owned and managed Little Basin since 2007, when they acquired the property in the heart of the Santa Cruz Mountains from the Hewlett-Packard Company (HP).

Little Basin includes open meadows and redwood forests, hiking trails, and a variety of group campsites. It also has a commercial kitchen, play room, restrooms, showers, a baseball field, and a basketball court. HP had owned and managed the land as a private outdoor recreation and corporate retreat site for its employees since 1963.

When the time came for HP to sell Little Basin, they sought out POST and Sempervirens in the hope that the property's scenic beauty and impressive recreation infrastructure could one day be permanently protected and opened to the public.

“We knew Little Basin is an incredible natural and recreational resource that would be ideal as public parkland,”

said POST President Audrey Rust. “With the transfer of Little Basin to State Parks, our original goals of resource protection and public access are accomplished.”

Along with this property transfer, Sempervirens and POST are also transferring a

concessions agreement they have established with United Camps Conferences and Retreats (UCCR) to State Parks to run Little Basin until 2017. UCCR is a nonprofit organization based in Petaluma that specializes in running outdoor camping.



The facilities at Little Basin were originally used as a corporate retreat for Hewlett-Packard employees. Little Basin's facilities will be run by the nonprofit group United Camps Conferences and Retreats under a concessions agreement scheduled to last through 2017.





# Chino Hills State Park Campground Utilizes Google Maps Function

By Kelly Elliot, Superintendent II, Inland Empire District, Chino Sector

I write this article in hopes of inspiring “technically challenged” parks employees like myself to follow their dreams, even when they have no idea how to!

It started with a goal—to advertise the campground in Chino Hills State Park. This hidden gem is a 6-year old “new” campground that was not being used to its full potential. Since the campsites are not on ReserveAmerica, they don’t get much internet exposure.

So, I set out to achieve the impossible: create a campground map on the Chino Hills SP webpage.

All I knew is that I wanted visitors to click on an icon on a map that would show them a photo of what was there. I thought, “Such a beautiful campground needs to be shared! Everyone must see this place!” I sent a hopeful request to the webmaster to see if they could help me achieve the impossible. I pitched my idea through an email, and sent it. And waited...

After a while, I sent another email to the webmaster, just in case they forgot about me. When “webmaster” Oscar

Vazquez responded, I couldn’t believe what I read. He said he had been researching the possibility of such a map since my first email, and wanted to make sure he had an answer before responding.

After a few emails and an online tutorial, (I still don’t know how he did that) WE created a map just like I had envisioned. Now, all the world can see what lies within Chino Hills State Park just by clicking on a little tent icon. Amazing... Thanks Oscar!

The moral of the story is: The impossible is possible with the help of our trusty webmasters. It’s a great example of how when we all work together, amazing things can happen. Even if you don’t have the slightest idea of how!

I hope this inspires all the “technically challenged” parks staff, who have dreams for improving the connection between parks and internet users. You can do it! (With a little help from the webmaster, of course)

Check out our map at [http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page\\_id=26514](http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=26514) or go to the Chino Hills SP webpage and click on Campground Map in the far right column.



Chino Hills State Park Campground Google Map.



A satellite view of the campground in Google Maps.



Visitors can click the tent icons for a closeup of their chosen campsite.

# Award Given By John F. Kennedy School of Government

►FROM PAGE 1



Large portions of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park were left scorched and virtually barren.

With \$2.8 million from ConocoPhillips Company and a fund-raising campaign by Coca-Cola and Stater Brothers Markets of Southern California, the project will result in the planting of more than one million seedlings in phases over the next ten years. This will result in the sequestering of 500,000 tons of carbon or more over the next 100 years.

“For over 20 years, we have been honoring the country’s most creative public sector initiatives through our Innovations in American Government Awards Program,” said Anthony Saich, director of the Ash Center.

“The creation of Bright Ideas was a natural next

step to shed light on an even greater number of noteworthy programs and practices across our nation and to encourage practitioners to make these ideas work in their own backyards.”

“We are honored to receive this award,” said Ruth Coleman, director of California State Parks. “By doing this first project on public lands, we are showing that California continues to lead the way in reducing global warming.”

In 2003, the forests within Cuyamaca were almost completely destroyed by a Cedar Fire which burned more than 24,000 acres, over 95% of the park. The fire did such extreme damage that most of

the burned-over area has remained devoid of the original conifers with little natural regeneration observed. Forest experts concluded that without help, this forest would not regenerate.

From the start of the first phase of the Cuyamaca reforestation in January 2008, Cal Fire, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, has been a key partner.

There were also other partners who helped make this a perfect match for a public-private partnership. Stater Bros. Supermarkets, Coca-Cola, and California State Parks announced a “Reforest

►Continued on next page



California” campaign in 2008 to raise much-needed funds for reforestation and fire prevention in State parks hit hard by wildfires. The campaign’s goal was to add one million native trees.

With the slogan “Join the Million Tree Challenge,” the campaign challenged consumers and private businesses to participate and raise money towards the goal of creating 1,800 acres of newly planted trees—an area more than twice the size of Lake Arrowhead.

Californians eagerly embraced the challenge and the Coca-Cola and Stater Brothers campaign raised over \$1.8 million in cash and in-kind contributions.

But there is more. The reforestation project got an even larger boost, made possible by American Forests, the nation’s oldest nonprofit citizens’ conservation organization. Through a settlement agreement the Conoco-Phillips Company agreed to pay \$2.8 million to American Forests in return for the carbon sequestration offsets necessary for the construction of a new oil refinery in the Bay Area.

Bright Ideas seeks to complement the longstanding Innovations in American Government Awards Program by providing government agencies with



This 2008 photo is from the “Reforest California” event in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. From left: Jack H. Brown, chairman and CEO of Stater Bros. Markets; Del Waters, former Director CAL Fire; Terrence Fitch, vice president and general manager, the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Southern California; Mike Chrisman, former California Secretary of Natural Resources; Director Ruth Coleman; and Mike Wells, former District Superintendent for Colorado Desert District.

a collection of new solutions that can be considered and adopted today.

This new program serves to recognize promising government programs and partnerships that government officials, public servants, and others might find useful. This year’s cohort of Bright

Ideas was chosen by a team of expert evaluators including

academics, practitioners, and former public servants.

Selected from a pool of nearly 600 applicants, 2010’s Bright Ideas address a range of pressing issues, including poverty reduction, environmental conservation, and emergency management.

The inaugural group of Bright Ideas will serve as a cornerstone of a new online community where innovative ideas are proposed, shared, and disseminated.

# CalPIA Prisoners Work on Needed Repairs at State Parks

Recently, California State Parks and the California Prison Authority (PIA) came together to solve a problem that's been growing for years in State Parks: an overwhelming maintenance backlog.

A lack of funding, time, and resources have been the biggest challenges; however, recently PIA stepped up to help at Negro Bar in Folsom Lake State Recreation Area.

A dilapidated front gate building was remodeled and made to look new. All of which was done by hard working inmates trying to better their lives by learning and honing technical real-world skills.

"They're all in need of some sprucing up, fixing up, repainting and bringing up to standards, so the need here was pretty great. For the PIA to offer up this labor for us to get work done that we otherwise wouldn't be able to get done, it's fabulous," said Folsom Lake State Recreation Area Sector Superintendent Ted Jackson.



A Department of Corrections Officer oversees the work of two CalPIA workers.

PIA was created in 1982 with the intent of providing manufacturing, agricultural, and service enterprises with inmate-based work under the direction of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Through this, inmates are able to learn vital jobs skills that they can utilize once they are released.

The services that PIA provides are for government entities only, and not for private enterprises. An added bonus is that PIA is a self-sufficient entity and does not receive an annual appropriation from the state budget.

The selection process for inmates is very

competitive, and to even be considered for the program inmates must not have any current disciplinary actions against them.

There is a reason for this competitiveness, however. The program boasts a very high success rate; 90% of those who go through CalPIA and who got released from prison never commit a crime again.

These specific inmates for the Folsom Lake project were from Sacramento California state prison; however there are 22 total State Prisons that participate in other such projects.

For about a week, a handful of these Sacramento-based prisoners worked on the entrance kiosk, and remodeled and removed graffiti at Granite Bay at Folsom Lake, and at Cal Expo.



A CalPIA worker frames a window at the front entry kiosk.



# Update: Archaeological Excavations in Los Angeles State Historic Park

By Michael Sampson, Associate State Archaeologist, Southern Service Center

Archaeologists from the Southern Service Center, under the direction of the present writer, completed archaeological excavations in Los Angeles State Historic Park in summer 2008, spring and fall 2009, and spring 2010.

The relatively new park represents the former site of the 19th-century Southern Pacific rail yard, maintenance shops, and depot known as River Station. River Station served as the rail hub for all of

Southern California from 1875 to 1904, so it played a pivotal role in the significant population and economic growth of the region at that time. No buildings were left standing after 1904, but the building foundations, utility lines, and artifacts from the 19th century remain on-site for discovery, study, and public education.

Archaeological excavations in 2008 successfully found evidence of the turntable, the turntable center, part of the Roundhouse, and a portion of the Machine Shop.

Our findings prompted an on-site news conference by Director Coleman attended by LA news outlets.

In 2009, the investigations focused upon the Car Shop, where train cars were built and repaired, as well as on defining the extent of an expertly formed

stone pavement located next to the River Station freight warehouse.

The Car Shop was a beautifully designed building with substantial brick wall foundations and flooring. The most recent excavations in 2010 have exposed portions of four brick repair pits within the River Station Roundhouse, as well as a part of its exterior wall. Southern Pacific's steam engines would have driven on top of these repair pits while being serviced.

The current archaeological excavations will provide considerable information about 19th-century maintenance practices in the Roundhouse and architectural details. Interpretive panels at the dig site tell park visitors about our project.

The Los Angeles SHP blog also keeps viewers up-to-date whenever we are excavating. Visit the blog at <http://lashp.wordpress.com/>.



An exterior wall foundation of the Car Shop is seen in the foreground. Brendon Greenaway is excavating at the corner of the building in the foreground, while Barbara Tejada and Monica Aleman are excavating in the background and Dale Skinner is operating the backhoe.



Mike (Bucky) Buxton making a sketch of the substantial wood foundation for the 19th-century turntable. Photo taken August 2008.



The brick foundation of a repair pit inside the 19th-century Roundhouse, with Mary Garrett, Katie Brown, and Joelle Morgan busily uncovering another repair pit in the background. Photo was taken June 2010.



# News & Views Mailbag

I was interested in finding a State Park that has Amplified Sound Permits for the night time, and has a river/creek running near/through it. If it's close to the [SF] Bay Area even better. If I need to pay for the permits, or rent extra spaces in the campsite; that's fine. =)

---

We recently did some hiking on the Matt Davis and Dipsea trails. Is it safe to drink water from the streams and creeks in those areas? There was lots of water and some rain while we were there. I got poison oak without ever touching it to my knowledge. I wonder if touching wet leaves and branches might have had some of the resins or oils from poison oak (or maybe sumac?) that dripped or ran onto them. This also make me wonder about the safety of drinking water, but I've heard that moving water is often safe to drink. Thanks for any information - we are urban folks with little camping experience.

---

This note is sent in recognition of the good service received from Park Ranger Steve Bier. Last year we met him in the Fish Creek watershed and he took the time to give us detailed instructions on where we wanted to go. Again today, near Clark Dry Lake, Mr. Bier was very helpful and friendly. He provided very good instructions on where I wanted to go, kindly answered all of my ques-

tions, was very professional in his manner, and friendly as well. He is certainly a credit to the Anza-Borrego State Park team. Thanks.

---

To Whom it May Concern:  
Is it possible to hold a two-day Muggle Quidditch sporting tournament on the polo field at Will Rogers Historic State Park? Thank you so much for your time.

---

I would like to include State Parks in my Will and Trust. I am planning on seeing my attorney in a week. Can you tell me how to do this? I love our parks and want to continue helping in any way I can. Thank You.

---

The new artwork at Chaw Se is absolutely beautiful. We live here in Pine Grove and are thrilled with this new addition to our park. Thank you to all who made this happen. One of the loveliest thing we have seen in a very long while.

---

You guys are clearly on the ball out there, no matter the state of your budget.

---

Dear Jedediah Smith Redwoods Campground Ranger, I am five years old and I stayed in your campground last summer on our family trip to San Francisco. We all really liked it, especially the huge trees, the beach, and even the cool store. My Dad and I went to the nature talk one night, and I wanted to let you know how

I felt about that. The talk was about cougars, and it was really interesting. My Dad was there when he was five, and maybe I'll have a little boy and take him, too, when he's five.

---

We stopped for two nights at Red Rock Canyon. As a retired law enforcement officer I was impressed with the young Ranger. (He) was personable and helpful and mindful of what was happening in the park. I also noticed he was doing manual labor digging post holes and working on an area to be used to display a tortoise. Certainly nothing I did during my career!

---

What a rare treat to be able to experience one of the few days of snow up on Mt. Tamalpais. We are so lucky to have this resource so close by! And to be able to warm by the fire at West Point Inn on the descent was critical - very wet and cold coming down!

---

Bill our guide at Hearst Castle was stellar. We travel frequently and world-wide. I am at a loss to remember a more dynamic, professional, knowledgeable guide. Pure entertainment, and by the way, a great spokesperson for what your park system is doing to maintain this great American landmark!



# Hangtown Motocross Returns to Prairie City

The largest motocross race of the season is just around the corner. The 43rd Annual Rockstar Energy Hangtown Motocross Classic will be opening on Saturday, May 21 at Prairie City State Vehicle Recreation Area, off Highway 50 near Folsom.

The world's top motocross riders will be competing in the opening round of the 12-race Lucas Oil AMA Pro Motocross Championship Series.

In past years, more than 25,000-plus spectators have lined the raceway, generating more than \$6 million for the local economy. Tickets are available at the box office or online at [hangtownmx.com](http://hangtownmx.com) or call 1-800-Hangtown.

For information on the riders, visit [amaproracing.com](http://amaproracing.com) and [mxnationals.com](http://mxnationals.com).



This May 2004 photo shows a packed crowd for a race at Hangtown.

## For Denise Murphy On Her Retirement From State Parks February, 2011

Lady Denise

She went from the Region to  
the Beach,  
And was happy in each,  
She served with dedication  
and pride.

Tho' often strong willed,  
And she could be a pill,  
Never her commitment did  
slide.

She mentored and coached,  
She gave of her time,  
Allowing others to shine and  
to grow,

Personnel, Budgets, Contracts  
and whatnots,  
Lady Denise was always in the  
know.

She gave loyalty and hope to  
Roggenbuck and Tope, Shafer,  
Rozzelle and Ken Kramer.  
Also to Clark she provided a  
spark,  
And, not one of 'em able to  
tame her.

She's touched all our lives as a  
colleague and friend  
As no one else has tried,  
Her legacy left, as one of the  
best,  
Displaying loyalty and pride.

She'll leave not yet for she'll  
support our cadets,  
Therefore, not all contact is  
lost.

I'll know we'll all say we  
can't wait for the day,  
When once again our paths  
will cross.

Denise-Wishing you every  
happiness in retirement!  
From your State Parks' Family.

*Poem by Ronilee Clark, Chief  
Southern Division*

# Lake Perris Regional Indian Museum Renewed



Top to Bottom: This “before” view of the visitor’s center shows a building in need of repair; the “after” view shows the new roof and ADA compliant doors.

## **Ellen Absher, State Park Interpreter II, Inland Empire District, Perris Sector**

An architectural marvel sits on a rocky hillside with a commanding view of hills and homes, and Lake Perris State Recreation Area. Eight-foot-tall windows look down the roadway atop Perris Dam, to the east is majestic San Jacinto Peak, the highest point in the California State Park system.

The concrete and wood structure was built in 1974 as a visitor center for the Department of Water Resources. After 10 years of DWR use, a great transformation occurred. It was taken over by the Department of

Parks and Recreation and the life of the first Regional Indian Museum began.

Today the museum focus is of the culture and history of southern California native peoples of the desert region.

But twenty-five years of winter winds and rain (yes, it does rain in southern CA, occasionally), blasts of summer heat and the rumbling and shaking of earthquakes took their toll on the “hillside house.”

Windows leaked in the slightest rain shower, the AC-cooled air sneaked out not-so-air-tight doors while lizards and snakes crept in, and the roof was peeling back in layers. The time had come. Some District

funds and projects were set aside in order to provide enough deferred maintenance funds to “renew” the Regional Indian Museum.

So, as an old year ends and we enter a new year, the museum will enter with an uplifted spirit—and a new roof, new floor-to-ceiling windows, and new automatically opening doors (YEAH! FINALLY!).

As you can see from the before and after pictures, what an amazing renewal.

The building is still an architectural wonder, looking refreshed and contemporary. We invite you to drop by for the view, with a guided museum tour if you wish.