

NEWS & VIEWS

An Award-Winning Publication of California State Parks



Summer 2008

Seaside Atmosphere Returning to Historic Pier

Grand Opening for Malibu Pier™

One of the most historic landmarks on the southern coast of California, the Malibu Pier™, held a Grand Opening Celebration on Sunday, June 29.

California State Parks and Malibu Pier™ Partners have put the finishing touches on the new businesses at this historic landmark, a move that is now bringing back the seaside restaurants, shops, and activities to this legendary hot-spot. With the opening of the Beachcomber Café and the Malibu Pier™ Club, the Pier will once again take its place as a classic visitor destination and gateway to the City of Malibu.

“This is exactly the kind

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Snip, Snip: In this crowd, nothing but smiles as the scissors in the hand of State Parks Director Ruth Coleman made the Grand Opening official. With Coleman, beginning second from left: Jefferson Wagner, owner of Zuma Jay Surf Shop, concession partner and Malibu City Council member; Zev Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles County Supervisor; Doug Cavanaugh, behind Yaroslavsky, CEO and Chairman of Ruby's Restaurant Group; Coleman; Andy Stern, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Malibu; Alex Leff, Malibu Pier™ Partners; and, Pamela Conley Ulich, Mayor of Malibu.

Native American Baskets Recovered

By Mark Jorgensen
Superintendent
Anza-Borrego Sector

On June 13, Anza-Borrego sector Superintendent Mark Jorgensen and District Interpretive Coordinator Gail Sevrens attended an FBI Press Conference in Palm Springs to accept back into DPR custody five Cahuilla Indian baskets and one Luiseno Indian basket that had been stolen from the Cabazon

Indian Museum in Indio, CA. The baskets had been loaned to Cabazon by State Parks back in 2002 and were stolen in 2005.

The bad guy was caught through informants and is serving 41 months in Federal Prison. The FBI recovered seven baskets and seven pottery vessels with an estimated value of \$150,000. One of the recovered

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Gail Sevrens, and Mark Jorgensen with some of the recovered baskets.

Director Ruth Coleman

Recently, I spent a day working in a state park. Everyone on our State Parks executive team spends one day a year in the summer season working in a park. I spent my day at the entrance station at Doheny State Beach. It was a great reality check. For starters, I was struck by the wide range of tasks we expect a park aide to complete at a very fast speed. While those of us working in Sacramento deal with lots of multi-tasking with tight deadlines, usually the party demanding a product of us is a phone call away in a different building. In the entrance station, they are staring right at you! I observed our staff making constant judgment calls. I guess I always assumed we had policies for everything, but in reality, the public is too complicated. For example, do you let the couple in for free who say they want just 10 minutes to check out the (full) campground for future use? Or do you insult them by charging them?

I was fortunate to land in an entrance station with two people who had an incredible sense of customer service they brought from their former jobs. Les and Sandy were such self-starters that they were painting the interior of the station when things got slow. As the face of State Parks to our visitors, these folks made us look great!

I only worked a few hours and most of that time I was completely in the way and utterly useless. I felt particularly dumb when it came to filling out those tiny pieces of paper we use



to allow someone to park an extra car in a campsite.

I had a great chance to talk to the maintenance staff and park rangers and interpretive staff and the administrative staff of the park and learn of the wonderful things they are doing...and the challenges they face as they struggle to keep our parks looking great on a shoestring budget. I am so grateful to the Governor for reinstating our budget so we can keep our parks open, but I saw firsthand what a challenge we face with our current budget.

There are so many things I'd like to change: bigger entrance stations with safe electric wiring, credit card capability, and fixing that Visitor Center! What I would not want to change is the spirit and work ethic of all the staff I met that day in Doheny.



Another example of an extraordinary park employee is our Chief Deputy Paul Romero who left us this June 30th. Paul is retiring after 32 years of public service. It has been such an honor to work with Paul. He has provided me with wonderful counsel and has made a huge impact behind the scenes keeping things moving up here in Sacramento. I will miss him very much and our department will lose a tremendous resource.

New Officers, and New State Park Commissioners

The State Park and Recreation Commission, meeting in Fort Bragg on May 16, elected a new Chair and Vice Chair. One week later, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the appointment of two new commissioners.

Caryl Hart from Sebastopol was unanimously elected to the post of Chair of the Commission. Sophia Scherman was unanimously elected to the position of Vice Chair.

Caryl Hart joined the Commission in March 2000. This is her second time serving as Chair, having served previously during 2003/2004. She is an attorney who divides her time amongst a variety of environmental concerns and her position as vice president of 360

Degree Productions, an entertainment and music production company. She is also a PhD candidate at UC Berkeley, where she is writing her dissertation on California State Parks and Climate Change. Hart is a founding member of LandPaths, an environmental land trust. She has served as Chair of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Advisory Committee and a member of the Sonoma County Outdoor Recreation Plan Citizens Advisory Committee.

Sophia Scherman was appointed to the Commission in February



Director Ruth Coleman with Sophia Scherman (left) and Caryl Hart on May 16. Hart was appointed Commission Chair and Scherman was appointed Commission Vice-Chair.

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The Official Name is: Point Cabrillo Light Station State Historic Park

Meeting at the Town Hall in Fort Bragg on June 16, the California State Park and Recreation Commission voted 5-0 to officially set the name and the classification for the State Parks' Point Cabrillo property.

The name chosen is: Point Cabrillo Light Station; and the classification is: State Historic Park; the two terms joined together, as in the headline of this story, make up the full name for the park property.

"Our Commission toured this amazingly authentic light station and we heard from those



Point Cabrillo Light Station State Historic Park

who have poured their hearts into the renovation and operation of this wonderful place," said Caryl Hart, chairwoman of the commission. "When it came time to vote, our choice was clear and we were delighted to choose a name that draws special attention to this historic site."

"But in addition," added Hart, "we also felt strongly about acknowledging the Native American presence and we directed our staff to begin working to designate a section within the site as a Cultural Preserve."

Under California State Parks guidelines, the purpose of a cultural preserve is to protect such features as sites, buildings, or zones, which represent significant places or events in the flow of human experiences in California.

The Light Station is comprised of the lighthouse, three original lightkeepers' houses, outbuildings, new visitor center and a museum. Those involved in the restoration state that no other light station has as many near-original buildings that remain today in such near-original condition.

Commission

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2004. She has been an Elk Grove City Council member since 2000; she served as that city's first woman mayor. She is Vice Chair of the Sacramento Employment Training Governing Board, is a member of the Sacramento County Regional Sanitation Board, has been Vice Chair of the Transportation, Public Works & Communications Policy Committee of the California League of Cities, a Commissioner of the Sacramento Local Agency Formation Board and a Cosumnes River College Foundation Board member. Commissioner Scherman has also served as president of the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce and is a board member of WEAVE (Women Escaping a Violent

Environment).

On May 23, Governor Schwarzenegger announced the appointment of two new commissioners, Lindy DeKoven of Los Angeles and Alice Huffman of Sacramento, to fill two of the three vacant positions on the nine member commission.

DeKoven has served as president of DeKoven Entertainment, a television production company, since 2002. From 1993 to 2000, DeKoven was executive vice president of NBC Entertainment and, from 1991 to 1993, was vice president of Warner Brothers Television. Since 2006, she has been a member of the Commission on the Status of Women, where she currently serves as chair. DeKoven is also

a member of the Board of the California Governor and First Lady's Conference on Women.

Huffman funded A.C. Public Affairs in 1988, specializing in public and grass roots advocacy, where she has served as president and chief executive officer since 2004. From 1984 to 1995, she was president of the Black American Political Association of California. From 1982 to 1994, she served as the associate executive director for politics for the California Teachers Association. Prior to that, she served under Governor Jerry Brown's administration as director of the Office of Economic Opportunity from 1980 to 1982 and as chief deputy director of the State Parks and Recreation Department from 1975 to 1980.

Malibu

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of public-private partnership that Governor Schwarzenegger is encouraging," said State Parks' Director Ruth Coleman. "State Parks and private business both get a return on their investment through a partnership that provides for visitor and tourism services."

The Malibu Pier™ has been one of California's legendary seaside visitor destinations for both local residents and people from around the world. It is an historic landmark, once home to the famous Alice's Restaurant, now remodeled into The Beachcomber Café. This Southern California icon is in an area that has been called the Riviera of America, and the reopened Pier promises to be a main attraction to the area, a profit-making venture for private business and a funding mechanism for California State Parks.

In 2007, Malibu Pier™ Partners entered into an agreement with the Malibu Restaurant

Group, an affiliate of The Ruby Restaurant Group, for food service at the Malibu Pier™ including two restaurants and a bar. The Malibu Restaurant Group began construction last year, adding the final touches in recent weeks to the Malibu Pier™ Club, a classic seaside bar serving good drinks and good times and the Beachcomber Café, a 1940's style American dinner house, serving fine food in a casual atmosphere.

Other services already open on the Pier include sport fishing boat excursions, private charter boats, and pier fishing. A casual cafe serving hamburgers and other casual beach fare, Shake Shack by Ruby's, will open at the end of the Pier later this year, with the renovation of these locations now underway. Also opening at the end of the Pier later this year will be a retail gift shop offering everything one needs for a fun day on the beach.

Marine Education Center Dedicated at Año Nuevo State Reserve

Public/Private Partnership is New Brand of Philanthropy

“This is about the kids in the back and the elephant seals. This is about the connection to our coast and we need to start that connection with our kids.” Those words from Steve Blank came just before he and others participated in a symbolic “kelp cutting,” to open the new Marine Education Center.

Steve Blank is a key reason why the new Marine Education Center at Año Nuevo was dedicated on June 2, 2008, years ahead of the dream timeline. Blank is a retired Silicon Valley entrepreneur who stepped forward and made a philanthropic donation of \$500,000 to partner with other public and private funding sources to push the project into high gear.

Others who also deserve special thanks include the California State Parks Foundation, the State Coastal Conservancy, the San Mateo Coast Natural History Association, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, and many others. Combined, these public and private groups and individuals raised the \$3.3 million that it took to transform the historic barns and farmhouse, dating back to the 1880s, into a state-of-the-art, high-tech, education and interpretive center, and a classroom with high-definition TV cameras. Included in this amount is \$1.5 million from California State Parks, provided from state park bond funds,

“This marine education center



Courtesy California State Parks Foundation

San Mateo Coast: Instead of the traditional ribbon cutting ceremony, it was a kelp cutting ceremony to officially open the new Marine Education Center at Año Nuevo State Reserve. Those participating, left to right: Elizabeth Goldstein, President of the California State Parks Foundation; Chet Bardo, Superintendent of the San Mateo Coast Sector; Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer of the California Coastal Conservancy; Ruth Coleman, California State Parks’ Director; Steve Blank, California Coastal Commission member, neighbor to the park and donor; and Gary Strachan, Supervising Ranger for the Reserve.

is a wonderful example of how public and private entities can work together to build something for the benefit of all Californians,” said Ruth Coleman, director of California State Parks.

The new education center will be the focal point for tracking and studying the migration habits of the elephant seals. The Reserve is home to one of the largest mainland breeding colonies of northern elephant seals in the world.

“I can’t wait to see the faces of the tens of thousands of school children who visit this park annually when they get their hands on these exhibits for the very first time,” said Park Ranger

Gary Strachan. “This new technology showcases one of California’s greatest natural treasures.”

The California State Parks Foundation served as the entity that orchestrated and coordinated the fund raising effort. Elizabeth Goldstein, President of the Foundation, told the San Jose Mercury News, “It really is an important breakthrough for us. It’s the first and most significant contribution from Silicon Valley entrepreneurs for a state parks project on the coast. We’re hopeful this will intrigue others.”

Information Technology Program Goes Green!



Director Ruth Coleman installs a new “green” server blade under the watchful eye of I.T.’s Phil Usrey

By Alan Friedman
Chief Information Officer
Information Technology

We gain incredible productivity benefits from our Department’s Information Technology infrastructure, but we currently have almost one-hundred servers in our Department’s computer room which consume nearly 40 kilowatts of electricity on a continuous basis. In addition, the heat generated by the large concentration of servers in our Resources Building computer room requires a dedicated air conditioning system to keep the room at a steady 68° F.

Recently Director Ruth Coleman took a tour of our DPR computer room to welcome the addition of new server technology that will help us reduce the carbon footprint of our I.T. infra-

structure. Our network services staff recently installed a state-of-the-art Hewlett Packard c3000 modular blade server. Our new HP server actually consists of six separate server cards (or blades) that are installed within a single enclosure. Because the six server blades share the same chassis and power supplies, they consume significantly less power than they would as six separate servers.

The HP BladeSystem also features a number of additional innovative features, including a newly architected airflow design along with thermal sensors to monitor internal temperature at multiple different points within the server. The BladeSystem automatically adjusts and shifts power loads and cooling volume based on changing demands of the Server’s workload. These individual elements work together to conserve power and to dissipate heat with less waste.

Even more important, however, is that the fact that our new HP BladeServer will also enable I.T. to implement another new server technology called “Virtualization.” The new server blades installed in our HP BladeSystem server have such powerful Intel microprocessors in them that each

server card is now capable of doing the processing work of five to fifteen of the older servers in our computer room. This new “Virtualization” technology will allow our network services staff to divide one physical server card into multiple isolated and completely independent “virtual” servers. A single HP BladeServer, therefore, will literally be able to replace dozens of the older servers we currently have in our computer room.

Next time you use an I.T. service like our public web site, our intranet, or an application like GIS, citrix, TMS, CAMP, or our new Fiscal Tracking application, you too will be benefitting from our use of new green technologies in our computer room...Happy computing!

Dedication In The Desert Saves Hiker

News and Views is pleased to present this email regarding the outcome of a successful search and rescue at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, a place where summertime temperatures are just plain dangerous and a wrong turn might be your last turn. We say "hats off" to the folks Mark talks about in his email and we wanted to share it with all of you. Day-after-day, though good times and bad, these are the kinds of people who keep the system up and running and the public glad that you are all there and always helpful.



Sent: Thu Jun 19 04:56:04 2008
Subject: RE: Major Search in Borrego

Tony, Lynn and Ted:
To follow up, the 28 yr. woman was located by rangers and the SDSO helicopter (ASTREA) a few minutes before 7pm last night. She stood up when

the helicopter came over. Rangers Theriault and Wittig were tracking from different directions and closing in on the woman when the helo was summoned to the fresh tracks. The woman had taken a wrong turn on her hike to Villager Peak---she never made it to the first main ridge--she went up Rattlesnake Canyon, then back-tracked down the canyon missing the way back to the car. She ended up hiking down hill toward Clark Dry Lake, then got all turned around and began hiking back to the car in the hills. The rangers (eight of them, including Kelly McCague in the aircraft) did a fantastic job of tracking, remaining safe in the 115+ heat, and using the team approach. ICS was employed and of course, worked. Two SDSO deputies were at the scene, the Sheriff's helicopter worked for three hours at low altitude and made the discovery and airlift. We had Borrego Fire ambulance standing by on scene and they did the eval. with ultimately

giving her IV's for an hour and then releasing her on her own AMA. We also had Mercy Air medivac helicopter standing by at Borrego Airport in case. The woman is deaf, so her initial alert was by text messaging her mother in Sonoma County. The victim's cell battery went dead before we could get any good details on location or condition. I was dreading the phone call I thought I might have to make to her mother, but in the end it was good news. I am so proud of our troops and their skills!!! I drove out to the staging area for a debrief and gave our thanks to everyone and let them know how proud we are of them. They did a tremendous job of coordination, tracking, and persistent searching. Several were hiking in the 115+ for three to four hours. A good news ending!! Have a good day all.
Mark Jorgensen
Superintendent, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Baskets

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baskets is owned by the Agua Caliente Band and the other six are owned by CA State Parks. One basket and two pots remain missing but the case is open and the search continues. The pottery is owned by a private party from La Quinta and was returned to her today.

We had a well attended Press

Conference at FBI HQ. In attendance from the press was the LA Times, Desert Sun (Palm Springs), Press-Enterprise (Riverside), KTLA TV Los Angeles, Channels 2 and 3 and 6 from Palm Springs, and Univision.

We brought the six baskets back to the District's Begole Archeological Research Center for

safe keeping. We put the baskets in the freezer to kill any bugs that might have contaminated them prior to putting them into our secured curation area. They are locked up with a security system.

Adapted from Tracks, the newsletter of the Colorado Desert District.

Renz Acquisition Officially Opens

By Daphne Greene
Deputy Director
Off Highway Motor Vehicle
Recreation Division

On May 3, bolt cutters in hand, Deputy Director Daphne Greene, along with department staff and volunteers, cut the “ribbon” (actually the chain!) to open 26 miles of off-highway vehicle trails on the Renz acquisition at Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area. The occasion marked the completion of a 19-year effort to build a trail system that uses state of the art design principles to provide a world-class recreational opportunity, while at the same time upholding the highest standards of environmental sensitivity and protection

The trails wind through the steep canyons of the Gabilan Mountains into remote areas where the public has never before been able to ride. Visitors on motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles can ride through canyon bottoms filled with ancient oak trees, or follow the technically challenging trails to the heights, where they are afforded panoramic views of the



Left to Right: OHMVR Deputy Director Daphne Greene; Dan Dundy, Former Superintendent, Hollister Hills District; Jared Ashton, Park and Recreation Specialist, Hollister Hills District; OHMVR Chief Phil Jenkins; and Jeff Gaffney, Superintendent, Hollister Hills District.

Cienega and Hollister Valleys, and the distant Pacheco Pass in the Diablo Range. At the base of the trail system, a picnic area next to an historic windmill offers a place to visit with family and friends.

The ranch roads originally found on the property had straight, gradual grades with water bars that gathered water into culverts. This focused the erosive energy in the water and led to soil loss and a need for frequent maintenance. Designing new rails for the Renz was the first opportunity the

OHMVR Division has had to create a system of OHV trails on a “blank slate” where no previous OHV activity or trails existed. In order to reduce erosion, the new trails are laid out us-

ing the principle of “hydrologic invisibility,” providing frequent breaks in grade to allow a more natural “sheet flow” of water and disperse its erosive energy.

The trails were also designed to provide an interesting riding experience. The trails are technically challenging, and riders must pay careful attention to throttle control, braking, and gear selection. This fun and engaging trail experience means riders are far less likely to go off-trail in search of other challenges.

Feedback from park visitors who have had the opportunity to ride the new trails has been very positive. Many comment that these are the best trails in the park, and some say they are the best they have ever ridden. The great success of the new trail system demonstrates how environmentally responsible management and design can also provide world-class recreational opportunities.



Riders enjoy the new network of one-way trails at Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area. The trails are constructed to be fun and challenging while protecting the environment and being sensitive to neighbors.

Large Outreach Campaign at Hangtown's 40th Anniversary



Prairie City State Vehicle Recreation Area: What does a crowd of nearly 30,000 people look like? Here's a picture of one small section of the crowd that had great fun at what is now the largest outdoor sporting event in all of Sacramento County.

By Daphne Green
Deputy Director
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

May 31 & June 1- Under clear blue skies and temperatures in the high 70's, 27,000 people attended the 40th Hangtown Motocross Classic at Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA). The opportunity to promote California State Parks' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) program couldn't have been better. This event annually brings the best motocross racers in America to Prairie SVRA, located near Folsom, California.

Conveying the importance of responsible recreation and environmental responsibility is a primary goal for the OHMVR Division. This event - the largest outdoor sporting event in Sacramento County - provides a prime opportunity for the OHMVR Division's outreach team to interact with race goers and answer questions regarding recent changes in Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) registration fees, threats to OHV recreation opportunities around the state, and understanding

of the laws governing such things as safe vehicle operation and limitations on exhaust noise.

Free event posters featuring riders James "Bubba" Stewart and last year's champion Ricky Carmichael flew off the shelves like hot cakes as crowds meandered along vendor row. Children were given countless temporary tattoos and stickers to keep them occupied. Hangtown is a great opportunity for the Division to interact with a broad cross section of the OHV community, to assess their understanding and knowledge of OHV issues statewide, and to learn where it needs to adapt and improve its education and outreach programs.

Looking forward to another outreach opportunity, the OHMVR trailer will be at the Beach Play Day event on July 23rd at Huntington State Beach. In collaboration with the CalPALs program, the outreach team will be providing ATV riding opportunities to youth participants in an effort to educate the next generation of riders in safe and responsible OHV recreation.

Allensworth Exhibit: 100 Years of the California Dream Portrayed in Historic Exhibits Traveling Across California



Courtesy of the office of Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas

Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair, California Legislative Black Caucus and Susan Anderson, Allensworth Exhibit Curator

The centennial celebration of Allensworth State Historic Park, one of the first towns founded, financed and governed by African Americans, was kicked off with the unveiling of a historic exhibit in the State Capitol Museum rooms in February. Since then, the traveling exhibit has been traveling the State. It was recently displayed at the San Bernardino County Governmental Center and is now located at the California African American Museum, 600 State Street, Los Angeles.

The 22-panel exhibit, "Allensworth: 100 Years of the California Dream," was commis-

sioned by the California African American Museum (CAAM) in Los Angeles. The exhibit is co-sponsored by California State Parks, CAAM, and the California Legislative Black Caucus.

The town of Allensworth, located in Tulare County, was a visionary settlement established and operated by African Americans in 1908. It was founded by Colonel Allen Allensworth, Professor William Payne and three other enterprising African American men, and developed as a showplace for civic engagement, culture and ideas.

The settlement thrived

economically based on retail trade, its level farmlands, county roads, and the Union Pacific rail line. Community life was vibrant with churches, schools, a library, general store, theater, symphony orchestra and numerous civic organizations.

"As the caretakers of Col. Allensworth State Historic Park, we are very pleased to be working in partnership with Senator Ridley-Thomas, the Black Caucus and the California African American Museum to tell the important story of Allensworth's impact on California history and culture,"

said Ruth Coleman, Director of California State Parks. “This past year the future of Allensworth was threatened. Today, it is a pleasure to look forward at this centennial, knowing Allensworth is protected, and to dream of the possibilities before us.”

The events being held to commemorate the 100 years of Allensworth, 1908 to 2008, have included the Black History Month Celebration in February, the Old Time Jubilee in May and the Juneteenth Celebration. The major event for the centennial celebration is the Annual Town Rededication scheduled in October.

Allensworth began its decline in 1914 when the Santa Fe railroad moved its stop from Allensworth to the nearby town of Alpaugh. Col. Allensworth’s death, that year, a drought, poor crops and a failing water supply became hopeless obstacles.

Despite its slow decline over the decades of the 20th century, Allensworth became “the town that refused to die.” In the 1970s the State of California, recognizing the historical significance of Allensworth, purchased 240 acres of the original town and surroundings, establishing the Col. Allensworth State Historic Park.

“The vision for Allensworth was a thriving municipality where African Americans functioned independently from,

yet cooperatively with, the wider society to achieve self-respect, self-sufficiency, self-determination and prosperity,” said Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas, (D-Los Angeles) Chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus. “We still share much of his vision today as we work toward a greater realization of the California Dream.

“Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of Allensworth represents a significant moment in time and the California African American Museum is thrilled to have had the opportunity to organize an exhibition about this community,” said Charmaine Jefferson, executive director, California African American Museum. “Our mission is to research, preserve and interpret the history,

as well as the art and culture of African Americans with a special emphasis on Californian and Western history. It is particularly fitting, then, that through this exhibition the history and lessons of Allensworth are never forgotten,”

“For the first time, the exhibit highlights the impact Allensworth had across California and its many diverse communities,” said Susan Anderson, historian and Allensworth exhibit curator with the California Community Empowerment Foundation. “From controversial legislation to innovative education pioneers and the role of Buffalo Soldiers in California’s development, this exhibit widens our understanding of Allensworth’s influence, and how it resonates today.”



Courtesy of the office of Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas

The exhibit will be at Los Angeles’ California African American Museum through October 3, and will be on display at the park itself for its centennial.

Earth Day, With a Little Help from Our Friends

Across the State, thousands of park supporters turned-out on Saturday, April 19, to apply a large dose of muscle and caring to the State park system.

Sponsored and organized by the California State Parks Foundation and aided by a long laundry list of supporting sponsors like Pacific Gas and Electric Company, the volunteers fanned out through 22 parks statewide for the Foundation's 11th annual Earth Day Restoration and Cleanup.

The message from the foundation was that now, more than ever with continuing budget cuts, the State park system needs help in many ways to keep the system up and running and looking healthy. Statewide, the thousands of volunteers planted native trees, restored trails, removed trash and invasive plants, repaired fences, helped post signs, trimmed brush and more.

Since the Foundation began the program in 1998, 60,000 participants have contributed over 250,000 volunteer hours worth more than \$5,000,000 in park maintenance and improvements, and that does not include the data yet to be added from this year's Earth Day.

At the end of the day, our message to all who worked on this day is simple: Thank you! Our magnificent State park system is stronger, healthier and a lot cleaner, because all of you gave of your time and energy to help.



Above: Staff of Virgin America Airlines—including CEO David Cush (center)—pitch in at Candlestick Point State Recreation Area. Below: Terri Lopez, Gold Fields Regional Interpretive Specialist (right) joins a crowd of volunteers from Pacific Gas and Electric at Folsom Lake State Recreation Area.



Will Rogers State Historic Park: Two California Families Clean House



Will Rogers staff and volunteers

On April 4 and 5, two well-known families joined forces to do some spring cleaning at one of California's most cherished homes.

The newly formed Will Rogers Ranch Foundation (headed by Will's great-granddaughter, Jennifer Rogers), in partnership with the Will Rogers Cooperating Association, and the California State Parks family (from both the Capital and Angeles Districts) coordinated a highly successful Volunteer Clean-up

Day at the park that included over 220 volunteers. The local news channel ran a preview story about the event at 6 a.m. on April 4. A woman caught the story, then turned to her husband and said, "You should go over there and help out!"

That man hauled his tractor to the park, from 90 miles away, and did as his wife suggested. He was there for two days and disposed of several tons of debris and unneeded materials at Sarah's Point.

Reforestation at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park



Director Ruth Coleman being shown one section of the fire that is typical of what 24,000 acres of this park looked like following the fire.

In the fall of 2003, California State Parks suffered one of its greatest losses, when more than 95% of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park burned in the Cedar Fire.

Today, State Parks, in partnership with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), San Diego State University (SCSU), and the University of California, Santa Barbara, have begun the enormous and challenging task of reforesting major sections of the park. The fire burned so intensely and so thoroughly over more than 24,000 acres that much of the original coniferous forest area was totally destroyed and there has been little natural regeneration observed since the fire. The conclusion for natural resource professionals was that this was a forest where some human help was needed to get a natural progression back on track.

So with the goal of helping this natural progression in mind, it became a question of money. As the story goes, that's when a small miracle happened. CalFire had some grant money, as did San Diego State University (SDSU), via California State Parks' Natural Heritage Stewardship program, and after some quick on-the-ground work by Intern Gary Reece and Retired Annuitant Paul Jor-

gensen, two, 15-acre test plots were selected and 3,500 Jeffrey pine tree seedlings were planted. It was a small, but important jump start; the plan then progressing into two, 300 acre sites. District Superintendent Mike Wells tells us that as of late April, they had a total of 5,500 trees in the ground.

Labeled the Reforestation Project at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, the purpose of this project is to re-establish patches of landscape with native conifer trees. As those trees take-hold and grow, what follows will be a natural progression of reforestation on acreage that was burned. Though current funding only covers the first phase of planting, the ideal plan calls for four phases of a year each, involving 2,500 acres total. To make sure that all seedlings are adequately cared for, an alternative plan would be to plant fewer seedlings over a longer period.

In addition to the benefits from reforestation, the work will be monitored to determine the impacts of regional climate change. The climate change benefits will come from accelerated restoration of the forested landscape. The benefits include the ability to reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide at a rate of 1-3 metric tons per acre per year and the potential storage of over 200 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per acre.

Restoring the coniferous forest habitat in the park will provide important protected areas for a wide variety of native mammal and bird species in a region experiencing strong and continuous development pressure. In addition, this effort will simply speed the recovery of a park that has been a beloved natural resource and recreation area in this part of California.



State Park Ranger Eric Thompson places a protective sleeve on one of the thousands of Jeffrey pine seedlings planted on Cuyamaca Peak.

California State Capitol Museum Earthquake Living History Day

By Peter T. Larsen
Assistant Volunteer Coordinator
California State Capitol Museum

Five hundred visitors and the California State Capitol Museum docents went back in time on April 19 for Earthquake Living History Day. Fifty of our talented docents re-enacted events that occurred inside the State Capitol during a time of crisis, when San Francisco was hit by a devastating earthquake and fire on April 19, 1906.

Living History programs help us to remember past events and give us an understanding how our heritage was formed. The State Capitol docents promote this type of education by leading many tours through historic museum rooms where they portrayed events such as when Governor George Pardee received a telegram from President Theodore Roosevelt pledging his support to get California through this disaster. On the tour we encountered Secretary of State Charles Curry discussing his visits to San Francisco area hospitals. We toured through other historic museum rooms too, viewing and listening to re-enactments of how those legislatures handled the crisis. Throughout the 45-minute tours, visitors partici-



State Capitol docents re-enact events in the Secretary of State office

ipated in interactive skits acting as refugees seeking lost family members or inquiring about how they can help with disaster relief. Many visitors also experienced the earthquake by watching a 3-D movie in the museum theater, which told the story of the earthquake.

In the Capitol rotunda we displayed earthquake artifacts, photographs and memorabilia retrieved from the ruins of one of our docents' grandparents' San Francisco home. Karen and Mike Peart are closely tied to the San Francisco earthquake by Mike's grandparents. Karen and Mike answered questions and spoke with visitors sharing their second-hand experience about the earthquake, as it was conveyed to them by Mike's grandparents.

Living History programs provide great educational experiences to all participants. At the California State Capitol, each year we re-enact several Living History events. I encourage you to participate in your parks' next Living History program. You can learn more about the State Capitol Museum programs at <http://capitolmuseum.ca.gov/>. To see more photographs visit <http://capitolmuseum.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteerprogram> For more information please email plarsen@parks.ca.gov



Karen Peart shares her collection of earthquake memorabilia in the State Capitol Rotunda

Pacheco State Park's Fifth Wildflower Day



Hikers and horses hit the trails at Pacheco State Park's Fifth Wildflower day.

By Jennifer Morgan

Interpreter I, Pacheco State Park

Saturday, April 5. Sunny skies and green fields carpeted with wildflowers greeted visitors at Pacheco State Park's Fifth Annual Wildflower Day. Organizers estimated that well over 200 people attended this event—a record number for any special event at Pacheco State Park.

The three guided hikes that day were also a huge success. The Early Birding Hike, led by Central Valley Bird Club member John Fulton, had over 30 participants. They were treated to spectacular views of two Golden Eagles, our largest local bird, as well as numerous hummingbirds, our smallest local bird. The next hike, the Wildflower Hike, led by retired Pacheco State Park ranger Dave Milam, had over 40 hikers. They learned about the Native American uses of plants as they hiked out to an overlook with a panoramic view of San Luis Reservoir. The Adobe History Walk, led by Pacheco State Park Ranger Denis Poole, had 30 walkers. This stroll took people to the ranch buildings where Paula Fatjo lived before she donated her property to the people of California, to become Pacheco State Park. This included seeing the remains of the Pacheco adobe in which Ms. Fatjo's family lived and was the first house built in what is now Merced County.

Wildflower Day visitors also walked around to the various information tables where they could learn about local nature groups such as

the Central Valley Bird Club, the Department of Fish and Game, and the California Native Plant Society. Students from CSU Stanislaus' Conservation and Biological Invasion Club had displays that discussed the problems that non-native plants cause for local plants, including the spiny Yellow Star Thistle that can transform fields of grass into impenetrable thickets. Organizers of Earth Day Celebration Los Banos helped children make an animal track craft while they talked up their plans to celebrate Earth Day in downtown Los Banos on April 19.

Everyone who attended Wildflower Day received a colorful Wildflower Day button, and kids could play a game that ended with making a craft prize. A caterer had hot dogs and tacos available for lunch.

State Park organizers considered this year's Wildflower Day a huge success. They were delighted that it was so sunny and that the park's wildflowers were at their peak—splashing the fields with yellow from the buttercups, gold fields, and poppies. The strong winds did little to dampen the spirits of the attendees.

Pacheco State Park is open from sunrise to sunset. As the month progresses, different flowers fade while other ones come into bloom. Visitors need to be aware that there is no drinking water in the park and the weather can change quickly. Thanks to Paula Fatjo, Californians have a beautiful wilderness state park that preserves the native plants and animals for all to enjoy.

Promotions

Lynn Rhodes Chief, Law Enforcement and Emergency Services



Lynn Rhodes is the new Chief of Law Enforcement and Emergency Services for California State Parks. She was most recently the Northern Division Chief, overseeing State Parks from San Luis Obispo to the Oregon border, including the inland Northern Buttes and Sierra Districts. She has served as the Monterey District Superintendent; Chief Ranger for Colorado Desert District, home of Anza Borrego Desert State Park and as Superintendent at the William Penn Mott Jr.

Training Center. There she coordinated the State Parks Peace Officer Academy as well as other statewide training including management, supervisory, quality-management and leadership programs. She began with the Department as a State Park Maintenance Assistant in 1976.

Ms. Rhodes has specialized experience with resource management, administration, land-use planning and public safety. She attended San Diego State University and the University of Virginia. She has the distinction of being the first employee from the Department to attend the FBI National Academy.

Ms. Rhodes has written several articles and provided training on a variety of subjects including interpretation, leadership, ethics, natural and cultural resource protection and management, and trends in law enforcement.

She currently serves as poet laureate for the California Coastal National Monument.

Associate Accounting Analyst

Noemy Alvarado
Administration/Fiscal Services
03/01/08

Maintenance Mechanic

Thomas W. Buggia
Marin/Marin Sector
4/15/2008

Office Technician (Typing)

Teresa M. DiFrancesco
Orange Coast/North Sector
02/13/08

Business Services Officer

Sheryl A. Willis
Administration/Fiscal Services
4/1/2008

Management Services Technician

Linda J. Van Staaveren
OHV/Ocotillo Wells
4/1/2008

Park & Recreation Specialist

Wendy Lee Martin
Acq & Development/ADA
Section
4/1/2008

Heavy Equipment Mechanic

Gilbert M. Mayorquin
OHV/Hollister Hills
03/01/08

Museum Curator II

William J. Jorae
Interp & Education Division
02/15/08

Park Maintenance Chief I

David S. Creech
Capital/Sac History and RR
Sector
4/1/2008

Historian III

John A. Correia
Office of Historic Preservation
03/24/08

Museum Curator III

Paulette D. Hennem
AHM/Museum Services
03/18/08

Raymond Lennox
Colorado Desert/Montane
Sector
03/01/08

**Park Maintenance Chief I
(Continued)**

Aubrey L. Thomas
OHV/Hungry Valley
03/01/08

Matt L. Courtney
OHV/Hollister Hills
03/16/08

Ryen W. Goering
Northern Buttes/Clear Lake
Sector
02/01/08

Park Maintenance Chief II

Tim C. Higginson
Northern Buttes/Lake Oroville
Sector
4/1/2008

Gary R. Florence
OHV/Twin Cities
4/1/2008

Steven Orozco
Northern Buttes/Cascade
Sector
4/1/2008

**Senior Park & Recreation
Specialist**

James G. Mischeaels
Gold Fields District
03/01/08

Park Maintenance Chief III

Brian K. Moses
Gold Fields District
03/12/08

Lorraine L. Turner
Park Ops/Technical Services
Division
03/01/08

**Senior Personnel
Specialist**

Laurie A. Coffman
Administration/Personnel
Services
03/01/08

Gary A. Nelson
Central Valley District
4/16/2008

Adam S. Werle
Sierra/Sierra Gold Sector
03/31/08

Senior Photographer

Victoria M. Garagliano
San Luis Obispo Coast/Museum
Sector
4/1/2008

Park Maintenance Worker I

Louisa M. Anaya
Angeles/Malibu Sector
4/1/2008

Park Maintenance Worker II

James F. Houston
Capital/Sac History and RR
Sector
4/1/2008

Staff Services Analyst

Lindsay C. Oxford
Communications Office
03/01/08

Randall Burt
Colorado Desert/Montane
Sector
4/1/2008

Supervising Ranger

Matthew P. Cardinet
Administration/Training Unit
4/1/2008

Superintendent II

Daniel R. Tynan
Gold Fields District
03/01/08

Kao Chue
Northern Buttes/Lake Oroville
Sector
4/24/2008

Scott R. Elliott
Sierra/Sierra Gold Sector
03/01/08

Lake Perris State Recreation Area received new lifeguard towers just before the 4th of July and got them set up and stickered in time for the big holiday. The guards "love them." The additional shade that the towers provide, combined with the special "Opti-Grey" glass and the insulated roofs make the towers much easier to work in with temperatures of 95 to 105+ degrees.



Director's Award Winners

One of the finest things we do year-after-year is recognize the people within California State Parks who distinguish themselves through their extraordinary achievements, those persons who are the award winners in the Director's Recognition Program. All of these people deserve a standing ovation, because they are the people who lead and inspire all of us to greatness.

This year, our list was again crowded with people whose stories from every section of the State Parks' team, gave us a feeling of pride for the service rendered to our millions of visitors. We often look back at the founding fathers of this system as being the heroes. That's true, but our award honorees year-after-year are the people who continue the tradition of ground-breaking excellence.

This year's Director's Recognition Program award recipients are as follows:

Olmsted Award - Leadership and Vision

John W. Foster,
Manager, Cultural Heritage
Section/Archaeology,
History & Museum Division

Hill Award - Inspiration

William Gary Watts, State
Park Superintendent, Inland
Empire District

Drury Award - Professional Integrity

Andrew W. Zilke, State Park
Superintendent, Oceano
Dunes District

Mott Award - Innovation

*Network Services Unit
Information Technology*
Services Section,
Administrative Division
Robert S. Blesi, Manager
Jesus L. Almeida
Shawn M. Brown
Matthew F. Burghdorf
Steven M. Childress
Steven J. Davis
Gary W. Fryer
Jeremiah C. Harvey

Ve T. Kao
Thomas G. Moore
Edward W. Reese
Phillip Usrey

Dewitt Award - Partnership

*Monterey Bay National
Marine Sanctuary Education
Team
National Oceanic &
Atmospheric Administration
(NOAA)*

Dawn L. Hayes, Education &
Outreach Coordinator
Lisa Emanuelson
Sacha Lozano
Sonya Padrón
Elizabeth Love Reisenbichler
Michele Roest
Lisa Uttal

Ingenuity Award

Craig S. Sanderson, Heavy
Equipment Mechanic,
Northern Buttes District/Lake
Oroville Sector

Special Commendations
*Cosco Busan - San Francisco
Bay Oil Spill Response Team*

Marin and Diablo Vista Districts

Marin:

David A. Matthews,
Angel Island Sector
Superintendent
George Beglitsoff, Boat
Operator, Angel Island SP
James R. Dexter, Seasonal
Employee, Angel Island SP
Bree Hardcastle,
Environmental Scientist,
Marin District
Casey Lee, Interpreter,
Angel Island SP
Roy McNamee, Park &
Recreation Specialist
Allyn Schafer, Boat
Operator, Angel Island SP

Diablo Vista:

John A. Crossman, State
Park Superintendent
Christina M. Freeman,
Environmental Scientist
Deana M. Freeman, State
Park Ranger
Cyndy Shafer,
Environmental Scientist

**Shasta State Historic
Junior Docent Volunteer
Program**

Northern Buttes District/ Cascade Sector

Cindy Anderson, Principal,
Stellar Charter Schools
Patti Furnari, Teacher,
Stellar Charter Schools
Jim Lightner, Principal,
Shasta Elementary School
Michelle Scarbrough,
Teacher, Shasta
Elementary School

Vikingsholm Log Roof Restoration Project Team Sierra District/Lake Tahoe Sector

Ronald P. Hansen, Jr.,
Maintenance Chief, Lake
Tahoe Sector
Michael F. Byram, Park
Maintenance Worker
Benjamin A. Espy, Laborer
Peter M. (Ace) Flewelling,
Carpenter
Gary Harp, Park
Maintenance Assistant

Catherine T. Lewis, Laborer
Michelle M. Smith, Laborer
Rosemary Yracheta, Laborer

Special Act/Special Service

Donald S. Solleder, Research
Analyst (GIS)
Gary Reece, Environmental
Services Intern
Colorado Desert District

Timothy F. Murphy, State Park
Ranger
Russian River District

Volunteer Awards Special Presentation

(Year Round Recognition)
**Medallion Award for Superior
Achievement**

Big Sandy Creek Project
San Joaquin Sector, Central
Valley District

Mark Holland, Trail Construction
Coordinator/Central California
Off-Road Cyclists

Poppy Awards for Exemplary Volunteer Service

Big Sandy Creek Project

Mark Van Dyke, Lt. Colonel,
Pilot, California Army National
Guard
Kenneth R. Gatewood, Chief
Warrant Officer 4, Co-Pilot, CA
Army National Guard
Charles (Toby) Horst, President,
San Joaquin Sierra Unit/
Back Country Horseman's
Association



**Congratulations
to this year's
honorees. Thank
you for your hard
work and dedication
to California State
Parks.**

State Parks Peace Officers Receive Statewide Awards

Three California State Parks Peace Officers received awards at the 2008 Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) California Statewide Law Enforcement and Community Recognition Event on March 29 in Sacramento.

State Park Ranger Chris Glenn made 17 arrests for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) during 2007, and numerous contacts for other drug and alcohol related offenses in the Mendocino area. Officer Glenn also helps

provide healthy alternatives to underage drinking in the community by helping coach a local high school wrestling team.

State Park Ranger Aaron Wright has arrested 16 drivers for DUI within the jurisdictional boundaries surrounding Lake Oroville State Recreational Area, including the city of Oroville in an effort to reduce alcohol and drug-related traffic collisions.

State Park Ranger Michael Smittle has patrolled South

Yuba River State Park in Nevada County for over 17 years, 16 of those years with a canine partner. During that time, Ranger Smittle has distinguished himself by conducting regular and intensive underage alcohol enforcement by foot patrol. This has resulted in a large number of citations and other enforcement actions for underage drinking. Additionally, Ranger Smittle has made a large number of educational and preventative contacts to prevent underage drinking.



John Arnold's Mailbag

On February 20th I ordered two dresses that was advertised in the Sunday paper. You cashed the check and I haven't received the dresses yet. Please check into this for me.

Many, many thanks for a grand site. It's almost like being there. You have no idea how wonderful this site is for those of who can no longer travel. Never did get there in person and now never will except for this site. I'll be checking each day. Again, my thanks.

How can there possibly be any complaints????
From One in NC who travels via the Internet.
Thank You.

The new portions of the Grapevine Trail at Coe State Park are wonderful!

I admit that I was skeptical about the need or benefit of the new sections when I saw the pin flags in the ground earlier this year.

But, it was a real treat to hike the trail last weekend and find that the new sections really added to the enjoyment of the trail.

Please thank the park personnel and the volunteers for a really nice improvement to the trail.

I was a chaperone with my husband on one of the guided tours of the dunes at Ano Nuevo yesterday (March 18). Our volunteer docent, Allen was absolutely wonderful. You could tell that he really had a passion for what he was sharing with us. When my husband and I arrived home yesterday evening, we found that one of our parakeet's 3 eggs had hatched (the first one ever) and there sat a tiny, naked, pink and squealing little life. I asked what we should name it. Without hesitation, Dave, my husband said Allen. Please share this news with Allen the volunteer at Ano Nuevo SR.

Greetings, California state parks- I must say that MOUNT DIABLO IS THE BEST !!!!

It has been my friend for the longest time- It all started when my grouchy old man used to

make us roll biscuit dough on oak limbs and roast them over the fire for breakfast. That was when I was 10 years old.- I am now 53- my old man is long gone but I owe it to him, my love for this island wilderness because he knew what was good for youngsters. a big mountain!

My wife and I have just returned from spending a week in southern and central coast California, celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary. We wanted to let you know that we were so impressed with the natural beauty of California, to the state's commitment to preserving open space through the State Park system, and the friendliness and competency of the staff we encountered.

We stayed near Crystal Cove State Park, and visited each of the three days we stayed in Newport Beach. We made a trip to the Anza-Borrego desert state park one day. We drove up the PCH to San Francisco, stopping at Hearst Castle. We also wanted to let you know that our tour guide, Bill Hopping, made the tour most informative and entertaining, and was perhaps the best tour guide we have ever encountered.

Thanks for all the work you do on the behalf of the public. We will be returning often to visit other sites in the California State Park system.

Recently, one of your wonderful park rangers helped us when my 7-yr-old son, Andrew, fell, suffering a head wound. He needed emergency care and, thanks to this ranger, he got it quickly. My son has written him a thank you note, but I don't know where to mail it to reach him. Could you please help me?

The Ranger's name is Jeremy Stinson, and the park was Blind Beach State Park. I think it is in Gualala, CA? (And I could be misspelling Jeremy's name.)

I am not seeking any personal information or home address, just somewhere to get my 7-yr-old son's thank you note to this wonderful young man -- Ranger Jeremy as my son refers to him. If

you could please give me some aid here, I'd appreciate it.

I am a physician recently injured while backpacking deep in the Sinkyone wilderness, south of Shelter Cove. One of your fine rangers, Kevin (I do not know his last name - a young gentleman who graduated from Humboldt State and lived in Arcate for some time) went far out of his way to accomodate my friend and I, so vastly exceeding our expectations that he truly made the trip a phenomenal one. When unable to walk, he went into detail about the history and science of the area, with fascinating knowledge and an enthusiastic articulation that left us spellbound. He transported us as needed for treatment and departure from the park, arranged overnight facilities...

He salvaged our week, and left us thoroughly impressed with the quality of personnel in the State Park system. Kudos!! Thank you, Kevin!

I would like to donate my IRS Rebate Check (whatever the amount turns out to be) to the State Parks. Is there a mechanism for me to do that? I want to sign over the original check itself as a statement of my belief that some branch of government needs it more than I do - that the whole rebate idea is misguided.

Several years ago - when this idiocy was last perpetrated - I was able to donate my rebate check to a school district, but this year I feel the park system is in greater need. Please let



We visited the Lancaster Poppy Fields and wanted to share a couple of pics that we thought you would like. We loved it there and cannot believe how amazing it was.

me know if this can be done.

I want to thank all of you for arranging this wonderful field trip to Olompali State Historic Park for us. We also want to thank Niel Fogarty for taking us around the park. He was very informed and communicated with the children intelligently and respectfully. They were very pleased and told their parents when they returned that "He was the nicest ranger they ever met!"

We couldn't have asked for a better field trip to the park...due to all of your outstanding efforts to make it happen for us.

Mike and Tina greeted us and were there to say farewell. The

children learned the best part of the State Park system...the people involved.

We are planning to raise money for restoration of the Miwok village at the site. We are a small school, but we have very successful dreams.

Today my husband and I had a wonderful experience and we wanted to share it with you. This morning we toured the Hearst Castle in San Simeon. Our tour guide, Robert Latson, was magnificent! He was knowledgeable, articulate and knew the buildings and grounds like they were his own! . . .

I am an art history professor and over my LONG career I have taken dozens and dozens of tours all around the world...this was the best ever! Please send congratulations to Mr. Latson and I hope that you will also acknowledge his many skills and thank him for his dedication to the Hearst Castle and its visitors.

Civilian Conservation Corps Honored for 75th Anniversary

This year marked the 75th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and California State Parks took the opportunity to recognize the people whose contributions can still be seen in our parks. The Corps was developed in 1933 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as a work relief program for those that were unemployed as a result of the Great Depression. Both La Purísima Mission State Historic Park and Mount Tamalpais State Park recognized the anniversary by welcoming former CCC members to celebrate their contribution to the park system.

On April 12, Mt. Tamalpais hosted three former CCC members in its Mountain Theatre, a 6,000-seat stone amphitheatre built by Corps members in 1936. Members of the Corp's California successor, the California Conservation Corps, joined the friends, family, and other well-wishers as they honored the hard work and dedication of the CCC.

A similar ceremony was held at La Purísima, where Civilian Conservation Corps members

reconstructed several of the mission's historic buildings. On display were historic photos of the Corps members and their projects.

Members of the California Conservation Corps built more than 1,500 buildings, structures, bridges, and landscape structures in 48 state parks from 1933 to 1941, creating the first major visitor facilities within the fledgling California system.

To read more about Civilian Conservation Corps features in California State Parks, please visit http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24877.



Above: Marin District Superintendent Dave Gould thanks former Civilian Conservation Corps members Robert Griffiths, Herbert Perry, and Arnold Blumhardt for their service. Below: Mount Tamalpais' Mountain Amphitheatre.



Top: Historic Photos. Bottom: Former Corps members and their families at La Purísima Mission State Historic Park.

Former Chinese Ambassador to U.S. Visits Angel Island

Ayala Cove, Angel Island State Park- California State Parks hosted a very special guest at Angel Island on April 27. Former Chinese Ambassador to the United States Li Zhaoxing, third from the left in the hat, and his entourage of personal staff members and special agents from the Department of State, received a full tour of the island from State Parks Interpreter Casey Lee, second from left, and other staff members, including maintenance worker Rich Ables. The Ambassador, who served in the post between 1998 and 2001, was very engaging with staff, asking many questions. Zhaoxing also served as China's Foreign Ministry spokesman and Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Said Lee, "It was a very positive and enjoyable tour."



Jolly Boy Restaurant Opens at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

The Jolly Boy Saloon and Restaurant, one of San Diego's oldest and most favorite watering holes, re-opened on March 22, after a major, four-month, \$2.1 million renovation. What visitors see today is reminiscent of the 1854 appearance, complete with oil lamps, an antique mahogany long-bar, old-time pool tables, portraits of famous luminaries and a functional outdoor caretta or ox cart, and outdoor dining.

"We are pleased that Delaware North moved forward with the construction and the renovation and we are very excited with the re-opening and the return of fine dining in this remodeled atmosphere," said Ronilee Clark, superintendent of the San Diego Coast District, which oversees the historic park. "This renovation is an important part of an overall renewal in Old Town San

Diego State Historic Park that will bring back the vibrant entertainment, sights and sounds that have flowed through this area for more than 150 years."

Kevin Kelly, President of Delaware North Companies Parks and Resorts, said, "This phase one effort rehabilitating the Jolly Boy is the first of many improve-

ments, with future work coming soon on the Cosmopolitan Hotel and the Casa de Reyes commercial corner.

The renovation of the Jolly Boy marks the completion of the first part of an \$18 million program of improvements being carried out by Delaware North in Old Town State Historic Park.



The newly-renovated Jolly Boy Saloon in Old Town San Diego.

State Parks Signs Contract for Grover Beach Lodge, Pismo State Beach

California State Parks plans to sign a 50-year contract worth a minimum of \$20 million with Pacifica Companies for the construction of the Grover Beach Lodge and Conference Center at Pismo State Beach in San Luis Obispo County. This 135 - 150 room lodge and conference facility, sited on State Park property at Pismo State Beach within the City of Grover Beach, will serve visitors to both Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes State Vehicle Recreation Area, located about 92 miles north of Santa Barbara.

“This effort takes us one more step down the path toward better fiscal health for our parks,” said Ruth Coleman, director of California State Parks. “This is a public-private partnership that provides new vacation and recreation access to California’s coast for our visitors and it brings revenue to a private business and the City of Grover Beach.”

State Parks does own other lodges that are operated in public-private concession relationships, Asilomar in Pacific Grove, Big Sur Lodge and the Marconi Conference Center north of San Francisco, but this marks the first time the system has partnered to build one from the ground up. At the end of the 50-year contract, the facility will become State property and it will continue operation under a concessions contract with a private business concessionaire.

This opportunity to develop and operate a lodge and conference facility concession is the result of a Joint Powers Agreement between the



Pismo State Beach will be the new home of the Grover Beach Lodge.

City of Grover Beach and California State Parks. The intent is for the City and State to engage a concessionaire to design and build a first-class lodge and conference center that will serve as a gateway to Pismo State Beach, provide lodging opportunities to enhance recreational experiences for park visitors, be environmentally sensitive, and enhance development of the western end of the City of Grover Beach.

The agreement to be signed with Pacifica Companies, calls for a minimum of \$20 million to plan, design, permit, construct, equip, and furnish the facility. The City of Grover Beach will manage the concession contract on behalf of the State, with both the City and State Parks sharing in revenues from the project.

News & Views

Summer 2008

Ruth Coleman
Director

Communications Office

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- Sheryl Watson, Editor
- John Arnold, Assistant Editor
- Lindsay Oxford, Associate Editor
- Carol Cullens, Proofreader

*Interpretation and Education Division

Submit articles to newsandviews@parks.ca.gov

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 limit article length to 400 words.

The next deadline is August 29, 2008.