

NEWS & VIEWS

Celebrating 65 Years as the Employee Newsletter of California State Parks



June/July 2009

Mendocino Celebrates Light Station's 100 Years



Assemblyman Wes Chesbro and District Superintendent Marilyn Murphy take a closer look at the Fresnel lens during a morning tour of the lighthouse at Point Cabrillo State Historic Park. In the background, blue flags mark the location of the 100th Anniversary Celebration scheduled to begin that afternoon.

Big Sur Camping, in Time for Memorial Day

By Mat Fuzie
Superintendent
Monterey District

Following the Summer of Wildfires in 2008, the Monterey District found itself doing something unthinkable; closing one of the most popular campgrounds in the state by removing the only access bridges over the Big Sur River. Pfeiffer Big Sur Campground was closed as a result of the removal of the bridges in anticipation of

major debris flows down the Big Sur River in winter.

Pfeiffer is one of those campgrounds that sell out its reservations for the summer as soon as they open. Immediately the question of when we would reopen became a topic of discussion. Our plan was to re-open when the Major Capital Outlay project of a new bridge in the park was completed in April of 2009. That project,

By Sheryl A. Watson
Information Officer

The bark of sea lions and the march of flag bearers posting the colors under the clear blue sky amid fields of green kicked off the 100-year anniversary of the Point Cabrillo Light Station, now a state historic park.

To celebrate, events and activities are being held all year long. The highlights this month were the Partnership Celebration with dignitaries on Saturday, June 6 and the after-dark "Relighting the Light" living history program on Wednesday, June 10.

At the Saturday event, attended by Director Ruth Coleman, some said it was the best weather they had seen in years. Weather forecasters earlier that week predicted rain. None came.

As the Partnership Celebration got underway, the lens in the lighthouse continued to turn in the distance, 100 yards away, providing a flash of light every 10 seconds. It stood that clear day not as a beacon through fog, but as a metaphoric light shining on the past and the future. The park's future is uncertain, as it is

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►POINT CABRILLO, Page 4



Director Ruth Coleman It's up to us...

This will be a very brief message, since I don't have any updated news to convey. I do have an observation however, that our department and its staff show amazing resiliency to the unrelenting pounding of bad news. Despite the budget threats, we continue to manage the parks, many of which are full to capacity. We have opened another restaurant at Malibu Pier. We are holding a 50-year celebration at Plumas Eureka and recently held a 100-year event at Pt. Cabrillo Light Station. We opened a new bridge at Pfeiffer Big Sur. We counted a whole bunch of bighorn sheep at Anza-Borrego and Hungry Valley SVRA will soon celebrate the re-opening of the Quail Canyon special event area, just to name a few highlights. These events do not represent business as usual. They represent heroic efforts. Because of you, these events occur in spite of the downturn. We have less, even now, before a budget cut.

Our dollars don't go as far as they used to, and we have fewer staff and they are earning less and working fewer hours. Yet we persist in serving the people of California and welcoming visitors from all over the world.

The hardest part is that there seems to be no end in sight. The news never seems to get better in the media. The budget cuts will push us hard to find new solutions we never thought of before. We will find new partners, donors, volunteers, and park advocates who will help us through this. I'm not suggesting the old adage that we will "do more with less." I'm just saying that I'm not ready to give up, close up shop and walk away. The park system was built by people who had a vision, against all odds and all the nay-sayers, to find the resources to purchase, preserve and to protect the special places of the state. It's up to us to continue this tradition.

Sutter Health Becomes Proud Partner

Sutter Health, Inc., has donated \$25,000 to its neighbor and namesake, Sutter's Fort. State Parks is proud to partner with Sutter Health to continue the outstanding cultural and historical activities at Sutter's Fort. From left to right: Tom Gagen, CEO of Acute Care Services, Sutter Health; Charlotte Ames, Chairman, Friends of Sutter's Fort; and Catherine Taylor, Capital District Superintendent.





Pfeiffer Big Sur reopening ceremony participants included the men in all white shirts from Sharp Engineering & Construction. Sharp employees, from left to right: Bill Harvey, Will Harvey, Kyncade Hardy, Alex Harvey, Sergio Morales and Fonua Lanulotu. The others, from left to right, are Joan Carpenter, associate civil engineer, California State Parks; U.S. Rep Sam Farr, D-Carmel; Assemblyman Bill Monning, D-Carmel; camper Chris Sullivan; Monterey County Supervisor Dave Potter; and State Park Commissioner Paul Junger Witt. Sullivan is a fourth generation Big Sur camper, whose family has been camping there for 50 years.

Big Sur: Bridging the Gap

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however, fell victim to the bond fund freeze and is still not back underway. Quickly it became clear that the Monterey District would need to find a way to get the park open or risk losing a great deal of revenue and disappointing the waiting campers and community. We explored all options including, utilizing the old bridge and military options. The old bridge could not pass structural engineering tests and should have been replaced long ago. Our best option was to purchase a temporary bridge and install it at the cost of approximately \$500,000. This was

an easy decision even in these economic times because the campground typically brings in approximately \$2 million in annual revenue. In addition, the campground is considered a major economic engine for the Big Sur community and businesses accounting for millions of additional dollars spent by campers in the community. The decision was made by the department executive staff. On May 22, the Merganser Bridge was open by dignitaries. The campground quickly filled for Memorial Day weekend.



Left to right: Christine Anderson of U.S. Congressman Mike Thompson’s Office; Kendall Smith, Mendocino County Supervisor; Wes Chesbro, Assemblyman; Patricia Wiggins, State Senator; Sheila Seamans, Project Manager, California Coastal Conservancy; Virginia Strom-Martin, former assemblywoman; Ruth Coleman, Director California State Parks, Julia McIver, original Point Cabrillo project manager; and Steve Nilson, President of the Point Cabrillo Lightkeepers Association. Elizabeth Goldstein, President, the California State Park Foundation and Steve Ohms, Captain of U.S. Coast Guard District 11, were seated behind the podium.

Grand Reopening at Point Cabrillo Light Station

►FROM PAGE ONE

among the 220 parks proposed for closure.

Point Cabrillo Light Station State Historic Park is one of the most complete publicly accessible light stations in the nation, with 12 of its original 15 buildings in existence. Five buildings are open to visitors, including a bed and breakfast: the Lighthouse Inn. Four times a year, visitors can climb the three steep, ladder-like staircases to the lantern room where they can see the rare Fresnel lens. It is one of only two original such lenses still in use as an aid to

navigation in the United States. It sends light from its 1,000 watt bulb 15 miles out to sea. It is cleaned weekly, maintained by an army of 200 U.S. Coast Guard volunteers. The park is managed by the Point Cabrillo Lightkeepers Association in partnership with California State Parks. Learn more by visiting <http://www.pointcabrillo.org/Centennial.htm> and http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=22276



Above: Park Visitors Pause to watch a bagpiper play near the lighthouse. Below: U.S. Coast Guard provided an 87-foot cutter from Crescent City, as a representative of other boats passing through the area that rely on the lighthouse to guide them away from the rocky shore. All photos by Sheryl A. Watson.



Live Maps Give Park Units Perspective

By Paul Veisze
Geographic Information Officer
Park Operations

California State Parks participated in an invitation-only event among GIS leaders to showcase the use of eGIS or Enterprise Geographic Information System technology within the department.

eGIS is a program available to all units within the State Parks that need to access, analyze and convey information quickly and easily using maps and location data. The Acquisitions and Development Division, for example, has used the maps to view park boundaries, to which they can add trails, bathrooms, visitor centers, archeological artifacts, campsites and natural resources.

The program can be customized to draw connections across occupational disciplines. At Folsom Lake, for example, natural resources, cultural and maintenance crews can work together from one map that shows reservoir levels, archeological sites and boating hazards. Having them all on one map, shows where they are in proximity of one another. In this way, maintenance can know archeological areas to avoid when they are placing buoys for boating safety, for example.

The software that makes it possible is ArcGIS. California State Parks is the first department in California to negotiate an enterprise license for the software, allowing it to be installed on an unlimited number of computers, saving



Persons are (seated, left to right): Peter Larson, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, Capital District; Amber Transou, Environmental Scientist, North Coast Redwoods District; (standing, left to right): Robert Ferguson, Web Team Manager, Information Technology Office; Barry Trute, Associate State Parks Recreation Specialist, Planning Division; Paul Veisze, Geographic Information Officer, Park Operations; and John Petersen, Consultant, Web Team.

the department money.

At the Geospatial Leadership Summit on May 12, state parks exhibited eGIS. That afternoon, the team took the exhibit to the floor at the public Government Technology Conference - West where they spent 2 1/2 days sharing eGIS with the 300 visitors who came to their booth in the Sacramento Convention Center.

In building the database, parks staff use hand-held GPS devices to record the location and conditions of cultural, natural, facilities, and events statewide. This asset information is then synchronized with the eGIS databases for use in statewide recreation planning and deferred maintenance budgeting. At critical times, the eGIS rapidly informs

emergency management by State Parks and partners in life safety, resource protection, and public education by supplying maps and asset characteristics.

In the long-term, as we address population and climate changes, the common ground of geography and visualization will facilitate decisions in a complex network of government and private interests. In such diversity of values, location is the most widely shared. Thus, in offering maps and imagery, State Parks will continue to lead by example and will contribute to timely and effective solutions for the life-safety, resource protection, recreation, and educational needs of present and future generations.

21st Century Connectivity Comes to Fort Ross



Staff share a laugh with headquarters leadership during a video conference. Interpretive Specialist Hank Birnbaum, asked Director Ruth Coleman for a raise in Russian. Also shown are Interpretive Specialist Robin Joy, Russian River District Superintendent Liz Burko and chiefs Donna Pozzi, Interpretation and Education Division, and Alan Friedman, Information Technology Office.

By Alan Friedman Chief Information Officer Information Technology Office

It was a typical spring day of mist and cold at Fort Ross State Historic Park as teacher Bill Singer's Santa Rosa Charter School class participated in the park's popular Environmental Living Program (ELP). In the character and costume of historic Fort Ross residents, students went about their day performing tasks that were a routine part of the colony's daily life. Then, a special event took place to celebrate the arrival of 21st Century broadband connectivity to a park unit that had long suffered with slow dial-up and satellite internet connectivity.

On April 10, for the first time ever, a video conference

was conducted over a new T1 circuit installed into Fort Ross from the Russian River District office in Duncan's Mills. A T1 circuit is a business-grade circuit that carries data at a rate of 1.5 megabits per second. It offers approximately 30 times more bandwidth than the best dialup connection and T1 users do not experience any of the time delay that is normally associated with satellite connections (because the data must be transmitted back and forth to a satellite positioned 22,400 miles above the earth).

Like a portal in time from a science fiction movie, the creative ELP students from Santa Rosa remarkably stayed in character as they

discussed their lives at the Russian Colony during the video conference with three California State Park leaders: Ruth Coleman, Director; Donna Pozzi, Interpretation and Education Division; and Alan Friedman, Information Technology Office. It was a memorable moment, as the discussion seemed to transcend time.

Fort Ross is just one of many remote state park units where connectivity has recently been improved through the combined efforts of district and information technology staff. In recent months, broadband connectivity has also been extended to Grover Hot Springs, Cuyamaca Rancho, Mount San Jacinto, Samuel P. Taylor, Portola Redwoods, Salt Point, Malakoff Diggins, and others.

Robin Joy, Fort Ross Interpretive Specialist, captured the benefit of improved connectivity this way: "The new T1 circuit has changed our lives out here at Fort Ross. It has made a huge difference in our ability to correspond quickly with staff, teachers, and others. It has also eliminated the frustration of sitting in front of a computer during a long download while trying to find ways to double task so we don't waste any time."

For their commitment to improving connectivity at Fort Ross SHP, a special thanks goes out to Lynn Rhodes, former Chief, Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Division; Liz Burko, Russian River District Superintendent; and Heidi Horvitz, Cascade Sector Superintendent.

Capital District Exhibits Celebrate Lincoln's 200th Birthday

By Phillip E Sexton, Interpreter III
Sacramento History and Railroad Sector

President Abraham Lincoln and his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, were on a carriage ride hours before he was killed, discussing their mutual desire to visit California after his term ended. She later relayed that the President even joked that he wanted to see someone "digging out gold to pay the national debt."

Lincoln's grand connections with California, influenced the state's history in many ways. In a series of exhibits around the Capital District, we explore some of Lincoln's little-known, yet vital links to the Golden State.

California State Capitol Museum: Our Union Forever and Flags of the Civil War. On the first floor of the Capitol building eight rare flags flown by Civil War-era California troops are on public display for the first time in more than 30 years. An adjacent room showcases the story of the California Battalion and other Californians who defended the Union. Thousands took up arms to defend the Union, either by traveling east to fight in major battles, or by replacing regular troops to protect supply lines and defend California against possible Confederate attack.

California State Railroad Museum: The Rail Splitter and the Rails: Lincoln, the Union and the Golden State. This exhibit is based on a February 2009 Trains Magazine article and curated by author Peter Hansen. Though Lincoln never lived to see the completed railroad, his interest and advocacy helped connect California



Reenactors at the State Capitol Museum.

to the rest of the United States, and made it possible to travel across the nation quickly.

Leland Stanford Mansion SHP: Walking the Grade: Contemporary Views of the Central Pacific Railroad showcases stunning black and white photographs by Taiwanese-born photographer Sam Cheng. Much of the route was built by Chinese labor, and Sam's images capture the stark nature of what was arguably the greatest engineering achievement of the 19th century and some evidence that remains over 140 years later.

Lincoln depended on California to provide the Union with political support and help finance the Civil War. We're proud to showcase Lincoln's California legacy during the Lincoln bicentennial.

Visit www.parks.ca.gov/events for dates.

News & Views

2009

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Submit articles to newsandviews@parks.ca.gov

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

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

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

The next deadline is August 15 for the October Issue.

Rare Visitors Wheeled to the Sea at Point Mugu

By Larry Koch, Volunteer
Point Mugu State Park

As a member of the all-volunteer Mountain Bike Unit, helping rangers patrol parks, I participated in the biannual “Wheel to Sea Event.”

Certified in first aid and CPR, with radios in hand and bright yellow jerseys on our backs, we escorted 35 visitors in wheelchairs.

It was quite a sight, making up three parades of visitors in wheelchairs, along with their helpers all being escorted by eight mountain bikers.

The five-mile stroll through Point Mugu State Park lasted more than three hours. We crossed 11 dry river beds, traversed dirt roads, climbed hills, and skidded down steep slopes all the way to Sycamore Cove beach. With help from the CHP, we even stopped traffic to cross Highway 101. Some visitors rode regular wheel chairs, while others were in motorized models.



Brad Childs, Founder, TWI

Visitors in wheel chairs get back to nature as they head to the ocean on a woodland trail.

I befriended one woman named Shelby who has Cerebral Palsy. At 29, she couldn't speak and could hardly move. She made it clear that she could understand me. Making her smile was a highlight of my day, and there were many!

Once we arrived and had lunch, some of the guests rode down to the water in state parks' beach wheel chairs.

What a trip! I talked to every one of them and they all expressed joy and gratitude. It was such a bonding experience, with frequent eruptions of laughter all throughout the day. All I could do was thank them for making my life more fulfilled. What an experience. I will be back next year. As usual, I am a lucky man to end up in such a wonderfully rewarding situation.

The event was hosted by The Wilderness Institute (TWI), a nonprofit organization that provides outdoor education and adventure programs. Egg sandwich breakfasts and barbecue lunches were provided by the Kiwanis Club of Conoga Park and the Kiwanis Club of Thousand Oaks.

For additional information, contact the institute at info@wildernessinstitute.com or (530) 878-7600.



Brad Childs, Founder, TWI

Beach wheel chairs at Point Mugu help get visitors like John Troost closer to the water. He is pictured here with TWI volunteers.

Sprouts Farmers Market Stands Up for State Parks



Vanessa Jones, Interpreter; Laura Ohman, Senior Park Aid (ACC Program Coordinator); and Ed Vodrazka, Lifeguard help out with the Sprouts promotion.

By Brent Reed, Deputy Director Partnerships & Consumer Strategies

In celebration of Earth Day 2009, Sprouts Farmers Markets created a “Stand Up for State Parks” donation campaign to raise much-needed money to benefit state parks in Southern California. Sprouts Farmers Market, an Arizona-based company, is one of the nation’s fastest growing retailers sprouting in Arizona, California, Texas & Colorado. It specializes in farm-fresh produce, purchased from local growers when possible.

“Our customers are very passionate about striving for a healthy lifestyle for themselves and their families, which includes celebrating the outdoors as a natural resource. We are proud to help bring together our customers to honor and raise awareness about our state parks,” said Doug Sanders, President and C.O.O., Sprouts Farmers Market.

Sprouts sponsored a call-to-action for donations to California State Parks at six in-store events, April 8 to 22, held at selected Southern California Sprouts locations. The events had

rangers, lifeguards, and interpreters in the Sprouts stores to educate the community on the vitality of California’s park resources. By having their customers meet rangers and recreational experts, Sprouts’ customers were able to get an up-close-and-personal look into what the state park community has to offer.

“We are pleased to be partnering with Sprouts to generate greater awareness for our parks and we hope more families will be inspired to get outdoors. As state government faces the reality of ongoing budget constraints, it’s partnership programs like this that help our department make up the difference. We applaud Sprouts for their generous support and we look forward to working with them in the future,” Ruth Coleman, Director, California State Parks.

Sprouts’ commitment to California State Parks went beyond inviting the public to take advantage of this great opportunity to “Stand Up for State Parks.” The company matched each donation in each of their participating stores, during the promotional period. To learn more, visit www.sprouts.com.

Stater Bros., Coca-Cola Hold Reforestation Campaign

Reforest California, Susan Goldman



Del Waters, director, CAL Fire; Ruth Coleman, director, California State Parks; Mike Chrisman, secretary for the Natural Resources Agency, State of California; join Jack H. Brown, chairman and chief executive officer Stater Bros. Markets. Mike Wells, district superintendent for the Colorado Desert District looks on.

By Brent Reed Deputy Director Partnerships & Consumer Strategies

The “Reforest California” campaign raised \$600,000 to replant a million trees in state parks incinerated by wildfires.

“Wildfire has significantly impacted our natural resources in recent years, but the Reforest California campaign—the largest reforestation project to date at state parks—will help replant damaged parklands and restore forest areas to healthy levels,” said Mike Chrisman, Secretary for the Natural Resources Agency.

The 2003 Cedar Fire decimated the pine forest at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. After six years, very little has recovered on its own, said ecologist and Superintendent Mike Wells in the Colorado

Desert District. The pine trees have been replaced by non-native weeds and grass, with some chaparral or shrubs and small trees. The pine forest is unlikely to recover without human intervention.

The campaign is made possible by a unique public-private partnership between California State Parks, Stater Bros. Supermarkets and the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Southern California. During the next four years, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park in San Diego County and Chino Hills State Park in San Bernardino County will receive plantings of native trees.

“In light of the devastating losses California’s state parks have suffered in recent years from forest fires, this program is most welcome,” said State Parks Director Ruth Coleman. “Coca-Cola and Stater Bros.

have handed us a crucial lifeline at just the right time. On behalf of the millions of visitors who love our parklands, we applaud this effort.”

With the slogan “Join the Million Tree Challenge,” the campaign urged consumers and businesses to raise money to cover 1,800 acres with new trees. Shoppers at the 166 Stater Bros. supermarkets made one-dollar, tax-deductible donations at checkouts and online. Donations can still be made at www.reforestcalifornia.com.

Coca-Cola donated a portion of its sales during the campaign.

The six-week campaign wrapped up with a dedication ceremony on May 21 at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, where 19,000 pine trees will be planted to honor the many Stater Bros. employees who were critical to the campaign’s success.

In addition to Chrisman and Coleman, dignitaries included CAL Fire Director Del Walters; Tyree Dillingham of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s Office; Jack H. Brown, chairman and chief executive officer of Stater Bros.; and Terry Fitch, Coca-Cola vice president and general manager.

A portion of the contribution will fund fire-prevention signs at five state parks—Cuyamaca Rancho, Chino Hills, Silverwood Lake, Mount San Jacinto and Palomar Mountain. Government Solutions Group, a firm devoted to forming public-private partnerships, assisted greatly with the campaign.

Thank you to Gail Sevrens, Colorado Desert District, who contributed to this article.



John Arnold's Mailbag

While traveling from Fallbrook to Julian to San Diego earlier this month my wife and I stopped by the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park office for information. There we met an incredibly gracious, helpful, and informed young park ranger who greeted us so warmly, and who was so sincerely passionate about her work and the park that we wanted to thank and commend her...

I work for a YMCA here in Portland Oregon, and I ran across all your awesome ideas for activities for kids in nature! I really appreciate these resources, and plan on using most of them on our Park days during our Summer Day Camps! Thanks a bunch!

My AmeriCorps team recently got back from serving in Fresno, California where we stayed at the Millerton Lake campgrounds. We wanted to thank you for working with us and giving us a fabulous volunteer experience at Millerton.

The park rangers and staff showed our team amazing hospitality and direction. We also learned a lot about the area in general.

Thank you especially, Ranger Eric Dales, for working along-

side our team, blue 4. Digging the trench for Earth Day, painting the lifeguard shack, cleaning the shore, and placing road signs near campsites was a good time. The ride around the lake was also very cool!

Last September my husband and I flew over to San Francisco from Germany and rented an RV home . We travelled up the North Coast from San Francisco to the Oregon border and then down to Lassen National Park and its surroundings. We stayed at some beautiful campsites and one in particular we'd like to praise: Burney Falls Campground ,the Restrooms and facilities were very clean and modern, And the Campground Ranger was very helpful, we had a beautiful time thanks very much and look after California it's beautiful.

I just completed a phone call with the Parks Superintendent for the Pajaro District, Kirk Lingenfelter. The issue we discussed was the presence of dogs at Lighthouse Field State Beach, or what is known here in Santa Cruz as "It's" Beach. As you may or may not know, the issue of dogs at his small pocket beach is a very contentious one, with many strong sentiments on either side.

I discussed my concerns about this issue with Kirk at considerable length. During the conversation, I grew to appreciate the great patience and tact he displayed. I was also very impressed with his comprehensive knowledge of the subject and willingness to consider new ideas and perspectives. He expressed himself eloquently and with a very calm and polite manner. In all of my experience in dealing with public officials, I have never had a more pleasant, informative and productive conversation.

In short, Kirk is a consummate professional and is a great asset to your organization. He is dedicated to doing his job and you should be proud to have him on your staff. Aside from doubling his salary, perhaps the greatest reward for Kirk would be to give him the resources he needs to do his job. The Parks Department could make no better investment.

My husband and I have just returned from a short day trip, this time to Negro Bar. We recently purchased a yearly pass and are trying hard to make sure it was money well spent. The reason for this email is to express our gratitude to

the park ranger, Snyder, who greeted us at the gate. In these tough economic times we have made a point to recognize hard working people, who willingly offer exceptional customer service. Ranger Snyder is one of these people. We had him welcome us to dyke 8 a few weeks earlier, at which time he was extremely helpful, taking time to give us verbal information and reference materials to help us use the state recreational parks. On today's visit he, once again, gave to us things to aid our visits. We received more information, a listing of parks which except our poppy pass and a map of state parks. The fact that my husband and Ranger Snyder both share a disability makes Snyder's efforts appreciated all the more, we can only hope our positive comments be shared with his supervisors.

My husband and I were at Old Town San Diego on 04/24/09 and had a wonderful time. Our guide Francie was fabulous. She had a great passion for the history that was infectious.

Thank you for this wonderful experience. AAA was right, this was a gem We would recommend going to Old Town to all of our friends.

I was recently stranded out at the San Luis Reservoir, I had issues with my out board and my battery went dead and the

wind picked up really good. I was prepared as always with my safety jacket and a zip lock bag for personal belongings.

I just want to thank the rescue team who came out and towed me back to safety. These people are very much needed and are very much appreciated weather giving a ticket for fishing or hunting violations to helping rescue someone in distress on the water.

This afternoon at the request of a friend, I stopped in passing at the entrance to Samuel L. Taylor state park to make an inquiry. My friend wanted to know: "But who WAS Samuel L. Taylor?" (I realized that I had passed that way many times without asking that question, much less answering it, and I, too, was then curious.)

Having grown accustomed to the non-/bad/slow/routine service elsewhere, I more than half expected that my query would be answered by a Blank Stare, followed by "DUH!..."

I was therefore very pleasantly surprised when your ranger, neatly attired and courteous, not only gave me a clear, concise answer but provided more interesting details in response to my followup questions.

I know, I KNOW!-that is exactly and precisely what he SHOULD have done. My point is, that our private and public service standards have

so collapsed that I sincerely believe you and your staff should take a bow and share this CONGRATUATIONS!!

I am writing to let you know that my friends and I camped at Clear Lake State Park from June 6, 2009 for the first time. We had an absolutely fantastic time and found the campsites and facilities well maintained and visitor friendly. More importantly, I want it to be known that the Clear Lake park staff, from the entry guard to the park attendants, are some of the most courteous, friendly, and knowledgeable I have ever encountered. To be sure, this helped to make our visit to Clear Lake especially wonderful and we sincerely appreciate it.

We just stayed at Carlsbad State Park this week at site 128.

We were so happy with the site hosts. They did such a good job at maintaining the rules. It was a great restful vacation with lots of happy families.

I have been visiting Grover Hot Spring for a couple of times now and I never seen a staff who work so hard and very courteous to all camper and visitors from the gate to the security and all including the swimming pool staff I want to thank them and hope they keep the good work.

Promotions: March, April and May 2009



Jason De Wall Superintendent II, Twin Cities District

Jason De Wall has been in parks field operations for the past 12 years, starting off his career with the US Army Corps of Engineers as a boat patrol Ranger at Black Butte and Englebright Lakes. For the past nine years he has been with California State Parks as a Ranger at Los Banos Creek, Lake Oroville and promoting to Supervising Ranger at Santa Cruz Central Sector. From Santa Cruz Jason accepted a lateral to the Cascade Sector as a Supervising Ranger of McArthur-Burney Falls, Castle Crags, and Ahjumawi Lava Springs. Jason acted as Sector Superintendent for part of his time in the Cascade Sector. Jason brings a diverse knowledge base to the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division. Jason is married with two young boys, and the whole family just happens to be OHV enthusiasts.

Accounting Technician

Sherri L. Grant
Accounting Services Section
3/1/2009

Administrative Assistant II

Peggy L. Remmers
Director's Office
4/20/2009

Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Tiffany A. Aubel
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3/6/2009

Peggy L. Harwell
Business Management Services
Section
3/4/2009

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Diablo Vista District
3/1/2009

Leslie A. Simone
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Tonya M. Rogers
Monterey District
5/1/2009

Associate Park & Recreation Specialist

David W. Schaechtele
Planning Division
3/1/2009

Guide II Historical Monument (Supervisor)

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Museum Sector
4/1/2009

Maintenance Mechanic

James P. Vaught
Mendocino Sector
4/1/2009

Management Services Technician

Kimberley D. Leeds
Business Management Services
Section
4/6/2009

Office Technician (Typing)

Theresa Fryer
Marshall Gold Sector
5/1/2009

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Oceano Dunes District
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Jill L.C. Poudrette
Monterey District
5/1/2009

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Jeremy E. Highhouse
Museum Sector
4/1/2009

Park Maintenance Chief I

Blake J. Steele
Topanga Sector
3/1/2009

Park Maintenance Chief I

Alec J. Varner
Calaveras Sector
4/1/2009

Park Maintenance Chief III

Randy E. Caldera
Twin Cities District
5/1/2009

Felipe G. Jauregui
Santa Cruz District
5/18/2009

Park Maintenance Supervisor

James P. Dascoulias
Colorado Desert District
3/1/2009

Brian M. Hall
North Coast Redwoods District
3/1/2009

Jerry F. Hawkins
Turlock Lake
5/1/2009

Justin M. Mynk
Carnegie SVRA
4/1/2009

Brian Woodson
Ocotillo Wells District
3/1/2009

Park Maintenance Worker I

Richard R. Barry
Silverado Sector
4/1/2009

Maximino Castillo
Hollister Hills District
3/2/2009

Christopher A. Corder
Hungry Valley District
4/1/2009

Gregory D. Gilbertsen
Four Rivers Sector
5/1/2009

Matt W. Loeser
Hungry Valley District
4/1/2009

Tamra L. Zaugg
Sierra Gold Sector
4/1/2009

Personnel Supervisor I

Keren L. Yowell
Personnel Services Section
3/1/2009

Personnel Supervisor II

Ronette Martinez
Personnel Services Section
3/1/2009

Regional Interpretive Specialist

Michael Anthony Rodrigues
Colorado Desert District
5/1/2009

Research Analyst II/GIS

Donald S. Solleder
Ocotillo Wells District
3/1/2009

Restoration Work Specialist

Michael F. Byram
Lake Tahoe Sector
3/14/2009

Staff Management Auditor

Julie D. Hom
Audits Office
4/1/2009

Benjamin Y. Yu
Audits Office
3/1/2009

Staff Services Analyst

Kimberli A. Camarena
Hollister Hills District
4/13/2009

State Park Interpreter I

Constance G. Gordon
Museum Sector
4/1/2009

Jerelyn R. Oliveira
Fort Tejon SHP
3/2/2009

Gregory Schumaker
Hollister Hills District
5/1/2009

Jenna A. Scimeca
Oceano Dunes District
4/1/2009

Staff Services Manger I

Daniel B. Bierwirth
Surcom
5/15/2009

State Park Interpreter III

Carolyn J. Schimandle
Interpretation & Education
Division
5/19/2009

Supervising Ranger

Bart P. Grant
San Jacinto Sector
4/1/2009

Supervising Ranger

Denis C. Poole
Four Rivers Sector
3/1/2009

Supervising Ranger

Nathan Von Aeschleman
Four Rivers Sector
3/10/2009

Corrections:**Administrative Officer III**

Joan Evers
Gold Fields District
2/1/2009

Associate Governmental Program Analyst

David Williams
Budgets
1/16/2009

New Lifeguards

Elisabeth M. Bray
Philip A. Hauck
Onesimo I. Hernandez
John T. Hunt
Christian J. Lambert
Justin S. McHenry
Kevin J. Selna
Todd Michael Shanklin

New Rangers

Jesse L. Adams
Corey M. Alderson
Jason A. Archuleta
Jordan K. Baculpo
Emily M. Bertram
Iain G. Beveridge
Zachary Daniel Burke
Nicholas A. Chase
Shalon F. Cunningham
Mike S. Dippel
Erik J. Dodos
David D. Gunn
John C. Hardcastle
Timothy L. Harden
David R. Hart
Brady Her
Onesimo I. Hernandez
John T. Hunt
Trevor W. Irace
Christopher M. Larkin
John G. Lucich
Daniel J. Marinella
Eldon M. McBride
Brian H. Meyer
Nathan P. Mills
Robert M. Mullins
Vaughn T. Pani
Darren R. Parker
Erik M. Plute
David G. Richards
David A. Rodrigues
Michael J. Stockinger Jr.
Luke M. Stone
Stephen R. Van Etten
Roberto I. Walton
Gregory J. White
Paul L. Wissler Jr.

2008 Director's Awards Winners

Olmsted Award: Leadership and Vision

Los Angeles Sector Rangers and Interpretive Team

- Sean A. Woods, Superintendent III
- Thomas Carroll, Park Interpretive Specialist (Seasonal)
- Larry Fulmer, Ranger
- Jennifer Dandurand, Park Interpretive Specialist
- Karma Graham, District Interpretive Specialist
- Daniel E. Golde, Ranger
- Lee Hawkins, Ranger
- Damon R. McJunkin, Ranger
- Jonelle C. Mckie, Supervising Ranger
- Kristen N. Perry, Interpreter
- James D. Valdez, Ranger

Hill Award: Inspiration

Mark Jorgensen, State Park Superintendent
Anza-Borrego Desert SP

Drury Award: Professional Integrity

Ronilee Clark, State Park Superintendent
San Diego Coast District

Mott Award: Innovation

Small Business/Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise Summit 2008 Team

Business Management Services

- Gayle Bohlmann, Manager III
- Maureen O'Connor, Manager II
- Thomas Dempsey, Manager I
- Nori Tipon, Manager I
- Timothy Wood, Manager I
- Danelle Hosmann, Manager I
- Chris Beresford, Ret. Annuitant
- Cathy Croly, Associate Gov. Program Analyst
- Laura Horsley, Staff Svc. Analyst
- Therese Marchetti, Associate Gov. Program Analyst
- Hannah Walloupe, Associate Gov. Program Analyst

Dewitt Award: Partnership

- Kurt Loesch, Docent
- Point Lobos State Reserve/ Monterey District
- InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council
Hawk Rosales, Exec. Director

Ingenuity Award

Lawrence (Sparky) Ross,
Stationary Engineer
Hearst Castle/San Luis Obispo District

Special Commendations

Wallace (Kirk) Coon
State Park Ranger
Lake Oroville/Northern Buttes District

Marsha Henderson
Chief Administrative Officer
Central Valley District

Kim L. Snyder
Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Acquisition and Real Property

Diane C. Strategos
Associate Gov. Program Analyst

Acquisition and Real Property

Special Act/Special Service

Jeffrey Gouailhardou
State Park Lifeguard (Seasonal)
Silverwood Lake SRA/
Tehachapi District

Kelly Zylman
State Park Lifeguard (Seasonal)
Silverwood Lake SRA/
Tehachapi District

James E. McGlynn
Park Maintenance Worker
Torrey Pines/San Diego North Sector