NEWS & VIEWS

An Award-Winning Publication of California State Parks

Fall 2007

Sierra District Rangers Assist Angora Efforts

By Pam Armas, Sierra District Superintendent

On June 24, at approximately 2:15 p.m., the Angora fire started near Angora Lakes, reportedly by an illegal campfire. The fire was fast-moving, fueled by very dry vegetation and high winds. The fire immediately threatened a South Lake Tahoe neighborhood and its residents. The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office (EDSO) broadcast a request for immediate assistance to neighboring law enforcement agencies to facilitate safe evacuation of residents. Three state park ranger units responded to this call for assistance. After the initial assist with the evacuation, rangers were requested by EDSO to assist with security and "looting patrol" of the neighborhood affected by the fire. State Parks provided three-to-twelve hour shifts, two rangers each for secu-

▶ **ANGORA, Page 6**

The Angora Wildfire burned 3,072 acres and destroyed 229 homes in five days. On day three, it was within four miles of Emerald Bay. State Parks evacuated a campground and protected Vikingsholm.

Late Breaking News:

Three State Parks Properties Each Earn Governor's Historic Preservation Award

In an advanced peek into award winners, News & Views has learned that the Office of Historic Preservation will award three state park properties with Governor's Historic Preservation Awards.

Three of the 16 winners will be Crystal Cove State Park, Point Cabrillo Light Station and the Leland Stanford Mansion.

The awards ceremony will be held November 16. More to come in the Winter Issue.

Cramolini is Ranger of the Year

Excerpted from ReserveAmerica Press Release

ReserveAmerica, the leader in recreation and campground reservation services, today announced "America's Ranger of the Year," as well as 5 additional silver medal winners from across the country. The annual Awards are bestowed

▶**RANGER OF THE YEAR, Page 5**

Director Ruth Coleman

With the end of the Legislative Session, we finally have a complete picture of our budget for this coming year. Two bills that affect our department passed both houses. First, the Legislature passed a bill to the Governor that clarified that a $15 million cut to State Parks was a one-time reduction to the amount set aside for deferred maintenance rather than a one-time cut to our operating budget. While it is disappointing to lose an additional $15 million from our deferred maintenance program, we will be able to replace those funds with bond funds next year and complete the projects. Had the cut come from our operating budget, the impact on our park operations would have been severe.

The second major bill extended the Off Highway Vehicle program for an additional 10 years. This program had been scheduled to sunset this January. Had this bill not passed, we would have had to close all the State Vehicular Recreation Areas and lay off hundreds of staff. This bill will allow us to continue to operate places for managed OHV use and provide grants for enforcement, maintenance and restoration on federal lands where a tremendous amount of OHV use occurs.

With the passage of these two bills, we have roughly the same budget this year as we did last year. Unfortunately, the prospects for next year look serious. We have all read about the extraordinary rate of foreclosures in the housing market. It is too early to tell if we are heading for a recession, but the trends are not reassuring. We are kidding ourselves to think that this economic uncertainty won't affect us in the future.

We cannot control all these outside forces but we can control how we will respond to this challenge. I am convinced that the only way we will survive is to remind the public every day that we have the best park system in the country and it is worth saving. The public will pay for what they believe in. We must make believers out of all our visitors and the surrounding communities whose economic future depends on our continued existence.

We know we provide the antidote to so much of what the public needs. Families need to connect to each other, children need to connect to nature, children and adults need to increase their physical activity, and connect to their history. These needs transcend political affiliations, religious affiliations or ethnicity. All Californians need our parks and we must prove to them that we are indispensable. We can do that by reminding people about the treasures they enjoy as California taxpayers. We can do it through special events that draw attention to the park and draw people to it for the first time. When they visit, we need to engage them in a way that reminds them they need to 'own' these parks, treat these parks with care, and speak up for these parks or they might lose them. Millions of Californians love their state parks, but these millions silently take this park system for granted. Our challenge is to help them find their voice.

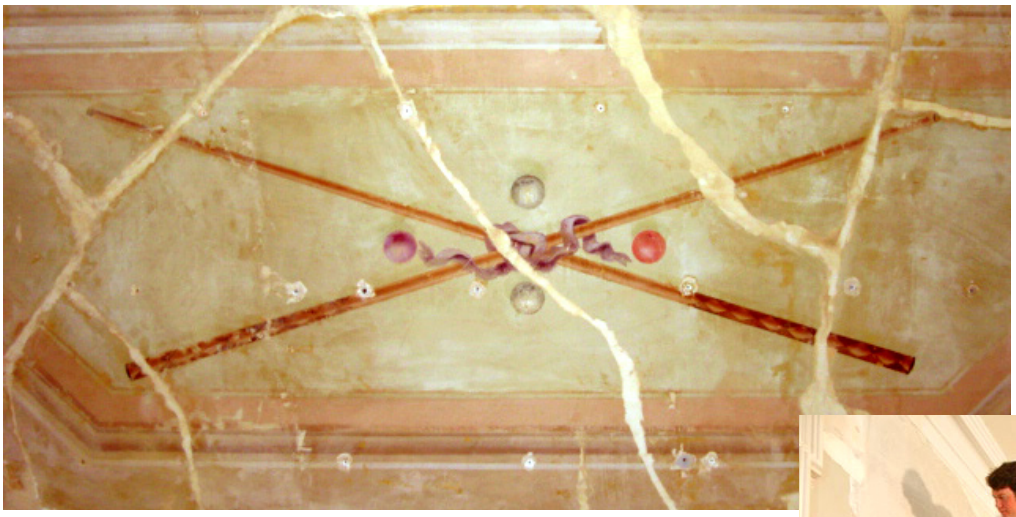
Governor's Proclamations Highlight Parks

CA State Park Ranger Day, July 31 – Coinciding with World Ranger Day, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger honored State Park Rangers by touting their "tremendous responsibility." The Department celebrated World Ranger Day on Aug. 1 in a multi-agency fair at the Maritime National Historical Park in San Francisco. http://gov.ca.gov/index.php?/proclamation/7050/

Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, July 6 – Created by the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism, it encourages 10 activities that children ages 4-14 should enjoy. The Governor's showed support with a proclamation. The California State Park Commission issued a resolution supporting the Governor. http://gov.ca.gov/index.php?/proclamation/6883/

CA Trail Days May 19-20 – This annual event unites volunteers, park managers and other trail users to work on access, advocacy, education, fundraising, maintenance and repair. This year, hundreds of volunteers statewide contributed 4,744 hours during trail days building, repairing and cleaning trails. http://gov.ca.gov/index.php?/proclamation/5845/

Delving into Walls Reveals Once-Lost History



Dave Henry Photography

The billiard-themed painting on the ceiling of the Governor's Mansion in Sacramento was discovered as part of a deferred maintenance project. Right: Restoration Work Specialist Tim Gellinck applies plaster to prepare a wall for painting.

By Sheryl A. Watson, Information Officer

At the Governor's Mansion State Historic Park in Sacramento, ornate wall decorations from the late 1800s, which had been covered over and forgotten in the early 1900s, were discovered by a curious restoration specialist.

The walls that had just been primed and prepared for yet another layer of 1950s wallpaper held a secret. The clue was a piece of plaster crown molding he found earlier inside a false walled-in enclosure, resting atop a water tank. The lavender and sage stripes contrasted with its tan base coat, which was set apart from a faded baby-blue stripe a few inches over. Nothing else like it existed in the house. Where did it come from and why was it here? California State Parks Restoration Work Specialist Tim Gellinck wanted to solve this mystery.

Back in the main room, he took a bit of denatured alcohol to one corner of a wall. As he carefully rubbed away years of primer, plaster and paint, a sliver of pink began to appear. Then came white scroll work with a tan base coat and he knew that he found something rare and valuable. He discovered that the walls and ceiling had originally been painted to look like moldings, recessed ceilings, frames, and wood-carved scroll work. The paint style made to fool the eye, or trompe l'oeil, also included carom billiard balls and cue sticks at one end of a room's ceiling.

"This is an amazing discovery," said State Parks Director Ruth Coleman. "After all of these years, to think, that in our lifetime, we can now see first hand the artistry that was applied to these walls 130 years ago."

The maintenance work on the third floor is a small part of a $1.2 million deferred maintenance project now underway at the mansion. The majority of the deferred maintenance project is in stabilizing, protecting, and preserving the entire exterior of both the mansion and the carriage house. It also includes work on the basement (where offices and a bathroom are being made accessible to people with disabilities), as well as electrical systems repair and enhancements to the security system.

When work began on the third floor, the plaster ceilings showed large cracks. There were sections of plaster that had simply fallen to the floor and shattered, having loosened from their wood supports or lath that was damaged by water long ago. Once the maintenance phase of the third floor is completed, Curator Kendra Dillard and others will begin the restoration phase. The lack of funds had kept the third floor static and closed to the public for 30 years while the Sacramento Historic Sites Association raised money. They are contributing $90,000 to the third floor's restoration phase. When the work is finished next year, the third floor will be available for public tours. The first two floors are remaining open to the public during the work.

ADA Upgrade Moves Training Center Treasures

by Michael D. Green, Acting Department Training Officer

The quiet calm of a crystal clear morning in the East Woods of Asilomar Conference Grounds is broken by the sound of jackhammers and saws. Just beyond the west bookcase shelf of Mott Training Center's Zena Holman Library, workers are gutting the restrooms and readying to break through the library wall. Meanwhile, a team of curators and training center staff work swiftly to remove hundreds of books. It's all part of an extensive improvement project to bring restrooms up to ADA standards, transform the ground floor of Tree Tops lodge, and add ADA parking in the East Woods parking lot.

Since they were in the construction zone, all library books had to be moved to temporary storage. Monterey District Curator Kris Quist worked with me to coordinate the project. Assisting us were the training center's Sara Skinner, Michelle Gardner, Pamela Yaeger, and Edith Alhambra. From Monterey District, PMA Lee Merrill, Curator Connie Mendoza, and Curatorial Park Aides Bryan Jones and Alex Rinehart joined the effort. Cardinale Moving and Storage, a local company with considerable experience handling artifacts, provided boxes and movers. Asilomar Concessionaire Delaware North secured low-cost storage space.

Kris Quist, Curator I, Monterey District

Training Center staff clean and prepare the historic Holman Collection for temporary storage. From left: Sara Skinner, Michelle Gardner, Michael Green, Pamela Yaeger, Lee Merrill.

The night before our work began, I took photos of all shelves with books in place—over 200 digital images. The next day, working in systematic fashion, our team carefully removed each book from the shelf and dusted the cover and end pages with camel hair brushes into a low-powered vacuum. After listing the title, we wrapped each volume individually in acid-free paper and boxed them for temporary storage. Additional individual photos were taken of rare works before they were boxed.

"I was impressed by the different books that Mrs. Holman collected, from world renowned authors to local favorites—it represents an incredible range," said Interpreter II Sara Skinner.

As the team tenderly cradled delicate tomes and carried them from their shelves, many old treasures were rediscovered, including a complete 17th-Century Spanish illuminated manuscript and a first edition copy of Dana's *Two Years Before the Mast*, published in England.

"It's projects like this that remind me of why I work for State Parks," said Lee Merrill.

▶ **MOTT,** Page 5

Kris Quist, Curator I, Monterey District

Workers demolish Training Center restrooms.

On July 1, Ed Vodrazka, Lifeguard Supervisor at Torrey Pines State Beach captured a shot of the crowds surrounding lifeguard tower #5. Although the beach is short (less than a mile), the seven-tower beach ranked #3 in all State Beaches for rescues in 2006, with 413 rescues .

Mott

▶FROM PAGE 4

With two "assembly lines" going and up to eight people working at once, it still took over two-and-a-half days to complete the cleaning and packing.

Zena Holman donated the books to California State Parks in the early 1970s, stipulating that the gift remain on the Monterey Peninsula. They have been part of the research library at the Mott Training Center ever since. Holman also donated a significant American Indian artifact collection to Old Town Monterey. With the enlargement of restrooms, the Holman Library will be five feet shorter and will have noticeably less shelf space. To make room, Curator Kris Quist agrees that it would be appropriate for some of the historic books on American Indians to be reunited with the artifact collection at Pacific House.

For our part, the staff at Mott Training Center is excited to have gotten to know the collection a bit better. The best part is, when the project is completed, we'll be able to offer much better accommodations to our guests.

Ranger of the Year

▶FROM PAGE 1

on the country's top rangers who dedicate their careers to serving park visitors while preserving the country's public lands for future generations. Following the tally of votes submitted to ReserveAmerica by camping enthusiasts from all across the country, Reserve America presented its Gold Medal Ranger of the Year award to Scott Cramolini of Emma Wood State Beach, California. Cramolini began his career with CA State Parks 32 years ago on June 5, 1975, as a Seasonal Visitor Services Park Aid within the Ventura Sector of the Channel Coast District. In 1982, he completed his B.A. Degree at California State University-Chico, in Parks and Recreation Administration and received his California POST Law Enforcement Training from the Ventura County Criminal Justice Training Center. He has been a California State Park Ranger/Peace Officer for 25 years. He has been a dedicated ranger who has always provided excellent customer service his entire career. He strives to be positive and helpful at all times.

Angora

▶FROM PAGE 1

rity on June 24 and 25.

On the morning of June 26, State Parks was relieved of its duty by El Dorado Sheriff's Office, stating that the CHP would take over security for the incident. State Parks and other local California and Nevada law enforcement agencies were released from the incident. We all breathed a sigh of relief.

That afternoon, the Angora Fire jumped its line and became uncontrolled, crossing Highway 89. Because the fire was fast-moving, crowning in the trees with intense heat, it was recognized that state parks on the west shore of Lake Tahoe surrounding Emerald Bay could be impacted. The fire column and flames were visible from the Sierra District maintenance yard located approximately two to three miles away. Sierra District Incident Command (IC) was formally established at 8 a.m. the next day. Additionally, a Department Emergency Operation Center (DEOC) at State Parks Headquarters was formally established for the Angora Fire. The role of a DEOC is to support a district impacted by a large emergency event.

Both State Parks Sierra District and Headquarters personnel recognized the Angora fire as a potential threat to Emerald Bay and began mobilizing resources. Equipment and personnel were sent to Sierra District from various locations throughout the state in order to prepare for evacuation of Emerald Bay parks, including Vikingsholm. The morning of June 29, State Parks was informed the Angora fire was 80 percent contained and moving into a mop-up phase. Sierra District prepared for demobilization of all resources. Sierra District IC was demobilized at 8:30 a.m. and all deployed resources were released. Eagle Point Campground was reopened and the trail to Vikingsholm was reopened. Vikingsholm was "put back together" and ready for tours the next day.

Don Michaely, Associate Landscap Architect

California State Parks staff worked closely with the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office to keep people and resources safe.

News & Views

Summer 2007

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- **Sheryl Watson, Editor**
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- **Carol Cullens, Proofreader**
- **Lindsay Oxford, Layout and Design**

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 keep article length to 400 words.
The next submission deadline is October 29.

Fire Threatens Vikingsholm Treasures

Don Michaely, Associate Landscap Architect

With the fire threat subsided, Judy Palanich went to work putting china and other items back on display in preparation for visitors.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, June 26, Lake Tahoe's fast-moving Angora fire jumped its line, potentially threatening Vikingsholm and its 4,084 historic artifacts. Sierra District curatorial staff, augmented by trained "white glove" personnel from Columbia SHP and Museum Services, began packing for artifact evacuation to West Sacramento's climate controlled storage. The 10-person curatorial crew wrapped newly-conserved textiles in archival tissue; packed small, fragile artifacts into acid-free boxes; moved heavy, carved and painted Scandinavian furniture to staging areas; rolled huge Oriental carpets in muslin; and planned for a journey in rented moving trucks up the steep road along the Emerald Bay cliff. Friday morning, with the wildfire under control and the weather cooperating, demobilization began. With the holiday fast approaching, the curatorial crew at Vikingsholm immediately started to "put it back together," unpacking, unrolling, and reinstalling artifacts. With every piece in place, Vikingsholm reopened to the public on Saturday, June 30.

New Cabins at McArthur-Burney Falls

California State Parks has completed the installation of 24 new and innovative, family-style cabins at McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park. The cabins represent a new effort by State Parks to offer an alternative camping experience that is taking hold in many states across the nation.

"We have learned that while millions of our visitors love tent camping, there are many others who want an outdoor experience with a little more comfort," said Ruth Coleman, director of California State Parks. These cabins provide that comfort, but we also feel they will encourage more first-time visitors to try an outdoor camping experience." The project is the result of public-private collaboration between several parties: California State Parks, the U.S. Forest Service and the private Recreation Resource Management Company. California State Parks operates the property under permit from the Forest Service, which owns the campground property. Located adjacent to the 129-foot waterfall that Teddy Roosevelt called one of the wonders of the world, the cabins became available on the ReserveAmerica system as of June 20, for overnight rentals beginning July 2, just in time for the Fourth of July holiday. According to District Superintendent Bob Foster, "The Park is anticipating a high demand for use of these new cabins. Visitors who have seen them under construction have expressed their support for the project and a strong desire to rent them."

The cabins do not contain bathroom or cooking facilities. Persons using the cabins would still use restrooms and shower facilities located in multiple locations around the campground. Each cabin site also has a picnic table and an outdoor barbeque pit for cooking.

Community Spirit Spotlight

This year's annual Idyllwild Fourth of July Parade featured members of the staff of Mount San Jacinto State Park, including Superintendent Eddie Guaracha (recently promoted to Superintendent II of the Gavilan Sector) and Maintenance Worker Jodi Whelchel.

Volunteerism Sets All-Time Record

By Sheryl A. Watson, Information Officer

More people than ever are giving their time to California's state parks.

For the second year in a row, California State Parks has enjoyed a record-breaking number of volunteers, attracting more than 17,037, up by 428 from the year before. This all-time record reflects 913,665 hours of volunteer service, valued at more than $17 million by U.S. Department of Labor standards.

Margo Cowan, who heads the department's Volunteers in the Parks Program and produced its 2006 Annual Program Activity Report in August, said she believes the increase is the result of park staff increasing community awareness of volunteer opportunities.

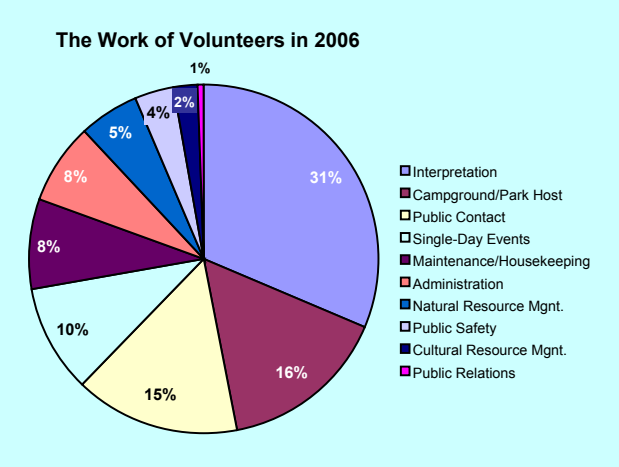
"Everywhere I go people say, 'We love the parks,'" said Cowan. "There is a real positive image, so it's easy for people to get involved."

While she is pleased with the record number of volunteers, Cowan has her sights set on increasing the number of volunteer hours. Those numbers are down slightly by 3.8 percent from 2005.

"There are more volunteers, but they are putting in fewer hours," said Cowan. "I would love to get back to that one-million-hour mark that we reached in 1997. That has been my goal since coming here in 2003."

For eight years, no other state had hit California's 1997 record, but in 2005, Florida edged past the one-million mark.

Organizations like the Governor's *CaliforniaVolunteers.Org* are helping. The Web site makes it possible for people to search more than 25,000 volunteer opportunities by interest and zip code. A state park, sector or district can make their opportunities known through volunteer agencies or hubs listed online at http://www.californiavolunteers.org/hubs.asp.



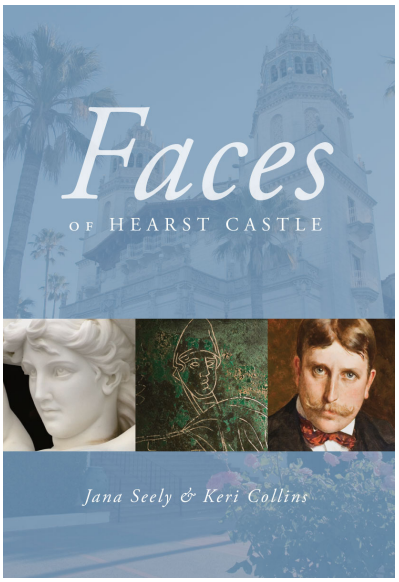
Working collaboratively with the California State Parks Foundation and other co-sponsors, California State Parks engaged individuals in a variety of activities, including maintaining trails, cleaning parks and beaches, and performing living history demonstrations.

Hearst Castle Press Launches Debut Title

By Hoyt Fields, Museum Director, San Luis Obispo Coast District/Museum Sector

In 2006, California State Parks and Friends of Hearst Castle joined forces to expand their shared mission to educate and inspire interest in the art and history of San Simeon. The result: Hearst Castle Press, a museum press run by Friends of Hearst Castle, the museum's nonprofit cooperating association, dedicated to offering unique books targeted to the 800,000 annual visitors to Hearst Castle® and those interested in William Randolph Hearst, Hearst Castle, and its associated collections, architecture, and history.

Curatorial staff members Jana Seely and Keri Collins co-authored the debut publication, *Faces of Hearst Castle*. "Many fine publications focus on William Randolph Hearst, Julia Morgan, and the architecture of Hearst Castle, so we felt an urgency to shine the spotlight on some of the many engaging artifacts in the collection," Ms. Seely said. *Faces of Hearst Castle* includes never-before-published photographs to provide a close-up view of over forty objects purchased—primarily at art auctions—by media magnate William Randolph Hearst. "The book can be thought of as an exhibition on the page. It allows readers to make an immediate and personal connection to Hearst's art, through exclusive photographs and short texts that we hope are educational without being overwhelming," Seely explained. Photographed in situ to preserve their context as objects in a home rather than isolated in a gallery or studio, the works of art, whether a rhyton in the shape of a ram's head or a maiden carved from cool marble, are part of the story of Hearst Castle and the collection that is taking center stage.



***Faces of Hearst Castle* is the first publication from Hearst Castle Press**

"Several items featured in the book are on display through next spring in an exhibit titled 'Treasures from Hearst Castle' at the California Museum for History, Women, and the Arts in Sacramento," Collins said. "Next year the Los Angeles County Museum of Art is presenting an exhibition that looks at Hearst as a collector. We're delighted that our passion for Hearst's art collection is being shared with a broader audience, and hope it will inspire people from all over the state to visit the Castle and see for themselves the faces we're privileged to see on a regular basis."

Please visit www.hearstcastlepress.org for more information on ***Faces of Hearst Castle***, available to the public September 16, 2007.

CALENDAR

REDEDICATION DAY
Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park, October 13
Join us for the 30th annual rededication. For more information, please call (661) 849-3433.

COLOMA GOLD RUSH LIVE
Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, October 13 and 14
Step back in time and experience the California Gold Rush. For more information call (530) 295-2162 or (530) 622-3470.

WELCOME BACK MONARCHS
Natural Bridges State Beach October 14
For more information, please call (831) 423-4609.

WOOF IN THE WOODS
Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, October 20
Bring your doggie friend and take part in the festivities! For more information, please call (831) 335-7077.

135TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park November 17
The highlight of the evening is from 6-8p.m. when the historic lighthouse's Fresnel Lens lights

▶**CALENDAR, Page 23**

1. National Guard Crew Chief Sergeant Mike Norbriga guides the pilot as they prepare for a landing.
2. Hooking up the harness and ensuring the straps don't slip are (clockwise from left) Danial Himes, Mark Holland and Mike Bloom.
3. The Blackhawk helicopter slowly lifts off the ground as the teather to the bridge tightens for the flight.

Photos By Roy Stearns

Airlift Finishes 11-Year Effort

A team of volunteers installed a bridge that completed an 18-mile stretch of the San Joaquin River Trail, the only "trans-Sierra" trail in California.

This trail connects the Pacific Crest Trail and the John Muir trails. It is an east-west route that begins in Millerton Lake State Recreation Area north of Fresno, climbs through the foothills, crests the Sierra, then slopes down to Devils Postpile National Monument near Mammoth.

The bridge sections were lifted into place on June 9 and 10 by a California National Guard Blackhawk helicopter.

Trail enthusiasts were themselves the workforce. Hikers, horseback riders and mountain bikers prepared the rugged ground, engineered bridge supports and prepared the site. They brought concrete, brick and other materials in on foot, on horseback and by mule.

The 11-year project was led by the San Joaquin River Trail Council, which brought together 68 volunteers from eight organizations and contributions from 10 businesses.

The project manager was Mark Holland, of the Central California Off-Road Cyclists.

1. Helicopter and bridge rise high above to clear the treetops.
2. With the helicopter lowering the 2,100 pound segment, the team guides it in place.
3. Celebrating their accomplishment are Mark Holland, Sergeant Dave Hanson, Danial Himes and John Marquez.
4. The Big Sandy Bridge is ready for visitors.

Photo by Mark Holland, Volunteer/Project Manager.

Million Mile May!!!

By Gayle Bohlmann, Staff Services Manager, Contracts and Asset Management

California State Parks staff logged more than 4,000 miles during Bike Commute Month 2007, the Sacramento region's third-annual campaign to encourage bicycling and to remind us that bicycling is an enjoyable alternative to driving a car. Throughout Million Mile May, as the campaign is also known, bicyclists of all ages and experience levels made a pledge to ride their bicycles to work, on errands, and for recreation. The goal: one million miles.

Cyclists who logged their miles weekly at www.bikecommutemonth.com were eligible for prize drawings that included cyclist socks in 2007 Bike Commute Month colors, $25 gift certificates to the bike shop of the winner's choice, and tickets to the River Cats baseball game, which followed the Regional Million Mile May Finale Celebration on June 14th. Cyclists that logged commute, errand, or recreational miles all four weeks of the campaign were entered to win several Grand Prizes, including a 3-day Emigrant Trails Bike Trek in the Napa Valley, and a 3-month family membership at California Family Fitness. Our very own John Mott of the Interpretation and Education Division won a pair of cyclist socks and Carol Shiras of the Business and Fiscal Services Section won a $25 bike shop gift certificate.

First row: Cathy Zehnle, Director Ruth Coleman, Eric Tanner. Second row: Michelle Rochon, June Mak, Mari McMahon, Jennifer Crockett. Third row: Cara Randall, Debra Gonzalez, Sandy Berry, Carol Shiras, Jason Quinn. Fourth row: Jim Heggli, Gerhard Panuschk, Casey Hayden. Participants not pictured are Don Bybee, Rick Hayes, John Mott, Tim Olmstead, Dan Osanna, Berndt Stolfi, and Kathy Schulz.

A grand total of 4,790 cyclists logged 926,638 miles, with nearly 370,000 of these miles from work commutes. If the almost 2,800 people commuting by bicycle had chosen to drive to work instead of bicycling; they would have generated 5,216 pounds of air pollution, 343,022 lbs of carbon-dioxide, and burned 17,653 gallons (two tanker trucks) of fuel. If the more than 1,000 people who did errands by bicycle had driven instead, the 24,160 miles of driving would have generated 28 pounds of air pollution, 22,398 lbs of global-warming carbon dioxide, and burned 1,153 gallons of fuel.

The 2007 campaign was sponsored by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, the Cities of Elk Grove and Roseville, Cal/EPA, the County of Sacramento, Caltrans, and many of the region's Transportation Management Associations, among others.

If you would like more information on the Sacramento region's Bike Commute Month campaign, please visit www.bikecommutemonth.com, or email Eric Tanner in the Contracts & Asset Management Section at commute@parks.ca.gov. For information on National Bike Month, please visit www.bikemonth.com.

News & Views wants your submissions!

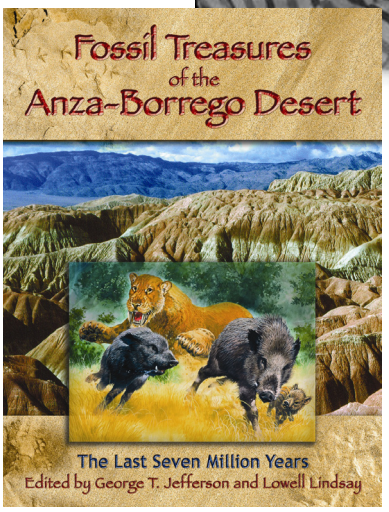
See the requirements on page six or contact us at newsandviews@parks.ca.gov

Paleontologist Earns National Recognition

By Leslie Bellah, Colorado Desert District

"Encounter ancient landscapes where today spreads a vast desert, and discover a prehistoric world teeming with wildlife. When you think of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, you may envision wildflowers, bighorn sheep, or sandy, windblown lowlands framed by rugged mountains. Few realize that the expanses of Anza-Borrego's eroded badlands provide a very different view; one that opens windows into the region's long-vanished past. In fact, it contains the most continuous history of life for the last seven million years in North America. It is indeed one of the richest, most varied fossil records of its time in the western hemisphere."

~ Fossil Treasures of the Anza-Borrego Desert



State Parks District Paleontologist George T. Jefferson and his associate, Lowell Lindsay, recently earned critical acclaim with the publication of the book, Fossil Treasures of the Anza-Borrego Desert.

At Book Expo America in New York City, they took home a gold medal as Book of the Year in the Science/Environment category. They also won first place in the San Diego Interest category at the 13th annual San Diego Book Awards in June. The book is among selections offered to members of the Discovery Channel Book Club and the Scientific American Book Club.

George Jefferson (left) and Lowell Lindsay sign copies of their book, *Fossil Treasures of the Anza-Borrego Desert*.

It has been described as ground-breaking work by paleontologists at such institutions as the American Museum of Natural History, the California Academy of Sciences, Yale University's Peabody Museum of Natural History and the Museum of the Rockies.

A book review by the San Diego Union Tribune stated, "They have not only done a superb job in gathering together a world-class, state-of-the-art collection of essays, but they have done so in a manner that combines scientific accuracy with readability."

This 394-page hard cover contains essays and chapters written by nearly two dozen experts in paleontology, zoology, geology, climate and environmental science. Through it's text, photos, charts, maps and 300 color illustrations, the book chronicles seven million years of the desert's ancient history. It was a time when the now arid desert held rich riparian forests and lakes that supported the 550 species of plants and animals whose fossils are now in the museum. It is a history told through fossils of such unique animals as giant camels, bathtub-sized tortoises and a sabertooth cat found buried in dry ancient stream and lake sediments that are five-miles thick.

The book was published by Sunbelt Publications in partnership with State Parks and the Anza-Borrego Foundation & Institute. Book of the Year winner is selected by a panel of judges composed of librarians and booksellers. The winners, narrowed from nearly 1,400 entries, represent the finest work from today's independent publishing community. Each entry was judged on criteria including originality, writing and production quality, and patron/customer interest in the subject.

Adapted from Tracks, the newsletter of the Colorado Desert District

Anza-Borrego Desert Watch

By Michael Puzzo,
Wildlife Biologist,
U.C. Davis Wildlife Health Center

The Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute and the Wildlife Health Center (WHC) at the University of California at Davis began a pilot citizen science program called Desert Watch.

This program, piloted in 2006, was planned to document wildlife activity using motion sensing digital cameras in and immediately around Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Digital trail camera "traps" are a non-invasive method used by wildlife professionals to document the absence or presence of different wildlife species in a specific area.

A buck in rut follows a doe, unaware that his actions are being caught by a digital trail camera placed by members of the Desert Watch program.

Locations were chosen based upon their proximity to perennial or nearly-perennial water sources and paths that a variety of wildlife are known to frequent. Locations included Palm Canyon, Cottonwood Spring, Jim Spring, Angelina Spring, Jasper Trail/Grapevine Canyon, Sentenac Cienega, San Felipe Wash, the Pacific Crest Trail between Highway S22 and Warner Springs, and Mountain Springs. At each of these places a wide variety of animals, both wild and domestic, have been photographed.

Without the ten extremely energetic participants we would never have gotten off the ground. Grace Clark, Suzanne Schmidt, Jamie and Lee Mendez, Jackie Selby, Daniel Hellyer, Thad McManus, Diane Johnson, Hal Cohen and Jim Gilloon, working alone or in pairs, were responsible for the digital cameras.

After an initial field trip to the Angelina Spring location, cameras were placed in the field and then checked by the volunteers every one to two weeks. At that time batteries and memory cards were checked and replaced as needed, and images were downloaded and compiled.

Wildlife doesn't always stop and smile to have their pictures taken at specific locations; sometimes a little coaxing is required. For predators and scavengers this can be solved easily by placing a carcass (a deer carcass lasts a long time) along a well-shaded travel corridor. By doing this, we are able to get pictures of a variety of scavengers, some well known and some that make us do double takes.

A carcass of any kind rarely goes unconsumed by scavengers in the wilderness. All of those necessary calories, vitamins and minerals are essential for survival, and who is going to pass up a free meal? If predators don't have to risk life or limb and can still fill their bellies, they are going to dine in front of the camera.

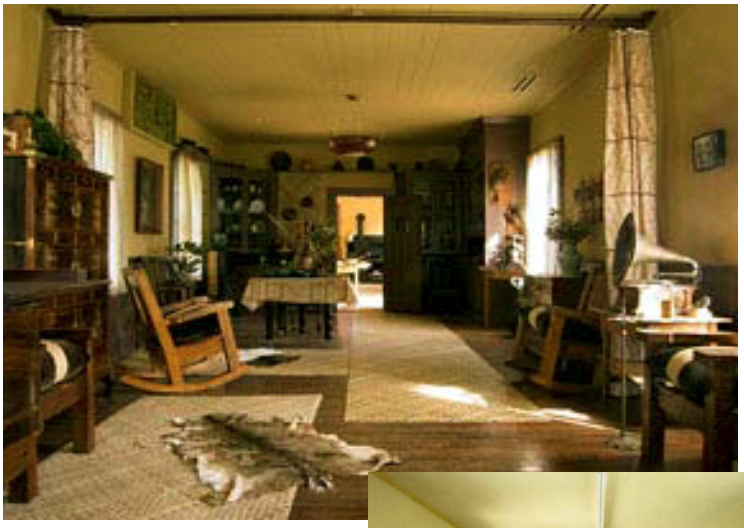
The high quality of the trail camera enabled us to capture many beautiful action shots of a bobcat catching a deer and feeding.

A few days later we were rewarded with an even greater series of pictures. The strong odor of skunk first cued us in to what we might see on the images, possibly a few pictures of the bobcat and then a few of the skunk. What a treat to see the bobcat and striped skunk actually sharing a meal together! Throughout the series of about a dozen images it always seemed that the bobcat demonstrated signs of hesitation while the skunk appeared to be content with its surroundings.

The Desert Watch program is now coordinated by Paul Johnson, environmental services intern in the Colorado Desert District, at California State Parks. Most of the existing locations will continue to be monitored and a few new ones will be added in this fall. During the summer months, extreme heat in the lower elevations has a negative effect on camera equipment so some monitoring stations were removed. In the fall, however additional monitoring stations will be added.

Adapted from Tracks, the newsletter of the Colorado Desert District

London Cottage Sent Back in Time



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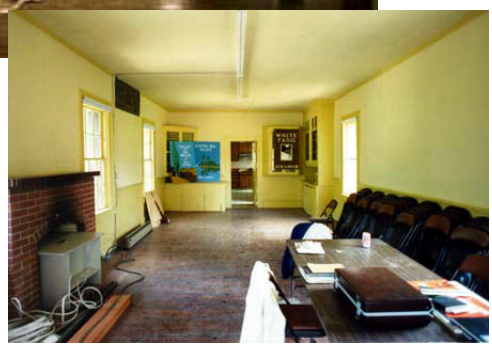

Before

California State Parks has finished restoring the cottage where Jack London and his wife Charmain lived from 1905 to 1916. The single-story cottage and its stone annex are now available as a house museum for the public to view for the first time ever. The furnishings, paint schemes and fabrics were selected based on oral interviews obtained from their employees, family members and guests who visited the Londons, as well as from historic photographs, costume research and a Historic Structures Report prepared for the cottage. Visitors can experience the 3,000-square-foot cottage in Glenn Ellen on weekends through self-guided tours that include interpretive panels throughout the interior and exterior in an interactive audiovisual program about the Londons.

The three-year restoration effort was led by the Northern Service Center, the Diablo Vista District and the Silverado Sector staff. In addition to the decor, the restoration included structural improvements including a new roof, an upgraded heating and air conditioning system, a fire suppression system and a security system to prolong the life of significant museum objects and furnishings. The cottage was also made accessible to people with disabilities.

A team of state park professionals, specialized contractors and members of the Valley of the Moon Natural History Association planned and conducted the work needed to carefully recreate the environment in which the Londons lived and worked.

The $1.8 million restoration was funded by the voter-approved, 2000 Park Bond, known as Proposition 12.

Heber Dunes SVRA is a Wildlife Oasis

By Tom Gunther, Supervising Ranger

Heber Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area was formed from a dry riverbed of the Alamo River near the Mexico border in Imperial County. The sandy river bottom is the perfect environment for high-quality, off-highway vehicular recreation. Surrounded by farm land, canals and a highway, the park is also the only sanctuary for wildlife from miles around.

What lives there? The park is home to bobcats, coyotes, foxes, skunks, raccoons, rabbits, quail, roadrunners, several reptile species, a variety of small mammals, and a myriad of birds. We have several species of birds of prey, including the red-tailed hawk, northern harrier, swainson's hawk, american kestrel, burrowing owl, and barn owl.

These animals need this park; this is all that's left for them. Even though this is an off-highway vehicle park, the animals are very well protected within their natural habitat, due in part to the tamarisk trees and other areas of thick vegetation. Furthermore, we have plans of creating a protected area by isolating and protecting the more sensitive habitat of the park from off-roaders. This 350-acre park is an Oasis worth protecting.

U.S.G.S.

Aerial shot of Heber Dunes

Parks Partners With Oakland Raiders and Travelocity

By John Garlock, Partnerships and Consumer Strategies

California State Parks has signed its first two partners, Oakland Raiders and Travelocity, as part of the Proud Partners Program administered by the California State Parks Foundation. The Proud Partners Program was revitalized in 2005 to fund California State Parks visitor service programs in addition to promoting educational and environmental stewardship projects.

The Oakland Raiders will promote state park destinations on both their English and Spanish speaking sites, along with providing educational material and puzzles on the Raiders' Kid Zone webpage. Public Service Announcements will be shown on the "big screen" during halftime shows and a State Parks Day will be held at two of the home games. Throughout the year the Raiders will partner with California State Parks

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Annual Beach Play Day Draws 600 Kids from Across State

By Terry Gerson, Office of Community Involvement

Even with all the other activities available, participants of this year's Beach Play Day didn't forget the most important part--the beach!

Brent Reed, Deputy Director Partnerships and Consumer Strategies

As Michaele DeBoer, Superintendent of the Community Involvement Section, would say, "It was all hands on deck!" for the tenth annual Beach Play Day at Huntington State Beach July 24th through the 26th. Nearly 600 kids ranging in age from 8 to 17 from throughout California, accompanied by Police Activities League chaperones and volunteers, descended on the beach for a day of fun and activities complete with an overnight campout.

This was the biggest event of the year for the Office of Community Involvement headed by Superintendent DeBoer. She and Ranger Pat Lyons conceived the program ten years ago as a way to reach out to underserved and inner-city youth who would not normally have the opportunity to experience this kind of outdoor recreation. "Many of these kids have never seen the ocean before, even though some of them live within just a few miles of here," said Sedrick Mitchell, Deputy Director of External Affairs.

Staff volunteered to take on additional responsibilities from their normal duties to come and help out. There were employees from the Office of Grants and Local Services, Human Rights, and Recruitment. Lifeguards and maintenance staff from the Orange Coast District were also out in force

Parks' Off-Highway Vehicle Division sponsored all-terrain vehicle riding on the beach.

Brent Reed

Brent Reed

Former Oakland Raiders Defensive End Greg Townsend signs autographs after an inspiring speech

for the event to help out and make the event a huge success. Staff kept saying, "It's all about the kids!" a slogan started by longtime event volunteer Harold Soens, who passed away suddenly before last year's Play Day. "We really appreciate the hard work all the staff and volunteers put in to make Beach Play Day happen. The enthusiasm and commitment is contagious. Most people want to come back year after year," said DeBoer.

The kids enjoyed a myriad of activities in rotation. There was swimming, boogie boarding, a beach flags competition, a giant Slip n' Slide, a rock climbing wall, Hoop-A-Pa-Loo-Za, skate and bike demonstrations by the Gale Webb riders, and beach All Terrain Vehicle riding sponsored by the Off Highway Vehicle Division. Special guest, former Defensive End Greg Townsend of the Oakland Raiders football team, gave the kids a motivational talk. There was something for everyone.

Beach Play Day is sponsored by California State Parks, State Parks Police Activities League (SPPAL), California Police Activities League, and personnel support from the California National Guard Drug Demand Reduction team. With additional support from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Apple Valley Posse, the California State Parks Foundation, Hoag Hospital, and various other contributors, this collaborative team transformed the beach into a giant campground providing healthy living options and physical activity through beach-related recreation at one of Southern California's most popular beaches. Kids have the opportunity to build self-esteem and improve physical fitness while having fun.

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to promote healthy lifestyle choices and physical fitness at several in-park events. Travelocity is providing free advertising to California State Parks on its website in order to help the Department reach a national audience that otherwise might not have been attained. In addition to providing the Department with an annual $75,000 donation, the online travel agency will also sell a special 3-day pass to California State Parks that can only be sold on the Travelocity website. The focus of the Proud Partners Program is to promote California State Parks and the goodwill that comes with such a partnership. In exchange for their support, Proud Partners are acknowledged through logo placement on the web and select California State Parks printed material, such as the California State Parks map and Park Visitor Welcome Kits. Companies wishing to partner with California State Parks must meet requirements in accordance with State Parks' mission such as diversity, promoting healthy outdoor recreation, and concern for the environment.

Tales from the Field: History Comes Alive!

De La Ossa Adobe Reopens

After an earthquake 13 years ago forced its closure, de La Ossa Adobe at Los Encinos State Historic Park is once again open to the public. On July 22nd, staff and docents welcomed visitors with an opening celebration featuring refurbished structures, new interpretive displays, and period dances led by the Yesteryears Dancers. Free guided tours of the adobe are available Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m., or by reservation.

Members of the Yesteryears Dancers helped visitors capture the spirit of the 1800s at the opening of de La Ossa Adobe at Los Encinos State Historic Park.

Karma Graham, District Interpretive Specialist

Founder's Day in Old Town San Diego

By Donna Renner, Concession Specialist

Marking one of the most significant dates in the history of Old Town San Diego, the Old Town Business District and California State Parks celebrated Founder's Day in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

The event, held Monday July 16, welcomed the public to participate in a short talk by park volunteers, a cake cutting, and park-led walk up to the Presidio Park ruins. The event was well attended by park visitors and the media.

This is one of the most significant dates in the history of Old Town San Diego because on July 16, 1769, Father Junipero Serra, a Spanish missionary, planted a cross on today's Presidio Park and founded Mission San Diego de Alcalá.

The American Indians and soldiers who accompanied the missionaries later lived at the Royal Presidio of San Diego, a fortress which contained the mission. The foundation or ruins of the Royal Presidio can still be seen as grass-covered mounds in present-day Presidio Park. The mission site was moved from the presidio area in 1774 to a location near the river six miles inland in Mission Valley. These two institutions – presidio and mission – formed the nucleus of Hispanic life during this part of San Diego's history.

Event organizers were Donna Renner, associate park and recreation specialist at the San Diego Coast District, and Lori Wulfemeyer, J.D., assistant dean for administration at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

Public Safety Superintendent Richard Dennison, Archeologist Therese Muranaka, and Retired Park Superintendent and Park Volunteer Robert Wohl.

Donna Renner, Concession Specialist

Living History Day at Sugar Pine Point

by Susan C. Grove , Lake Tahoe Sector Superintendent

A brilliantly sunny Saturday, July 28, welcomed the 12th annual Living History Day at Sugar Pine Point State Park. In addition to almost two miles of pristine Lake Tahoe shoreline and 2,000 acres of undeveloped backcountry, the state park contains the Hellman/Ehrman Mansion, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Living History Day takes visitors back to the mid-1930s, when the Hellman/Ehrman Mansion was in its heyday. The showpiece of the estate is the 11,700-square-foot Pine Lodge, which was the summer home of Isaias Hellman, and later of his daughter Florence Ehrman, for 62 years.

Park Maintenance Worker Michael Byram, in his mountain man costume, interprets the era before the Hellmans bought the land.

During Living History Day, visitors are invited to tour the mansion at no charge, as well as with the estate's many other buildings, including the carriage house, the generator building, the butler's cabin, the maids' cabin, the children's house, the caretaker's house, the north and south boathouses, the boatman's cabin, the bath house and the ice house.

They observe costumed interpreters, both volunteers and park staff, who appear on the grounds and in the house, acting the part of family members and their servants.

Visitors may also enjoy the Sierra State Parks Foundation's gift shop, the antique car display, the vintage boat display, the children's zone, storytelling by elders of the Washoe tribe, guided hikes, an art show, and the delicious lunch provided by Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care.

This fun-filled event drew more than 2,000 visitors and was supported by 120 volunteers. Two of those volunteers were the coordinators of the event. Rosie Smith and Victoria Workman put in countless hours organizing down to the minutest details. Rosie and Victoria were in turn supported by Ranger Heidi Doyle, who also must be commended for her hard work. Additional rangers, maintenance workers, park aids and maintenance aides all contributed to make the day run smoothly. We're already making plans for next year's Living History Day, scheduled for July 26, 2008.

Lake Tahoe Sector Superintendent Susan Grove in front of Pine Lodge. She is dressed as Esther Ehrman Lazard, Florence Ehrman's daughter.

The vessel Huapala, circa 1938, drew many admirers. Volunteer Alexey Kanwetz enjoyed showing off his boat.

Volunteer Spirit Enriches Border Field

Sarah Leone, REI San Diego

Reserve Manager Clay Phillips leads young volunteers to a post-event celebration at Border Field State Park.

By Sarah Emerson, Volunteer Coordinator

National Trails Day this year brought together multiple organizations on both sides of the California-Mexico border, striving for a better environment for wildlife and park visitors.

"A team effort is essential to protecting our coast and ocean, more so in the border region where two countries share the same ecosystem," said Serge Dedina, executive director of WiLDCOAST, an international conservation organization based in Imperial Beach.

The event held on Saturday June 2 brought together participants from the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, California State Parks, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Refuge System, the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association, WiLDCOAST, and Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI). They joined together to celebrate National Trails Day at Border Field State Park in California and at Playas de Tijuana in Mexico.

A total of 227 volunteers worked at three service sites. Participants included REI's members, directors, corporate officers, and staff; area Cub Scout packs; local school groups; and other members of the community in both the U.S. and Mexico.

In Mexico, 80 volunteers collected 300

Phil Roullard, California State Parks

Todd Smith of REI (center) works with volunteers to expand Border Field State Park's native plant gardens.

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Border Field

▶FROM PAGE 22

bags of trash in Playas de Tijuana. In California, 91 volunteers cleared three acres of invasive vegetation at Border Field State Park while 56 others planted more than 800 native plants on Monument Mesa. Collectively, they donated 510 hours of community service.

"Volunteers are key to improving the environmental health of this area," said Reserve Manager Clay Phillips, State Parks Superintendent of San Diego South Sector. "Working together, they accomplish a great deal in a short amount of time. The benefits to wildlife and the coastal ecosystem are tremendous."

National Trails Day culminated with a grant presentation on Monument Mesa. REI awarded $5,000 to the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association, a nonprofit organization dedicated to wetland acquisition, preservation, restoration, and education in the Tijuana River Valley. The grant will help to increase local support for the stewardship of coastal habitats by engaging the community in meaningful and rewarding volunteer activities at the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Aida Navarro, WILDCOAST

Three young volunteers collect trash at Playas de Tijuana, Mexico, directly adjacent to Border Field State Park in San Diego.

Year round, the Tijuana Estuary National Park and Border Field State Park rely heavily on volunteers to remove invasive plants, plant native vegetation, and clear trash from the beaches.

Not everyone who wants to lend a helping hand at the reserve is able to commit to regular volunteer hours. That's why single-day volunteer projects – such as National Trails Day – are so popular.

Since last summer, more than 800 volunteers have contributed 2,541 hours of community service to the reserve through single-day projects. In this short amount of time, they have completed the first phases of habitat restoration on nearly 10 acres. These single-day volunteer projects are a great way to mobilize a large number of volunteers and accomplish a tremendous amount of work in a short amount of time.

There are also many volunteers, like David Prewitt, who are able to commit to regular hours. He has been working in the park several days a week since he first became a volunteer in January.

Sarah Leone, REI San Diego

Volunteers "pitch in" by removing invasive vegetation from the entrance area of Border Field State Park.

"I hope that what I'm doing as a volunteer can help the wildlife of this area, help others value this place, and improve this part of the world," said Prewitt.

His level of commitment has impressed staff and volunteers alike.

The volunteer program increases community support for the preservation of coastal habitats by engaging citizens in meaningful and rewarding volunteer activities. Long-term volunteers do everything from greeting visitors and leading nature walks to propagating plants in the nursery and restoring habitat.

For more information about the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve's Volunteer Program, contact Sarah Emerson, Volunteer Coordinator, at 619.575.3614 or semerson@parks.ca.gov.

John Arnold's Mailbag

Dear California State Parks . . .

I am writing this letter to commend one of your rangers, Chris Glen, for the help in apprehending an armed and dangerous suspect.

On June 9th, 2007 the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office received a call of a 211 PC that occurred in Mendocino. Ranger Glen responded to assist and located the subject on Big River Beach and ultimately helped in the apprehension of the suspect. The stolen items amounting in approximately $65,000.00 were also recovered at this location with the assistance of Ranger Glen.

This suspect was also wanted for other crimes that he had committed in the Ukiah area only days before. Through team effort and the assistance of Ranger Glen a suspect was apprehended that was victimizing people throughout Mendocino County.

I would like to personally thank Ranger Glen and the State Parks Agency. It is important that Law Enforcement agencies work well together and this incident just reinforces my belief that we have a good working relationship between our agencies.

Sincerely,
Thomas D. Allman
Mendocino County
Sheriff Coroner

My family and I visited the Castle last week from the UK. We would like to say how well we thought the guide, Mr Wayne Fiske presented the property and did so in an informative and amusing way.

Many thanks for a most enjoyable visit.

Dear Director Coleman:

I am contacting you to express my thanks to your Angel Island Ranger Chuy Salinas.

While hiking on Angel Island on Friday, I took a bad fall and injured my leg. One of your trucks transported me to the Ranger Station and Ranger Salinas examined me, cleaned my wound and determined my leg was not broken. He did a great job of caring for me and suggested I visit my doctor or an Emergency room when I returned to the mainland. He was efficient and caring and made sure I received a seat on the next ferry. He even called a few days later and asked how I was doing.

He is a credit to your organization, and I would appreciate if you would thank him for me.

• • • • • • •

I would also like to recognize that it was water and sewage treatment supervisor Fernando Guzman who helped transport you from Camp Reynolds to park office to seek medical help. He was also one of the important parts of the team effort.

Thank you again for the letter.
Jesus "Chuy" Salinas Rodriguez
State Park Ranger
Angel Island State Park

Good Morning ,I recently busted my butt on Mt. Diablo, hiking that is! I am one of those hiking fools who never know when to stop,I tend to do too much(16mi.last fri.),My shins still hurt.-Anyway , the park is a wonderful place,It is my formost place for recreation and inspiration, All the employees and Managers thereof should be proud of working in and on such of a grand mountain.

I just wanted to say that I was very impressed by one of your state park officers. After the fireworks display at Huntington Beach State Park my girlfriend and I were unfortunate enough to lose our keys. We came to this realization after walking all the way back to our car. After half an hour of no success of sifting through the sand while in the dark, we approached Officer Schneider's beach cruiser to ask if he could be of any assistance. I found Officer Schneider to be professional and very helpful. He told us he would try his best but could not stay long as he may be called out to another location. The Officer drove over to where we were looking and even got out the

▶MAILBAG, Page 23

Mailbag,

▶ FROM PAGE 23

cruiser to help look with his own flashlight. After a few minutes we thanked him for his efforts as it seemed our cause may be hopeless. Officer Schneider asked what kind of car we drove to prevent it from being towed if we were not able to find the keys and proceeded down the beach to respond to another call. Unfortunately for me, my girlfriend remembered that she had thrown a bag of trash away and the keys could have possibly been in the bag. After searching through three trash bins, we found the bag and were happy to find her keys in it- I have since showered and sanitized my hands. Anyway, I thought you should all know the type of caliber of officers you employ and would like you to know that I was very impressed with the team you had working the beach. I would appreciate it if this e-mail were forwarded to the Superintendent so that he may be aware of this as well.

I just wanted to say thank you to the park staff at Bodie State Park for their tremendous support in our recent trip to Bodie State Park.
We are descendants of the Moyle family members who lived in Bodie at the turn of the century. Our grandmother was born in Bodie and her stories were passed through the generations. On June 23, 2007, twenty six of us made a trip to Bodie to celebrate the life of my mother, Marjorie Burrows Boiler who passed away Feb 9, 2007 at the age of 85. Her mother was born in Bodie (Cora Moyle Smith) and Mom's wish was that we all gather in Bodie to see the town and be together in a tribute to her life.

The support and hospitality provided by park staff was remarkable and we had a wonderful day together. Thank you for helping us to make this a very special occasion. We were happy to also leave some of our genealogy with the park superintendent – Brad Sturdivant. His support in particular was much appreciated. He was very generous with his time and commitment to us that day.

Thank you again. Bodie is a beautiful place and we are grateful that it is being maintained and honored as a state park for generations to come.

On July 12, 2007, my wife and I were hiking in Calaveras Big Trees State Park. We hiked the four mile trail to the Stanislaus River, and on our return my wife, who is 62, was overcome by the altitude and steep ascent. We got as far as the road back to park headquarters, and I was concerned that we might be facing a serious medical emergency. Kevin Donahoe of the park's maintenance division stopped and got us back to our car. He was courteous, understanding and completely professional.

Kevin is a stellar example of excellence in public service. I'm sure from his point of view this was all in a day's work, from ours he prevented what could have been a serious medical situation (luckily it turned out not to be). Please pass these remarks along to Kevin and his superiors. His actions deserve special thanks and recognition.

Calendar

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up the sky. For more information, please call (650) 879-2120.

LIFE ON THE HOME FRONT AND LIVING HISTORY EVENING
Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, November 17
Join the costumed Living History Docents of Sutter's Fort. Call (916) 445-5527 for reservations.

COLUMBIA LAMPLIGHT TOURS
Columbia State Historic Park, November 30 and December 1
Docents in period attire recreate the Christmas of the lonely miners of the 1850s. Call (209) 588-9128 for information.

BATTLE DAY
San Pasqual Battlefield SHP, December 2
This year's reenactment commemorates the 160th Anniversary of the 1846 battle. Reenactments are at 11:30 AM and 2:30 PM.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, December 6
Celebrate the heritage of the Jewish settlers during the holiday season. For more information, please call (619) 220-5422.

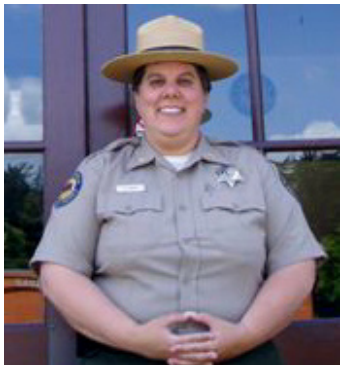
Promotions

Pam Armas
Superintendent
Sierra District

Pam Armas has been promoted to Sierra District Superintendent. She began by volunteering at South Yuba River State Park and Malakoff Diggins State Park. Ms. Armas has served several management positions with California State Parks, including Departmental Personnel Manager, Departmental Training Manager, and Superintendents of the Monterey and Calaveras Sectors.

She has two grown sons who live in Sacramento. She is an outdoors enthusiast who enjoys white water rafting, kayaking, backpacking, hiking and quilting.

Liz Burko
Superintendent
Russian River



Liz Burko has been promoted to Russian River District Superintendent. Ms. Burko started her career as a docent at Año Nuevo State Reserve in 1985 and then was hired as a park aide at the park. She became a California State Park Ranger in 1991, and has worked all over the state.

Ms. Burko has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is originally from Ohio, where she still has family. She enjoys most outdoor activities including backpacking and birding.

<u>Superintendent III</u>

Todd Thames
04/01/2007

Mary Pass
Silverado Sector
04/01/2007

Chet Bardo
San Mateo Coast Sector
04/01/2007

CL Price II
Big Sur Sector
06/15/2007

Juventino Ortiz III
San Luis Obispo Coastal Sector
08/01/2007

Kathy Weatherman
Perris Sector
05/01/2007

<u>Superintendent II</u>

Stephen Bylin
Mojave Sector
07/01/2007

Matt Green
Alpine Mono Sector
05/01/2007

Loren Rex
Public Safety Superindentent
Monterey Sector
05/01/2007

Eddie Guaracha
Gavilan Sector
08/16/2007

Michael C. Ferry
Asilomar Sector
05/01/2007

Lee Sencenbaugh
Four Rivers Sector
04/19/2007

Michael Lynch
05/15/2007

Lynette Hernandez
Topanga Sector
07/01/2007

Nedra Martinez
Montane Sector
08/01/2007

John Rowe
Chino Hills Sector
06/25/2007

<u>Superintendent I</u>

Joe Ramos
Carnegie Sector
06/06/2007

Denise Reichenberg
Valley Sector
05/31/2007

Heidi Horvitz
Public Safety Superintendent
Russian River District
05/31/2007

Jonathan Burgasser
Public Safety Superintendent
Sierra District
06/02/2007

William Lutton
Calaveras Sector
05/31/2007

Jack Futoran
Public Safety Superintendent
Channel Coast District
05/31/2007

Kent Miller
Public Safety Superintendent
Colorado Desert District
05/01/2007

Norbert Ruhmke
08/01/2007