

# NEWS & VIEWS

Celebrating 65 Years as the Employee Newsletter of California State Parks



Summer 2010

## Russian Business Leader Supports Fort Ross

Photos and Story by Jenny Donovan, State Park Superintendent I

Russian River District's Fort Ross State Historic Park has become California's first partnership with Russia. The Russian connection runs deep within the Russian community, both here and abroad. Fort Ross was founded in 1812 and was the only Russian Settlement in the United States other than Sitka, Alaska. With this rich history, the Fort became the focus for many concerned Russian nationals who did not want to see the Fort close due to budget constraints. Enter Viktor Vekselberg, Chairman of The Renova Group of Companies. Vekselberg generously agreed to work with California State Parks and the Fort Ross Interpretive

Association to help fund projects that will maintain the historical, cultural and educational significance of Fort Ross and serve both the Russian and Californian communities.

The Renova Fort Ross Foundation will help to facilitate the implementation of agreed upon projects and possibly help fund the upcoming 200-year anniversary celebration in 2012 of the founding of Fort Ross. Mr. Vekselberg and his wife, Marina



Above: Russian Business Leader Viktor Vekselberg and Robin Joy-Wellman, State Park Interpreter, raise an older Russian Flag.

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## Tourism Industry Volunteers Help State Parks



Above: Volunteers formed several long chain-gang lines and stacked dozens of cords of wood.

They came to work, and work they did. That comment sums up the efforts of the more than 300 tourism industry volunteers who went to Angel Island State Park on June 4 to help out where the parks' budget dropped out.

The volunteers are part of the organization Tourism Cares, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit backed by the tourism industry. Every year since they formed in 2003, the group has selected a site somewhere in the United States where volunteers can make a difference to improve the tourism locations of the nation.

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Photographer Jim Block

# Director Ruth Coleman Russian Delegation Inspires Service

This quarter’s issue underscores the continued excitement and interest in our parks by an amazing array of fans. I think the most exciting had to be from the President of the Russian Federation, Dmitry Medvedev. We heard of his interest over a year ago when the State Department contacted our Resources Agency and asked, “What is Fort Ross?”

The State Department was preparing President Obama’s talking points for an upcoming meeting between Obama and Medvedev and had learned from the Russian staff that the Russian President intended to bring up his concerns about Fort Ross.

We all found it quite an

honor to realize that two of the most powerful people in the world would be discussing nuclear disarmament...and Fort Ross!

Since then, both the private and public sector of Russia continue to show strong interest—as you can read in the lead article.

For me, the highlight came when I witnessed the signing of an MOU between Governor Schwarzenegger and the president of the Renova Group of Companies, Viktor Vekselberg, in the presence of President Medvedev. Following the signing of the MOU, we were supposed to all go in our respective motorcades to a dinner. I thought I was walking alongside the Governor’s staff and was talking to the US Ambassador to Russia. Next thing I knew, I was with the Russian delegation and not the US delegation. Oops.

We arrived at the lobby of

the hotel, where I learned that the Governor’s motorcade had already left. The protocol staff kindly found me a spare seat in the Russian President’s motorcade. We soared up and down the streets of San Francisco without stopping or slowing once, surrounded by motorcycle officers with sirens blaring. What an amazing way to drive through the city.

We should take pride in the fact that so many people want to help us, whether they are Russians, or volunteers or companies who make donations. This summer has been one of the most challenging in our history, as we struggle to keep parks open and maintain some semblance of service. It’s the public who will determine our future, and every one of us makes a difference when we do our part to serve the public—even when we can’t do it all.



Superintendent Jenny Donovan took these stunning aerial views of Fort Ross while on a helicopter ride.

# President Obama nominates Wayne Donaldson



Above: Milford Wayne Donaldson

**By Chris Burgess, Park Aide**

As State Parks employees and Californians we can take satisfaction in seeing one of our own succeed. President Barack Obama recently picked Milford Wayne Donaldson as the newest chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). Since 2004 Donaldson has served as the State Historic Preservation Officer for California, which serves the Office of Historic Preservation in Sacramento. He also serves as the Executive Secretary on

the State Historical Resources Commission.

Donaldson's background has always been tied to preservation, as can be seen in his private sector work and education.

It all began in San Luis Obispo at Cal Polytechnic State University, where he received both a Bachelor of Science in Engineering and a Bachelor in Architecture. His postgraduate education includes a Master of Science degree in Architecture from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland, and a Master of Arts in Public History and Teaching from the University of San Diego.

His private sector work included serving as the president of the company *Architect Milford Wayne Donaldson FAIA* since 1978 until his appointment. His work specialized in historic preservation in California. He also holds licenses to practice architecture in Arizona and Nevada, and holds a license

from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

Wayne will serve in this appointment for four years. Previous two-term chairman John L. Nau III was appointed by President George W. Bush. "I congratulate Wayne on his appointment as chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation," Nau said. "His leadership and dedication to historic preservation will ensure a bright future for the ACHP."

"I am honored by President Obama's appointment and look forward to working with the federal government's historic preservation programs and its partners to share the many benefits of preservation more broadly throughout the nation," Donaldson was quoted as saying. We all send Wayne our highest regards as he transitions his historic preservation work to assist our country in a time of need.

## Bosch Corporation Provides State-Of-The-Art Technology

California State Parks has another public-private partnership that is making a difference for the park system during tough economic times.

Bosch and California State Parks unveiled a partnership in May to preserve and enhance the Governor's Mansion State Historic Park in Sacramento. The company installed state-of-the-art building technology to make the 133-year-old

historic home more environmentally friendly and secure.

Bosch donated a hot water heater unit as well as a comprehensive intrusion and fire alarm



Above: Director Ruth Coleman gives Norm Johnson, Director of External Affairs for Bosch, a plaque.

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# Angel Island Receives Much Needed Help



Above: Volunteers helped preserve and protect historic roof tiles by moving them to safekeeping in storage containers.

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They have been to such places as Ellis Island, Mount Vernon and New Orleans. This year, they decided to select a site on the West Coast for assistance, that site being Angel Island. Now your first thought might be that these folks are getting on board a tourism junket where they can visit nice places, do a little work, get some public relations pictures, sip some wine, and call it a day. Not so; the evidence all day long on Angel Island showed clearly that these folks came to roll up their sleeves and work.

And here's a little shocker.

There were not just California folks. They came to Angel Island from 32 states across the nation at their own expense.

All were wearing name tags, and we saw tags from Illinois, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Kansas, Ohio, and many other states. Michael Mabrouk, from the tourism company of Amadeus North America, Warrenville, Illinois, said: "I am here to participate and give something back to the great industry that has been so good to all of us."

Junior Garcia, from Collette Vacations in Pawtucket, Rhode Island said: "I love it. I like the

atmosphere. Giving back to the industry we are a part of is very rewarding."

This massive one-day effort was organized by Angel Island's Maintenance chief, Gerald O'Reilly, who spent the day running from one work site to another to make sure his list of work projects had a healthy number of cross-outs.

So what did these folks do? They painted buildings, pulled weeds, replaced the rotted wooden planks in walkways, split many cords of wood at one location, stacked tons and tons of wood at another location, cleaned out drainage ditches, removed collapsed sheds and cleaned up the sites, and helped preserve thousands of roof tiles by moving them to adequate storage containers.

It is fitting that we close this article by saying that on behalf of all of us at California State Parks, we offer a major thank you to Tourism Cares for helping our system in a time of need. This is public-private partnership help at its best.



Left to Right: Behind one of the Fort McDowell buildings, the debris from a collapsed shed was removed and the site cleaned up; One of the key jobs undertaken by the volunteers was the replacement of the wooden strips within the concrete walkway at the entrance station for the park.

# Bosch Technology At Governor's Mansion SHP

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system. What is really superb about the Bosch intrusion and fire alarm system is that it is wireless, meaning no historic fabric or walls had to be altered for the addition of wires running all over the house. In fact, the parts of the system in the rooms of the house are so small that most visitors will not notice them. As for the hot water system, it is a new tankless system that will reduce the Governor's Mansion monthly water bill by up to 50 percent.

Lyman Gray, Park Maintenance Chief III for the State Parks' Capital District, said one of their greatest fears with the Governor's Mansion has been the risk of fire. "This new system, for the first time" said Gray, "gives us a high degree of confidence that this historic structure is well protected. That gives us a great deal of peace of mind and we cannot thank Bosch enough."

"Maria and I are thrilled that Bosch stepped up to support



Above: Governor's Mansion SHP - Lyman Gray, Maintenance Chief III for the Capital District gives representatives of the Bosch Corporation a tour of the mansion to point out the new security, fire, and water heater system donated to State Parks by the corporation.

one of our state treasures. By using state-of-the-art building technology to retrofit this historic site, we will improve security as well as energy efficiency, resulting in lower carbon emissions and lower utility costs in the years to come," said Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The Bosch Company labels itself as a leading global supplier of technology and services that believes in public-private partnerships. Representatives of the Bosch Corporation said they are very proud to help reduce the impact of tough financial times in California.

## Promotions And Appointments



### Marilyn Linkem, State Park Superintendent V Northern Buttes District

Marilyn was selected as the District Superintendent for the Northern Buttes District in April. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from CSU, Sacramento in Parks and Recreation, Natural Resource Management. Her career started in 1981 as a seasonal maintenance aid at Sugar Pine Point State Park. Half of her time with the department has been as a resource ecologist and the other half in the law enforcement/management fields. Marilyn's diverse assignments have taken her throughout the state from the Colorado Desert up to the North Coast and many places in between. She has worked in nine state park district's and spent four years with the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division.

**Accountant I (Specialist)**

Mary L. Brown  
Business & Fiscal Services  
3/2/2010

Sherri L. Grant  
Business & Fiscal Services  
3/2/2010

Barbara L. Robarts  
Business & Fiscal Services  
3/2/2010

**Assistant Information Systems Analyst**

Josh N. Kelleher  
San Luis Obispo District  
5/3/2010

**Chief, Southern Division**

Ronilee A. Clark  
Southern Division  
3/1/2010

**Management Services Technician**

Almeda K. Harper  
Hollister Hills  
4/1/2010

Kaci M. Wong  
Personnel Services  
4/1/2010

**Park Maintenance Assistant**

Daryel D. Dunston  
Northern Buttes District  
5/1/2010

Frank R. Hicks  
Northern Buttes District  
4/16/2010

Ronald E. Jarvis  
North Coast Redwoods  
5/1/2010

**Park Maintenance Chief I**

Jason M. Hart  
Diablo Vista District  
5/1/2010

**Park Maintenance Supervisor**

Dorotha D. Cathey  
North Coast Redwoods  
4/1/2010

Dennis R. Woodworth  
Tehachapi District  
4/1/2010

**Park Maintenance Worker I**

Eric C. Dahl Jr.  
Ocotillo Wells  
4/1/2010

Leon G. Jordan  
Ocotillo Wells  
4/1/2010

Jeff C. Smith  
Ocotillo Wells  
4/1/2010

**Park Maintenance Worker II**

Martin Gonzalez  
Central Valley District  
4/21/2010

LLod J. Kinney  
Oceano Dunes  
5/1/2010

Chad Van Doren  
Ocotillo Wells  
5/1/2010

**State Park Superintendent I**

Richard Reisenhofer  
Tehachapi District  
3/22/2010

**State Park Superintendent II**

Eric W. Hjelstrom  
Channel Coast District  
5/1/2010

Jeremy A. McReynolds  
Gold Field District  
5/1/2010

**State Park Superintendent III**

Joanne E. Danielson  
Marin District  
5/1/2010

Michael J. Fehling  
Northern Buttes District  
5/1/2010

Mark E Gibson  
Public Safety  
4/1/2010

**State Park Supervising Ranger**

Mathew A. Khalar  
Monterey District  
4/1/2010

Tyson R. Young  
North Coast Redwoods  
4/11/2010

Carmen P. Zone Jr.  
Orange Coast District  
3/14/2010

*Promotion Information provided  
by Nancy Sechrist, Personnel  
Services Section*

# Helicopter Logging In California State Parks

Photos and Story by Gary Reece, Fire Management Specialist; Jim Suero, Research Program Specialist; Stephen Bakken, Forester

The 2003 fire year was an eye opener for the Department. While attention was focused on the quarter million acre Cedar Fire that burned over 90% of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, another wildfire, the Paradise Fire, swept toward Palomar Mountain State Park. Fortunately the weather changed just as this fire reached the base of the mountain. This fire season followed a historically severe four year drought. The Cedar fire decimated the unique sky island mixed-conifer forests that occupy the peaks of San Diego County mountains. Parts of these forests are currently being replanted, but that is another story.

Although Palomar Mountain SP was spared the fire, the drought killed many thousands of trees in the park, so the potential for a severe fire remained. Consequently, headquarters and district staff cobbled together projects at PMSP with in-house funding and outside Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) grants to create defensible space around park buildings and reduced vegetation accumulations along the single access county road used by the state park, the City /County environmental school camp, and a private religious conference center.

The urgency was justified; the 2007 Poomacha Fire climbed Palomar Mountain and burned half of the park (Figure #1).

Fortunately, the vegetation treatments combined with firefighting by several district staff, including this article's principal author, were effective in protecting DPR buildings and containing the fire.

Yet heavy flammable fuels remained. So with leftover grant monies, a new NRCS contract was negotiated to log the slope above Upper Doane Valley of dead trees and

large downed wood. Logging is not the norm in state parks; prescribed burning is the preferred ecosystem management tool, but sometimes there is too much dead biomass to conduct a prescribed burn safely.

The logging contractor chose a mixture of ground, aerial cable and helicopter log removal depending on the accessibility of the area. Helicopter extraction produces the least amount of soil disturbance, but it is also the most expensive.

► Logging, Page 8

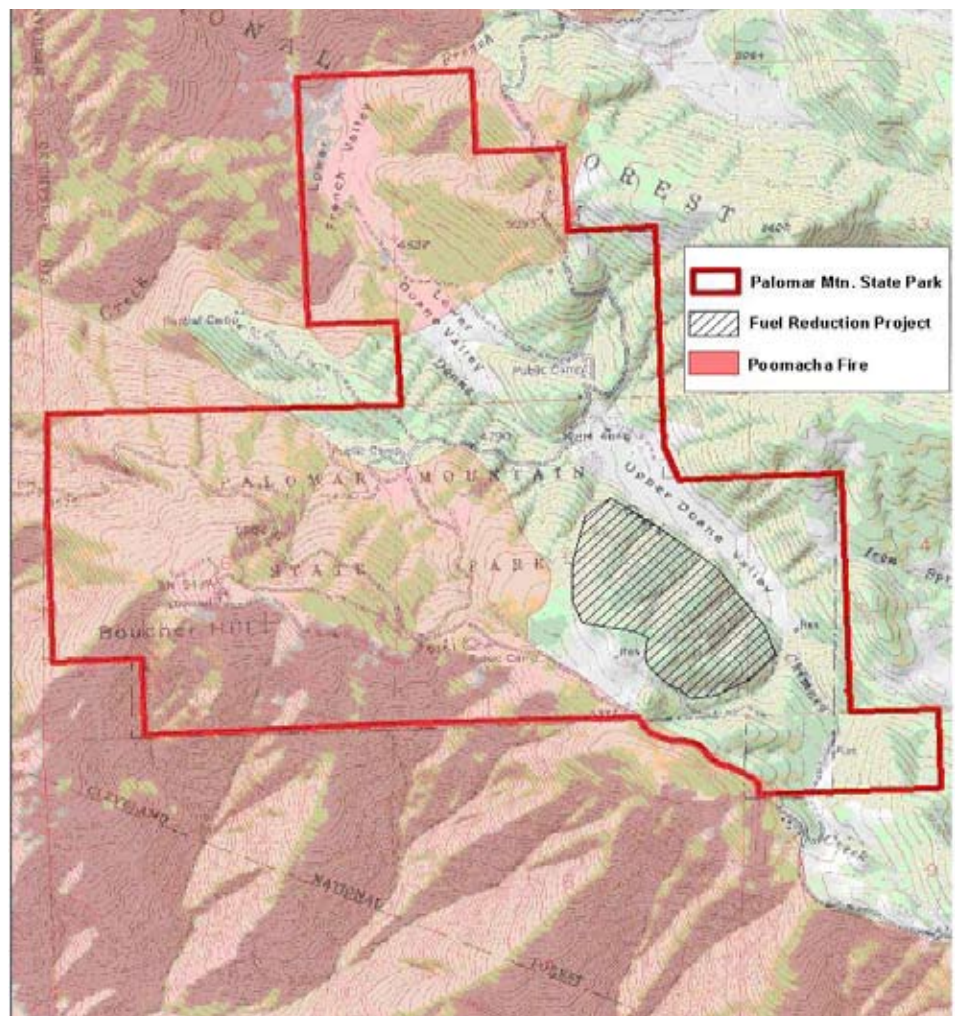


Figure 1, Shows the 2007 Poomacha Fire in Palomar State Park

# Logging, Drought, And Fires Affect State Parks

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The K-Max helicopter used in this project (Photo #1) is highly maneuverable, able to lift more than its own weight, and is one of the most efficient helicopters in terms of fuel consumption per weight transported. The helicopter pilot must lower a carriage suspended at the end of a long cable down among the standing trees and then hover (photo #2). The sawyers on the ground cut the logs

according to weight (photo #3), and ground crews use chokers (short steel cables) to bundle one or more logs together according to weight. The crew snaps the chokered log bundles onto the carriage (photo #4). Under some weather conditions the whirling helicopter rotors generate large amounts of static electricity, so the ground crew wears insulated gloves and utilizes rubber-coated choker cables (See Photo # 3).

The helicopter pilot flies the logs to the park's bone yard where the softwood logs are loaded onto trucks (photo #4) for transport to a mill that converts logs into pallets. Oak logs are converted into firewood, while other small, decayed, or broken wood is chipped (photo #5) and transported to an electrical co-generation plant in the Imperial Valley.

Photo 1



Above: K-Max Helicopter at Silvercrest parking lot.

Photo 2



Above: Helicopter hovering over a section of forest.

Photo 3



Above: Sawyers begin cutting logs into bundles according to weight.

Photo 4



Above: Snapping choker ends onto carriage.

Photo 5



Above: Heal boom log loader and log truck.

Photo 6



Above: Self-loading/propelled wood chipper.



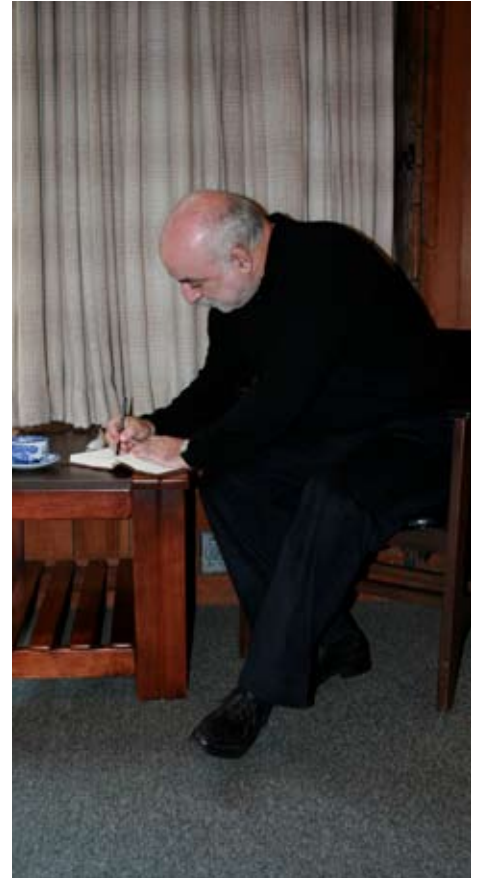
# Fort Ross Employees Entertain Russians

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toured the Fort on June 22, before meeting with Russian President Medvedev, Governor Schwarzenegger, and California State Parks' Director Ruth Coleman in San Francisco. Schwarzenegger and Vekselberg signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that illustrates the agreement between State Parks and the Renova Fort Ross Foundation.

The Vekselbergs were treated to a memorable tour of the Fort led by State Park Interpreter I Robin Joy-Wellman and Fort Ross Interpretive Association President Sara Sweedler. Maintenance Worker Brian Osborne had the Fort looking sharp for the tour and Park Aide David Owens had the cannon ready for Mr. Vekselberg.

The next day we had the pleasure of repeating the tour for two dignitaries from Russian President Medvedev's envoy, Mikhail Shvydkoy, Special representative of the President of the Russian Federation and Yury Gerasin, Consul General, Consulate General of Russia. Thanks to all the staff and volunteers that made both days a great success.



Clockwise from top left: Mikhail Shvydkoy, Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation and Yury Gerasin, Consul General of Russia, take a turn firing the cannon; Viktor Vekselberg signs the Fort Ross book; Vekselberg fires a cannon.

# Information Security Officer Upholds Safety

By Jeremiah C. Harvey  
Information Security Officer

As the Information Security Officer (ISO) for the Department, I am occasionally approached and asked, “What is Information Security—really?”

An ISO is similar to being a fire department. A good fire department uses prevention, education, and fast response to keep the neighborhood safe. We expect our personal information—like social security numbers, home addresses, and financial data—to be secure.

You have no doubt heard the horror stories about how private companies, state agencies and private individuals have been seriously injured through the exposure of confidential information. In the modern era of freely available fast moving data exchanges like email, instant messaging, and “cloud” data storage, these horror stories are a reality we face as a department and as individuals. As an appointee of our Director, I am responsible to ensure compliance under all applicable laws and policies dealing with information security, recommend and monitor prevention measures, educate our staff on policy and best practices, and respond quickly to keep incidents under control.

Just as no fire department can maintain prevention without the participation of its citizens or educate all the citizenry without grass-roots support, I cannot accomplish my responsibilities without participation from each of you. Together, we can safeguard the mission of our department and keep our

information secure while doing so.

To address it briefly, our Information Security program “is—really” a program that works toward the protection of sensitive or confidential information and resources (physical documents, storage devices, and “live” data on computers and the network) from a wide spectrum of threats and risks using preventative measures, education, and fast response.

I spend a great deal of time reviewing business practices, making recommendations, and updating our documentation to keep us within federal and state guidelines. Very little that I do could be accomplished without the direct support and partnership of the Human Rights Office, IT Services Division, and all of you.

Feel free to contact me with questions, comments, suggestions at [jharvey@parks.ca.gov](mailto:jharvey@parks.ca.gov)



# 2009 Parks Director's Recognition Awards

## The Olmsted Award for Leadership and Vision

Ocotillo Wells Interpretive/Education Program Team (San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial Counties)

The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division at Ocotillo Wells, under the guidance of Superintendent Kathy Dolinar and her team of Rangers, Interpreters, Seasonal Aides and Volunteers, brought programs to children and adults alike. By introducing geo-caching at this state park, this team combined education with adventure for the fun-loving OHV crowd and is highly commended for their innovation. The staff on the team includes Steve Quartieri, Ali Barnes, Steve & Jan Chaney, Ken Conway, Jim Cooper, Andy Fitzpatrick, Cheryl Gillott, Sophia Kast, Lesley Manent, Lesley Nuno, Louise Phillips, Jeffrey Price, Caitlin Raymond, Carleen Roerts, Christina Rinas, Beth Shugan, and Sarah Young.



Above: The awards ceremony crowd looks on in anticipation of the ceremony.

## The Hill Award for Inspiration

David R. Gould, State Park Superintendent (Retired), Diablo Vista District, (Alameda, Marin, San Francisco Counties)

Dave has been a steadfast leader and an inspiration to many people throughout California for more than 33 years. Throughout his career, Dave's major public object was to convert everyone into park lovers and stewards. His persistence and guidance ensured protection of natural and cultural resources. He will be remembered for his positive impact on California, his great attitude and awesome inspiration, and his fun portrayal of Galen Clark—the first—ever ranger in California appointed in Yosemite in 1866.

## The Mott Award for Innovation (Two Award winners for 2009)

William F. Mennell, Staff Park & Recreation Specialist, (San Diego County)

Bill led his team to the near-completion of an historic restoration of the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Old Town San Diego. Extensive work and many years were required to negotiate with the various stakeholders, ensuring the project's historical accuracy. It has been nearly 100 years since this hotel has had overnight guests, but it will soon be opening up as a bed and breakfast. Mr. Mennell's team includes Larry Felton, Therese Muranaka, Karen Beery, Greg Giacomuzzi, Nellie Gonzalez, Niloufar Minovi, Robert Moore, Bob Patterson, Donna Renner, Denise Robideau, Robert Robinson, Ellen Sweet, Patsy Turner, Victor Walsh, and Casey Wear.

Mott Awards Continued On Page 12



Above: The San Diego Coast District accepts the Mott Award for Innovation for the historical restoration of the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Old Town San Diego.

## Outdoor Youth Connection Program Office of Community Involvement (Sacramento County)

The Office of Community Involvement spearheaded efforts to provide programs that reconnect urban youth with the outdoors. The innovative programs and events were fun, educational, and will continue to inspire children to appreciate the great outdoors. State Park team members included Michael DeBoer, Dolores Mejia, Terry Gerson, and Russ Kimura.

Other contributing members are Alisha Keller, Grants Manager, from the California State Parks Foundation; and Drew McAdams, Executive Director of the Pacific Leadership Institute at San Francisco State University.



Above: The Office of Community Involvement listens as their achievements are listed.



Above: Seasonal Lifeguard Nathaniel Buck poses with his award for saving the life of a young woman.

## Special Act or Special Service Awards

**Nathaniel (Nate) Buck, Seasonal State Park Lifeguard, at Sonoma Coast State Park (Sonoma County)**

Nate is being honored for his skill and determination in saving the life of a young woman when her vehicle flew over a 50-foot cliff and landed on jagged rocks as the swell of the sea continuously broke upon the shore.

**Jeffrey Scott Sipes, State Park Ranger, Pajaro Coast (Santa Cruz County)**

Jeffrey is esteemed for his heroic efforts on June 28, 2009, when he saved the life of a 17-year-old boy being electrocuted by downed power lines at Rio del Mar State Beach.

**James Nothhelfer, State Park Ranger and Timothy Fellars, State Park Lifeguard, Santa Cruz District (Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties)**

These two officers are being honored by the Department and were also awarded the Governor's prestigious Medal of Valor for their bravery on June 22, 2009, when they saved the lives of six people, including two young children, after their fishing boat capsized into the rocky reef and hazardous waters near Moss Beach at Half Moon Bay.



Above: (Left) Ranger Nothhelfer, (Middle) Director Coleman, and (Right) Lifeguard Fellars.



Above: Ranger Jeffrey Scott Sipes of Pajaro Coast grins with Director Coleman.

## The Dewitt Award for Partnership

(Two Award Winners) Save the Redwoods League (Sacramento, San Francisco, Marin, San Mateo, Sonoma, Contra Costa, Monterey, Santa Cruz, Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity, Mendocino Counties)

Accepting the award is Pete Dangermond, President; Ruskin Hartley, Secretary & Executive Director. This nonprofit agency has been helping to preserve redwood forests and ecosystems since 1918. As partners of California State Parks, last year the League acquired property for additions to Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Humboldt Lagoons State Park, Montgomery Woods, and property in the connecting corridor to the King Range National Conservation area.



Above: Save the Redwoods League is proud to continue its work with State Parks.

As partners in various locales throughout the state, our organizations have become intertwined. Last year the NPS provided short-term financial assistance to CSP units at North Coast Redwoods, Marin, and Angeles Districts and other areas to avert the threat of park closures, enabling 12 state parks to remain open.

National Park Service (NPS), Pacific West Region (San Francisco, Marin, San Mateo, Sonoma, Contra Costa, Monterey, Santa Cruz, Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity, Mendocino, San Diego, Santa Cruz, Humboldt, Del Norte, Siskiyou, Los Angeles and San Diego Counties)

Winning names accepting the award include George Turnbull, Acting Regional Director, Patty & Don Neubacher, Cicely Muldoon, David Siegenthaler, Ray Murray, Steve Chaney, Frank Dean, Woody Smeck, and Dennis Schramm

This Federal agency regularly partners with California State Parks and has made vast contributions to the CSP mission.

## The Ingenuity Award

Point Dume Graffiti Project, Malibu Sector/Angeles District (Los Angeles and Ventura Counties)

The Leo Carrillo Maintenance team and other staff members led by Oscar Rodriguez cleaned up vandalism and damage on an ancient coastal bluff at Point Dume State Beach, thereby returning the terrain to its unspoiled beauty. The team confronted dangerous challenges because of the sheer cliff where the damages occurred. Team members include Kristi Birney, Oscar Garza, John McHarg, Daniel Raducanu, Shane Smith, Barbara Tejada, and Dennis Woodworth.

## The Drury Award for Professional Integrity

Marcy Brown, Manager II, Statewide Bonds Unit/Budget Section (Sacramento County)

Marcy has worked tirelessly to keep bond-funded projects on track during the recent draconian budget slashes.

She efficiently managed her State Park's team, and coordinated with the Department of Finance, State Treasurer's Office, and the Natural Resources Agency to work together to get the job done.



Above: Marcy Brown, Manager II, thanks the crowd

## Special Commendations will be presented to the following:

Robert Birkland, State Park Ranger (Sonoma County)

This commendation recognizes Officer Birkland for his creativity and enthusiasm for co-chairing the marathon benefit that ultimately raised \$20,000 towards the completion of the Annadel State Park visitors center.

Larry Hendrickson, Senior Park Aide, Anza Borrego/Colorado Desert District. (San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties)

Larry is being recognized for his constant dedication and tenacity to the effort of eradicating Saharan mustard, a non-indigenous plant from North Africa that is invading the Colorado Desert.

## President And Governor Proclaim June Great Outdoors Month

By Chris Burgess, Park Aide

With summer upon us it's time to get out into our parks and appreciate the sheer beauty that is in our backyard. Both President Obama and Governor Schwarzenegger signed Proclamations declaring June 2010 as "Great Outdoors Month."

These announcements came after the President launched the "America's Great Outdoors Initiative" earlier this year, and the First Lady's program "Let's Move." Both ask us to take a more active role in our lives, our children's lives, and in our natural resources. What better way to keep a community active than to utilize the

recreation opportunities at our fingertips?

The Angel Island volunteer group on June 4th and the Protect American River Canyons Festival (PARC) are both great examples of California State Parks events that represent the spirit of these proclamations.

So, whether exploring the redwoods in the Mendocino District or taking in the stunning beaches at Torrey Pines in the San Diego Coast District, there is no shortage of beauty in this Golden State. As residents and stewards of this great land it's our duty to appreciate our parks and encourage our communities likewise.



Above: Proclamation signed by President Obama declaring June 2010 as Great Outdoors Month.

## News & Views

Summer 2010  
Ruth Coleman  
Director

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- John Arnold, Assistant Editor
- Lindsay Oxford, Associate Editor
- Chris Burgess, Associate Editor
- Carol Cullens, Proofreader

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

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

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

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

We accept articles on a rolling basis.



# John Arnold's Mailbag

On March 25 my wife and I visited the Governor's Mansion in Sacramento. Joe took us on a tour. Joe was GREAT!! He was informative, interesting, enthusiastic, and knowledgeable. I am an 18th century living history reenactor, VP, and Education Director of our local historical society, and a retired elementary principal. My wife and I were just so thrilled by Joe's presentation and tour.

If there is any way to convey this to him or commend him, I would appreciate it.

Our son lives in Oakland....he is the marketing manager for the Academy of Arts University. We have been to the San Fran area twice in the past year and we really enjoy California! The Capitol Building and Old Sacramento were also good places to visit. We also visited Napa Valley.....although a bit more expensive than the Finger Lakes wine area in NY, it was VERY beautiful, and the wines.....wonderful!

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Last night we watched Huell Howser's program on Fern Canyon in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. We did not catch the name of the ranger who accompanied Huell through the canyon but the ranger did an outstanding job answering Huell's questions. Not only was the ranger very knowledgeable about the biology and the geology but he was very articulate in explaining his answers.

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In early March of this year, our charter school scheduled a trip to the Mining and Mineral Museum in Mariposa. Having visited this museum several times in the past, I knew what a treasure it is and brought my family to participate.

I would like to take a moment to thank Randy Bolt, the State Park Interpreter that spoke to our students and parents that day. He was by far the most informed, engaging guide I've encountered in any of the California State Parks I've taken school groups to. We have been to many in the Sierra Nevada range, Gold Country and the Greater Central Valley, and all are very well suited to grade school groups, but Mr. Bolt was outstanding. He shared his passion for the science as well as the history of mining in California, and I think most people in that room walked away with a little more appreciation for our state's significance when they left.

My appreciation extends as well to the entire California Department of Parks and Recreation, for the wonderful educational materials and activities that are provided to visitors of all ages. Your programs are active and informative.

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We love the park and the great job the rangers do there (and at all the State parks). Our kids had many questions for the rangers and they were

always dealt with patiently and helpfully.

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I just wanted to compliment the people that run our State Parks & campgrounds. We just returned from four nights camping at Henry Cowell State Park and I was impressed with how well maintained and clean it was. As a fellow state worker I am proud of our State Parks and hope that maintaining them will always be a high priority with our State Legislators and Governor!! I'm looking forward to my next camping trip soon.

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I just wanted to pass on a quick comment on the races at prairie city OHV on 5/22/2010.

Overall the whole experience was great. The parking was handled very well. Traffic was handled well. Multiple entrance gates was great. OHV staff and Sheriff's officers along with volunteers did a great job keeping the whole event very family friendly.

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We visited Bodie this past Sunday morning. What a beautiful well preserved treasure. We were greeted at the toll gate by the park ranger Jim who was so knowledgeable, upbeat, and courteous. He enthusiastically and professionally answered our questions.

# News and Views Wins Another Award

The California State Parks' newsletter, News and Views, has won another award for excellence from the California State Information Officers Council. This marks the second year in a row that the newsletter has been singled out as one of the best newsletters by a state agency. In May, the News and Views staff was presented with an Honorable Mention Award in the Best Newsletter category, receiving high scores from the judges under the criteria of quality and effectiveness. One of the judges remarked that the

photos and articles are very good. Another judge said the publication was colorful, with great photos and interesting stories about park employees.

News and Views Staff are: Roy Stearns, Lindsay Oxford, John Arnold, Chris Burgess, and Carol Cullens.

However, the above staff would like to pass on congratulations to all those from around the system who provided stories and pictures for the publication. To all of you, we say thanks! This award is for you too and we are pleased and proud of your regular contributions.



Above: The April 2009 Edition of News and Views.

# Golden Guardian Training Event Held By CalEMA

By Karl E. Poppelreiter, Chief California State Parks Law Enforcement & Emergency Services (LEES)

Any time disaster strikes on a regional or statewide basis, there is a high probability that a state park is located nearby and will in some way be impacted by the event or its aftermath. Earthquakes, fires, and floods are not strangers to California, and state parks can often be found in the thick of the response and cleanup.

Each year the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) conducts a statewide training exercise to assess the state's readiness for a major catastrophe. The exercise, called Golden Guardian, provides an opportunity for local, state, and federal agencies to work together in a real-time exercise. State

Parks regularly participates, providing resources and facilities in the mock disaster.

This year's Golden Guardian drill simulated multiple terrorist attacks on the San Francisco Bay area. Due to the budget and staffing constraints the Department currently faces, participation in this year's exercise was limited to the LEES Division personnel, who respond at an executive level to CalEMA. LEES Chief Karl Poppelreiter, Assistant Chief

Frank Spear, Superintendent Eileen Bielecki, and Superintendent Michael Lynch acted as the skeleton crew for the Department Operation Center, located at the Northern Communication Center. Superintendent Mark Hada represented the Department at the State Operations Center, while Superintendent Todd Thames evaluated the State Parks team response to the disasters.

The last Golden Guardian simulated a major earthquake in the Los Angeles area. Next year's exercise is already being planned, and will simulate a major flood event in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley. Because of the Department's many facilities and resources located throughout the Valley, State Parks will take a more active roll in the drill.



Above: Golden Guardian trainees.