



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 10, 2008

CONTACT: Roy Stearns  
(916) 654-7538  
(916) 799-1036 cell

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CCC – Civilian Conservation Corps

### Honoring Those Who Built the Foundation of California's State Park System

#### *Public Invited and Encouraged to Attend*

California State Parks and the California Conservation Corps will be honoring thousands of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) enrollees at a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ceremony at Mount Tamalpais State Park on April 12. Established in 1933 by President Roosevelt, the CCC built more than 1,500 buildings, structures and landscape features in 48 State parks from 1933 to 1941, creating the first major visitor facilities within the fledgling California system.

**Who:** Former members of the Civilian Conservation Corps from the 1930s, Robert Griffiths, Arnold Blumhardt, and Herbert Perry.  
Gray Brechin, PhD., Author/writer who has inventoried and documented CCC projects.  
Paul Romero, California State Parks Chief Deputy Director  
Brian O'Neill, General Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Jimmy Camp, CCC Communications Director  
Dave Gould, State Parks Marin District Superintendent

**What:** Work party to clean-up theatre and ceremony honoring former members of the CCC on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Civilian Conservation Corps by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, with presentation of Proclamation from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

**When:** April 12, 2008 -- Public invited to attend.

9 a.m. – California Conservation Corp and Marin Conservation Corp members working on theatre clean-up. Good visuals.

11 a.m. -- Commemorative ceremony with past CCC members honored.

**Where:** Mountain Theatre, Mount Tamalpais State Park, Marin County. Leave Hwy 101 at the Hwy 1/Stinson Beach/Mt. Tamalpais off ramp. Then follow the signs onto the Panoramic Hwy up to Pantoll, then Pan Toll Road up to Rock Springs/Mountain Theater.

(More)

**Photography/Video Note:** The Mountain Theatre is a large and impressive natural bowl amphitheatre that reminds one of the massive stone theatres of ancient Greece. It is one of the most picturesque locations in the San Francisco Bay Area.

“If you have admired the old stone and wood-frame buildings, bridges and theatres in our parks, then you have admired the lasting work of the CCC,” said State Parks’ Chief Deputy Director Paul Romero. “We have a park system today that still stands on the foundation of the hard work the CCC provided for the people of California, and we gladly honor their accomplishments.”

At Mount Tamalpais, in Marin County, the CCC built one of the most impressive of their hundreds of State park construction projects, the outdoor Mountain Theatre. It was completed in 1936 to accommodate up to 6,000 people and it still stands in-use today as a living-history testament to the skills of the CCC workers. In addition, CCC workers built park roads, hiking and riding trails, service roads, firebreaks, various buildings, campgrounds, day-use picnic areas, and, sewer and water systems. In essence, they created the foundation for what stands today in this magnificent and heavily-used San Francisco Bay park.

The CCC began when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Emergency Conservation Work Act on March 31, 1933. The first CCC camp was established just two weeks later, and by July 1933, more than 274,000 uniformed young men were working in the nation’s public parks and forests.

In 1935, some 30,000 CCC enrollees were at work in California. About 7,400 enrollees were working in California’s state and national parks, building roads and trails, utility systems and campgrounds, restrooms, visitor centers, and other facilities that made it possible to open up the state and national parks to public

The first CCC camps in California State Parks were at Calaveras Big Trees, Humboldt Redwoods, Big Basin, and Cuyamaca Rancho State Parks. As the CCC program evolved, nearly 2,000 enrollees worked in 10 camps in State Parks. The park designs became more sophisticated, and skilled craftsmen oversaw construction of structures featuring stone and timber. The work of the CCC formed California State Parks’ signature “park rustic” architecture and design.

The biggest CCC project was the historical restoration and reconstruction of La Purisima Mission between 1934 and December 7, 1941. This old Spanish mission was built by Franciscan missionaries and their Indian laborers starting in 1812. It became one of the largest and most ambitious historical restoration and reconstruction projects ever attempted in the U.S., according to information in the book *By the People, For the People*, by Joseph H. Engbeck, Jr.

Other projects built within California State Parks by CCC workers are featured in our web site for the CCC 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary [www.parks.ca.gov/cc](http://www.parks.ca.gov/cc) .

**We highly recommend the book, *By The People, For The People*, by Joseph H. Engbeck, Jr., which provides a thorough history of the work of the CCC in California State Parks from 1933 to 1941. The book is available through the California State Parks On-line Store, <http://store.parks.ca.gov/> . A good deal of the information for this Anniversary celebration and this press release came from that excellent publication. ###**