

# News Release



**For Immediate Release**

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## 2008 California State Parks Director's Recognition Awards Announced

**SACRAMENTO** – California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman announced the recipients of the 2008 Director's Recognition Awards. The awards go to those who distinguished themselves for their extraordinary achievements.

"We want to recognize our public servants and partners who tirelessly devote themselves to our State Parks' mission," said Director Coleman. "It is this kind of dedication that has made California State Parks one of the finest park systems anywhere in the world."

The awards are presented once a year. The winners were selected by the Director from among nominations submitted to Sacramento headquarters by the department's employees from across the state. Among the award recipients are individuals who recognized needs and found ways to meet the needs against the odds; some identified long-standing problems and found creative solutions; and there were those who built unity among diverse groups and thus reached goals beyond expectations.

"I am proud to recognize these talented and innovative individuals at California State Parks," Coleman said.

The awards will be presented from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 2009, in the Resources Agency Auditorium at 1416 Ninth Street in Sacramento.

### The Olmsted Award for Leadership and Vision

**Sean A. Woods**, Los Angeles State Park Superintendent III, (Los Angeles County) and his team of Rangers and Interpreters brought programs to children who had never experienced the wonders of California State Parks. The innovative programs and events they created were joyfully embraced and will continue to touch the lives of many children for years to come. The staff on the team includes Thomas Carroll, Larry Fulmer, Jennifer Dandurand, Karma Graham, Daniel Golde, Lee Hawkins, Damon McJunkin, Jonelle Mckie, Kristen Perry, and James Valdez.

### The Hill Award for Inspiration

**Mark C. Jorgensen**, State Park Superintendent III, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, (San Diego, Riverside, & Imperial Counties) has been a steadfast leader and an inspiration to many people in the desert area for more than 36 years. His persistence and guidance insured

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protection of natural and cultural resources, and he added nearly 300,000 acres of land to the State Wilderness System. Among Mark's many accomplishments, he also works tirelessly for the recovery of the endangered population of the Peninsular bighorn sheep along the western margins of the Colorado Desert, which included 29 years of managing an annual volunteer census of the bighorn sheep.

#### The Drury Award for Professional Integrity

**Ronie Clark**, State Park Superintendent, San Diego Coast District, (San Diego County) has worked for full access to outdoor spaces and has the foresight to see that the urban dwellers are loving parks, but not "loving parks to death". She has been a great advocate for protecting and caring for cultural, historical, and natural resources. Ms. Clark displays incredible integrity in all aspects of her life and is admired by many.

#### The Mott Award for Innovation

**Gayle Bohlmann**, Manager III – Business Management Services

**Tom Dempsey**, Manager

**Nori Tipon**, Manager

**Maureen O'Connor**, Manager

**Cathy Croly**, Analyst

**Therese Marchetti**, Analyst

**Danelle Hosmann**, Manager

**Timothy Wood**, Manager

**Chris Beresford**, Analyst

**Laura Horsley**, Analyst

**Hannah Walloupe**, Analyst

(Sacramento, Placer & El Dorado Counties) This award acknowledges the effort and dedication by these individuals to California State Parks for applying unusual administrative skills to bring together a statewide team in order to increase the Small Business/Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise vendors' participation with the department. Their contributions are greatly appreciated.

#### The Dewitt Award for Partnership (Two Award Winners)

**Kurt Loesch**, Docent, Point Lobos State Reserve (Monterey County). Kurt has been a volunteer at Point Lobos for over 25 years. He is self-taught and is a well respected historian, curator, and archivist. He conceived of and brought to life the whaler's cabin and whaling station museums. For the past two years, he spearheaded efforts to get the whaler's cabin nominated and successfully accepted to the national registry of historic buildings.

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**Intertribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, represented by Hawk Rosales, Executive Director** (Mendocino and Humboldt Counties). The Council is a non-profit organization working together with the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park on a multitude of projects. The Council was formed in 1986 to protect threatened Sinkyone Coastal redwoods from further logging and to return local Indian stewardship to the land. The Council is comprised of ten Northern California tribes with direct ties to the Sinkyone region and they represent the values and spirit of the indigenous Sinkyone people.

#### The Ingenuity Award

**Lawrence (Sparky) Ross**, Stationary Engineer, Hearst Castle (San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties), created a way to fix the communications equipment at Limekiln State Park after it was rendered useless due to burnt power lines. Sparky's ingenuity saved the

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department \$15,000 and within 24 hours, normal communications resumed at the critical dispatch center in Monterey, enhancing peace officer and public safety in the park and the Big Sur area.

Special Commendations will be presented to the following:

**Wallace (Kirk) Coon** – State Park Ranger (Butte County). This commendation recognizes Officer Coon for his efforts in apprehending suspects being in possession of a stolen vehicle and/or recovering stolen vehicles. Wallace became the first State Parks Ranger to receive the prestigious “10851” award – which is named after the California vehicle code section pertaining to vehicle theft.

**Marsha Henderson, Chief Administrative Officer**, Central Valley District (Calaveras and Mariposa Counties). Because of her managerial skills and style, and of her vast knowledge of the park system, Marsha has helped countless administrative and park staff become successful in achieving their tasks and goals. This special commendation acknowledges her tremendous dedication to California State Parks and her caring and unselfish assistance to others.

**Diane Stategos and Kim Snyder**, Analysts (Sacramento and Yolo Counties), These two staff members in the Acquisitions and Real Property Division were able to sizably diminish the backlogged land acquisition records for State Parks. Many of these records went back to the late 1800s and the amount of work they accomplished was enormous.

Special Act or Special Service Awards

**Jeff Gouailhardou and Kelly Zylman**, State Park Lifeguards (Seasonal) Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area (San Bernardino County) These two lifeguards are honored for their skills and determination for saving the life of a young man who nearly drowned in June of 2008.

**Jim McGlynn, State Park Maintenance Worker** (and retired State Park Lifeguard), Torrey Pines State Reserve, (San Diego County). Special thanks to Jim for his keen intuition when he noticed skid marks leading off the highway in Torrey Pines State Reserve, and he didn't dismiss the possibility that perhaps someone had gone over the cliff. Indeed someone had and she had landed almost 300 feet into the ravine, was hurt and unable to climb out, and she was almost impossible to notice from the roadside. If Jim hadn't followed his hunch and relentlessly examined the area below, surely she would not have made it out alive.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS AND THEIR LOCATIONS, VISIT THE WEBSITE AT [WWW.PARKS.CA.GOV](http://WWW.PARKS.CA.GOV)**

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