CATALYST

Winter Editon 1995

An Interpretation Newsletter of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Vol. 1, No. 5

Table of Contents

1. Table of Contents
2. Norms and Newsletter Committee Roster
3. **Reflections of the 1994 National Interpreter's Workshop, Images and Perception: Interpretation Makes the Difference**, by Christine Revelas, Guide I, Monterey State Historic Park.
4. **Special Signs Readily Available**
6. **Another Good Idea That Needs Your Help**, by Jim Holt, State Park Interpreter I, Malibu District
7. **Bringing Your AV Program to Life**, by Brian Cahill, State Park Ranger I, Colorado Desert District
   California State Parks Month, May, 1995, by Judy Lemke, Marketing Analyst I, Public Awareness
8. **Volunteer Program Administration: A Handbook for Museums and Other Cultural Institutions,** by Joan Kuypr in collaboration with Ellen Cochran Hirzy and Kathleen Huftalen
10. **Ranger Ride Along Program,** Vincent Sereno, Ranger I, Millerton Lake State Reserve Suggests, and **Cost of Volunteer Time**, contributed by John Mott, Volunteer Program Manager.
11. **Who's Who in the Districts**
12. **Interpertive Park Aid: End-of-Season Report,** by Michelle Watson, Interpretive Park Aid, Bay Area District.
13. **Second Annual California Duck Days,** by Janet Didion, Resource Ecologist, Natural Heritage Section
14. **What to Do With the Litter-Getter Program?** by Donna Pozzi, State Park Interpreter III, Park Services
16. Job Opening and **What The Catalyst Has Done for You**

The Catalyst

The Catalyst is a quarterly. Articles should be submitted by mid-July, mid-October, mid-January, and mid-April, for an August, November, February, and May publication.

Any questions, concerns, or suggestions should be directed to members of the committee.

Letters to the Editor are invited. Articles can be submitted through any committee member. All articles will be reviewed by, at least, two committee members. Generally, committee members will not attempt to censor or alter submitted articles. However, if a reviewer identifies inaccurate or misleading information, he/she will contact the author about revision.

Committee members/reviewers will keep in mind the need to protect the Department from unauthorized endorsements or advertisements at state expense. This should not discourage personal testimonials or recommendations which are both appropriate and desirable, and might include:

* helpful people, companies, or organization
* sources for interpretive products
* training opportunities
* reference materials.

If the article is submitted within the required time frame, a conscientious attempt will be made to route it back for proofing. Send articles to:

Sally Scott, Editor
Bay Area District
95 Kelly Avenue
Phone: 415 726-8807 Half Moon Bay, CA 9401 Fax: 415 726-0668

The Catalyst Newsletter Committee Members

Members	Title	Address	Phone	Fax
Philip Carey	Exh. Coor.	Env. Design	916 653-9958	F-916 653-4458
Wes Chapin	DIS	Channel Coast	805 899-1406	F-805 728-1406
Donna Pozzi	SPI III	Park Services	916 653-4643	F-916 657-4747
Rick Royer	DIS	Russian River	707 865-2391	F-707 865-2046
Sally Scott	DIS	Bay Area	415 726-8807	F-415 726-0668
Pauline Spear	MC III	Park Services	916 653-4381	F-916 657-4747
John Werminski	SPI II	Park Services	916 653-8959	F-916 657-4747

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Reflections of the 1994 National Interpreters' Workshop
Images and Perceptions: Interpretation Makes the Difference

by

Christine Revelas, Guide 1
Monterey State Historic Park

Over one thousand Interpreters headed for Cleveland, Ohio during early November to attend the National Association for Interpretation's annual workshop, "Images and Perceptions: Interpretation Makes the Difference." From start to finish, the workshop was an interpretive experience.

Region 4 did an extraordinary job organizing the workshop. The three year commitment of support and cooperation by the 24+ agencies was obvious. From the pre-workshop training seminars, through the workshop sessions, to the special events, the 12 workshop committees offered "outrageous service" to each participant.

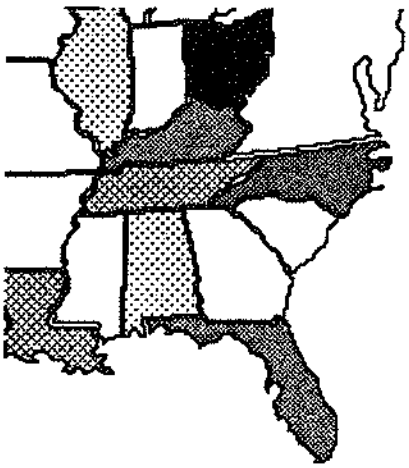
The publication committee was especially innovative, *The Workshop Guide* was well done and easy to use, and *The Daily Image*, a one page updated newsletter of the next day's events, was slipped under each participant's door after midnight. (Let's hope the Orlando workshop committee was watching.)

Over 40 concurrent sessions/ workshops were offered each day. The variety of topics was as amazing as the number of sessions to choose from. As a historic guide, I found plenty of history-oriented sessions to attend, learn from, and bring back to my job site. Even though the topics were interesting and there was a lot to learn, we still had time for late afternoon meetings — interpretive sessions, regions, special interests or board subcommittees. Everyone was invited to stretch their wings and get involved.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the wonderful keynote speakers, Bill Hammond, Betty Fussell, and Chuck Bartlebaugh who gave us stories and information to grasp and use in our interpretive careers. Interpretive entertainers, Donn Werling, Rick Sowash, and Susan Fowler regaled us with stories, songs, and sign language. It was a great way to start each workshop day.

Many of you are NAI members, but for those of you who aren't, you should know that the NAI workshop participants play every bit as hard as they work. Our evening events were full of fun too. There were riverboat cruises, dinner and dancing in the Rain Forest of the Cleveland Zoo, a barbecue and scholarship auction at Farmpark, and the annual banquet presenting the NAI awards for media competition and professional achievement. Did I mention the 26 field trips offered on Friday? Everyone was busy.

I was a little disappointed in the turnout from DPR — only two of us — but now is the time to plan for the 1995 National Workshop, *Interpretation: The Real Magic*, from November 27 - 30 in Orlando, Florida. Presentation proposals are due January 15, but since we've missed that date, call Tom Richter, National Park Service Office in Omaha, NE. at (402) 221-3477 to see if he needs more quality session proposals. Charles Kuralt and Stewart Udall will be waiting for all of us in Florida.



The National Workshop meets from November 27-30 in Orlando, Florida! See you there!

Check next Catalyst for NAI membership information.

Did You Know...

A multitude of standard signs is readily available for your district.

You can order interpretive warning signs on:

Tide Pools
Mushrooms (poisonous)
Feral Cats
Tick/Lyme Disease (new)
Mountain Lions (new)
Poison Oak
Least Tern (new)

If you have questions about these signs, or would like a copy of one faxed to you, call Laurena Cabanero, Sign Program Coordinator, at 916 653-6140
or Jim Maddox, Graphic Artist, at 916 654-0878.

Otherwise, signs can be ordered directly from the warehouse in Sacramento. Please make your request through your district sign coordinator.

(Refer to your district's Sign Manual and Handbooks for sign numbers.)

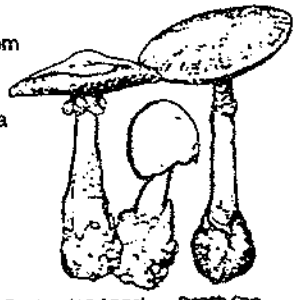
TIDE POOLS

Tide pools contain a diversity of marine life equal in variety to all the marine life found in the ocean. State laws offer partial protection, but they still need your help. Look and enjoy, but please don't disturb.

Deadly Harvest

Some of the world's most poisonous mushrooms grow in this area. Every year people die of become violently ill from eating Death Caps or Destroying Angels. Do no gather these dangerous wild plants; their colors vary, they resemble harmless mushrooms, and even experts can be fooled.

More that 90% of all mushroom poisonings are from this group of mushrooms. Vomiting and diarrhea begin 10 to 20 hours after eating, followed by damage to the heart, liver, kidney, and skeletal muscles. 50% of the victims die in two to five days. Don't make a meal of these beautiful but deadly plants.



Destroying Angel (Amanita verna) · Death Cap (Amanita phalloides)

In future editions, watch for signs that depict:

Area Closed to Protect Tree Roots

Poison Oak

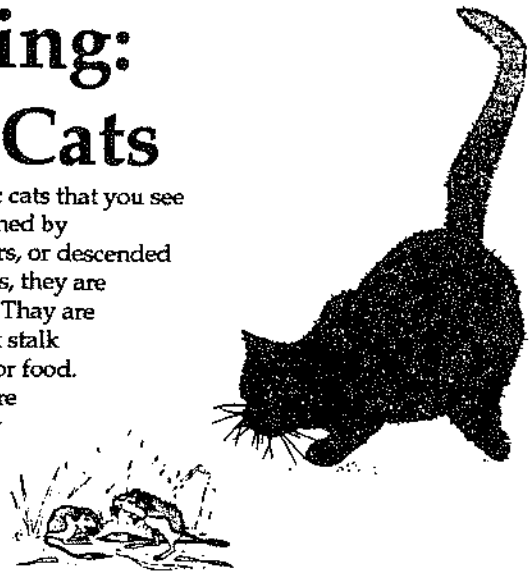
Rattlesnakes

Raccoons

among others.

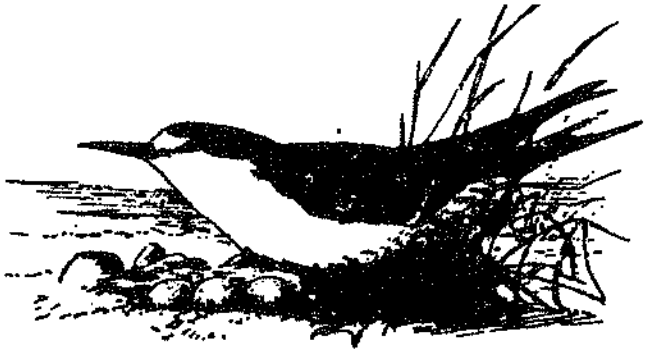
More options will be highlighted in future editions of **The Catalyst.**

Warning: Feral Cats



Beware of domestic cats that you see in the park abandoned by irresponsible owners, or descended from once tame pets, they are now wild, or feral. Thay are skillful hunters that stalk birds and rodents for food. These cats, which are often diseased, may fight each other to the death, and are not afraid to bite or claw visitors.

Do Not Touch Feral Cats!



Least Tern Natural Preserve

Least terns use this part of the beach as a nesting area from May through August each year. These small birds are an endangered species because many of their nesting and feeding spots have been destoyed or disturbed.

To avoid startling the nesting colony, please stay at least 15 feet away from the fence.

Thanks go to **Kris Quist** for his past contributions to **The Catalyst**.
We'll miss him as a member of the committee, but understand his busy schedule and wish him the best in future endeavors.

memo:

916 654-2249
Potential subscribers...
Contact
Tammy Thomas
for your personal copy of **The Catalyst.**
8-454-2249

Another Good Idea That Needs Your Help

by
Jim Holt
State Park Interpreter I
Malibu District

In celebration of State Parks Month, the Malibu Sector will offer a series of special campfire slide programs in May. The desired result is to represent the incredible diversity of California State Parks. The advertised gimmick is for members of the audience, largely from Metropolitan Los Angeles/Ventura counties, to bring and share a few of their favorite slides. As a backup, and one likely to be used on occasion, we would like to assemble a ready-to-show program.

Fellow interpreters could be of great help by sending a few slides and suggested accompanying interpretive words to be read as a sound bite by us. Your slides would be returned if requested, or put to additional good use here, or on circuit elsewhere, maybe at your park, if you like.

Contributions should be sent to:

Malibu Sector Office
Attn: Jim Holt
39996 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu, CA 90265

or see you at Asilomar, March 24-30, 1995. Thank you.

Bringing Your AV Program to Life

by
Brian Cahill
State Park Ranger I
Colorado Desert District

We are pleased to announce a unique training opportunity this spring. A two-day workshop will be held in southern California offering a comprehensive look at planning and producing audio-visual programs.

The program will be conducted by John Veverka. John presents interpretive training nationwide to thousands of interpretive professionals. Perhaps you have attended one of his sessions at an NAI Workshop. If you are interested in AV, you won't want to miss this opportunity.

The course will consist of 2 full-day sessions, Thursday, February 23, and Thursday, March 23, 1995. Participants will be required to attend both sessions and complete an assignment between sessions. The February session will be held in San Clemente and the March session in Perris. Travel expenses, if any, will not be paid out of training funds. Sessions will be scheduled to allow for driving time.

Course registration will be handled through Mott Training Center. To register, contact Randy Sederquist at MTC. Don't delay, this is sure to be a popular workshop!

California's State Parks Month Is Back

by
Judy Lemke
Marketing Analyst I

Based on the success of the last year's State Parks Month, we are again planning a month-long observance of park activities with a theme of "Preserving the Best of California, Forever." The idea is to tie in all of the Department's preservation efforts, including natural and historical projects and sites.

The Office of Marketing and Public Affairs will work with the units to help promote local events and local publicity whenever possible. There will be a field liaison person to expedite this via the State Parks Month committee. Hundred of major events are being held throughout the month of May in celebration of the legacy that belongs to you, and in celebration of State Parks Month! Special events scheduled for May, 1995 will be promoted as part of the month-long celebration and a kick-off for the upcoming summer season.

There will be an ongoing effort to market State Parks Month via visitor and convention bureaus, trade shows, and vacation venues, such as motel and hotel brochure stands.

This month-long celebration, preceded by a Governor's Proclamation, will feature events and activities in many of the State Park units throughout the state, any one of which offers activities involving our natural, cultural, and historic resources.

There will be outreach efforts to non-traditional visitors, such as public service announcements in other languages and placement of stories in specialized publications.

Volunteer Program Administration: A Handbook for Museums and Other Cultural Institutions

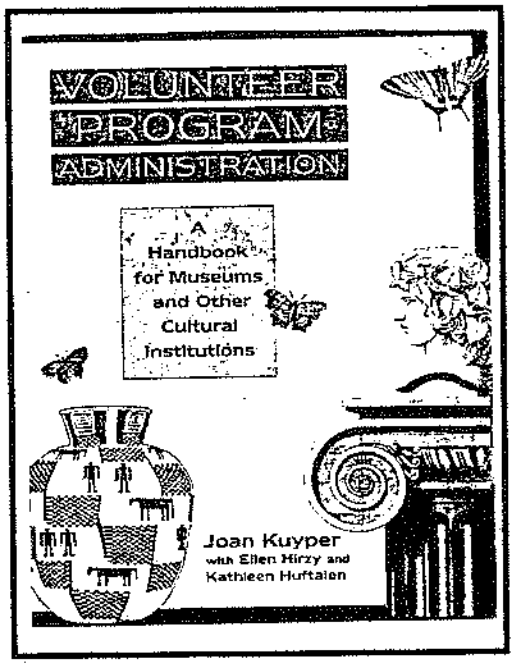
by

Joan Kuypr in collaboration with Ellen Cochran Hirzy and Kathleen Huftalen

Co-published by American Association for Museum Volunteers, McLean, VA, and American Council for the Arts New York, NY, 1993, Pp137.
Resource and networking guide, list of figures. $16.95 paper.

During the course of any given day, a volunteer coordinator is called upon to be supervisor, friend, parent, role model, mediator, and mentor to a wide variety of people in a wide variety of situations.

A person with such a diverse and challenging position needs a manual on volunteer administration that is well organized and thoroughly researched. It must be relevant to various volunteer program structures with varying numbers of volunteers. It should cover issues related to any stage of volunteer program development and offer many resources for finding additional information on covered topics. To be considered valuable, the manual must also go beyond suggestions for the three "r's" - recruitment, retention, and rewards - that elicit an "anyone could have thought of that" response. Volunteer Program Administration: A Handbook for Museums and Other Cultural Institutions is just such a manual.



The authors, who have extensive experience in the area of volunteer administration, set out to write "...a handbook focused on the complex and fascinating world of museum volunteers..." that was "...intended for a diverse audience: museum volunteers, both experienced and new; volunteer program administrators; paid staff who supervise volunteers; elected and appointed volunteer program officers and leaders; and, last but not least, museum directors and trustees." They succeeded. Anyone on this list will find a wealth of information within the manual's pages.

Volunteer Program Administration meets the additional challenge of relating to several types of institutions, from art museums to zoos. Historic homes and sites, science museums, botanical gardens, and others are included in the intended audience.

From the first chapter it is obvious that the book was written by serious museum professionals who have a profound respect for volunteers. One of the most important lessons in their guide is that volunteers are an essential part of the operation of any museum. Most museums could not open their doors without them. Frequently, volunteers are the only members of the staff who interact with the public. Because of this it is accurate to say that volunteers play a large part in the development of the institution's reputation in the community. When dealing with something as important as the institution's reputation, nothing short of a professional volunteer program designed to meet its

mission will do.

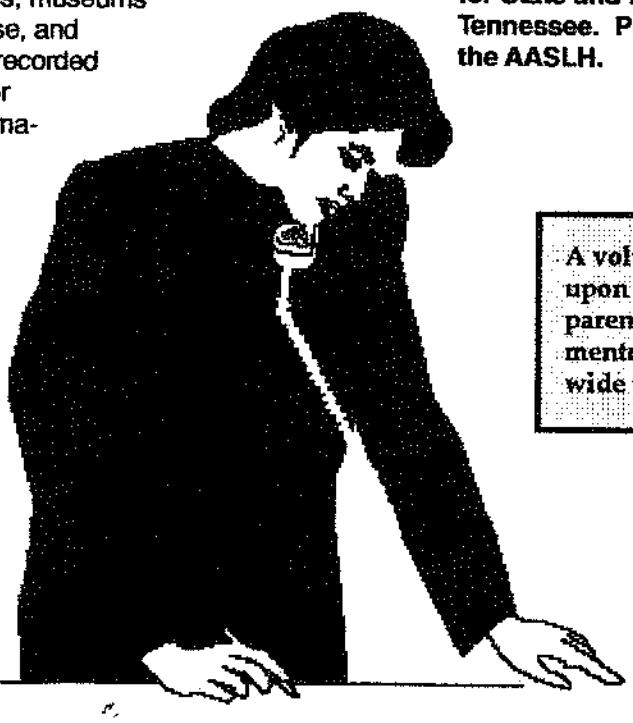
To assist with this goal, an ambitious list of topics is explored. Among them are: volunteer program structure including mission statements, evaluation, and administration; volunteer recruitment, selection, evaluation and training; recognition programs; and volunteer-staff relations. Not included is a discussion of the cost of running a volunteer program and strategies to convince staff and board members that these programs are not free. A section on developing and justifying a budget would be a welcome addition.

Samples of suggested documents such as application forms, service agreements and evaluation forms are provided. Descriptions of specific programs offered at selected museums on such topics as working with people with disabilities, young people, and senior citizens are also described in detail. Results of surveys on the changing volunteer force and volunteer values are included. Each example is listed in a separate reference table for easy retrieval at a later date.

Perhaps the most exciting and potentially useful part of the manual is the "Resource and Networking Guide." The guide is divided into subcategories that list resource organizations, museums with expertise, and written and recorded resources for further information on such topics as professional organizations, volunteer program structure, training, professional development, and recognition of volunteers. All sizes and types of museums are listed in this section, with names, addressees, and telephone numbers provided. The "Resource and Networking Guide" ensures that this manual will continue to be a useful reference guide when new challenges arise.

Volunteer Program Administration is not only a useful tool for developing a new volunteer program or evaluating one in need of a new direction; it is a celebration of something that is unique to our American culture. By meeting the challenge to relate to a wide variety of institutions, program structures, and sizes, the extent to which voluntarism has made the exploration of museum topics possible is revealed. It becomes clear that the contribution that our volunteers have made in terms of their time and talents is staggering; the impact overwhelming. Our volunteers deserve the very best programs we can give them. This manual will guide the development of a volunteer program that meets the challenge, and be a useful tool as the program matures. It is just what a busy volunteer coordinator needs.

Originally published in the July/August 1994 *History News*, Volume 49, Number 4, by the American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, Tennessee. Published with permission of the AASLH.



A volunteer coordinator is called upon to be supervisor, friend, parent, role model, mediator, and mentor to a wide of people in a wide variety of situations.

This is **The Catalyst** way of reminding readers of the success of the Ranger Ride Along Program. Have you received a letter like this one lately?

Agnes J. Johnson Elementary School
73 School Road; P. O. Box 280
Weott, CA 95571

Humboldt Redwoods State Park
P. O. Box 100
Weott, CA 95571

Dear Humboldt Redwoods State Park,

On behalf of the fourth grade students at Agnes J. Johnson Elementary School, I would like to thank you for your commitment to the *Ranger Ride Along Program*. The Rangers at Humboldt Redwoods have been running this program for us every year since 1987, with continued success.

Each year, fourth grade students look forward to getting their own tour of the park as they join a ranger of the *Ride Along Program*. I am always impressed with the knowledge and insights the students gain about our redwood region. I also appreciate the way you involve the students in thinking about the future of our earth. For example, during the past seven years that you have been working with my students, I have noticed a tremendous difference in the Cuneo Creek area! I believe that some of my fourth grade students have helped to plant the new trees here while on the "ride along." I am sure that the "discoveries" they make, based on their individual experiences in this program, will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

The fourth graders and I want to thank you again for the time and effort you have put into this program during the past years, as well as for the patches you have presented to each student who has participated in the program. With all the budget cuts that are taking place throughout the state at this time, I appreciate even more the commitment that Humboldt Redwoods has made to our students by continuing this program. We are enthusiastically looking forward to working with the *Ranger Ride Along Program* again during the 1994-1995 school year!

Sincerely,

Adele Anderson
Fourth Grade Teacher

Vincent Sereno, Ranger 1, Millerton Lake State Reserve, San Joaquin District, sent in the following addresses which he has found to be good sources for books on interpretation and for supplies needed in interpretive programs. Both offer free catalogs.

Acorn Naturalists
17300 East 17th Street
Tustin, CA 92680
714 838-4888 or 800 422-8886

The Interpretation Publication and Resource Center
P. O. Box 398
North Stonington, CT 06359

"Ever wonder how to calculate the monetary value of volunteers who do different types of work? Your worries are over. Eleven dollars and fifty-eight cents ($11.58) is the national average value of all volunteer time for all types of volunteer work. The Independent Sector Study of the Points of Light Foundation recently determine the $11.58 figures." **Submitted by John Mott, Volunteer Programs Manager.**

WHO'S WHO IN THE DISTRICTS
Coordination of Interpretive Responsibilities

District	Interpretive	Junior Ranger	Volunteer	VEP*	Photo Work	Concession
Northern Division						
American River District	Lynda Swenson	Swenson	Swenson	Swenson	Swenson	Swenson
Bay Area District	Sally Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	Debbie Galvan
Calaveras District	Bruce Thomsen	Thomsen	Thomsen	Thomsen	Thomsen	Lorie Deacon
			[Indian Grinding Rock: Rita Nunes]			
			[Calavaras Big Trees: Joe Von Herrman]			
			[Columbia: Sherri Grout]			
Four Rivers District	Mary Stokes	Stokes	Stokes	Stokes	Stokes	Stokes
Gold Rush District	Ed Bastien	Bastien	Valerie Laam	Bobbie Olson	Bastien	Olson
Marin District	Tom Lindberg	Lindberg	Lindberg	Lindberg	Lindberg	Lindberg Alt: Jim Burke
North Coast Redwoods	Alan E. Wilkinson	Wilkinson	Wilkinson	Doug Correia	Wilkinson	LaVerne Hackett
Northern Buttes	Steve Feazel	Feazel	Bill Stewart	Feazel	Feazel	Stewart Alt: Feazel
Russian River-Mendocino Dist.	Rick Royer	Royer	Royer	Royer	Royer	Jack Ekstrom
Sierra District	Bill Lindeman	Ted Reinhardt	Reinhardt	Reinhardt	Lindeman	Bob Macomber
Silverado	Glenn Burch	Sheryl Lawton	Lawton	Burch	Breck Parkman	Burch
Southern Division						
Angeles District	Jim Holt	Stephanie Price Alt: Holt	Michael Allen Alt: Holt Jeanne Ekstrom Mikal Sandoval	Debonne Holm Alt: Ekstrom Sandoval	Holt	[Malibu: Russ Gulney] [Topanga : Dennis Hanson]
	[Mojave: Vic Maris]		[Mojave: Maris]	[Mojave: Maris]		[Mojave: Maris]
Channel Coast	Wes Chapin	Chapin	Chapin	Chapin	Chapin	Claire Bishop
Colorado Desert District	Brian Cahill	Cahill	Cahill	Cahill	Cahill	Tina Townsend
Los Lagos District	Luan Aubin	Aubin	Aubin	Aubin	Aubin	
Monterey District	Hayden Sohm	Sohm	Sohm Alt: Jim Fife	Sohn	Sharon Fong	Sohm Alt: Antone Duncan
Orange Coast District	Rick Gilliland	Gilliland	Gilliland	Jan Bullock	Gilliland	Jack Roggenbuck
San Luis Obispo Coast Dist.	Diane McGrath	McGrath	McGrath	McGrath	McGrath	McGrath
San Diego Coast District	Dick Edwards	Susan Chase	Olen Golden Alt: Bob Wohl Joe Vasquez Mitzi Espiritu	Edwards	Edwards	Jim Lynch
San Joaquin District	Scott Wassmund	Dana Jones	Dick Johnson	Michele Spitzer	Wassmund	Kathy Franklin
San Simeon District	Karen Beery	Terry Osborn	Leslie Taylor-Snow Alt: Penny Harris	Taylor-Snow Alt: Harris	John Blades	William R. Kramer
Santa Cruz District	Elizabeth Hammack	Hammack	Hammack	Hammack	Hammack	Sheila Branon
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation						
Hollister Hills	Jess Cooper		Linda Davis			
Hungry Valley	Ray Monge		Mike Stavro Alt: Monge			
Ocotillo Wells	Kevin Forrester	Forrester	Forrester		Forrester	Forrester
Pismo Dunes	Steve Gorman		Nick Franco		Don Patton	
Twin Cities	Don Fuller		Fuller		Bill Carter	Tony Perez

*VEP Volunteer Enhancement Program

Interpretive Park Aid: End-of Season Report

by
Michelle Watson
Interpretive Park Aid
Bay Area District

I was hired on July 16, 1994 and worked an average of three days per week from then until Labor Day. During that time, I:

...led 12 Jr. Ranger programs

...led 5 nature walks.

...led 1 campfire program

...made laminated signs for interpretive programs to be placed in kiosk

...made August interpretive calendar schedule

...kept current interpretive calendar schedules in the display boxes at each of the three rest rooms and the kiosk

...wrote a page on the interpretive programs at Half Moon Bay State Beach for the campground brochure

...photocopied self-guided Jr. Ranger programs from the Jr. Ranger Handbook and placed them in the kiosk for park aids to hand out to anyone asking about Jr. Ranger programs when we weren't running them.

...was trained in the entrance station and substituted several times when others called in sick

...did some odd jobs, such as stocking the supply cabinet and photocopying

...spent a lot of time researching, preparing, and writing up programs.

This summer was the first time I had ever led educational programs. As a result, I had a lot to learn and spent much time preparing curriculum.

What I found to be more important in determining the number of people who attended (rather than the day of the week) were:

1) whether or not I went through the campground before the program to encourage people to attend, or

2) the weather.

Unfortunately, weather cannot be predicted. The most effective way of ensuring a good turnout, therefore, is to talk to visitors about the programs and invite them to attend. I would encourage everyone to schedule this into their day before leading a program. It is even more important to make sure that the programs are both educational and enjoyable so that people will feel good about the experience and want to attend others in the future.

Attendance was low at traditional mealtimes (12 P.M. - 2 P.M. and 5 P.M. - 8 P.M.). Programs at 10 A.M. - 11 A.M. and 2 P.M. - 5 P.M. seemed to work well.

Although campfire programs are traditionally scheduled after sunset, some consideration should be given to adjusting that time. By the time a campfire starting at 9 P.M. is over, it is long past the bedtime of many of the kids. I would recommend starting them earlier or making them shorter.

My most successful Jr. Ranger programs were activity oriented. Suffice it to say, few children or adults like to sit still for long. I found that although it was good to spend five or ten minutes at the campfire center, to allow late-comers to arrive and join in, it is best to not spend the whole time there.

I found nature walks to be the easiest and most enjoyable of all programs to lead. Everyone attending seemed to feel comfortable with the informal way I conducted them. Small groups allowed for one-on-one contact and the visitors asked questions about what interested them.

The short time that I worked as an "Interpretive Park Aid" was personally enriching. I believe that my contact with visitors this summer was especially helpful in generating interest in the Jr. Ranger program. I hope that there will be increased attendance in future years because of my efforts.

Michelle Watson was hired as part of an experimental program to see if a park aid, specifically responsible for the Jr. Ranger program, could make a difference. Rangers, too often unable to run Jr. Ranger programs because of time constraints and limited staffing, were eager to see if a Jr. Ranger program were really viable in the HMBSB area. Ms. Watson proved that Jr. Ranger programs are possible, but that it takes a great deal of time and work.

Second Annual California Duck Days

by
Janet Didion
Resource Ecologist
Natural Heritage Section

A model of interagency (and intra-agency!) cooperation is the 1995 California Duck Days. Successful its first year, Duck Days is a cooperative effort of over 30 different groups representing federal, state and local agencies, private and/or nonprofit research groups, conservation organizations, hunting associations, and other interest groups. The steering committee includes California Department of Fish and Game, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. C. Davis, National Audubon Society, California Waterfowl Association, Ducks Unlimited, and others. Participating groups and additional sponsors include Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, The Nature Conservancy, California Rice Industry, Jones and Stokes Associates, and the local motel.

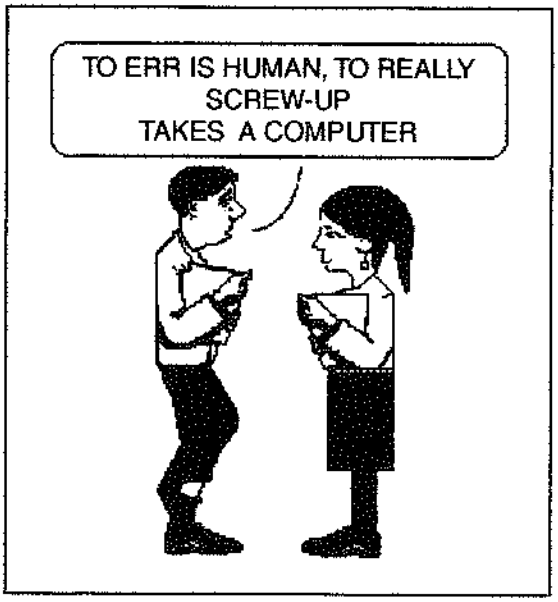
Centered in Davis, in the middle of California's Great Valley and the Pacific flyway, the goal of Duck Days '95 is to provide a wetland and wildlife experience, ultimately to increase public knowledge and awareness of the value of California wetland habitat, waterfowl and other wildlife resources, ultimately to facilitate their preservation, enhancement, and restoration. During the four day festival, events for adults and kids, films, speakers, workshops, displays, and field trips are planned. A $15 donation is requested for each pass which is good for most events. For an additional donation, visitors are given the opportunity to become supporters as well, with such names as Avian Advocate, Marsh Mentor, and Wetlands Watcher.

Granted, the wetland issue is quite broad and all-encompassing, and the large flocks of wintering waterfowl make for a rather predictable and easily observed wildlife spectacle, but other wildlife phenomena or even ecosystems could, with some imagination, be the stars of the show. The happening could be "observed" via video tape, but it could be celebrated just the same. The monarchs' over-wintering in Carmel, the swallows returning to San Juan Capistrano, and the San Luis Obispo native Plant Society's Wildflower Weekend are three natural events that have inspired long-standing celebrations/festivals of this sort.

As local communities' budgets suffer cutbacks trickled down from federal and State fiscal shortfalls, innovative fundraising ideas become even more attractive, and if the public's environmental awareness can be raised at the same time, we all benefit. And what better place for interpretive talks, tours, and field trips than State Parks? A truly cooperative venture such as this with other agencies and the local community could also forge cooperate relations that could help our budgets stretch further.

For more information on duck Days '95 and how they did it, or if you'd like to participate, the address and phone are:

Duck Days
Post Office Box 5000-141
Davis, CA 95617
800 425-5001 or
916 756-7248



What to do with the Litter-Getter Program?

by
Donna Pozzi
Interpretation Section
Park Services Division

The Department's Litter Getter Program has been in existence in one form or another since the early 1970s, if not earlier. In 1977, in an effort to improve and expand the program, and to more clearly differentiate it from Junior Rangers, a series of changes was made. It was at that time that each participating state park developed its own cloth patch and ten "Nature's Litter-Getters" posters were created. Later these posters were redesigned and combined into the four posters (printed in neon colors as opposed to the beige and brown earthtones of the 80s) which were last printed several years ago. At that time, we were embarking upon a major effort to revamp the Junior Ranger Program which eventually resulted in the development of the Junior Ranger Program Handbook and the implementation of the Junior Ranger Log Book. During this process, staff time and other resources have been exclusively devoted to Junior Rangers. Now, perhaps it's time to take another look at Litter-Getters.

Meanwhile, our Litter-Getter posters have attracted the attention of another governmental agency. I was recently contacted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Damage Control. Members of their staff had come across the coyote poster and were concerned about the message it conveyed. Specifically, they wrote: "There are a couple of statements, made in this handout, which probably should be clarified if the document is ever reprinted. Both statements are included in the first paragraph, [Note: see copy of poster which appears adjacent to this article.] one being the statement, 'it was once thought of as a menace to livestock,' the other being 'Coyotes eat the remains of other animals, helping to clean the environment and prevent disease.' The first statement is basically untrue. Our program's primary mission is to protect agriculture, property, wildlife resources and human health and safety from wildlife damage. We conduct cooperative programs in thirty-six of California's fifty-eight counties and I can tell you that coyotes are still a menace to livestock. If you're interested I can furnish you with information establishing this fact. The second statement is not untrue, but seems to tell part of the story. If it could be further stated that coyotes also kill rodents, deer, lagomorphs, and other live prey, the statements would come closer to telling the whole story."

I offer the information from the folks at Animal Damage Control for a few reasons. First, as I told their assistant state director, it can be confusing to the public if they get conflicting information from different agencies so we need to work together to the extent that we can. Nonetheless, our missions are different so it's unrealistic to think that we would ever be putting out identical messages.

Yet I think that as interpreters we need to be informed about all aspects of an issue such as this and present scientifically accurate material. This is sometimes a challenge when text is limited to a few short sentences. In this case, all of the posters were designed to emphasize the animals' roles as "nature's cleaner-uppers" so the content didn't address the fact that coyotes also hunt live prey. I agree that this could be unintentionally misleading. While we managed to go for a period of 18 years without a complaint about this, it should now be addressed. So, for all of you who still have these posters on hand, please try to discuss the coyote's role in the food chain when you use this particular poster.

My second reason for passing on these concerns (in addition to hoping it will stimulate some lively discussions!) is to invite your thoughts as to what we should do with the Litter-Getter Program. As some of you may recall, one of the Phoenix Committee recommendations for interpretation was for the creation of "a statewide system for delivering the park ethic message to visitors and non-visitors." In discussing this notion and trying to figure out exactly what it means, staff in the Interpretation Section thought that this could be accomplished as part of an expanded and revitalized anti-litter educational program which would also address other environmental concerns.

We would like to receive field input before making decisions about the future of the Litter-Getter Program. Within the next few weeks, please let your District Interpretive Specialist know what you think. Is your unit interested in participating? If so, what assistance do you need? How might "Litter Getters" be placed in a broader environmental education context? Do you have any innovative plans or suggestions you could share? Your ideas will be forwarded to us. I hope to hear from you—soon!

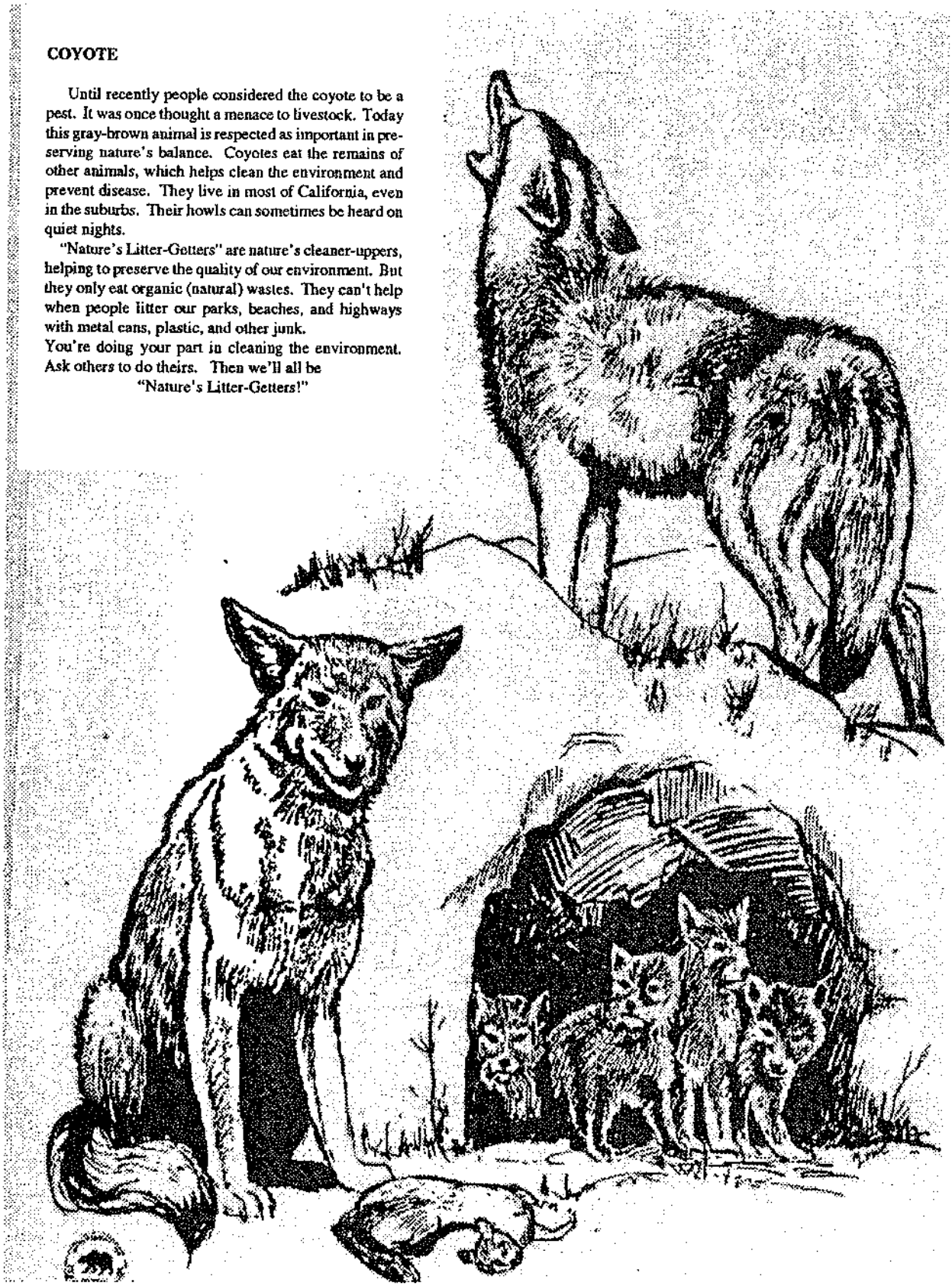
COYOTE

Until recently people considered the coyote to be a pest. It was once thought a menace to livestock. Today this gray-brown animal is respected as important in preserving nature's balance. Coyotes eat the remains of other animals, which helps clean the environment and prevent disease. They live in most of California, even in the suburbs. Their howls can sometimes be heard on quiet nights.

"Nature's Litter-Getters" are nature's cleaner-uppers, helping to preserve the quality of our environment. But they only eat organic (natural) wastes. They can't help when people litter our parks, beaches, and highways with metal cans, plastic, and other junk.

You're doing your part in cleaning the environment. Ask others to do theirs. Then we'll all be

"Nature's Litter-Getters!"



NATURE'S LITTER-GETTERS

Job Opening Offered
(in Politically Correct Ad)

Job opening for young (or not so young), person (any gender), capable of creative thought, or (come to think of it) any thought, desired (non-sexually) to fill intriguing (but seldom dangerous) position on *The Catalyst* Newsletter Committee.

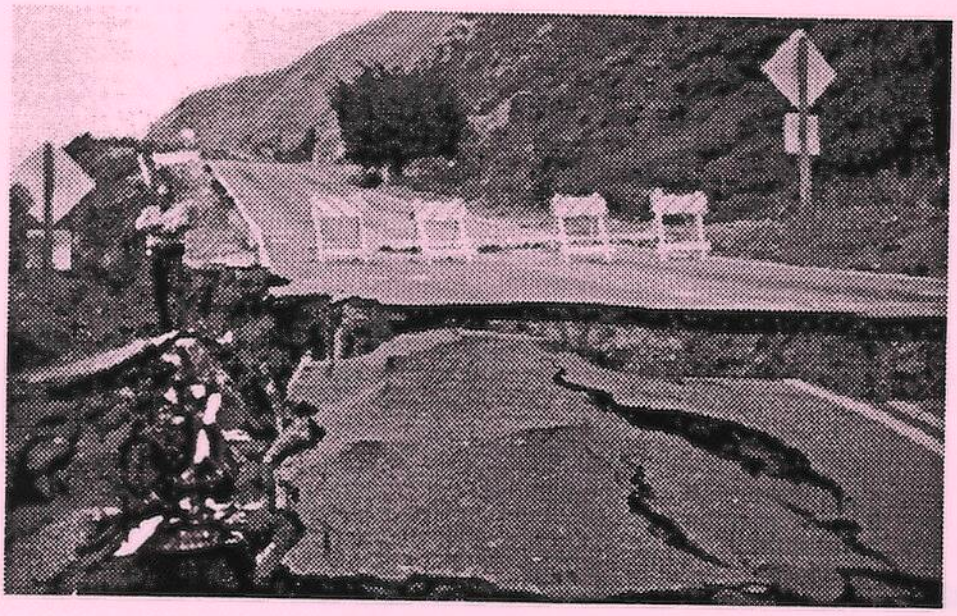
Requirements (not essential) include the ability to write, the desire to write, and something to write about, not necessarily in that order, or in any order. (In fact, don't let these requirements get in your way, they don't bother the rest of us.)

Please contact: write, phone, or fax (unless you find yourself in close proximity to one and you feel that your options change) a current committee member (and/or members) to confirm (but not totally commit) your interest in joining (without initiation, or dues, and no reciprocity readily discernible), this elite, but humble (however, sometimes known to travel in packs) group and to become one-eighth of this creative team.

What **The Catalyst** Has Done for You

In the first edition of **The Catalyst** you were told:
...how to get your copy of the *Ranger's Handbook*
...that collections has training videos available for loan
...where other interpreters could be found in other districts.
In the second edition of **The Catalyst** you were told:
...how to subscribe to *The Docent Educator*
...received advance notice of the *National Interpreters' Workshop Conference*
...how to find *180 Games for Children*
...that there are *Audubon Camp in the West Scholarships* available
In the third edition of **The Catalyst** you were told:
...surplus computers for your district for the asking
...information on *Giving Your Photographs a Long Life*
...job opportunity in Photographic Archives
In the fourth edition of **The Catalyst** you were told:
...an opportunity to exchange interpretive panels, rather than purchasing them
...how to receive articles-on-loan from the NPS Clearinghouse
...information on video projectors
In this edition of **The Catalyst** you are told:
...how to get professional-looking signs with a minimum of effort
...DPR's coordinators
...1994 National Interpreters' Workshop
...opening in **The Catalyst** committee
The Catalyst can/could be used to get information, share information, solve problems, help, advise.

Remember:
The spring edition of **The Catalyst** is scheduled for distribution in May. Articles should be sent to me by mid-April.
Please mail original copies. Most faxes do not scan well. Don't forget pictures!



Ranger Roger Nelson took this picture on February 5, 1995

The above picture is the result of a slide on Highway One. Once again the infamous Devil's Slide slid. The highway had been closed days before the road gave away in anticipation of just such an occurrence. That's Ranger Ed Stuckrath in the upper left, who denies having anything to do with this event.

This may not have much to do with interpretation, but I like to end with an even number of pages, so that the address is on the last page for convenience in mailing. Plus, I decided you would be interested!

Sally Scott, Editor

From:
Department of Parks and Recreation
Resources Building
Park Services-Interpretation-Rm. 1442
1416-9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814