

The CSPRA Wave

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 1

Newsletter of the CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Winter 2018

"State Park experts and professionals advocating for State Parks since 1964."

New Ranger Foundation Almost Here

By Tom Bernardo

Members sometimes wonder why donations to CSPRA are not tax deductible, or why CSPRA does not take on more charitable causes. That stems from the organization's purpose and tax status as assigned by IRS. CSPRA falls under section 501c5 of the IRS code. However if there were an allied group that qualified under 501c3, then some of those things could be done. That is about to happen.

The objectives for the new Foundation are:

To recognize, promote and support:

- (a) the use of sound judgment in the acquisition, development and operation of parklands based upon management principles that are guided by preservation and restoration of the cultural, recreational and natural heritage values and service to the visitors to these parks.
- (b) the heritage and history of state, local, national and international parks and other protected areas;
- (c) the individuals and groups that have contributed to the



Board of Directors for the Ranger Foundation: Tom Bernardo, Ann Meneguzzi, Miles Standish, Mike Lynch, and Jeff Ohlfs.

- enhancement, education, development, maintenance and protection of parks and protected areas;
- (d) education, training and other types of professional development through scholarships, grants and other forms of support.
- (e) Dependents of on-duty and in-the-line-of-duty fallen park or protected area workers.

The CSPRA Board of Directors approved some basic start-up funds for the Foundation at

the Annual Board Meeting in September at Ft. Tejon. As of today the name Ranger Foundation was approved by the Secretary of State, bank accounts are set up, seed money deposited, officers elected, EIN (Employee Identification Number) received and the IRS charitable ruling application is pending. It shouldn't be too long before the Ranger Foundation is up and running and able to solicit tax exempt donations for the support of parks and protected areas everywhere.



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**Two Director Positions
are Vacant at this time.
Is it your turn to step-up?**

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Transformation → Transfixion



By Mike Lynch, President

With the passing of 2017, I've been thinking about the plight of the department over the last few years. It is my personal opinion that the multi-year transformation process has transfixioned the department in a "neither here nor there" stasis effecting most of the department's functions and especially field operations.

An analogy that comes to mind is of a mud slide that initially took out many good (and some not-so good) programs, policies and goals. The transformation mud slide, after disrupting much of the department, began moving slower and slower until it stopped and congealed in place, without producing many encouraging results. It looks to me that most of the positive accomplishment that occurred during the transformation period would have most-likely happened under the old non-transformed department.

What is left of the Transformation/Transfixion* is the "Reorg." The reorg largely appears to be an effort to put the peas under different pods, changing mostly who reports to who and where paperwork is filed. At the field

operation level, changing where a sector or park unit reports, doesn't necessarily produce efficiency, inspire positive action or improve public services. Traditionally, reorganizations gave the impression internally that things were different, but didn't necessarily make essential services any better.

It's hard not to have a mostly negative view of the effects of the many forces that have buffeted the department over the last decade. My positive side hopes the real bottom has been reached and that the current cadre of dedicated staff will keep working to progress the department in carrying out its primary purpose of better-quality service to the public and protection of the park resources that we all love.

I am encouraged to see many staff generated projects and efforts that are regularly reported in the weekly digest. These steadfast efforts are taking place despite the funding, staffing and leadership challenges and shortfalls that still appear to exist in the department.

My belief is that the fundamentals, namely good management/leadership, adequate funding, and dedicated staff, are what really moves an agency forward over time. Going into 2018, it appears that the department is still missing two of these vital components.

[*Transfixion:

1. Something that captures all your attention so that you are unable to act.
2. To make motionless, as if impaled.]

Trione-Annadel State Park Burns

*By Bill Krumbein
Unit Ranger 1973-1996*

October 9, 2017 - I woke up in the middle of the night and something didn't feel right nor did it smell right. As any old Ranger would do, I climbed onto our roof for a better view.

It was 0200, strong warm winds blowing from the northeast, and a BIG fire in the neighborhood. Next came the mandatory evacuation where we ended up at our son's home in San Rafael. Glued to the TV we watched the news and I searched for every fire map I could find. They said Trione-Annadel SP was two-thirds burned.



Northeast Santa Rosa at 0200 – The Tubbs Fire

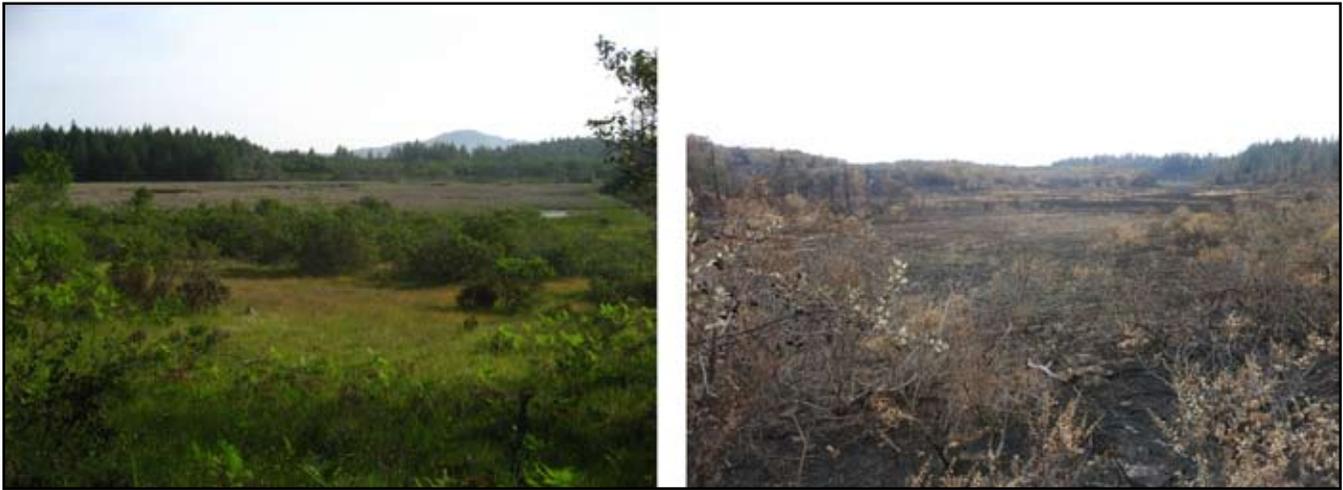


Trione-Annadel State Park, Approximately 60% burned

We eventually returned to our unscathed home. The fire stopped about two blocks away. And thanks to the supervising ranger, I've been given freedom to hike the burned parts of the park and report back to him with photos, etc.

My hiking partner is retired CalFire archeologist Chuck Whatford. Chuck did his master's thesis on Annadel and also worked for DPR for a while.

Continues on next page



May 2008

Ledson Marsh

October 2017

Above Photo, Ledson Marsh - The eastern part of the park near Ledson Marsh seems to be the most thoroughly burned. Winds reached over 60 mph that night. Seventy+ homes burned to the ground on Bennett Ridge near the boundary. The fire swept across Ledson Marsh and surroundings.



Two Quarry Trail

Photo Left, Two Quarry Trail - Much of the park is chock full of quarry sites for basalt paving stones. The fires have burned away the brush and exposed myriad sites, now more easily reachable. This will be a good project for Sonoma State University students to map.



Spring 2010

November 10, 2017

December 8, 2017

Intersection of Marsh and Two Quarry Trail

Photo Above, Marsh and Two Quarry - Over the years, Coyote Bush have encroached into meadows like this. There's go-

ing to be a change in succession now. Note the regrowth after 1 month. Other areas show no grass coming back. My guess is

that 20-25% of the burned part of Trione-Annadel SP is severely burned. A major portion of the park should bounce back quickly



Photo left, South Side of Lake Ilsanjo - This is where the fire stopped, south of the Lake on to Canyon Trail. A neat burn here, I think this was part of CalFire's back-burning efforts.

Where before we could only see 20 feet into the forest, now it's 100 feet and now it's easy access for anybody. Unfortunately this includes mountain bike riders who have already created more than 25 miles of illegal trails parkwide.

South side of Lake Ilsanjo, "brush free"

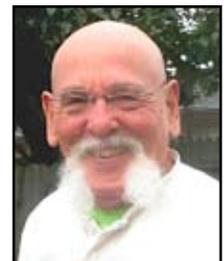
Photo right, Line of Defense - I know CalFire thought this was necessary at the time for a defensible line; but where we had a foot path through the woods, we now have an open swath of cut and bulldozed trees and bushes. It does make good habitat for critters though.



Two Quarry Trail "Line of Defense"

For more background on Annapel State Park, may we recommend this book by Bill Krumbein. Available at Amazon or CreateSpace.com

The park **BURNED** in some places and burned in other areas. Overall, I'm pretty excited to see how the park recovers, how wildflowers come back, and surely some will be new to certain areas. This should be a banner year for Bear Grass.



California State Parks: National Leaders in Interpretation

By Blythe Wilson

With the generous assistance of a CSPRA scholarship, I was able to attend the National Association for Interpretation Conference in Spokane, Washington from November 14-18, 2017. The National Association for Interpretation (NAI) is a professional organization dedicated to advancing the profession of heritage interpretation, currently serving about 6,500 members in the United States, Canada, and over thirty other nations. Individual members include those who work at parks, museums, nature centers, zoos, botanical gardens, aquariums, historical and cultural sites, commercial tour companies, and theme parks.

The conference offered more than 100 concurrent sessions with presentation tracks that included Programs, Media, Management, Research, and Leadership. The Resource Expo also showcased information from various vendors offering exhibit services, books, designing and planning services, and various other products.

In addition, I attended a pre-conference workshop on “Small Group Process & Facilitation Skills” facilitated by Corky McReynolds, PhD, Founder and Principle of Lead Team Consulting. This training presented tools and techniques for program and strategic planning,



setting priorities, decision-making, and team development. As a result of this 2-day seminar, I walked away with tools for directing better meetings and building productive and collaborative teams.

I was impressed and inspired by the California State Park staff who shared their knowledge and experiences in various conference sessions. Sara Skinner (Training Specialist) and Heather Holm (Interpretive Planning and Program Section Supervisor, Interpretation and Education Division) presented “Making Interpretation Relevant to a Changing Leadership,” discussing how organizational changes become an opportunity to promote interpretation as a management tool to new leadership.

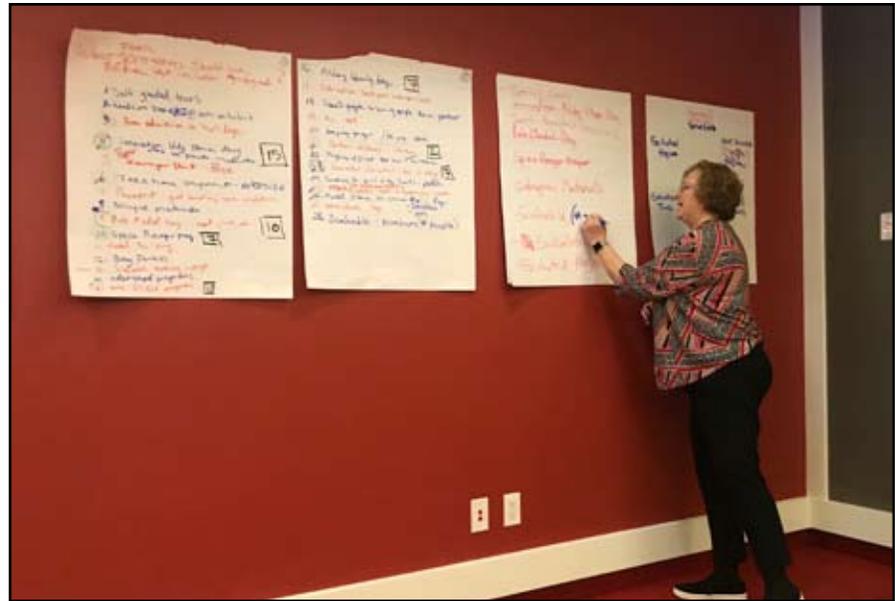
Ben Fenkell (Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students Coordinator), Nancy Mendez (Regional Interpretive Specialist, Southern Service Center), and Marissa Llanes (Director of Engagement, Community Nature Connection) presented on “Relevancy and Community Engagement at California State Parks,” highlighting projects piloted by California State Parks to engage local communities in collaborative program planning and implementation.

Stephanie Ambrosia (Senior Park Aide, Angeles District, Malibu Sector), kindergarten teacher turned-interpreter presented “These Kids are Nuts! Tools for Working with Young Children.” She shared strategies for working with young children using simple and effective management tricks.

These individuals represented the high level of professionalism and knowledge that our department retains within the interpretive field.

Phil Sexton, yet another example of California State Park leadership and professionalism, was honored by the National Association for Interpretation as a Master Interpretive Manager. As District Interpretive Coordinator at the Capital District, Phil oversees interpretation at seven state parks. He is a technical expert and coordinates with resource specialists and curators to tell the story of California's rich history.

Phil is often an on-screen interview subject who has been featured in multiple documentaries. In addition, he is credited as a railroad history consultant for the AMC Network television show *Hell on Wheels*. As a master collaborator, Phil was instrumental in creating an ongoing educational partner-



The conference offered more than 100 concurrent sessions with presentation tracks that included Programs, Media, Management, Research, and Leadership.

ship with the UC Davis history project for "Teaching the Transcontinental Railroad" and the Stanford University Chinese History Project. Fellow California State Parks staff who attended the conference cheered on Phil as he accepted his award at the banquet honoring the accomplishments of the nation's standout interpreters.

The 2017 NAI Conference offered the opportunity to network with interpreters from around the country and world. I was able to engage in a fantastic exchange of ideas. I left feeling inspired to develop new approaches to projects and programs.

The experience also reminded me to never stop striving to better meet the ever-changing needs of our state park audiences. After returning from Spokane, I feel even more excited to be a professional interpreter as I serve as a Regional Interpretive Specialist for the Orange Coast District of California State Parks. Thank you CSPRA!



Phil Sexton was honored by the National Association for Interpretation as a Master Interpretive Manager.

Contact Scholarship Chair Ben Fenkell, Ben@CSPRA.com to inquire about your scholarship needs.

Book Review

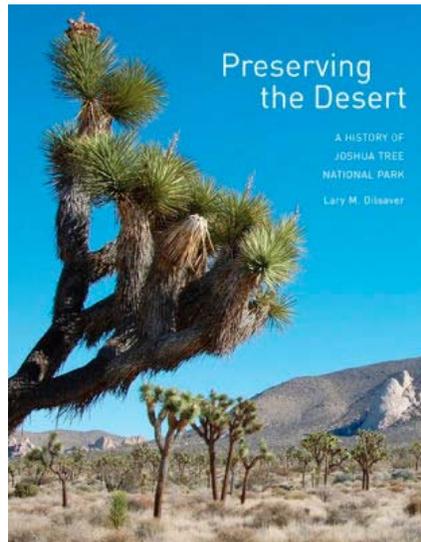
Preserving the Desert: A History of Joshua Tree National Park

By Lary Dilsaver,
(Staunton, VA: George F.
Thompson Publishing Co.; 468
pages; softcover, \$38.50)

Joshua Tree is one of California's newest national parks, but it began as a national monument in 1936. It was upgraded to national park status as a result of the California Desert Protection Act of 1994. The park is a mecca for climbers, but it was established because of its rich biological diversity, as is evidenced in its name. Its also been the locus of various exploitive industries, mostly mining, but also water extraction and exportation, transportation, and land speculation.

This new book is a comprehensive examination of its history, development, boundary changes, conflicts, champions and detractors, and the men and women charged with its management and protection.

The importance of women in the environmental movement cannot be overstated. Minerva Hoyt was the motivating force behind the monument's creation, and her relentless advocacy is well documented here. The author also includes other writers and protectors of the desert, including Philip Munz and Willis Jepson.



The author addresses various (and numerous) controversies head-on. Its with the intent of making them case studies for present and future managers, who need to know the history, the issues, the resolutions (or lack thereof), and the existing pitfalls as more challenges arrive, many of which have their roots in past actions and decisions.

The beauty and delicacy of the desert(s) shine through the narrative. Joshua Tree NP contains portions of both the Mojave and Colorado Deserts, which is reflected in the park's rich biological plant and animal species list. The landforms are rugged and dramatic, and the human history is rich and compelling, as well as long. He also includes information on several state parks, including Anza-Borrego

Desert SP, Red Rock Canyon SP, Saddleback Butte SP, and Salton Sea SRA.

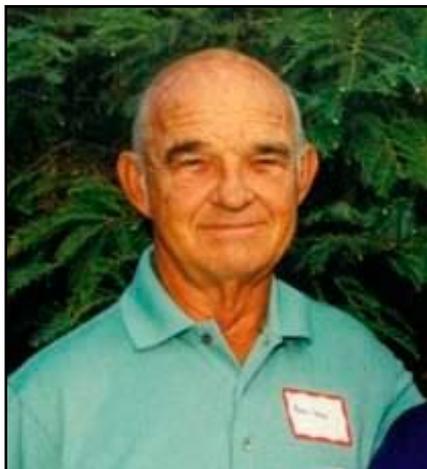
Dilsaver delves into current and future issues in an informed and balanced manner. He is an experienced and skilled geographer who has written several monographs on the national parks, including co-authoring a history of Sequoia-Kings Canyon NP with William Tweed, and writing a fascinating book on Cumberland Island National Seashore. The maps and photos are plentiful and excellent. And, the book's production is handsome and first rate. Its is a rugged volume that will serve the reader well, both at home, in the office, and in the field.

Reviewed by Robert Pavlik



Desert roots run deep. Reviewer Bob Pavlik with his brother at Joshua Tree, 1968.

A Wave Goodbye



Benjamin Hale

Legendary long time Parks Maintenance Chief Ben Hale passed away in early December. He was 87 and died of a heart attack brought on my complications from a fall. He served State Parks for 28 years

According to Mike Carbahal he was “one of the greatest people I got to work with in State Parks. He and I were the only two supervisors left when the Phoenix Reorganization happened for what used to be 3 districts in our case, we two filled in for 5 former supervisor positions for over a year – good times, we got so close from doing that!”

“That guy was the best talker I ever know, he could meet a room full of strangers and become everyone’s lifelong best buddy within 10 minutes. “The Baddest Bull in the Barn” as he was fondly called has gone on to the big pasture in the sky.”

Rich Gililand

Jesse Richard Gililand V, known to all as “Rich,” passed away peacefully at home in November at the age of 72 years.

A native of Berkeley, California, Rich attended San Francisco State University, where he earned a Master’s degree in Sociology, before he began his career as a State Park Ranger. He served the park system for 23 years, retiring in 1995.

Mimi Guiney recalls “starting my training year in Marin in ‘77 – Women in ranger uniform were still quite rare, and men who were totally comfortable with us rarer still. Rich was one of the ones who welcomed me and made me comfortable.”

Rich was a dedicated volunteer at the Shasta State Historical Park and the Redding Library. He was a voracious reader who enjoyed nature, hiking, water aerobics, astronomy, opera, and playing the stock market. He will be fondly remembered for his wit and intelligence.



2018 FWOC Conference

August 17-19
Los Altos, CA



The Write Environment:
Writers and Writings
Promoting and Protecting
Outdoor Values

Registration Fee (includes two nights lodging and six meals)
\$180 per person.

Note, the CSPRA Board has pre-approved several \$200 scholarships. Contact Ann Meneguzzi **NOW** if you are interested.



Hosted by CSPRA and the California Alpine Club.

Ann Meneguzzi
Ann@CSPRA.com
209-373-9844

Are you Moving?
Please let us know.
Betsy@CSPRA.com

Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops

by Jeff Price, Seriously Retired

Mixed Metaphor: A combination of thoughts that when strung together produce a ridiculously funny effect of melded clichés. Send us along any overheard slips of the tongue <malaprops@cspira.com>.



Stuck on the road . . .

A lot of drivers are not adhering to winter conditions.

Heard on Tour de France. So, that means...

He is a former ex-mountain bike rider.

Trigonometry?

I wound up squarely behind the curve ball...

Spineless.

The mountain was named for the Rev. Starr King, who was an invertebrate climber.

A direct hit?

She took up aerobics to help maintain her well-proportioned figure.

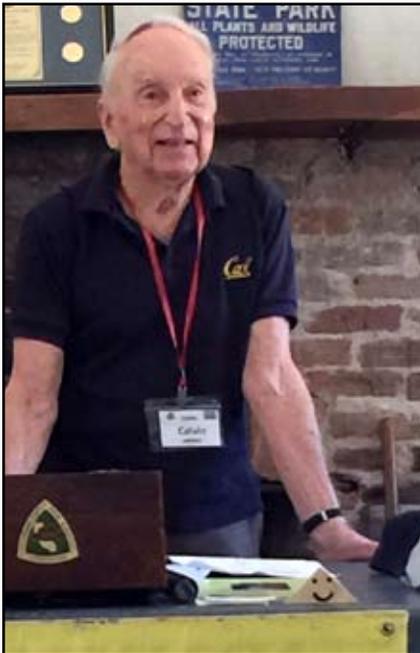
A vote for dementia!

Senate committee leaders are chosen on the basis of senility.

Origami application?

Perhaps we should wait to see if they accept us into their folds.

Recollections from the Rendezvous



Calvin Mehlert attended the Ft. Tejon conference and shared his perspective on some interesting park history.

Hello Mike:

70 years ago this month I was a surveyor's assistant fresh out of the Marine Corps and taking part in a preliminary survey of the streets of Columbia soon to become Columbia Historical state park. My brother Charles had recently joined state parks and already had enough influence, I guess, to get a job for me on state park surveying crew, age 18.

I spent the next four years' summer vacations working on state park surveying crews all over the State. What I remember most about those three months during the summer was the fact that schools were on vacation break and the woods and beaches were full of young ladies looking for a break from their studies.

Thanks very much for the help with the books. The enclosed check is a donation to CSPRA.

(One of my survey jobs was in Calaveras Big Trees State Park then under threat from Pickering lumber, which was trying to make free with some of the giants located along the boundaries. We have a cabin on the boundary of the park.)

—Calvin Mehlert



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Just send your email address (no State emails please) to webmaster@cspra.com with the subject line "add me to CSPRAnet"



Retiring Soon?

If you or a co-worker will be retiring soon, please contact Membership Services Coordinator Betsy Anderson at (707) 884-3949, betsy@cspra.com.



Already Retired?

Want to keep in touch after you leave DPR? Join GrayBears email ListServ – FREE and EASY
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Join CSPRA Or join us online at cspra.com

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I hereby authorize the State Controller to deduct from my salary and transmit as designated an amount for membership dues in the California State Park Rangers Association. This authorization will remain in effect until cancelled by myself or by the organization. I certify I am a member of the above organization and understand that termination of my membership will cancel all deductions made under this organization.

Signature _____

Date _____

Membership by Mail:
CSPRA — Betsy Anderson
PO Box 618 Gualala, CA 95445

* please include check for 1 year's dues for these membership levels.



An icy sunrise at Sugar Pine Point SP, Photo by William N. Lindemann



California State Park Rangers Association
CSPRA is an organization of State Park professionals
dedicated to advancement of the highest principles
of public service, established to support and preserve
California State Parks for present and future generations.
Founded 1964