



The CSPRA

Wave

Volume 22, Number 1

Newsletter of the CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Winter 2022

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

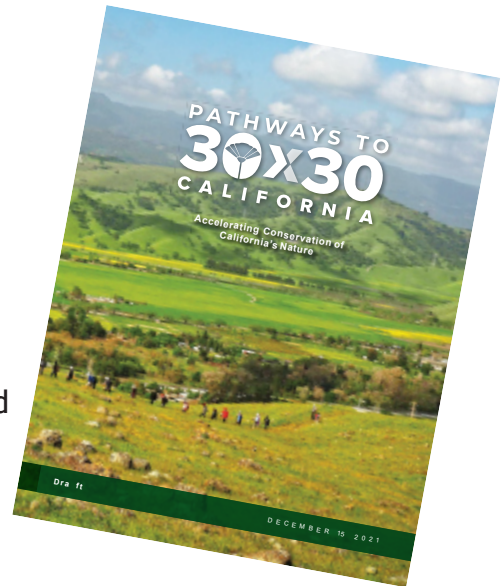
Statewide Planning Underway

In October 2020, Governor Newsom issued the Nature-Based Solutions Executive Order N-82-20, advancing biodiversity conservation as an administration priority and elevating the role of nature in the fight against climate change.

As part of this Executive Order, California committed to the goal of conserving 30% of our lands and coastal waters by 2030.

California's 30x30 initiative is part of an international movement to conserve natural areas across our planet. This global initiative seeks to protect biodiversity, expand equitable access to nature and its benefits, combat climate change, and build our resilience to climate impacts.

CSPRA will be closely following the planning process and we hope you will too. See [30x30 Planning](#)



Recently, State Parks has been engaged in a comprehensive, positive change process that builds upon the 2001 Seventh Generation Visioning document, the 2012 Parks Forward Commission, and the two-year Transformation effort in 2015. The Parks Forward evaluation and the Transformation process identified and initiated several priority projects that launched DPR on a path of continuous improvement. In the spring of 2020, this path led to the development of a five year strategic plan, Path Forward, with implementation starting in July 2021. The development was a truly inclusive, co-creative process, involving extensive engagement of Department staff at all levels, partners, stakeholders, and the public.

Public input and Commission consideration is slated for spring. The draft plan is expected to be released soon.





CSPRA LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT

Dave Carle, Retired Ranger
(760) 709-1181 dave@cspira.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Ann Meneguzzi, Retired, Sup. Rgr.
(209) 373-9844, ann@cspira.com

SECRETARY

Joanne Kerbavaz, Environmental Scientist, (650) 720-5007
joanne@cspira.com

TREASURER

Ron Krueper, Retired Ranger/Supt.
(909) 838-8249, ron@cspira.com

DIRECTORS

Sal Goshorn, Ret Sup Lifeguard
(626) 644-4616, sal@cspira.com

Jean Rhyne, Interpreter,
(661)753-6233, jean@cspira.com

Cindy Begbie, Maintenance Chief,
530-225-2067, cindy@cspira.com

Erin Gates, Interpreter,
(916) 704-5762, erin@cspira.com

Jonathan Irwin, Ranger SPPO,
(619) 575-3613x337, jon@cspira.com

Sue Neary, Supervising SPPO
(831) 428-1535, sue@cspira.com

Rob Pickett, Supervising Ranger
(661)618-6924, rob@cspira.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Mike Lynch, Retired Ranger/Supt.
mike@cspira.com

MEMBER SERVICES

Betsy Anderson
(707) 884-3949, betsy@cspira.com

INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS

Jeffery B. Price, Webmaster
webmaster@cspira.com
www.cspira.com

The CSPRA Wave

ISSN 0087-9176
Brian Cahill, Editor
Brian@cspira.com

Published by CSPRA, PO Box 3212
Bowman, CA 95604-3212

*Deadline for next issue
April 15*

Recent Retirements

Steve Hopkins

Newly elected CSPRA Treasurer, Ron Kreuper, presented member Steve Hopkins with his CSPRA commemorative retirement plaque on Friday, December 17th at Lake Arrowhead. Steve spent his entire Ranger career at Silverwood Lake and since his retirement has enjoyed returning to Silverwood for the scenery and fishing from shore. Steve's plans still include getting a boat for fishing, especially since his expertise as a Ranger was boat patrol and maintenance of patrol fleet.



Steve wanted to meet near Lake Arrowhead where Ron lives to see some different scenery! Steve had never visited Lake Arrowhead, the Village shops and entertainment area in the San Bernardino Mountains. A great afternoon reminiscing the past, careers and exploring new areas. It was great for Ron to reacquaint with Steve since he was his FTO when Steve started as a Silverwood Ranger back in 1996.

Matt Green

Sierra District staff (past and present) along with district partners met at Empire Mine State Historic Park on Tuesday, November 30, to celebrate the retirement of Chief Ranger Matt Green. After lunch and cake, many of the attendees spoke of the great contributions Matt has made to State Parks over a 25-year outstanding career.



Matt began his career with Parks in 1996 as a park aide at Palomar Mountain State Park. He and his wife, Ranger Michele Green, graduated from Basic Visitor Services Training 14 in March 1999. Over the next quarter of a century, Matt would

work at parks all over the state—desert to coast to eastern sierras to gold country. Rising through the ranks to hold increasingly challenging positions in public safety and resource protection programs, he ultimately served as district superintendent and chief ranger in the Sierra District.

President's Message

by David Carle

Ideally...



As a professional organization composed of past and present park employees and benefactors, CSPRA

focuses on ideals and issues affecting the State Park System. We draw members from all job categories within the park system, whether active duty or retired (over 400 currently). Whatever those members' specific job titles are, to be an effective group, we advocate together as an association of "California State Park Rangers," taking advantage of that highly respected title and using the iconic flat-brimmed ranger hat on our logo.

This is not a collective bargaining unit and not an association for a particular job group. There is, understandably, confusion about those particulars, so if CSPRA comes up in conversation, please help spread accurate information.

CSPRA works to advance the highest principles of public service and to defend the integrity of parks. Experience has shown that parks cannot be "saved" or "conserved" just once; permanent protection requires never-ending

diligence. Parks are also not conserved simply by adding their acreage into the park system; a professionally trained staff must be funded at adequate levels to accomplish the agency's mission.

The Department's and CSPRA's goals are idealistic statements that aim for realistic accomplishments. We are respectful of the talented work by state park professionals that continues even when financial support is less than optimum. But we seek a dedicated, long-term, stable budget, and advocate for staffing levels that will preserve the California State Park System's status as a model of excellence among park operations across the nation. Ideally,

This year, we welcome newly elected Treasurer, Ron Krueper and new Directors Sue Neary and Sal Goshorn, and thank Vice President Ann Meneguzzi and Director Ron Pickett for serving again. The entire Board and Officers are featured at <http://cspra.com/contact-us.html>, with contact information in case members wish to reach out.

On January 24, Ann, Ron, Sal and I met via Zoom with Director Armando Quintero and Deputy Director for Operations, Kathy Amann. We told them about issues and events CSPRA will be involved in this year (Park Advocacy Day in May, Kids Safety Day at Millerton Lake SRA in May, World Ranger

Day in July, and the September "Third Time's a Charm" conference at Donner. Armando gave us an overview on the Governor's proposed budget and Kathy promised to provide CSPRA with staffing vacancy numbers to assist CSPRA's quest for adequate funding. It was a brief, but very productive and amiable meeting. A longer set of notes from the meeting is posted on the webpage at cspra.com

Our first quarter Board of Director's meeting was held on January 26. Agendas and zoom links were sent to all members via CSPRAnet. You are always welcome to attend. We learned that the Jack London legal action decision had been postponed, again, until March 30.

This year, training opportunities are returning; keep in mind that CSPRA offers scholarships and grants...a wonderful benefit of membership. I request all of you to help in recruiting new members to CSPRA from the ranks of any active duty or retired state park professionals. Please get in touch with me if you have an interest in helping.

Thanks for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Carle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The background behind the signature is a light, textured pattern of small dots.

A Look At Big Basin

By Larry Tierney

Like many DPR employees, I spent part of my 35 year park career up at Big Basin. It was my first State Parks job, and I returned a couple of other times for promotions. I'm currently on the Board of Directors of the park's cooperating association, Mountain Parks Foundation (MPF) and have had the opportunity to tour the park on several occasions with the most recent being a one-on-one visit with the current Mountain Sector Park Maintenance Chief, **Juan Villarino**. Juan was one of the many employees who lost a residence on that day, and it was enlightening to get his perspective while driving around on a wet and drippy day.

I had mentioned to Juan and District Superintendent **Chris Spohrer** that I was interested in seeing some of the facilities that I wasn't able to with the larger tour



Mother of the Forest — All photos by Larry Tierney



group which consisted of MPF Board members. Juan and I met up at Saddle Mountain and I hopped in his truck. This is the summit of South Highway 236 where a large gate has been installed to keep the public out. It is a newer addition to the park and the structures survived the inferno. The road into Little Basin turns off here, but there are road issues so

we can't go in. My understanding is that the Little Basin area burned over and not much is left.

We headed in towards the HQ area, passing the site of the Gatehouse. Our first stop was at the park's wastewater treatment plant, which survived the fire unscathed. I had spent some time working out of



The plan is to use the milled lumber for the rebuilding of structures throughout the park, starting with the park's trail system.

the plant on and off during my time there, so it was great to see it survive. Whether or not it will ever be used again will be decided in the coming years, as the planning comes together on what the park will look like for the future.

From there we headed out to the day use area, with a stop at the Lodge parking lot to check out the milling operation that is in place. That day, two of the PMW I's, Samantha Ostrin and

Ricardo Linares were using the Lucas Mill to mill up one of the many redwood logs waiting for processing. The plan is to use the milled lumber for the rebuilding of structures throughout the park, starting with the park's trail system. With bridge stringers, retaining walls, handrails, steps, etc. being burned up there is a great need for redwood lumber! Douglas Fir will be milled later, possibly for use in the rebuilding of park residences if that happens.

I noticed on my last two visits that the debris has all been cleaned up and logs from the hazard trees that were fallen laid alongside the roads, campsites, and day use areas remain. When the buildings and structures that were burned were cleaned up and the debris removed, Park Staff was left with over 100 depressions in the ground which have now filled up with water. The costs of bringing these sites back up to grade was not covered by FEMA and Staff is working on getting a contract out to take care of the problem.

We next drove out North Escape Road which at the time of the fire was the picnic area. Originally this area had been a couple of campgrounds that were converted when Wastahi and Huckleberry were opened. I had heard the road name came from this being the escape route out of the Basin in case the highway was closed. Juan informed me that we would drive out to the end, just before the road ties back into North Highway 236. The last bridge over Opal Creek had been destroyed. The steel I



PMW I's, Ricardo Linares and Samantha Ostrin using the Lucas Mill to mill up one of the many redwood logs

beams were left, sagging from the heat, revealing the old redwood log stringers that were part of the original bridge.

We headed back to the HQ area to check out the work being done on the Redwood Loop Trail. The good news is that the Mother and Father of the Forest are still standing. It is easy to get turned around as the trail disappears under fallen trees along the highway. The Big Basin Volunteer Trail Crew has been working under the direction of Chris Pereira, Santa Cruz District Roads and Trails Supervisor to clear the trail. I'm told that CalTrans wants Highway 236 open sometime in June, allowing traffic to flow through the park. The Redwood Loop Trail would be opened to visitors. How that will be managed has yet to be decided. There was discussion on earlier visits about the Saddle Mountain area serving as a staging area for visitors.

We then made our way to the Park's reservoir. The recent rains have filled it up



The park's wastewater treatment plant survived the fire unscathed. Whether or not it will ever be used again will be decided in the coming years

to overflowing, making Semperviren's Falls quite a spectacle. The little dinghy that staff used to row to the creek inlet was half submerged by the spillway. The water plant looked untouched.

We drove back out and past Sky Meadow Residence yard. Having walked around there previously, I didn't feel the

need to stop. One residence (#9?) stands untouched on the right-hand side and due to its historical significance might remain. The road to the shops and Upper Residence yard is undermined as Union Creek is cutting into it at the intersection of Lodge Rd. We parked and walked up to the shop area. Only the above ground fuel tanks



One residence (#9?) stands untouched on the right-hand side and due to its historical significance might remain.



Sempervirens Falls

remained. The residence above the shop was the first one to burn as the fire came down from above. It was chilling to see this shop yard as I had spent so much time up there early in my career and had lived in the shop residence for a short period of time.

Final stop was the Sky Meadow Group Camp. The ramada is gone, but the two newer concrete vault toilets remained. The road in had been paved after I left for the Monterey District in 2003 and looked to be in

good shape. Many Park employees have used this site for weddings, and as I looked over the meadow, I recalled attending Jeff and Hilary Jones' wedding.

It is still hard to believe that State Parks lost so much up there in the blink of an eye. In the last few years, MPF had been working with Parks on a total makeover of the Nature Lodge Museum, raising funds to remodel the interior and construct exhibits. MPF's next plan was to push for a restoration of the Big Basin Lodge. How the park evolves from here, only time will tell.



The last bridge over Opal Creek had been destroyed. The steel I beams were left, sagging from the heat, revealing the old redwood log stringers.

Welcome New Members for 2021

ACTIVE MEMBERS			
		Class	Location
Milton	Black	SPPO (Ranger)	Ocotillo Wells
Hejin	Burris-Lee	SPPO (Ranger)	Pismo
Brett	Crassi	SPPO (Ranger)	San Joaquin
Andrew	Dobbs	SPPO (Ranger)	Santa Cruz
Simone	Durand	SPPO (Ranger)	Redwood Coastal
Brendan	Hurley	SPPO (Ranger)	Folsom
Candace	Linn	SPPO (Ranger)	San Joaquin
Ricio	Martinez	SPPO (Ranger)	Onyx Ranch
Ryan	May	SPPO (Ranger)	Borrego
Katelyn	O'Hare	SPPO (Ranger)	Marin
Peter	Ostroskie	Interpreter I	HQ
Danny	Rivas	SPPO (Ranger)	Channel Coast
Timothy	Schulte	SPPO (Ranger)	Ocotillo Wells
Trevor	Scoggins	SPPO (Ranger)	Oceano Dunes
John	Staffel	SPPO (Ranger)	Hungry Valley
Jamie	Stamps	Training Officer	HQ
Ethan	Tratner	Park & Rec Spec	Grants
Sean	Trinh	Maint Seasonal	Valley
Matthew	Vicknair	SPPO (Ranger)	Angeles
Lindsay	White	SPPO (Ranger)	Channel Coast

RETIRED MEMBERS			
Eric	Carter		Coloma
Robin	Davis		Sacramento
Ralian	Fogarty		San Rafael
James	Geary		Carlsbad
Sal	Goshorn		San Gabriel
Michele	Green		Grass Valley
Terry	Kiser		en route
Clay	Phillips		San Diego
Rosanne	Mchenry		Auburn
Richard	Miller		San Diego
Ernest	Moises		Vallejo
Barry	Robertson		San Andreas
Brian	Robertson		Placerville
Frank	Schaefer		en route
Gail	Sevrens		San Diego
Robert	Turner		Cambria
Sally	Walters		Sacramento



World Ranger Day

By Jeff Ohlfs

Planning is continuing for World Ranger Day, July 31st, at the International Cottages of Balboa Park in San Diego. We are awaiting the signing of the “non-public” special use permit. The House of Panama has agreed to host a ranger from Panama. We are working on selecting the ranger from Panama. The Ranger



Foundation will be seeking donations to help fund the travel and stipend for that ranger to attend. It'll be about \$1500. If you wish to contribute, please donate to the Ranger Foundation. As soon as the permit is signed, we'll kick into more planning components.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has announced

that applications are being accepted for the David Cameron Leadership in Environmental Crimes Award.

This award recognizes excellence in environmental crimes enforcement and education by law enforcement officers and their agencies. If you think of someone to nominate, please do so. [Nominate here.](#)



Jeff Ohlfs, Ranger Foundation Vice President, delivering donated climbing helmets to the Dominican Republic National Parks for their rangers, in Santo Domingo. (LtoR) Daniel Cabrera, Jeff Ohlfs, Director Protected Areas Jose Enriquez Baez Ureña, and Jehison Cabrera.

Mixed Metaphors & 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 along any overheard slips of the tongue to jeff@cspra.com.

Dog-gone!

It's the tail wagging the horse in parks these days.

'tis the season-ing!

We must take this good COVID news with a grain of salt and pepper.

So, no more using connecting words in the same clause?

I hear J-Lo's husband signed a conjunction that prevents him from talking about the marriage.

Gastric countdown?

An alarm clock went off in his stomach, so he got the pass off just in time.

Forced advance.



It took forever, but we finally got into the brunt of it.

Underwhelming!

Her excitement about the sea turtles in Costa Rica cannot be understated.

He has a big and broad religious vision.

I'd like you to meet our perspective pastor...

Epidermal duplication?

The wind nearly blew the skin off my hide.

Moist ink?

That's boring; I'd rather watch print dry.

CSPRA is affiliated with several other non-profit organizations that share our goals.

The Park Rangers Association of California is a professional organization for park Rangers and other employees of municipal, county, special district, state and federal agencies.



The International Ranger Federation supporting the critical work that the world's park rangers do in conserving our natural and cultural heritage.



Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs Promotion of the Proper Use, Enjoyment and Protection of America's Scenic Wilderness and Outdoor Resources.



Association of National Park Rangers communicating for, about and with National Park Service employees of all disciplines and providing a forum for professional enrichment



California Park Hospitality Association representing companies and individuals who provide hospitality services under contract with the California State Parks.



California League of Park Associations supporting the Non-profits that are partners with State Parks.



Ranger Foundation — Rangers Helping Rangers. Our 501(c)3 charitable organization helps rangers worldwide. Over 20 grants have been made to families of Latin American rangers who died of Covid-19. More information about how you can help [HERE](#).





www.CSPRA.com



twitter.com/@_CSPRA_



facebook.com/CSPRA

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



Member List Server

Sign-up for timely CSPRA news right in your inbox.

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 Gray-Bears email ListServ - FREE and EASY

graybears@cspra.com

Join CSPRA Or join us online at cspra.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Job Classification: _____

District / Park: _____

Social Security # _____ (req'd for payroll education)

Phone(W) _____ Phone (H) _____

Email: _____

Membership Type (Check one)

- Active \$10/month
- Active Retired \$60/year (\$5/mo.)
- Supporting \$36/year*
- Organization \$50/year*
- Benefactor \$1,000/life*

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

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 canceled 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



A Look at Big Basin — See page 4

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