



The CSPRA

Wave

Volume 24, Number 3

Newsletter of the CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Summer 2024

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

Dos Rios State Park Opens

California's newest state park officially opened to the public June 12. More than 200 people including state and local leaders, key partners, and nearby community members attended the opening celebration marked by the handing off of a giant key from non-profits River Partners and Tuolumne River Trust to California State Parks.

Located about 8 miles west of Modesto in the San Joaquin Valley, the approximately 1,600-acre Dos Rios property is the largest public-private floodplain restoration project in California to restore habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife at the Tuolumne and San Joaquin Rivers.

The opening coincided with the launch of the Third Annual California State Parks Week June 12-16. In addition to the kickoff of California State Park Week, attendees toured the park and saw restoration efforts, participated in mural painting and bicycle riding, and learned how to



At the park opening: Desert Division Chief Greg Martin, CSPRA VP Ann Meneguzzi and OHV Dep. Director Sarah Miggins. Of special interest- picnic ramadas at Dos Rios were built with salvaged boards cut from charred redwoods killed in the massive 2020 Big Basin fire. Note blackened spots on the beams. Kudos to the Big Basin maintenance crew for recovery and reuse.

contribute to the future of Dos Rios.

In partnership with the nonprofit River Partners and Tuolumne River Trust, the restoration of Dos Rios was a 10-year, \$40 million project from 11 different funding

sources from the public and private sectors. This will be the first state park created since Onyx Ranch State Vehicular Recreation Area (Eastern Kern County) in November 2014.



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**Deadline for next issue
September 15**

Whitehead Award Presented



Tom Bernardo presents the \$500 CSPRA check to the James Whitehead award recipient **Brian Mentor**, with Academy Director Jason Smith looking on.

The Whitehead Award has been presented since 1986 to a State Park Peace Officer (Ranger/Lifeguard) Cadet in recognition of outstanding achievement and overall performance in all training program areas. The award was established by the California State Park Rangers Association as a perpetual tribute to a man whose philosophy and vision for parks inspired all of us who worked for him.

Jim Whitehead served California State Parks as a Ranger, Area Manager, District Superintendent (the Regional Director level in 2023), and as a member of the California Park and Recreation Commission. In these many roles, Jim

Whitehead exemplified the ways that a RANGER career can shape our Park System.

The presentation was part of the April Graduation ceremony for 17 new State Park Cadets. The cadets attended the Basic Visitor Service Training (BVST) Academy for 32 weeks. They received their badges and formally became State Park Peace Officers (Rangers and Lifeguards), with their family, friends, and department staff serving as their audience both in person and remotely.

This year's class of 17 cadets (14 rangers and 3 lifeguards) was chosen from a field of approximately 388 applicants. Graduates of this class will work throughout the state, such as in the North Coast Redwoods, Central Valley, Santa Cruz, Orange Coast, and Inland Empire districts.

President's Message

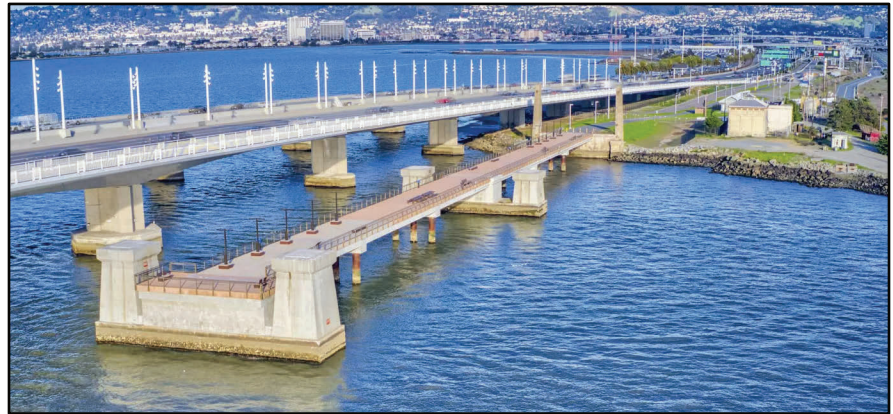
CSPRA is 60 years old this year

This summer we look forward to celebrating World Ranger Day on July 31 with East Bay Regional Parks, and also to CSPRA's Annual State Parks Rendezvous in September (see page 4 in this WAVE issue). Please register soon for the Rendezvous, and we'll see you on the North Coast where we will, among many other things, celebrate CSPRA's 60th anniversary.

We are still waiting on the court mandated CEQA analysis regarding the Transcendence Theater performance at Jack London SHP. This summer the Theater performances are happening in Sonoma at the "Field of Dreams" venue.

The Spring issue of the WAVE had a cover article about the gondola project threatening Los Angeles State Historic Park (LASHP). A court hearing will happen later this year to consider rescinding the Metropolitan Transit Authority's certification of the project's EIR. Here are several quotes that further clarify the threats to LASHP and flaws in the EIR, pulled from a brief filed in June by Attorney John P. Given for the LA Parks Alliance. CSPRA has affiliated with LAPA since 2022:

"The proposed station is massive: approximately 200



East Bay Regional Park District is hosting the World Ranger Day celebration at the Bridge Yard in John Sutter Regional Park on July 30 at 10 AM

feet long, 80 feet wide, and 98 feet tall. The Project's impacts on LASHP's protected visual resources would still be significant if the proposed station were merely adjacent to the park. But the station's location within the park (62% of the station footprint and 84% of the station overhang), is clearly more impactful than one constructed outside the park."

"LASHP exists in large part to tell the story of indigenous peoples and the European settlers who established El Pueblo and used the site for farming and vineyards, who built the region's first public works project (an archaeologically significant feature known as the Zanja Madre, or 'mother ditch,' impacted by the Project). The Final EIR asserts the Zanja Madre cannot be seen from LA State Historic Park. But the Zanja Madre is visible and regularly pointed out on park tours."

"The legislature has substantially limited [in the Public Resources Code] the type of improvements permitted in parks designated as historic: *The only facilities that may be provided are those required for the safety, comfort, and enjoyment of the visitors, such as access, parking, water, sanitation, interpretation, and picnicking.* Certain agricultural, mercantile, or other commercial activities may be permitted *if those activities are a part of the history of the individual unit* and any developments retain or restore historical authenticity. (emphasis added)."

"State law limitations are mandatory, not directory."

We will let you know when the court makes a decision. Have a great summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Case". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CSPRA Redwoods Rendezvous

CSPRA is the organization for EVERY park professional, active duty or retired

Don't miss out! North Coast Redwoods – September 16-19 2024. Please register and make lodging arrangements soon.

CSPRA's 2024 State Parks Rendezvous will be September 16-19 in the North Coast Redwoods and will celebrate our 60th Anniversary. Plan on experiencing a very special gathering. North Coast Redwoods District Superintendent **Victor Bjelajac** (a former CSPRA President) worked with us to organize tours and speakers. This will be an historic CSPRA gathering, our first ever Rendezvous in the far north. Join us in September! Contact David Carle at dave@cspra.com with questions. Register online [here](#).

Reservations for Ocean View Inn lodging should be made right away, The special CSPRA Room Rate of \$90+tx/night (Continental Breakfast included) for a 1-K or 2-Q

room is available on the 5 nights starting Sun 9/15 through Thursday 9/19 at Crescent City's Ocean View Inn. Rate is good until September 3, if rooms are

still available. Free cancellation by calling the hotel at least 24 hours



before arrival. To reserve at the special rate call the hotel directly (707)465-1111 Group name: **California State Park Rangers Association**. Ocean View Inn, 270 Highway 101 South, Crescent City. [Hotel Info here](#).

CAMPING: Free camping is available at Del Norte Coast Redwoods SP. Park campgrounds have limited space for large vehicles or hookups.

Other options are available nearby:

- ◆ Lighthouse Cove RV Park lighthousecoverv.com near the Ocean View Inn
- ◆ A little north of Crescent City: <https://ramblinredwoodsrv.com/>
- ◆ HipCamp guide to RV spots in or near Crescent City

Travel Options

CSPRA members may apply online for scholarships or grants for travel expenses to attend the Rendezvous (up to \$500 for active members and \$250 for retired members).

Driving distance and times to Crescent City:

From San Francisco, 358 miles, 6h 35m

From Sacramento, 375 miles, 7h

From Los Angeles, 733 miles, 12h, 40 m

Or you can fly! Advanced Airlines provides non stop service between Crescent City, CA (CEC) and Oakland, CA (OAK) as well as Los Angeles via Hawthorne, CA (HHR). Let us know if you need to be picked up at the airport. We will try to help.



Rendezvous Agenda

Monday, September 16

Early Arrivals and optional self-guided field visits. Sign up to attend (details during check-in):

OPTION A - Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park: Day Use Area (Approximately 15 mins easy drive from Crescent City)

The 10,000 acres of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park are part of RNSP, which is a World Heritage Site and International Biosphere Reserve, where 45 percent of California's remaining old-growth redwoods are held in the public trust. Jed Smith is the only campground in Redwood National and State Parks that has big lowland redwoods right in the camp. Here, you can enjoy the aquamarine waters of the wild and scenic Smith River as it flows past old-growth redwood trees. This is an incredibly beautiful and popular destination in the summer. Families with canoes, kayaks and inner tubes congregate along the cobbled banks of the river

adjacent to this day use area.

Site visit opportunity: Drive right up to the Day Use Area and enjoy the river beach, which is cobbled and surrounded by old-growth redwoods. Picnic adjacent to the river bar!

OPTION B - Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park: Grove of Titans (Approximately 30 minutes easy drive from Crescent City)

Deep in the heart of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park lies a grove of ancient redwood trees named for their remarkable size – the Grove of Titans. Known by Indigenous people for centuries, the group of trees was re-discovered by researchers in the 1990s. The grove is a magnificent stand of ancient redwoods containing some of the world's tallest trees. With no direct access, this sacred grove was kept relatively hidden for many years until the location was posted online in 1998. Visitors in search of these elusive old-growth trees created informal "social trails," which damaged the forest

floor and degraded riparian habitat, threatening the long-term survival of the grove itself. A new trail alignment, interpretation, and an elevated walkway have created safe, appropriate recreational access to the grove.

Site visit opportunity: This project demonstrates the challenges of balancing visitation and natural resource protection. With unchecked visitors trampling ferns, soil, and damaging pristine habitat, RNSP partners, local communities, and nonprofit partners came together to re-envision the Grove of Titans as a healthy, accessible, and protected resource for generations to come. This is an easy, 1.7-mile there-and-back walk through the giant trees and along Mill Creek.

Dinner on your own; informal social at Ocean View Inn

Tuesday, Sept 17

Site Visits/ guided field trips

9am Meet at Ocean View Inn (270 Highway 101 South, Crescent City) and depart for Yontocket.

9:30am Tour of Yontocket

11:30am Drive back to Crescent City for picnic lunch at the waterfront.

12pm Picnic lunch at the waterfront in Crescent City.

1:30pm Depart for East Fork Mill Creek Floodplain Restoration Project site.

2:15pm Tour of Redwoods



Rising restoration sites, with aquatic habitat enhancement, forestry, and road removal project examples.

4pm Return to Ocean View Inn.

Tour Details:

Tolowa Dunes State Park: Yontockut and Tolowa Dunes State Park includes some of the finest wetlands habitat on California's North Coast. The ancient sand dune complex has evolved into several distinct ecological communities, including shoreline, river, open and vegetated sand dunes, wooded ridges, and wetlands. A diverse assortment of birds, animals and plant life thrive here, and the area serves as an important stopover on the Pacific flyway for thousands of migrating ducks, geese and swans. At the end of Pala Road on the south bank of the Smith River, pick up the Yontockut Trail which is a 7.6-mile loop leading out to the beach and back. Yan'-daa-k'vt (Yontockut) is the spiritual center of the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, a federally recognized tribe headquartered in Smith River. Site visit opportunity: This moderately challenging hike is perfect for birding, fishing, and enjoying the shoreline, and is beautiful year-round. Visit the mouth of the Smith River, and then head back to Crescent City for a picnic lunch on the waterfront.

Redwoods Rising: East Fork Mill Creek Floodplain Restoration & Road Removal



Redwoods Rising is an ambitious, landscape-scale project to restore areas damaged by historical logging in the globally significant forests of Redwood National and State Parks. These parks are home to almost half of the world's remaining protected old-growth redwood forests, which store more carbon per acre than any other forests on Earth. They also safeguard imperiled salmon and trout, and rare creatures such as marbled murrelets and the endangered western lily.

Site visit opportunity: This project is restoring the property to old-growth redwood forest characteristics, providing recreational opportunities, protecting sensitive resources, providing

opportunities for research and interpretation, and balancing visitor needs with the unique natural character of the Mill Creek watershed. This is an easy walk to see the results of recent restoration actions.

Wednesday, Sept 18
Presentations and CSPRA Annual General Meeting

Sam Lopez Community Center, Elk Valley Rancheria, 2332 Howland Hill Rd, Crescent City

8:15 Sign-in/mingle

8:45 Greetings, **Dave Carle**

Elk Valley Rancheria Chairman **Dale Miller**

9:15 **Victor Bjelajac**, District Superintendent, North Coast Redwoods

9:50 **Steven Mietz**,
Superintendent Redwood
National and State Parks

— Break —

10:25 **Sal Munoz**, Exec. Dir.
Redwood Parks Conservancy

11:00 **Frank Padilla**, Native
American Conservation Crew

12:00 lunch/banquet
catered by Elk Valley
Rancheria

12:45 Keynote **Joseph
Giovannetti**, introduced by
Victor Bjelajac

— Break —

1:45 Annual General Meeting
Dave Carle CSPRA is 60
years old!

2:05 Honorary Ranger
Presentation to **Dr. Walter
Lara, Sr.** By **Victor & Lynn**

2:35 President's Award; 50
year membership pins **Dave
Carle**

Vote on by-laws amendment
re Annual General Meeting
name (**Mike Lynch**)

3:00 **Russ Cahill**, author,
former Director

3:45 **Jean Rhyne** as **Petey
Weaver**

4:30 adjourn

4:45 BBQ dinner **Frank
Padilla** (Beachfront Park,
488-498 Battery St. Crescent
City.

Thursday, Sept 19, 9 AM
CSPRA Board meeting at
Ocean View Inn meeting
room



Rendezvous Registration

Name: _____

Additional Guest/Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mobile Phone: _____ Home or Work Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____



Payment Options: Pay by check (mail) or online by credit card (www.cspra.com)

\$45 per person: Includes hospitality, tours, speakers, awards, lunch and BBQ dinner Wednesday.

\$25 per person: Lunch only on Wednesday September 18.

Number of **full registrations** _____ x \$45 each = \$ _____

(lunch & dinner included in full registration)

Number of **lunch only registrations** _____ x \$25 each = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

1. _____ **Payment by Mail with check** payable to CSPRA

Complete this form, print, and mail with your check to:

Ron Krueper, Treasurer, PO Box 1667, Big Bear Lake CA 92315

OR

2. _____ **Payment by Credit Card** online Fillable form [HERE](#)

Complete payment on CSPRA website

Then save this form and e-mail it to ron@cspra.com

**CSPRA
is 60 years old
this year!**

Spooky Bark

By Laura Van Etten-Collins

Every now and then when walking in the thick, shady woods near my home, I see tree bark with eyes, dark eyes, almost black, it's all very spooky. The eyes belong to California Spotted Owls who sit in the shadows up next to tree trunks, making them very difficult to see. Their spotted plumage is excellent camouflage in the dusky light of the forest. I don't see the owls every time I look for them but I'm sure they're there, watching me.

These birds are very tolerant of humans. To not stress these fascinating forest denizens, I use my longest lens and don't stay long in their company.

Owls are equipped with night vision eyes, exceptional directional hearing, silent flight and strong talons, everything one needs to hunt at night. The Spotted Owls in my neighborhood hunt wood rats and flying squirrels. Flying squirrels are another tough to find animal for us because they're nocturnal. But that makes things convenient for the owls.



Northern Flying Squirrel landing on a Ponderosa Pine at night, talk about cammo!

In days past, squirrel meat was popular human fare in our country, in fact, U.S. President Garfield's favorite dish was squirrel soup. The Joy of Cooking has a squirrel recipe. (Squirrel may not be found in the Joy of Eating cookbook, however.) The Gray Squirrel is apparently the best tasting and

California has plenty. Its meat supposedly has a "nutty" flavor, makes sense. Anyone willing to test it out?

Experiments have shown that owls can hunt in total darkness. The shape of the owl's face along with feathers that help funnel sound to the ear openings



Maturing California Spotted Owlets photographed 6 weeks apart

are part of the owl's complex hearing ability. Most owls have one ear opening that sits higher than the other, so that sound reaches one ear slightly faster. In this way, the bird can triangulate the source of the sound.

When I look for birds to photograph, I have a terrible time figuring out where bird sounds are coming from. Try it yourself, it's hard. Most of the time I find the bird only when I see movement. It would sure be handy to have asymmetrical ear openings, but then again, maybe not, sunglasses would never sit straight on my face....

Owls also have extraordinary nighttime eyesight. Their large eyes have far more light gathering rod cells than our eyes. Owls also have mirror-like cells at the back of their eye that reflects light back to the rod cells

after the light has passed the rods coming into the eye. This allows the eyes a second chance to gather more light. Animals that have "glow in the dark" eyes have these mirror-like cells. Diurnal animals, like us, don't have them.

Owls are very stealthy, they fly slowly and silently, which are good things for a hunter. Other birds don't fly silently. If you've ever heard a Raven fly by, for example, you'll know that you can hear the noise of their wings. Owl flight feathers have comb-like leading and hair-like trailing edges that dampen sound. Owl wings are very large compared to body size which helps them fly slowly.

There are three subspecies of Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis*); the Northern, the California and the Mexican Spotted Owl. The Northern Spotted Owl of the

Pacific Northwest and Northwest California is endangered. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has categorized California Spotted Owls into two distinct populations, Coastal - Southern California, and Sierra Nevada. In February 2023 the USFWS proposed listing the Southern California population as endangered, and the Sierra population as threatened.

The causes of its population decline are legion, but one major cause is the invasion of the Barred Owl (*Strix varia*), from eastern N. America. Barred Owls displace, attack, kill, and hybridize the Spotted Owl. Eliminating Barred Owls from Spotted Owl territory has become a priority for wildlife managers and raises complicated ethical issues. Will this bird make it? I hope so. *Photos by Laura Van Etten-Collins*



Feather trailing edges of a noisy Raven (left) and a quiet Great Horned Owl (right) who have hair-like trailing feather edges.



Leading smooth wing edges of a Raven (left) and comb-like leading edge of a Great Horned Owl (right)

Wave Goodbye

Karen Beery

Karen Ann Beery was born March 22, 1946 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She passed away on April 12, 2024 after a sudden decline in her health.



Karen studied Art at USC where she also met Bruce. After university they joined an artist community in the abandoned Pacific Ocean Park in Santa Monica. They went on to open Design Works, an art store and design studio in Pasadena.

In Cambria, Karen began her career with California State Parks. She started by working as a tour guide at Hearst Castle. She worked at the Castle for 13 years and advanced to be a supervisor & trainer. When her mother became ill she moved to Carlsbad to care for her and took a position at Old Town State Historic Park where she worked as the Interpretation & Education Manager. Karen was dedicated to her work. As an interpreter she was able to tie in her experience as a shop owner & restaurateur, skills in design and love of history all in one. She retired in 2017 after 30 years of service with State Parks.

Don Lakatos

Don started as a Ranger 1 at Cuyamaca in May 1975 and became the park's horse ranger. Don was especially good at law enforcement and emergency services.



In 1981 Don transferred to the Gold Mines District at Malakoff Diggings State Park where he became involved with the Department's controlled burn program and became a qualified burn boss. He implemented the first burn program in the district.

He moved from Malakoff to Empire Mine and later when the department became responsible for the operation of the South Yuba project he became the first Ranger to be assigned to that unit. In 1985 Don promoted to State Park Ranger 2 at Marshall Gold Discovery. Don's next assignment was The Mott Training Center. He was promoted to State Park Ranger 3 and served as the law enforcement program coordinator for the academy which was run by the Department.

Don's final assignment was Superintendent for the San Joaquin Valley District, retiring in 2003.

Darlene Neal

Darlene Kay Neal passed away on March 24, 2024 after a short illness. A Fort Bragg native she



was born September 6, 1957 and grew up here until she graduated high school. She didn't like the fog and cold and wanted a warmer climate.

Her career began at Russian Gulch State Park as a file clerk and ended 35 years later at Olampali State Park as Chief Administrator of Sonoma Marin District. During these years she lived and worked in 12 State Parks from Shasta Lake to Anza-Borrego.

She liked to say she lived in places others only got to visit. After retiring she moved to the island of Oahu. She found her warm weather. While in Marin Darlene taught swimming and coached the Special Olympic Aquatics Team and enjoyed going to their events. In Oahu she contacted Special Olympics and coached in Honolulu. She was a crafter and enjoyed making and giving gifts of her needle crafts to friends and family. She will be remembered for her kindness and generosity.

Mixed Metaphors & Malaprops

By Jeff Price,
Seriously Retired

A metaphor makes a direct comparison, substituting one thing for another. A malapropism is the mistaken use of a word in place of a similar sounding one, as in “dance a flamingo.”

An overlapping Swedish illustration!

...and so, we put all the data into one Sven diagram to see patterns.

Is that a maritime sailing punch?

The park budget isn't predictable; money just comes in jibs and jabs.

Lunar obscurity.

I heard a newscaster talking about the angular eclipse.

Barfing articulatio humeri.

You can't just throw up your shoulders and quit now.

Flash demonstrations?

Protests in Gaza are spreading like lightning.

You can't loosen asphalt with a gardening tool.



She really has a tough road to hoe in front of her.

Messy mesh motion.

I don't want to be the one who throws a cog in the wheel and holds this up, so I am ready vote now.

Probably stops the portcullis from banging into the bulkhead.

We are on the doorstep in eradicating Guinea worm parasites.

Camouflaging the stone.

Secrecy is the corner of US military policy.

Sharp move to intrude.

Looks like DOJ was trying to hone in on the IRS investigation.

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 is funding eight Latin American Rangers to attend the World Ranger Congress in France. More information about how you can help [HERE](#).





Spotted Owl story on page 8. And you can tour their habitat at the September CSPRA Redwoods Rendezvous. [click](#)

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