



THE THIN GREEN LINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

April - June 2011

Volume 19

Number 2

OFFICERS' REPORTS

President's Report

Dear IRF Friends and Colleagues:

Thank you to Osvaldo Barrasi (Chile/Brazil), Rick Smith (U.S.A.), Juan Carlos Gambarotta (Uruguay), Germán Solveira (Argentina) for the translation of all reports from English into Spanish in the Spanish version of this newsletter.

Since the last issue of this publication, I have been able to take advantage of international events in my home country and even in my local area. In March, while presenting the 2011 International Young Conservationist Award, I was able to meet with Nik Lopoukhine, chair of International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN's) World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), as well as Trevor Sandwith, the new director of IUCN's Global Protected Areas Programme. I also met with the director of the U.S. National Park Service's International Affairs Office. In April, I had a chance to meet Dr. Bill Jackson, the new chief executive of Parks Victoria and thank him for the support of the agency with the IRF executive officer position and their sponsorship of the Young Conservationist Award.

2011 International Young Conservationist Award

In the last issue of **The Thin Green Line**, I reported on the 2011 Young Conservationist Award recipient, Héctor Antonio Caymaris Zanelli from Laguna de Rocha, Uruguay. The March award ceremony went very well with Héctor receiving a lot of attention from participants, including U.S. National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis. Thanks to IRF Volunteer Anthony Thomas, we have a great story posted as an IUCN news item at: <http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/?7528/Persistence-pays-off>
The announcement of the award recipient, runner-up, and top-tier candidates is also posted on the IRF website: <http://www.int-ranger.net/whatsnew.html>.

Survey on IRF News Bulletins

We had a good overall response to our survey of members on IRF publications - with 93 participants. Thank you to all who took the time to give us your thoughts. One of the optional questions asked what country the member was from - of the 59 who listed their country, here's how it broke out:

24-USA; 23-Australia; 4-UK; 3-New Zealand
1 each: Austria, Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, Hungary, Tanzania

At least one-half of the total respondents were from the U.S.A., Australia, UK, and New Zealand. This seems to indicate that the publications are well-distributed in these countries but may not be distributed well to individual rangers in other countries. This is something we want to learn more about and find ways to improve distribution. Approximately 85% of participants said a web-based publication would be helpful, so having a web-based publication may be our best option.

We distributed the survey in English and in Spanish. Unfortunately, no one used the Spanish version of the survey. That may largely be due to the fact that we have only recently published full issues in Spanish. We are considering running the survey in Spanish again in 6-12 months, after Spanish-speaking members have had a chance to read several issues of each publication in Spanish.

The two editors will be reporting on the results for their publications in the near future.

Thin Green Line Foundation

During the recent conflict in the Ivory Coast, rangers made a direct request to the Thin Green Line Foundation (TGLF) for help in leaving the country. That was not possible, but once the conflict calmed, the foundation made payments to eight rangers, to partially replace their equipment and the supplies destroyed.

Ranger Recognition and Remembrances

We commemorate these rangers who have been attacked and injured or killed in the months since the last issue of **The Thin Green Line**:

- March 26 - Lt. Leopold Kyalisiima of the Uganda Wildlife Authority
- April 27 - Jaime Oscar Girón Portilla was on patrol in Serranía de los Churumbelos National Natural Park, Columbia, when he stepped on a land mine. The explosion amputated his foot, and he later died in hospital.
- Two forest guards were killed and five others wounded in a fight with Sudanese poachers in Central African Republic at the Dzanga-Sangha Special Reserve.

Details of these three incidents were reported on in the May 2011 issue of IRF's publication **Guardaparque**.

In March, four Iranian park rangers were shot and killed in a village in Sanandaj in Iran's Kuridstan. One of the victims was Kamal Hussein Panahi, a student of natural resources. The rangers were killed by firearms, and an investigation has shown that the terrorist attack was carried out by "counter-revolutionary elements." Over the past 30 years, 110 Iranian rangers have reportedly been killed and 450 injured in the line-of-duty. (Details of this incident are in the April 2011 issue of IRF's publication **Guardaparque**.)

Letters from IRF, on behalf of all IRF members, will be sent to the families of these rangers. Please keep the rangers and their families in your thoughts. If you know of a ranger death, please send an email to me (IRFdeanne@aol.com) and to Sean Willmore (sean@thingreenline.info). Any information you have on a ranger's death, including contact information for family members, is appreciated by IRF and the TGLF.

Best Wishes,
Deanne L. Adams
irfdeanne@aol.com

Vice President's Report

In the previous edition of **The Thin Green Line**, I asked to hear the thoughts of rangers around the world concerning what the key gaps are in terms of training for rangers, park managers, and park system managers. This is needed for IRF members working with the IUCN Training Taskforce, which intends to involve interested and suitably-experienced rangers. I have not received any feedback from this request yet, so please send me your ideas, so they may be incorporated into the planning process.

I wrote my previous **The Thin Green Line** report after Jobogo Mirindi and I participated in the high-level delegation meeting in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The meeting included government officials; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); various others from IUCN; non-government organizations; etc. My report emphasized the need for IRF to continue to monitor and remind the appropriate parties of the need to follow up on their commitments. Without reminders, it is highly unlikely that suitable follow-up actions will be taken and desired outcomes achieved for afflicted areas and the rangers who bravely continue to work therein. The IRF has therefore commenced following up. A letter was sent by our president to the director of the World Heritage Centre, Mr Francesco Bandarin, on March 7, 2011. The letter thanked him for holding the roundtable meeting in January this year and for inviting the federation to participate, welcomed the commitments made there and the actions identified to be taken, and reiterated our extreme concern about the ongoing deaths of rangers in Virunga National Park. The letter also emphasized the need to act quickly on the agreements reached at Kinshasa and urged action on the IRF's main recommendations as communicated at Kinshasa. The most important of our recommendations related to creating and ensuring stability within the parks system and the safety of the rangers operating in the field, ensuring the provision of fair working conditions for rangers, and providing appropriate recognition of rangers killed in the course of duty. Finally, it stated that the IRF is eager to remain involved in any follow-up actions, would appreciate being kept informed about how the Strategic Action Plan proposed by the Congolese Wildlife Authority will be implemented, and would like to receive any reports on actions taken.

Sadly, due to other commitments in Uruguay, Juan Carlos Gambarotta has withdrawn from the role as team leader for "Rangers Without Borders." His appeal to us all in the previous edition of **The Thin Green Line** elicited a very good response in terms of rangers being willing to participate in this project. We have recruited a new team leader, and I expect that appointment to be approved by the executive committee soon and will report on that in the next issue.

Best Wishes and Regards from Tanzania,

Wayne D. Lotter
wayne@pamsfoundation.org

Secretary's/Executive Officer's Report

Greetings from North America! As I write this, I am with Deanne and will be with her for the next 3 weeks to discuss and work on IRF projects/business. Our main goal is to review the past 12 months and to plan the work program for the executive officer for the next 12 months. We are also hoping to complete a number of the tasks that we have started but have not managed to finish, including the review of the Standing Rules, the drafting of a funding model, and the documentation of many of the routine tasks of the IRF.

Mark Stone, the chief executive of Parks Victoria, who many of you will have met at one of our Ranger Congresses, resigned late last year. Bill Jackson, the former deputy director general of the IUCN, has been appointed as the new chief executive. Sean Willmore, director of the TGLF; Peter Cleary, president of the Victorian Rangers Association; Ian Christie, from Parks Victoria (who many of you may have met in Bolivia); and I met with Bill recently to introduce ourselves and to brief Bill on our organizations, our recent accomplishments, and planned actions. We look forward to working with him in the future.

In my last report, I mentioned that a team had been set up to work on revising the IRF's website. Since then, the team has been busy looking in to the technical aspects of the website. We also surveyed the IRF's executive committee (IEC) to get their thoughts on what the revised website should do and what it should contain. We will use these ideas to guide our work. As I am leading this group but am not very experienced in website development, I met with the web manager of the Bush Heritage Fund, a local conservation non-governmental organization, to look at how websites work. She offered many good suggestions on how we should set up our site.

The next steps for the web team are to compile the results of the IEC survey, start working on the content, and find someone to assist us with the design of the site. If you have any suggestions, comments, or questions about the website, we'd love to hear from you. Please e-mail me at irfsec@yahoo.com.au. We will keep you updated on our progress in future editions of **The Thin Green Line**.

As the primary sponsor of the Young Conservationist Award, Parks Victoria provided sponsorship for Héctor Caymaris of Uruguay to attend the award ceremony in the U.S.A. I worked with others to make this happen. Since then, I have been working on a document that summarizes all of the tasks involved to help anyone involved in organizing future awards. We will start working on 2012 in the near future, so stay tuned.

A new ranger association has been established in France – Gardes Nature de France. I have just received their application to become a member of the IRF. The IEC will vote on this application shortly. I look forward to welcoming the French rangers to our world family of rangers.

Regards,

Elaine Thomas
irfsec@yahoo.com.au

Editor's Report

Since our last publication, I represented the National Park Service at the International Pow Wow, a tourism conference for international travel/tour operators and news media to see what the U.S. has to offer. The event attracted approximately 5,000 people to San Francisco, California, on the west coast of the U.S. I was very proud to be part of an event that showcased U.S. national parks as a central feature.

We all have pride in where we work and the importance of our parklands. Being a ranger isn't just a job, it is something we believe in and are committed to for current and future generations.

By sharing our experiences with each other, we share ideas of new and better ways to do things. We communicate facts, as well as our passion for our careers. **The Thin Green Line** is part of how we communicate to our counterparts worldwide. We need your participation to make this publication the most useful to all.

Please mark your calendars with the following due dates for submissions to **The Thin Green Line** in 2011:

August 12
November 12

Thank you to those who completed the recent publications survey! Your comments will be used in making improvements to **The Thin Green Line** in the future.

Happy Trails,

Dana M. Dierkes
dmdierkes@verizon.net

REGIONAL REPORTS

European Regional Representative Report

In April 2011, I met with Carol Ritchie, director of the EUROPARC Federation, in Regensburg Germany. We discussed the joint Youth in Action project that EUROPARC submitted to the European Union for funding. If we receive the funding, we will organize a training class for rangers who will participate in the Youth in Action project. Approximately 20 rangers will be invited to participate in the course, to be held in Denmark.

Together with IRF President Deanne Adams and Carol Ritchie, we discussed the need for IRF to strengthen the existing IRF Trust, so IRF can develop projects for rangers or partner with EUROPARC and national ranger associations. We also discussed about representing the IRF at the annual meeting of the EUROPARC Federation in September. The IRF president approved my participation at this event. The memorandum of understanding between EUROPARC and IRF provides for coverage of registration for one IRF representative at EUROPARC and for a EUROPARC representative to attend a European seminar.

Together with my Romanian colleagues, we are working on a European Rangers Facebook page, which will soon become active. Our goal is to promote better communication among rangers.

Communication with colleagues in Russia has been difficult, and because of the delay in organizing the European Rangers Seminar in Russia this year, we decided to cancel it. We advised our European colleagues to focus on attending next year's IRF Congress in Tanzania, Africa.

Since we wish to have large participation from Europe in the international congress, the next European Rangers Seminar will be held in 2013. We hope to have several serious proposals from national associations for the 2013 seminar.

I am pleased to announce the formation of the French Association of Rangers. We wish them good luck and hope to have them as an IRF member soon. Their contact details are:

Emmanuel Icardo emmanuel.icardo@mercantour-parcnational.fr, <http://projetgardesnature.perso.sfr.fr/>,

Florin Halastauan
Florin_hombre@yahoo.com

North American Regional Representative Report

Thank you to all our Spanish translators.

In March, I attended the California Parks Conference hosted by Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC) and California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA). The beautiful setting of Yosemite National Park brought 77 California rangers together for two days of lectures and speakers. The evening train ride and dinner on the Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad was a highlight. Retired Chief Ranger of the U.S. National Park Service and World Ranger Congress IV delegate, Jim Brady, was presented with PRAC's Honorary Ranger. Congratulations Jim!

Between 2014 and 2016, California State Parks will be celebrating the Sesquicentennial of the California State Park System, state park ranger, State Park Commission, and First Management Plan. Also, many U.S. national park areas will be starting the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, from 2011-2015. Watch for the events!

Have you ever wondered how far reaching our profession is? I have. I know there are park rangers on every continent. Yes, even Antarctica. As for every country, let us say of the 192 countries recognized by the United Nations, 29 do not have national parks. But what about the United States? We know we have national parks and all 50 states have a state park system. But unlike California, not every state has park rangers at the city or county level. After many inquiries, I learned nine states do not have park rangers at the local level. Can you guess which ones? They are: Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Montana, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South

Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming.

In my continue effort to promote the IRF in the U.S., I have contacted about 30 of the U.S. state park systems. So far, only eight appear to have associations and have been introduced to our federation.

I had a surprise visit from an Australian ranger last week. Remember IRF contacts in your travels. Rangers are everywhere.

My busy season has come to a conclusion while the majority of the parks in North America are gearing up for the summer rush. Stay safe!

Semper presidium,

Jeff Ohlfs
North American Representative/ Representante de America del Norte
deserttraveler2@roadrunner.com

SPECIAL REPORTS

World Ranger Congress

Registration has opened for the 7th World Ranger Congress, to be held in Tanzania from November 4-9, 2012. If you have not already received an invitation and registration form, please visit the event website at <http://www.pamsfoundation.org/world-rangers-congress>.

Krissie Clark
Congress Organizer
TanzaniaWRC@gmail.com

World Ranger Day 2011 – How Will You Celebrate?

As you all know July 31 is World Ranger Day. It is the day we commemorate our fallen colleagues and celebrate our work in protecting the world's natural and cultural treasures. How will you celebrate World Ranger Day this year?

By now you should have received the first in a series of e-mails that I will be sending out about the event. The purpose of these e-mails is to provide you with information to help you plan and promote your activities.

To my first e-mail, I attached background notes outlining the history and purpose of the day and descriptions of how member associations celebrated World Ranger Day in 2010. I would like to update the notes to include events being planned by associations for 2011. Please send me your plans and ideas (irfsec@yahoo.com.au), I will update the notes and send them out again. Your ideas may also be published in other places, for example on the IRF and IUCN websites, to help promote World Ranger Day to the wider community.

I will also be sending out other information as this special event approaches, including a list of the rangers that have died since last year's World Ranger Day.

Please let me know if there is anything you think the IRF could send out to assist you in celebrating World Ranger Day.

Elaine Thomas
Secretary/Executive Officer
irfsec@yahoo.com.au

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 31, 2011 *World Ranger Day* - IRF member associations, protected area agencies, individual rangers, sponsors, and the public are invited to create or join in events and activities that recognize the work of rangers across the globe. www.int-ranger.net/whatsnew.html
- August 26-Sept. 5, 2011 *World Police and Fire Games*, New York, USA. A total of 18,000 athletes from 70 countries around the world. Includes a memorial service for victims of the "9-11" attack on the Twin Towers to mark the 10th anniversary of the event. <http://parkleadership.ucmerced.edu/>
http://parkleadership.ucmerced.edu/docs/flyers/SeminarFlyer_10-10.pdf, <http://www.2011wpfg.org>
- September 21-25, 2011 *Annual EUROPARC Conference*, Swabian Alb Biosphere Reserve, Bad Urach, Germany, under the theme "Quality counts - Benefits for Nature and People." <http://www.euoparc2011.com/en/welcome.html>
<http://www.euoparc.org/conference-2011/>
- October 10-15, 2011 *Ranger Rendezvous*, Williamsburg, Virginia, USA. Theme, speakers, and additional information to be released later. Sponsored by the Association of National Park Rangers. <http://www.anpr.org/anprrr.htm>
- November 8-12, 2011 *National Interpreters Workshop*, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA. National Association for Interpretation's workshop brings together more than 1,000 interpreters to train, network, share ideas, and enjoy a different part of the country. <http://www.interpnet.com/conferences/index.shtml>
- May 8-12, 2012 *NAI International Conference*, Pacific Islands, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i, USA. The National Association for Interpretation hosts its seventh annual international conference on the subject of heritage interpretation. The conference will feature three full days of concurrent sessions and one day for an off-site session, as well as keynote speakers, special events, and pre- and post-conference tours. The conference will bring together 150 to 200 delegates from 30 to 40 nations in an effort to create opportunities for professional development for attendees and establish a network for professional associations and individuals.
<http://www.interpnet.com/ic/>
- July 31, 2012 *World Ranger Day* - IRF member associations, protected area agencies, individual rangers, sponsors, and the public are invited to create or join in events and activities that recognize the work of rangers across the globe. www.int-ranger.net/whatsnew.html
- September 6-15, 2012 *2012 World Conservation Congress*, International Convention Center, Jeju, Republic of Korea.
<http://iccjeju.cafe24.com/eng/>
http://www.iucn.org/2012_congress/
- November 4-9, 2012 *VII World Ranger Congress*, Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge, in northern Tanzania, Eastern Africa. For updates, contact TanzaniaWRC@gmail.com.
- Nov. 13-17, 2012 *National Interpreters Workshop*, Hampton, Virginia, USA. The National Association for Interpretation's workshop brings together more than 1,000 interpreters to train, network, share ideas, and enjoy a different part of the country,
<http://www.interpnet.com/conferences/index.shtml>.

MEMBER DIRECTORY

The following is for quick reference only and does not include the names of individual ranger associations. Where more than one name is listed for a given nation, it is because there's more than one ranger association in that country. For a complete list, please contact Elaine Thomas, IRF secretary, at the address below.

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Secretary	Elaine Thomas	Australia	irfsec@yahoo.com.au

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	Roy Ho Tsoi	Suriname	rhotsoi@sr.net
	Gonzalo Larrobla	Uruguay	bichocandado@yahoo.com

¹ National

² National

³ State - California

⁴ National

⁵ State - California

⁶ National and State (Northern Territory)

⁷ State (New South Wales)

⁸ State - Queensland

⁹ State - South Australia

¹⁰ State - Tasmania

¹¹ State - Victoria

¹² State - Western Australia

INTERNATIONAL PARKS COMMUNITY

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IUCN HQ		Switzerland	mail@iucn.org
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World Heritage Commission – Chief of Unit, Special Projects Unit	Guy Debonnet		g.debonnet@unesco.org
Europarc	Carol Ritchie	Europe	c.ritchie@europarc.org
FFI ¹⁵	Paul Hotham	England	paul.hotham@fauna-flora.org
GRASP ¹⁶		Kenya	grasp@unep.org
ICPL ¹⁷	Liz Hughes	Wales	icpl@protected-landscapes.org
Jacobs Foundation		England	jf@jacobsfoundation.org
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RSPB ¹⁸	Steve Rowland	England	steve.rowland@tesco.net
Turner Foundation	Mike Finley	United States	mikef@turnerfoundation.org

YOUNG CONSERVATIONIST AWARD RECIPIENTS

2011	Héctor Antonio Caymaris Zanelli	Uruguay	caymaris@gmail.com
2010	Alasdair Harris	Scotland /Madagascar	al@blueventures.org
2008	Edwin Sabuhoro	Rwanda	
2006	Christian Teran	Ecuador	

¹³ International Union for Conservation of Nature

¹⁴ World Commission on Protected Areas

¹⁵ Fauna Flora International

¹⁶ Great Apes Survival Project (UNEP)

¹⁷ International Centre for Protected Landscapes

¹⁸ Royal Society for the Protection of Birds