



## **INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION NEWSLETTER**

**Summer, 1999**

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### **IRF News**

#### **President's Report**

Gordon Miller traveled to the Republic of Ireland in late May to attend a gathering of rangers from Northern Ireland and the Republic. Cooperation between the two groups is excellent, and the unifying of several agencies in the Republic means that the Ranger Association of Ireland will have the potential to grow.

Gordon then traveled to Austria as a guest for the official opening of a ranger academy adjoining Danube National Park. He met with the vice chairman and director, who are funding the Euro Ranger Project, and met with rangers there. He encouraged them to form a ranger association and expects that may occur within the next few months.

#### **Third World Congress**

Organizers of IRF's Third World Congress in Kruger National Park in South Africa have made significant headway in planning for the congress. Here are some highlights:

- A thousand copies of the first brochure on the congress were printed and distributed a year ago. The congress planners received 225 responses to the announcement from 34 countries - and neither number includes South African rangers. The second announcement brochure has been drafted and will be sent out this month to all the prospective delegates who expressed interest in the congress.
- Official registration notifications will be received by the end of November and will be circulated to member associations in December for interested delegates. Registrations will be returned with a 10% deposit for each delegate by January. Registered delegates will be kept informed of developments via regular e-mail updates.
- The entire Berg-en-dal Restcamp has been booked for arrivals on September 10th and departures on September 17th.
- Several GRA members will be accompanying pre-conference tours to Cape Town, Natal, and Mpumalanga. Itineraries are being considered and provisional itineraries will appear in the second announcement brochure.

- A provisional program has been developed by those accompanying delegates. Information will be sent to registered delegates in March.

The organizers held a planning meeting in late August. Additional details on that meeting and the congress will appear in the fall newsletter in November.

## **Federation Directory**

The complete directory of IRF member nations and their presidents or chairs and their IRF representatives is sent out only once or twice a year. Interim changes are carried in the newsletter:

- Game Rangers Association of Africa (South Africa) - Arrie Schreiber is the new chairman of GRAA. John Forrest remains active with IRF as a member of the executive council, representing Africa. John has a new email address: [jforrest@sco.eastcoast.co.za](mailto:jforrest@sco.eastcoast.co.za).
- Association of National Park Rangers (U.S.) - ANPR president Cindy Ott-Jones has a new address, phone numbers and email address. Write to her at: P.O. Box 3907, Page, AZ 86040, USA. Her home phone is 520-608-0820, work phone is 520-608-0821. Email her at: [rcoj@page.az.net](mailto:rcoj@page.az.net)
- Bundesverband Naturwacht (Germany) - The new address for association chair Beate Blahy is: Am Koppelsberg 1, 16230 Brodowin. Her home phone is 0172-317152; office phone is 0049-3334-582211. The home phone number for secretary Heike Flemming is 0049-33365-71461; office phone is 0049-3332-254724.
- Asociacion De Guardaparques y Guias de Naturaleza (Uruguay) - The correct address for Juan Carlos Gambarotta is Poste Restante, Castillos, 27200, Uruguay - not Asctillos, as it appeared in the last directory. His phone number is 0475-2151; his fax number is 598(2)-916-45-20.

## **New and Developing Ranger Associations**

IRF continues to hear from rangers in countries interested in starting national ranger associations and affiliating with us:

- Indonesia - Oliver Nelson, who is working on ranger training at Kerinci Seblat National Park, has asked for copies of bylaws from U.S. and English ranger associations in order to help establish a ranger association for Indonesia. He is also looking for information regarding law enforcement procedures. If you would like to help provide him with information, you can reach him at: Balai TNKS, Jl. Basuki Rahmat No. 11, P.O. Box 40, Sungai Penuh, Provinsi Jambi, 37101, Sumatra, Indonesia. His email address is [monef@padang.wasantara.net.id](mailto:monef@padang.wasantara.net.id). You can learn about his park at [www.kerinci.org](http://www.kerinci.org).
- Chile - Juan Carlos Gambarotta in Uruguay reports that rangers in Patagonia want to become IRF members. He will help them in this effort.
- Argentina - Vice President Rick Smith has been contacted by Salvador Vellido of the Argentine ranger association about affiliation with IRF. Application forms have been sent to him. Rick and Juan Carlos will help them complete this process. Juan Carlos also reports that rangers in Argentina rode on horses into downtown Buenos Aires to protest the firing of 73 park technicians, adding that "Argentinian rangers believe that this is the beginning of the end of the national parks" there.

## **News About IRF Associations**

### **Bundesverband Naturwacht (Germany) - Heike Flemming**

The German Ranger Association now has 127 members. This is a great achievement for the association, as there are only about 500 professional rangers in Germany.

The association held its annual conference in March in Willebadessen in the west of Germany. Some 47 members and perhaps 80 other colleagues took part. One of the main problems discussed in a workshop was how to involve young people in nature conservation or make them aware of environmental problems. Some of our colleagues gave very impressive accounts of how they are doing their jobs when all theories fails.

The association also held its annual meeting during the conference. Alfred Heilmann declined to continue as chair, so Beate Blahy is now the chair for the association. Heike Flemming is secretary and treasurer.

Over the past year, there has been little change in support for our decree for further education for rangers (Geprüfter Natur- und Landschaftspfleger/in). It is in the hands of the German countries to establish a board of examiners. Some steps have been taken, but it will require a permanent reminder from below to continue progress. This is our main task at the moment.

### **Naturvejleder Foreningen i Danmark (Denmark) - Ida Marie Jensen**

There are 200 rangers in Denmark, and the association has been in existence for 12 years. They provide nature and environmental interpretation to a half million visitors each year. There are 5.5 million people in Denmark, and the Ranger Service is playing an important role in efforts to promote sustainable development in the country.

The Danish Ranger Association has arranged a seminar in September with the theme "Nature Interpretation - The Future Possibilities and Challenges." Politicians and government officials are invited to the conference along with people from NGO's (non-governmental organizations) and, of course, rangers. The aim of the conference is to develop a base for future work with nature interpretation - locally, regionally and nationally - and to determine which project to choose first to inspire organizations and authorities.

### **Scottish Countryside Ranger Association (Scotland) - Tony Wilson**

A lot of SCRA's work recently has been to raise the profile of our organization, particularly with the new Scottish Parliament. They have been given responsibility for environmental issues, so will be a major influence on ranger work. SCRA has already contacted a professional lobbyist who works for a group of environmental interests. We hope to be much more able to influence decisions made by the government.

SCRA conducted its annual exchange with rangers in Iceland in July, and hopes to make this an annual event. Some members are already interested in next year's event. We also hope to set up a process for coordinating future exchanges with other rangers around the world. When we have this ready, it should make exchanges easier.

One of SCRA's members - Carol Huston - has been asked to join the IUCN commission's on education and communication in Europe. We don't have any details yet, but hope this will strengthen the role of rangers in European environmental policy making.

### **Upcoming Events**

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|-----------------------|---|
| September 22-23, 1999 | "Nature Interpretation - The Future Possibilities and Challenges," Naturvejleder Foreningen i Danmark, Denmark.   |
| October 28-30, 1999   | Annual Conference, Australian Ranger Association, Darwin.   |
| March, 2000           | Annual Conference, Bundesverband Naturwacht.  |
| April, 2000           | Annual General Meeting, Scottish Countryside Ranger Association, University of St. Andrews.   |
| September 10-16, 2000 | International Ranger Federation, Third World Congress. Kruger National Park, Republic of South Africa. Contact: John Forrest via the Internet at <a href="mailto:gra@sco.eastcoast.co.za">gra@sco.eastcoast.co.za</a> . |

March 7-10, 2000 California Parks Conference, California State Park Rangers Association, San Rafael, California, USA.

April, 2000 Annual General Meeting, Scottish Countryside Ranger Association, University of St. Andrews.

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