

The Signpost

September - October
1992

PRAC News

1993 Santa Clara Conference Planning Update

by

Janet McGowan, 1993 Conference Chair

As you all know, our next Joint Annual Conference will be held at the Santa Clara Biltmore, March 4-7, 1993. Planning is well underway and I thought you might like to hear about what we have tentatively arranged. In this first article, I'll be telling you about all the non-educational things that will be happening. In future articles our Track Chairs, (Interpretation, Operations, Resource Management, and Student classes), will be filling you in on all the sessions they have lined up.

First Things First

Before I begin, I want to point out that we are trying very hard to get as many things as possible donated, (food, drinks, prizes, etc.). This will help us keep the costs down, while still offering the best possible experience to all of our conference attendees. If you know of any company and/or individual who would be willing to contribute cash and/or prizes, please give Kathy Satterlee a call at (408) 277-4539.

Raffles Galore!

There will be three (yes 3!) raffles held during this conference. **The first one is FREE.** All you have to do is visit every vendor booth at the conference. They will stamp your card, which also doubles as your raffle ticket. Once you have gotten your card completely stamped, you turn it in and are automatically entered in the drawing. I'd like to encourage everyone to participate in this raffle. Our vendors pay good money to our organization to be able to show off their goods. Let's make them feel welcome, and maybe win a great prize at the same time.

The next raffle will take place during Casino Night (Friday night), see below. Tickets for the main raffle will be sold throughout pre-registration, registration and at the conference. These prizes will be given away the night of the Banquet.

Calling all Videophiles

Jeff Ohlfs is now accepting additions to the PRAC video library catalog. Any person or agency wishing to participate in this reference should contact Jeff. He will need title of the video, location and contact person, date video was produced, if the video is produced professionally or in-house, and if a reference manual is included with the video. This information must be submitted to Jeff by December 1, 1992. This is so that the first printing of the catalog will be ready for the in time for the Spring Conference in Santa Clara. To be included, the person or agency must be willing to loan the video to another PRAC member with the requester bearing the responsibility for postage and insurance to obtain the video. The individual requesting the video will be responsible for not infringing on copyrights by duplicating the video once it has been received on loan.

All video information must be sent to:

Jeff Ohlfs

Cottonwood Ranger Station

Chiriaco Summit, CA 92201

Schedule of Daily Events

The first day of the conference, Thursday March 4, we will be holding a reception. Ira Bletz has indicated that he may be available to give his world famous "Beer Tasting"! I've heard this is not to be missed.

Friday opens up with the Keynote Speaker at 8:00 am. We have some great names submitted and I am optimistic that this will be a great opening to the conference. Also on Friday, there will be a luncheon served at the hotel. This is a good place to socialize with people from other agencies, so I hope you can all find some extra money in your pocket to be able to attend.

As soon as the sessions are over on Friday, we will be holding a 5K Fun Run. Prizes are being donated. I don't have the exact list yet, but I know that the Donations Committee is **not** thinking small! You must register separately for the 5K, but your registration fee includes a free T-shirt.

Continued on Page 3.

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

BY CHRISTOPHER W. GEORGE

Very often an individual like myself will sit down and contemplate if he or she has made the right choices for themselves in life. Often one will contemplate, if they had gone left instead of right where would they be today?

Currently many of us may be going through much soul searching right now. Many of us have left our chosen profession due to budget cuts or other personal reasons. Regardless to say, we are all a little down or frustrated with not only our own lives, but those of every person on this planet. The economy, the environment, our whole way of life is filled with negatives. These negatives often seem so overpowering at times, that we often tend not to see the many positive accomplishments we have made both personally and professionally.

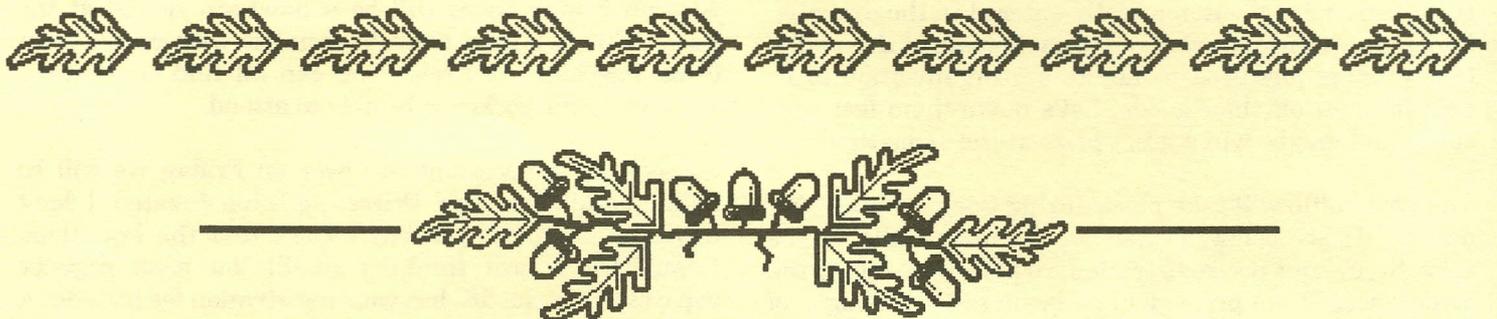
The park ranger profession has become for many, to be an endangered species. This applies not only to those here in California, but across the United States and the world.

Scandal and misuse of funds have for the majority, placed many of our parks and forests into great jeopardy. We the caretakers, have also been down played in our roles of teachers and protectors.

In my position, I look back and remember as a child that the only thing I wanted to be was a "Ranger." During my life I did everything I could to ensure this dream and make it become reality. However, it didn't occur overnight. As most, I started out at the bottom as a recreation leader at a regional park. From there I was responsible for day camps, and then moved into being a naturalist. I took pride doing tours and exploring the world around us with inquisitive children and adults. After a few years my dream became a reality, and I became a park ranger. This was one of the happiest times in my life. I overcame the odds, I became a "Ranger." This may not seem so important to most, but to me it meant everything! I have served many functions in my role as a park ranger. I am proud of the people I work with who also have that same special spirit of eagerness that set us apart from the individual who's "just doing a job."

I have attempted to carry this pride and dedication over to you as your president. I have attempted to think of the needs of all our members during this period, and will continue to do so years down the road. When my term is up in December, I will still have many duties ahead of me. I will not become a dinosaur because some people think of us as "endangered." I am devoted to this profession. I will never sit idle to see the parks and forests, the people we serve, the animals and resources we protect, become a thing of the past. But something that will last until the end of time.

Many people have said that I sound like a preacher and don't see things realistically. This is somewhat correct. I could have given up along time ago due to frustration and disappointment but the child, the dreamer, never wanted to. I have fought for my city's program and my own personal beliefs that I will continue to do. As long as we continue to believe in this profession, then nothing and no one can destroy us. There are always alternatives to problems, never give up. PRAC only succeeds because the people involved believe in one another and helping one another. We believe in unity and the spirit that's in it. I will continue to beat the drum and to look at the positive instead of the negatives. I will continue to boost the spirits of those who need it, and help those who ask it of me. The future can change for the positive if we make it do so. It's up to each of us. I know that I still believe in that childhood dream, and I never regret that I turned "right" instead of "left."



Conference News

(Continued from Page 1.)

Friday ends with what I think will be the most fun of the entire conference—**Casino Night**. We are working hard to keep our costs way down on this event, that way we can pass our savings on to you. Essentially, we will have Blackjack Tables, a Roulette Wheel and a Craps Table available for you enjoyment. Everyone will get some free chips as part of their conference registration, so don't be shy. In addition, we will be providing food, drinks and a D. J., so even if you don't gamble you can come and have a great time. The Casino Night raffle works this way. You buy chips to gamble with, when the casino closes you turn in all the chips you have won for the raffle tickets. (If you don't gamble, you can buy raffle tickets.) Once again, the Donations Committee is thinking BIG! There should be great prizes up for grabs.

On **Saturday** we will have vehicle displays from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM. This has been a popular event

in the past, so it's back by popular demand. Saturday night has been set aside for the traditional Banquet and Awards Ceremony. The main raffle prizes will be drawn during the Banquet. The best Grand Prize has been reserved for this raffle. Make sure you order plenty of tickets.

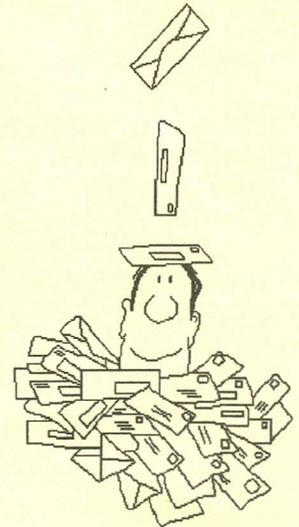
Sunday is the last day of the conference. There will be a special roundtable discussion on Sunday morning where we will be discussing the use of concessionaires in parks. The Closing Speaker is scheduled for 10:30 AM to noon. After lunch we will be hosting the traditional Golf Tournament. Not quite so traditional, there will be a Shooting Contest, (probably a combat range), to be held at a nearby rifle range. Prizes for both of these events are also being donated.

So, there you have it! It's a lot to fit into four days. Be sure get plenty of rest beforehand. As you can see, the Local Host Committee will be very busy. They are responsible for

hosting the registration table, marking the Fun Run course; introducing speakers. They will also be handing out and getting back session critique forms; decorations for Casino Night and the Banquet; and a million other things. **We need help.** If you live in the local area, you can call Raleigh Young at (408) 867-0410.

It's not too late for you to get your ideas in to us. What do you think we should include in the 1993's Conference?

What do you think about what we've already started? Please feel free to give me a call if you'd like to discuss it. I can be reached at:
(408)
277-5130.



Moreno Valley Park Rangers

by

L. Lawrence Baird, Moreno Valley Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee

We all have our pet peeves and one of mine is various government agencies not working together and often working against one another. I am pleased to announce that I have found just the opposite in the pending development of the Moreno Valley City Park Ranger program.

It has been over two years from the original idea of City Park Rangers in Moreno Valley to the present point.

My intent here is to thank those from other organizations who have helped our recruiting effort and brag a bit about the Orange County Park Ranger Reserve Program.

Soliciting applications from the general public is required but seldom brings qualified applications so we asked for help and received it in abundance.

Park Rangers Association of California supplied the membership list that brought a good amount of

applicants. Orange County Department of Harbors, Beaches and Parks bent over backward for us. They sent copies of our request for applications to all parks, put the information on the inner-park computer network and published the job openings in the Reserve Ranger newsletter. The results were outstanding! The City of Moreno Valley received over 300 applications. The top 16 were selected for the first interview. Of those 16, more than one third were graduates of the Orange County Park Ranger Academy. The next phase will be the final interview and I have just learned that three out of the top four are also present or former Orange County Park Ranger Reserves.

I'm sure that I speak for Moreno Valley Parks & Recreation Department in extending our thanks to all those who extended a helping hand in our recruiting process. Other agencies and organizations would do well to learn from this example.

Oaks—The National Tree

by Dabney Smith

Park Ranger, Santa Clara County

In 1990 the National Tree Committee of the international Society of Arbor-culture selected the Oak as the National Tree of the United States. Even with this status, Oaks are threatened as habitats are lost to agriculture, grazing, woodcutting, flood control and urbanization. There are eleven species of true oaks found in California. Four of these can be found here at Uvas Canyon Park.

In Uvas Canyon Park, scrub oak (*Quercus dumosa*) can be found intermingled with chamise, sage and manzanita in the dryer northwest portion of the park. The twigs and branches of the scrub oak are strong and leathery. If people try to force their way through a heavy stand of scrub oak, they will suffer from deep and painful scratches. Early Spanish speaking settlers gave the name "chapparo" to the scrub oak. Cowboys developed leather "chaps" to protect their legs when riding through it. The plant community favored by the scrub oak is called chaparral.

Canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) has many folk names: maul, golden-cup, iron, hickory, goldleaf, California mountain or Spanish live oak. Canyon live oak heads the list

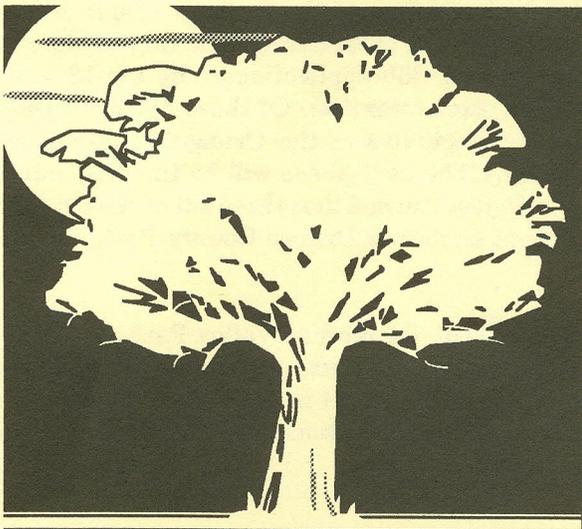
because cool rocky canyons like Uvas are what it loves the best. The color of the foliage is one of the great beauties of this oak. The leaves are bright yellow-green above, and on the underside are covered with a yellow fuzz, hence the name "goldenleaf." The wood is strong and shock resistant. Loggers, from the last century in Uvas Canyon, used this oak for the slugs or buck-pointed wedges with iron rimmed heads for splitting redwood ties. In the days of wooden ships, canyon live oak was used for compass timber. Carriage makers sought out the wood as unsurpassed as a fuel wood in caloric (heat) value.

The botanical history of the coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) indicates that it was the first tree specimen from California to be taken to Europe. The first and only scientific reconnaissance the Spanish government made in California was the 1791 Malaspina Expedition. Botanists of the expedition described the coast live oak and called it "encina" because it resembled oaks of the Mediterranean world. The Spanish also associated the tree with properties of fertility. These trees were found to be desirable around locations for houses. Franciscan fathers followed this theory and founded missions in the narrow chaparral belt and coastal areas of California from San Francisco, south. Although coast live oak has a strong hard wood, it was never exploited as a timber tree. This is because it has an eccentric growth pattern, causing a shortness of the main trunk and frequent branching near the base.

Only the canyon live oak surpasses the coast live oak for heat value as fire-

wood. Because of the high fuel value, the wood of the coast live oak was in great demand in the days of sailing ships. Spanish Californians, in response to tempting prices offered by sailing vessels, cut considerable quantities of this oak along the coast. As early as 1859, in Santa Barbara, the city council levied a tax for the benefit of the city treasury on the countless wagon loads of oak wood that went to the sailing ships. Having lost its original oak groves, Santa Barbara has been replanted by non-native trees. The same story can be told for other California cities up and down the coast. Also with creeping urbanization of California comes the practice of diverting streams, laying drainage pipes, and lowering water tables by sinking wells. These acts have all combined to strike, literally, at the roots of the live oak's life. In no other part of the United States are population and building increasing so rapidly as in the range of the coast live oak. Unless recognized by homeowners, developers, real estate agents and city councils, that every oak is a precious asset, the future of this tree is dark.

California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) is also known as the Kellogg or mountain black oak. This oak is named for its dark, checked and furrowed bark. Although named for its bark, the tree is better for its vivid foliage! When the tree leafs out in the spring, the unfolding leaves are bright pink or crimson. Mature leaves turn a bright glossy green. Finally, before they drop in the autumn, California black oak leaves turn a brilliant orange-yellow. The black oak leaves are larger than most other native oaks—they grow up to ten inches long and are jaggedly lobed with veins running out beyond the leaf margins as fine bristles. The wood is strong, but



Continued on page 5.

Biking It!

By Chris George

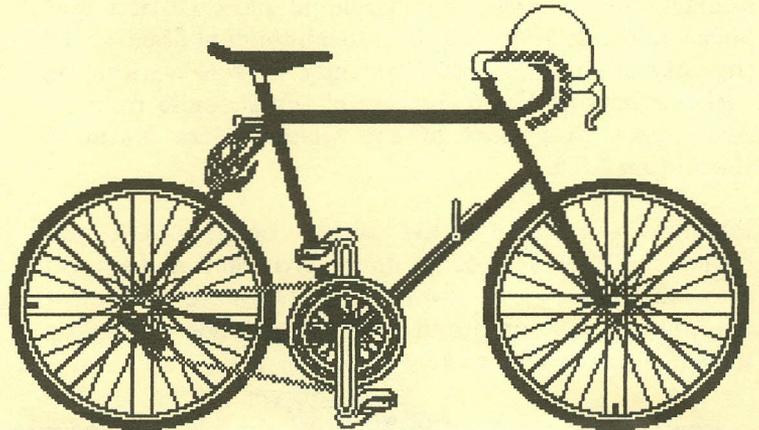
Recently, the City of Anaheim has incorporated into its Park Ranger Program, a bike patrol unit. This unit is designed to patrol certain key downtown parks that are currently being overwhelmed with gang and drug problems.

The bike unit's primary responsibility is to promote public relations with park patrons. The two person team gives a personal touch to answering questions about the city's parks and facilities. They may also be called upon if needed, to administer first aid or CPR in a medical emergency.

However, the bike units second responsibility is to act a "visual" deterrent against the negative elements that may also be using the parks. Since Anaheim Park Rangers are non-sworn officers, they must depend on the city's police force to do any enforcement. If the bike team meets any criminal activities that go

beyond the normal minor advisement, the leader of the unit can contact the police directly through a portable hand held radio. The situation is turned over to the police upon their arrival. They symbiotic relationship between the police and rangers has led to a great success for the program.

The park rangers who participate in the unit, take great pride in their work. The teams that ride, wear a specialized uniform and ride identical mountain bikes which were partially donated by a local bike dealer. The unit carries bike bags mounted on the back of the bikes, that contain first aid and CPR equipment, and con-



densed specialized report forms that can be neatly stored away. Each bike is brightly marked so that easy identification can be made.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Anaheim Park Ranger Bike Unit, is invited to write or call for more information at the address below.

Anaheim City Park Ranger Program
Bike Patrol Unit
200 S. Anaheim Blvd.
Anaheim, CA 92805
(714) 254-5226

Oaks—The National Tree

(Continued from page 5.)

heavy and not long lasting. Ranchers in the eastern part of California cut it for fencing and burn it for household fuel. Though of poor wood quality, it is in demand, with the rising price of lumber making black oak commercially valuable. Modern milling, combining air and kiln drying has turned out some fair quality lumber.

Tanbark or tan oak (*Lithocarpus densiflora*) botanically falls between the Chinquapins and the Oaks, in the Beech Family. The tan oak resemble the true oaks because they have acorns, but the tan oak nut is surrounded at the base by a cup with long recurved scales. This gives the cup a burr-like appearance like beechnuts. The tan oak is consistently found in the redwood belt of

the California coast. This tree was cut in great quantities, about the time of the California Gold Rush, for the tannin in its bark. Tannic acid was used to process leather, Peeling the tree of its bark was done in the summer when the sap was flowing in the trees. Bark was peeled in four foot slabs, after the tree was cut. The slabs were left to dry for a month, then stored in sheds to finish drying. It was then ground to pulp and placed in huge vats ten or twelve feet square. Here the pulp was boiled to extract the tannic acid. The extract was stored in barrels and shipped to such places as Benicia and Redwood City where it was used to tan leather. Now, tanning materials can be imported for less than the cost of hauling bark out of the woods. This is just as well, for the methods used by bark peelers were very wasteful. Wood from the tan oak has been used for a variety of

lumber products: flooring, paneling, veneer, plywood, pallets, boat parts, pulp, railroad ties, decking, fuelwood, and mine timbers.

References:

W. S. Head The California Chaparral, Naturegraph, 1972, Healdsburg, CA.

Donald Peattie, The Natural History of Western Trees, University of Nebraska Press, 1953.

Ray Raphael, An Everyday History of Somewhere, Knopf Publisher, 1974.

Sunset, 1990, Oaks.

Oaks and Folks, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California Cooperative Extension, Department of Resource Management.

A Tribute to Dedicated "Parkie"

William Penn Mott, Jr., passed away in Orinda, CA on September 21, 1992, after a battle with pneumonia. He was 82.

A lifelong environmentalist, W. P. Mott was a landscape architect by training. He was best known for being the Director of the National Park Service from 1984 to 1988 during the Reagan administration. Before his national appointment, Mr Mott had been the head of the California Department of Parks and Recreation from 1967 to 1975 for the then-Governor Reagan.

Even before all these high level posts, William Mott was involved with smaller agencies. He was the general manager for the East Bay Regional Park District and before that Mr. Mott was the superintendent of parks for the City of Oakland. Most recently, he was working on such projects as the transition of the Presidio from an Army Post to a part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Mr. Mott is survived by his brother, Douglas Mott, and his sons William P. Mott III, John Davis Mott and several grandchildren. Services were held on Sunday, September 27, 1992, in Oakland, and was well attended by many park rangers and other park supporters.



Park Ranger— An Endangered Species

Submitted by Chris George

The following article was written by Costa Rican Ranger, Alexis Seguar C. and appeared the "Ranger," the journal of the Association of National Park Rangers summer issue, and was translated from Spanish to English by their president.

"I have begun to think that we really are an endangered species. Many of our colleagues have resigned, and we now have more responsibilities without increase in wages. The question is, why has this happened since only a short time ago, our species was flowering like a tree in spring? I know this has happened because the lack of incentives has caused many of us to leave, and never return. The curious thing is that when I hear others talking about the protected areas that 'we' have established, that the park rangers who endure hunger, illness, danger, and other problems to make it possible for others to speak boastfully about what 'we' have done. We have suffered important losses, but many people seem to think that the institution is the principle thing, not the people who have made the system great with their hard work.

"We are going to have to take very good care of ourselves because, in spite of having made a major contribution to conservation, we are, sadly enough, disappearing. To save park rangers from extinction, the government is going to have to provide us with enough benefits to make us feel that we are an important part of the process of conserving our nation's heritage.

"We are, unfortunately, condemned to extinction, and although we are leaving tracks along the way, no one seems to want to see them."

As I Hold a Rough Skinned Newt

by Scott D. Serena

When it rains the newts come out.
The moisture lures them from under
ground and rotting logs, to seek
the waters of nearby streams or
ponds.

Some signal given, time to lay the
jellied mass of eggs, and stick
them to a rock or twig beneath the
waters' surface.

When it rains the newts come out.
I see their shiny golden eyes as they

walk across the road.
I make it a habit to stop my car and
help them (hopeless romantic that
I am) and by the glow of head
lights, pick them up.

I hold them for a moment, their tiny
hands grip mine.

Black skin wet with rain, belly
orange yellow.

Not slimy, nor scaly, a texture
unique.

At the edge of the road I set them
down.

They walk away slowly, and do not
look back.

When it rains the newts come out,
and the morning after it rains, the
road is littered with the corpses of
those I did not save.

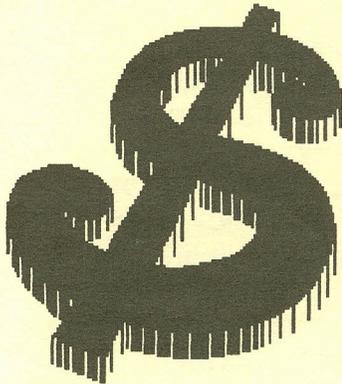
Scott Serena is a Park Ranger for
the US Army Corps of Engineers,
at the San Francisco Bay Model
Visitor Center in Sausalito, CA.

"How to Create Revenue for Your Park Ranger Program in Hard Times"

by Chris George

The City of Anaheim first created its park ranger program back in 1980. During that time, park rangers began patrolling limited parks and certain school districts located in the city.

As time progressed and reputation of the park ranger program increased, the idea of park rangers doing patrol checks of parks and schools became a popular idea.

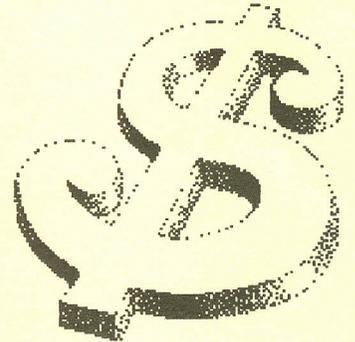


Today agreements with four local school districts has enabled the program to expand by providing the same professional services for school playgrounds and athletic fields as that of the city's 38 parks. Many of these school facilities are used as recreational open space

by the public and in many cases are directly next to or located near an existing park site. The agreement generates over \$67,000 annually in revenue and has enabled the city to increase the number park rangers in the field during peak use hours without impacting the general fund. This inter-agency cooperation has increased visibility and significantly reduced vandalism, public alcohol consumption and other problems while enhancing the park ranger program's level of service to the public.

For further information, please write or call:

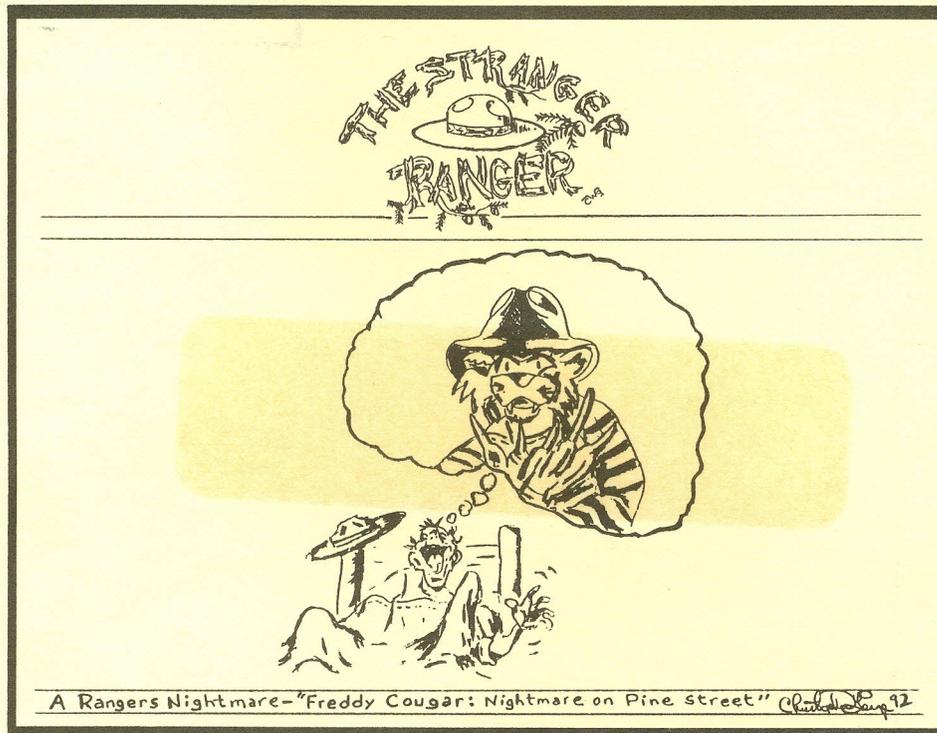
Chief Park Ranger
Chris George
City of Anaheim Park
Ranger Program
200 S. Anaheim Blvd.
Anaheim, CA 92805
714) 254-5226



Natural Resources Communication Workshop

Two sessions of the Natural Resources communication Workshop will be held in 1993 at California State University, Chico. The dates will be January 4-8 and January 11-15, 1993. The week-long workshop is designed to help natural resource workers more effectively communicate with the general public through personal

presentations using good visual aids—especially 35mm slides. Since many of the problems in natural resources management are people-oriented, more effective communication can significantly improve many management programs.



The hands-on workshop is practical-oriented and enhances participants' communication skills in planning, preparing, presenting, and evaluating presentations. A variety of topics are covered including selecting communication strategies for specific audiences, creating graphics, and handling equipment problems. A special session entitled "Verbal Judo" provides hints for handling difficult, or even hostile audiences.

The workshop has been sponsored by the Western Section of the Wildlife Society for 22 years. The deadline for applications is November 6, 1992; the course fee is \$350.00. For information, contact Dr. Jon K. Hooper, Dept. Recreation and Parks Management, Calif. State University, Chico, CA 95929-0560 or call (916) 898-5811.

A Rangers Nightmare—"Freddy Cougar: Nightmare on Pine street" Chris George '92

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Editor
David Brooks
City of Santa Cruz, Water Dep.
(408) 336-2948

Office Manager
Doug Bryce
Office (916) 383-2530
Fax (916) 387-1179

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Submissions should be mailed to David Brooks, 560 Hillcrest Dr., Ben Lomond, CA, 95005. Information can also be submitted by telephone at (408) 336-2948. Submission deadlines are the last day of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

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city _____ state _____ zip _____

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Employer or School _____

Job Classification or Major _____

Voting Membership

Regular \$35 _____

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Agency:
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Park Rangers Association of California
P O Box 292010
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