

San Jose Hosts NRPA Congress by Bill Hendricks

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Annual Conference is being held in our backyard this year! The Congress will take place October 20-24, 1993 at the San Jose Convention Center. More than 300 educational sessions and a three day job mart (Is

your agency on the cutting block?) are highlights of the conference.

Of potential interest to park rangers and managers are the following sessions:

Wednesday, October 20

Bridging the Gap: Bringing trails and assistive technologies together to make nature accessible to all

Muwekma/Ohlone Indians of San Francisco Bay—cultural survivors

Planning a maintenance program and estimating resource requirements for new park facilities

Finding and eliminating park tree hazards

Thursday, October 21

Keynote Speaker—Ted Gaebler, co-author of "Reinventing Government; How the Entrepreneurial Spirit is Transforming the Public Sector"

Community involvement in park protection programs

Open space—the ongoing California experiment

People, horses and mountain bikes—trails for urban America

Successful conservation partnerships

Benefits of parks and recreation initiatives

Friday, October 22

Naturalizing parks—the continuing environmental challenge

Getting down to basics: A look at nude recreation (Don't ask, but I knew a few of you would be interested!)

Community trail economics

Saturday, October 23

Forum: Accessibility for recreation facilities and outdoor developed areas

New activities and safety factors in adventure recreation

The role of beauty and harmony in outdoor recreation and conservation

Restoration of an aging park system

Open space standards

Park environmental education in the 90's—survival or extinction during cutbacks

Sustainable urban park development and maintenance

In addition, the research symposium has a section on outdoor planning and management in which current research is presented by park and recreation professionals and scholars. Obviously, there are other sessions that will cater to individual interests. This list should at least let you determine if the Conference is worth your time and money—it is expensive.

For further information contact: Convention Manager, NRPA, 2775 S. Quincy Street, Suite 300, Arlington, Virginia 22206; (703) 820-4940 ext. 556.

CSPRA-PRAC Workshop Planning Committee Meets

The first meeting of the 1994 workshop planning committee was held at the Sheraton in Riverside, the site of next years workshop/conference. Tracks on resource management, operations and interpretation are being planned as are tours of the Mission Inn, local parks and more. A barbecue is being planned at Citrus Heritage State Park and a top notch golf tournament is being planned. The dates are March 7 thru March 10, 1994.

Northern California Regional Training

PRAC Regions 1, 2 and 3 will be holding a one day training workshop called "Legal Update and the Ranger Bill of Rights."

This 6-8 hour workshop is still in the planning stages. The exact date, location and speakers are being lined up by your Regional Directors. The target date is sometime in late September or early October. This training will be held somewhere in the San Francisco Bay Area, possibly in Walnut Creek.

Keep watching your mail for further datiaails!

From the Presidents' Desk

By Bob Donohue

In the general public's eye park rangers have the perfect job. We do nothing but patrol the great outdoors. As a whole I believe they are right. I know I have the perfect job. I see my job as having three aspects—law enforcement, public relations, and education.

Law enforcement is a necessary part of the job as seen by the shooting of a ranger in Yosemite and recently the Long Beach rangers involvement in a gang shootout. Fortunately none of the rangers involved were seriously injured. Unfortunately, incidences like these are happening more and more. If we are to keep parks safe from human encroachment and abuse, and park patrons safe from each other, then law enforcement is critical.

Public relations is important because it directly involves the visitors enjoyment or use of a park. A public relations contact can be both an enforcement and an educational contact. There are times when a warning is as beneficial as a citation. When you see a list of regulations for parks there are usually a multitude of don'ts and only a few do's. We make an ordinarily law abiding citizen a law breaker through ignorance or confusion of the regulations. A warning is not always appropriate, especially when destruction of property or other peoples enjoyment of the park is involved. Then we can employ "pocket book education" called the citation. Public relations is something a ranger is involved with every day while on the job.

Education happens to be my favorite part of the job. Through education we can eliminate some of our enforcement problems. In Chico we started an outreach program four years ago. I have had the opportunity to speak to about 3000 school age chil-

dren and several hundred adults. We were having a problem with trash just being thrown anywhere in the park, except in the trash cans, a problem every park is familiar with. Through the outreach program we have been able to substantially lower our trash problem and heighten peoples pride and awareness of the park. We have also been able to educate large blocks of people to the rules of the park and especially the unique rules that we have. By explaining the rules in a non-enforcement setting they tend to understand the reason for the rule and are more likely to abide by them. In teaching the history and the natural wonders of the park, I have found a renewed interest in the park by the local patrons. When people take pride in their park system it makes our job that much easier.

In order for this to take place the ranger staff must be well trained and educated. That is where PRAC shines. Each year we have several training sessions, including the annual conference. PRAC gives the type of training that will benefit the ranger profession the most. This training is one of the main member benefits. If there is some training or class being given that you feel would be of benefit to PRAC and it's members let your regional director know and we will do our best to get it scheduled.

PRAC is only as good as it's membership. **Membership is the lifeblood of any organization.** We all should be seeking new members. PRAC has a lot to offer it's members and by the next conference we will have some exciting new benefits to announce.

In closing, I want to wish Kim Aufhauser a speedy and complete recovery from the wounds he suffered as a result of the shooting in Yosemite Park. Our prayers and good wishes go with him.

Budget Cuts From a Taxpayer's Viewpoint by L. Lawrence Baird

Every agency and department is feeling the pinch. Who's going to be next, will it be you and can you prevent it? The answer is yes!

The taxpayers who put pressure on their elected officials are mad as hell and they don't want to take it any longer. They are fed up with high paid managers and the parts of government that they consider fluff rather than substance. It's the same attitude that brought on the reduction in revenue provided by Proposition 13. Many government agencies have developed special tax districts to circumvent Proposition 13 and many of those districts fund parks. Rather than providing small increases each year as Proposition 13 provides, many districts have raised fees as high as they could get away with. One city

increased fees by over 400% in less than 10 years. This can only go on so long before taxpayers revolt.

But how do you protect you job? I know that most rangers did not apply for their current positions to become police officers, firemen or emergency medical technicians, but in the public eye those are the most important functions of government. If given a choice between eliminating a manager, a naturalist or someone that many save your life, which would you choose? The same question confronts the taxpayers. So the answer is quite clear. Make sure that your job includes public safety functions and you are safe. **Your** job will be the last to go.

Second Annual "PIE" Conference

The second annual Protecting Integrity and Ethics (PIE) conference will be held November 5 & 6 in Washington, D.C. Sponsored by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), this year's conference will involve employees from state and federal environmental and land management agencies. The focus of the conference will be to help ethical public resource managers bring scientific integrity and commitment to environmental protection to their respective agencies. The conference will continue to support employee demands for the rights of assembly and protected speech as a prerequisite for the ethical and trustworthy management of America's natural resources.

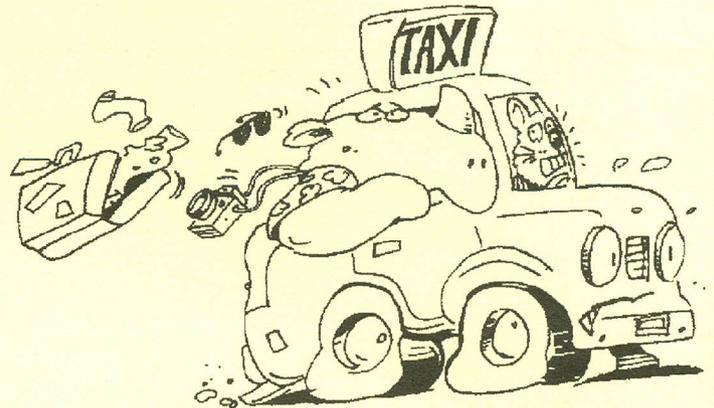
Part of PEER's strategy is to "bridge the gap"—effectively bypassing special interests, who, according to Jeff DeBonis, the executive director of PEER, "have embedded themselves into the decision-making process at many of the environmental and land

management agencies at the expense of the American taxpayer and the environment." Several high-level officials in the Clinton Administration have been invited to speak at the November conference, including Vice-President Al Gore and Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt. Their presence should highlight PEER's commitment to working with the Clinton Administration to reinvent government and turn around the environmentally disastrous policies of the past twelve years.

According to Government Accountability Project attorney Jeff Ruch, who is also chief counsel for PEER, "the coalition of whistleblowers joined at last year's conference led to the creation of PEER." At last year's conference, sponsored by GAP and the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (AFSEEE), participants voiced the need for a broad-based organization that could offer support to employees

from all environmental and land management agencies who speak out against fraud, waste, and abuse witnessed at the workplace. According to DeBonis, "Support for PEER has been tremendous because there is so much pent-up frustration within these agencies for change....PEER is like a relief valve."

DeBonis explains, "PEER was founded on the belief that the energy, commitment and expertise of honest employees within the system who seek to serve the public are an essential component of sound resource management and environmental protection." The second PIE conference represents the growth of an ethical employee movement. If you would like more information about the PIE conference or PEER, please call, fax, or write to: PEER, 810 First St., NE, Suite 680, Washington, D.C. 20002, telephone (202) 408-0041, fax (202) 408-9855.



Yosemite Ranger Survives Shooting by Patty Walker

July 16, 1993

One of America's busiest national parks was shut down as police and rangers searched for a gunman who had shot Ranger Kim Aufhauser. Ranger Aufhauser at 10:15 PM had pulled over to check on a "suspicious pedestrian" while patrolling the Tioga Pass Highway.

Aufhauser barely got a glimpse of the man before three shots rang out. The ranger was shot once in the left leg and took two shots to the chest, but was saved by the bullet-proof vest he was wearing.

Aufhauser managed to get off three shots himself before the gunman disappeared into the forest. He then staggered back to the patrol vehicle and radioed for help. He was treated and released from the hospital in Mammoth Lakes. At last report, he was hobbling around ok on crutches.

Aufhauser joined the National Park Service in 1975 and came to Yosemite as a ranger in 1986. In 1991, he left the Service to take a job teaching at West Valley College in Saratoga. He continues to work as a park ranger in the summers for

NPS at Yosemite. He has become a very popular instructor at West Valley College.

Aufhauser was given the U.S. Department of Interior's medal of valor for risking his life when he rappelled 180 feet down the face of a waterfall with fellow ranger Joe Sumner to rescue a hiker who had fallen down a cliff and become trapped in a gorge.

Aufhauser was a guest speaker at the March 1993 conference in Santa Clara.

PEER Preview

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) is a new association of government resource managers, scientists, biologists, and others committed to upholding the public trust through responsible management of the nations' environment and natural resources. It addresses the essential need for a well-spring of integrity and ideas for reform from within government.

With PEER, there is a tremendous opportunity to transform government's role in environmental preservation in the 1990's. The American people have voted for "change" in leadership from the White House to Congress to state houses across the country. It is a change born both of hope that democracy can work to improve our collective well-being and anger that government has become a tool to benefit special interests at the expense of the whole of our society and the health of the planet.

Environmental issues are at the heart of this tension. Government agencies charged with natural resource management protection embody the democratic mandate to safeguard the quality of life for all and future generations. At the same time, many of these federal de-

partments and agencies—such as Interior, Agriculture, EPA, and Energy—serve as commodity brokers of the same resources they are intended to protect. Pervasive special interests are historically inbred in the relationship between government, industry, and the environment.

The structural conflicts of interest and values are represented with agency personnel. Some enlisted to serve the public as agents of environmental protection. Others serve the cause of commodity extraction. The record of the past twelve years is clear: management authority is vested in those who favor industry. Agency decisions have been driven more by the short-term economics than by sound environmental science.

The new Administration's commitment to conservation and environmental innovation offers a rare historic moment for a realignment of priorities within natural resource and environmental protection agencies. But change at the top of government is not enough. Without information and diligence from government employees on the front lines of defense against environmental denigration there is little

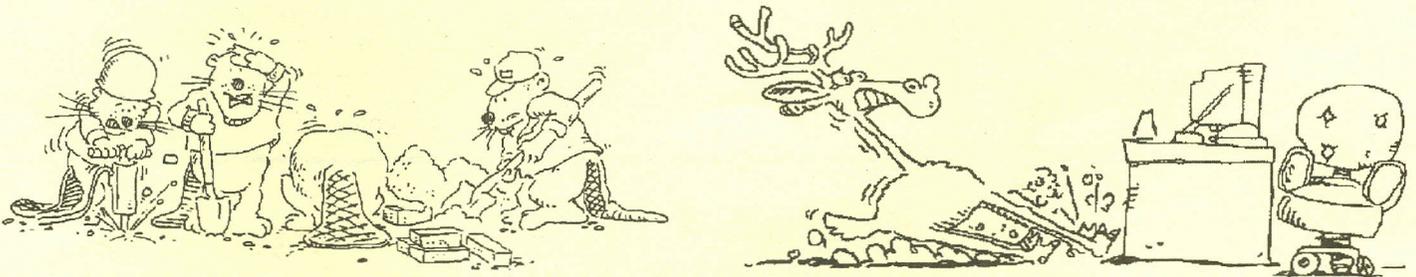
likelihood the agencies will change. Meaningful reform will all too easily fall prey to the many layers of institutionalized corruption and ineptness with these agencies.

PEER's objectives for the coming year are to:

- 1) Organize a broad base of support among employees within federal and state environmental agencies;
- 2) Inform the new Administration, Congress, state officials, the media, and the public about the substantive issues of concern to PEER associates;
- 3) Defend and strengthen the legal rights of public employees to speak out about environmental violations.

The formation of PEER represents an important step toward recognizing the valuable role that government employees can and must play as defenders of our environment and stewards of our natural resources.

For more information about PEER please call (202) 408-0041, fax (202) 408-9855, or write to: PEER, 810 First Street, NE, Suite 630, Washington DC 20002.



Plant Safety In Your Park by Bill Trunick

With all the rains that we have received this year there are abundant wildflowers that have not been seen by many people before. Some of these wildflowers, though being beautiful can cause rangers and visitors some problems. All of us know what Poison Oak looks like and how we are affected by it but there are other plants to be aware of

as well. I received a copy of *Your Guide for Plant Safety* from the San Francisco Bay Area Regional Poison Control Center. This leaflet has good safety tips for use in the home as well for parks. We should know what plants are in our parks and if they are toxic and the proper treatment for contact with the toxic plant.

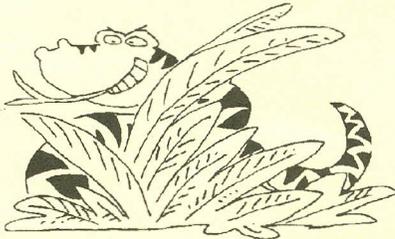
For your copy of *Your Guide for Plant Safety* contact the San Francisco Bay Area Regional Poison Control Center at San Francisco General Hospital, 1001 Potrero Ave, San Francisco, CA 94110 or call them at (415) 476-6600 or (800) 523-2222.

Plants for Parks by Bill Trunick

In times of budget crisis, who has the opportunity to gather seeds, plant them and all the other tending and nurturing the is necessary to obtain seedlings to plant? I know not my department. But we are able to get 150 seedlings (some Coastal Redwoods, Red Alders, and Black Oaks) from the California Department of Forestry L. A. Moran Reforestation Center in Davis. These seedlings were surplus from their sales to the general public, which are given to public agencies to be planted only on public lands. The only cost was for shipping.

The trees are available only after May. Be prepared to plant them right away. These plants can be re-potted and held thru the summer for fall planting. (Care must be taken to ensure their survival.) The seedlings are from a variety of seed zones so be able to tell the CDF staff the latitude and the elevation which the trees will be planted at so the best possible match can be made for your area.

For more information, contact the California Department of Forestry, L. A. Moran Reforestation Center, 5800 Chiles Rd., Davis, CA 95616 or call them at (916) 322-2299.



A big hello from Region 4, Southern California. "It is our duty to protect and serve all park users so that they are able to enjoy themselves in a peaceful atmosphere while they have fun at any of the parks."

The National Institute of Justice created the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS). The largest criminal justice information network in the world. They furnish research findings to individuals who use them to improve criminal justice and the criminal justice system. NCJRS operates specialized clearing houses that are staffed by infor-

Job Openings City of Santa Cruz

Park Ranger Open Space

Salary: \$1,944 to \$2, 672 per mo. Patrols, performs general maintenance and improvement work, assist with the enforcement of rules and regulations of recreation areas. Requires working knowledge of Ca Fish and Game codes, federal, state and local codes and ordinances; demonstrated ability to perform heavy manual labor; apply sound judgement in potentially hazardous and crisis situations; ride and care for horses and maintain equestrian equipment. Req hs grad or GED; park ranger exp, general maintenance and/or construction exp and exp involving public contact. Apply by Sept. 15, 1993.

For requirement application and supplemental questionnaire contact City of Santa Cruz, 337 Locust St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (408) 429-3616 Cal Relay 1-800-735-2929. AA/EOE/ ADA

Recreation Supervisor Aquatics Program

Salary: \$2,487 to \$3,333 per mo. Plans, organizes, promotes, supervises aquatics program, including pools, beaches and ocean related programs. Req working knowledge of principles and practices of providing pool and ocean lifeguard services, including EMT and ocean rescue techniques; budget development and control; good written skills; ability to supervise staff. Req BA in recreation or related field and one year responsible administrative exp coordinating community programs/events including some supervisory exp. Requires current cert in CPR. Apply by Sept. 8, 1993.

City of Fremont Park Ranger

The City of Fremont will shortly be recruiting candidates for a full time, permanent Park Ranger position. The Fremont Park Ranger class specification encompasses a wide variety of park visitor support services. The specific announcement opening date has not yet been determined although it is anticipated for late August.

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact the City of Fremont Personnel Department to file an Employment Interest Form. When the Park Ranger opening is announced, those persons with Employment Interest Forms on file will receive notification by mail. You may call the Fremont Personnel Department at (510) 494-4660 to complete this form over the telephone.

Region 4 News By Lt. Donald B. Watstein

mation specialists who supply a range of reference, referral, and distribution services.

Criminal justice professionals fighting to stem the tide of drugs and crime in their communities are faced with tough decisions every day. They need the best information available to guide their decision making .

The mission of the National Institute of Justice is to help provide that information by putting its research, development, and evaluation findings into the hands of those who

can put them to active use.

This is a free service to all registered users of the National Institute of Justice/NCJRS. To become a registered user, write of call NCJRS:

National Institute of Justice/NCJRS
Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850
(800) 851-3420

Its free to all members of the Park Rangers Association of California. So register now!

PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

Board Officers
1993

President

Bob Donohue
(916) 895-4972
Fax (916) 342-6921

Region 1 Director

Bill Trunick
(707) 527.2041

Region 2 Director

Carol Fredrickson
(408) 277-4045

Region 3 Director

Dave Lydick
(916) 366-2072

Region 4 Director & PLEA Liaison

Donald Watstein
(805) 584-4440
FAX (805) 526-7648

Region 5 Director

Ron Slimm
(714) 858-9366

Past President

Chris George
(714) 254-5226
FAX (714) 254-5223

"The Signpost" & "Cal Ranger" Editor

David Brooks
(408) 336-2948

Office Manager

Doug Bryce
Office (800) 994-2530
Local (916) 558-3734
Fax (916) 387-1179

The *Signpost* is published by the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC). The Association mailing address is P.O. Box 292010, Sacramento, CA, 95829. The *Signpost* Editor is David Brooks. Articles of 1,000 words, or less are welcome. All submissions become property of PRAC and may be edited without notice.

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.

Membership Application

name _____		
address _____		
city _____	state _____	zip _____
Phone _____	home _____	work _____
Employer or School _____		
Job Classification or Major _____		

Voting Membership	
Regular	\$35 _____
Non-voting Membership	
Agency:	
(1-10 persons—2 mailings)	\$45 _____
(11-50 persons—5 mailings)	\$70 _____
(50+ persons— 10 mailings)	\$90 _____
Student	\$10 _____
Associate	\$15 _____
Supporting	\$50 _____

Park Rangers Association of California
P O Box 292010
Sacramento, CA 95829-2010
(800) 994-2530 FAX (916) 387-1179

Park Rangers Association of California
P. O. Box 292010
Sacramento, CA 95829-2010

**BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NUMBER
12
Elk Grove, CA**

