



Goose Herding Dogs, a Unique Management Tool

By Sandy Ferreira

Since January of this year, the City Of Fremont has successfully been testing and using goose herding Border Collie dogs to alleviate the problems that occur with an ever growing population of resident Canada Geese. These geese are persistent grazers and can take out a blade of grass in a moments notice not to mention the soiling of picnic areas, turf degradation and numerous droppings everywhere.

Public response has continued to be good. Many park visitors who come to watch the dogs work are amazed at how efficient they herd the geese. The trainer arrives at a location where there are flocks of geese. The dogs are let out of their kennels and immediately they move towards the geese. When the geese see the dogs, they immediately begin moving towards the water or take flight.

If your park is being damaged by excessive waterfowl and you want a canine solution that works, call the GOOSE BUSTERS—the experienced goose herding dogs. The contact person is Jan Scott @ (925) 829-3706, e-mail: Breaker5@Juno.com. Look for more information on this unique management tool at the upcoming 1999 conference.



Region 4 Training

By George Struble

Rangers in Region 4 and nearby Region 5 are invited to attend a workshop to improve their job skills.

The working title of the training is Interpretive Techniques for the Non-Interpretive Ranger. We have all been in the position where we find ourselves asked a question that we cannot answer, or asked to identify flora or fauna that we are unfamiliar with. This training will assist you in knowing where to locate the answers, and how to better prepare yourself for the next time a situation like this arises.

The training will be held on September 30, 1998. It will be an 8-hour training session and the cost will be \$20 for members and \$25 for non-PRAC members. Lunch will be included. The time and location of the training are still to be determined, but in the interest of meeting the *Signpost* deadline, I am providing what information I can.

Watch the mail for additional information. (You may receive a mailer before you read this in the *Signpost*.)

We look forward to seeing you September 30.

Natural Resources Communication Workshop

The Natural Resources Communication Workshop will be held at California State University, Chico from January 11-15, 1999. 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 Victories" provides hints for handling difficult, or even hostile, audiences.

This year's workshop will be expanded to 5 full days (from the previous 4 1/2-day format). This new format gives participants more "hands-on" lab time for creating graphics, especially computer-generated graphics. As a special bonus, participants will receive a copy of "Effective Slide Presentations- A

Continued on page 7

From the President's Favorite Shade Tree

by Russ Hauck

As the father of four boys, I have quite logically become involved with the Boy Scouts of America. I just returned from a week at summer camp, and I would like to share a couple of ideas with you that I have run across in recent weeks.

One of the staples of the Scouting program is the merit badge. A boy will learn the subject matter in a particular field of study. When certain requirements are met, he is rewarded with a merit badge for that particular subject. There are 120 different subjects covering a wide range of material. For each of these merit badges, a booklet is produced containing information on the listed subject. I have found these booklets to be quite useful in preparing interpretive programs. Here are several reasons why.

***Appropriate subject matter:** There are booklets for Bird Study, Botany, Environmental Science, Fish and Wildlife Management, Geology, Insects, Indian Lore, Mammals, Reptiles and Nature to name a few.*

***Material is available Worldwide:** The Boy Scouts of America produces the second largest amount of printed material (behind the United States Government). These booklets can be found anywhere Boy Scouts can be found.*

***The material is factual:** The booklets are written by experts in each particular field, and are updated every few years to include any changes.*

***Target Audience:** The merit badge booklets are written for young men around the age of twelve, or sixth grade, which has been suggested as the age/grade level for which you should prepare your programs.*

***Charts and Graphs:** The booklets contain some wonderful charts and graphs that can be enlarged on a copier to be used during your presentation. As long as you are using the material in this context, and not reproducing it for use in another publication, I don't imagine the organization would be too concerned about copyright issues.*

***The Price is Right:** The cost of each booklet is about \$1.75 which is more than reasonable for the 40 to 80 page booklets.*

The other topic I wanted to write about is storytelling: The Director of the camp that we attended is a wonderful storyteller, and has in fact written a book of campfire stories. (I don't want to step on Smitty's toes and do a book report, so if you are interested in knowing the name of the book or the author, get in touch with me and I'll forward the info.)

When this gentleman told a story, I was not only mesmerized by the story, but I found myself studying him, paying attention to his pauses, his inflections, his gestures, his leading questions. If you ever have the chance to see a good storyteller, don't miss the opportunity. I found myself eager to work on my own technique after having heard him.

That's all for now. Stay safe!

1999 California Parks Conference

by Sandy Ferreira

I will be handling the recruitment of Vendors and Exhibitors for next year's conference. If you have any suggestions for unique vendors or exhibitors that you would like to see at the conference, please give me a call at (510) 791-4340.

I look forward to seeing you at the conference.

The Signpost

A Maintenance Plan?

“Geez, We Have Always Done it This Way Before!!!!”

by Tom Smith

I guess everyone knows (or should know) that in order to have efficiency in park operations, and control of the maintenance dollar, you have to have a viable maintenance plan. Plans give maintenance crews and park managers a systemic approach to getting the job done. Plans also give your crews an overview of why their jobs are so important to the agency and allows them to have more of a commitment to make the plan work. Have trouble justifying budgets? Plans help there, as well. Administrators who are dealing with the tight dollar need justification. “We have always done it that way before,” is not a justification. Good park managers become great record keepers. One important thing to remember is that plans mean little if they do not work. In order for plans to work, they have to be adaptable and flexible to change. How many times have you seen a plan developed and not communicated to staff, and shelved, never to be seen again?

In this issue, and the next, we will be presenting to you a method for the development of a maintenance plan for a park or park system. In 1991, the Manager of the then Northwest Unit of Santa Clara County Parks, made the decision to develop maintenance plans for all the units within his area. Each park did have some kind of maintenance plan, but most all had no standards, incomplete or no inventories, and few records to justify work loads and cost control. There also was the problem of constantly shifting personnel within the Department. There just had to be some kind of written plan to guide transferring and new employees. The “we have always done it that way” syndrome was rampant.

The Department had already spent a great deal of time and effort into a “Cost Containment Plan.” A lot of effort was put into this plan by both administration and field staff. When the plan was finished and the field attempt to implement it, it seemed

very confusing and extremely hard to put into action. Familiar? People did try, but gave up. No one seemed to give any guidance. There was no training in how to implement it. (Although I do not think that would have helped.) There were some standards in the document, but the plan did not contain frequencies. Also the inventory about what there was to be maintained was very incomplete. A classic example of a plan that didn't work. It can still be found on the shelves of park units throughout the system. All was not lost, however. There was enough in the plan to give a building block towards developing something that worked. Wanting to get everyone “singing off the same song sheet,” the author and the Unit Manager came up with a seven step plan for the development of a viable park maintenance plan.

In the next issue we will present this seven step plan.

Trail Users Give to Support the American River Parkway Trail System

Gary Kukkola

Sacramento County Park Ranger

December marked the kick-off of the new American River Parkway trail user voluntary donation program. Appealing to the trail user for support, the program generated over \$6,000 in revenue during the first six months of operation.

The department once considered developing a mandatory trail-user fee, but the idea had not been well received due to skepticism about the ability to enforce such a system, and a sense among many that a fee simply for walking or bicycling was not appropriate. The reaction to the idea

of a voluntary donation system, however, had been favorable, and there appeared to be a willingness on the part of many trail-users to participate.

The program, as endorsed by the Recreation and Park Commission, included the installation of five iron ranger self-payment receptacles at selected intervals along the bicycle trail. Next to the iron rangers are signs indicating “We Need Your Help.”

Although smaller donations are picked up from the payment receptacles daily, we have been extremely

pleased that many trail-users have chosen to send in checks through the mail, following the directions on the deposit envelopes, available at each donation site. It has been both surprising and gratifying to receive so many checks in the \$100 to \$50 range. I think it is reflective of the level-of-care and appreciation that the people in this community have for the Parkway.

The donations from this program are being placed in a Department trust fund to be used only for support of the trail improvements and services.

Trail Maintenance—Outslope

by David Weiss

In the last *Signpost* issue the trail maintenance column focused on waterbars as structures to facilitate trail drainage. This article will discuss outsloping and its effectiveness in preventing trail erosion.

“Outslope” means that a trail has an outside edge lower than its inside edge, which results in water draining quickly and continuously from the trail. Most sidehill hiking trails are constructed with an outslope. Outsloping is the primary method for getting water off the trail because it is effective, doesn’t require any special materials, and can be done almost anywhere. A properly outsloped trail doesn’t depend on waterbars, drain dips, culverts, or any other structure to prevent erosion, although these devices can be used nicely in conjunction with outslope.

A hiking trail is typically outsloped between 2–8% of its width. On a trail 4 feet wide, 2% is slightly less than one inch, ($.02 \times 48 = 0.96$), which means the trail will have its outside edge one inch lower than the inside edge. To determine how much outslope is needed, consider trail grade, size of the watershed, and presence of other drainage structures. In general, consider the following:

- steeper trails have a greater tendency to channel water and will therefore need more outslope
- gentle grades will be fine with just a slight outslope
- trails sections that drain large amounts of water will need more outslope
- waterbars or drain dips can decrease the amount of outslope needed
- walking on trails with more than 6% outslope can become uncomfortable, so avoid using a 7% or 8% for more than 50 feet

New trails are almost always built with both outslope and drain dips as reinforcement. The first winter will let you know if you need more outslope and if you need to add other drainage structures.

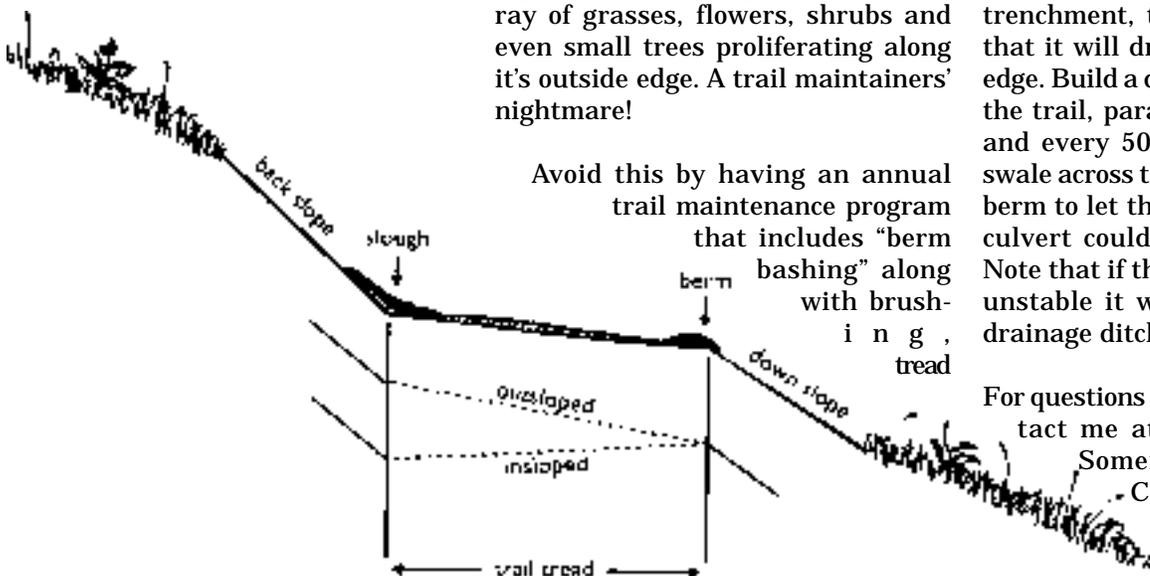
Sidehill trails that are not maintained will eventually form a gully down the middle and a berm along the outside edge, a condition referred to as entrenched. Entrenchment occurs because people prefer to use the center of the trail causing compaction there, and also any loose material tends to deposit on the less used outer edge. The berm will force water to run down the center of the trail, making the gully even deeper. Plants will start growing in the berm, making it bigger. After a while the trail will be nothing more than a deep rut with an array of grasses, flowers, shrubs and even small trees proliferating along its outside edge. A trail maintainers’ nightmare!

Avoid this by having an annual trail maintenance program that includes “berm bashing” along with brushing, treading

repairs, clearing waterbars, and slough removal. When removing the berm, if the soil is suitable, i.e. enough moisture that it will compact well, spread it over the trail surface and tamp it. Remove any organic matter before doing this. If the berm material is so dry or sandy that it won’t compact well, after breaking it up toss it down the hillside. I like using a Pulaski or mattock for breaking up the berm and a McLeod for grading and tamping. By loosening up varying amounts of soil from the berm and outside edge, you can leave the trail with varying degrees of outslope.

Some trails are not built with an outslope, but instead with an in-slope or a crown. Crowned trails, (high center, low sides), are reserved for special situations such as causeways, or trails crossing meadows and other broad, flat areas. In-sloped trails, (outer edge higher than the inside edge), are also used situationally. One example is the upper leg of a switchback. An outsloped trail here would send water downhill onto the lower leg of the switchback. Instead, build a section of in-sloped trail for 100 feet leading into the turning platform. Another place to use an in-sloped trail is when a berm has been allowed to grow so large that removing it would be impractical. Instead leave the berm intact and create an in-sloped trail. Fill and tamp any entrenchment, then grade the trail so that it will drain towards the inside edge. Build a drainage ditch alongside the trail, parallel to the inside edge, and every 50 feet or so construct a swale across the trail and through the berm to let the water get off. A small culvert could also be used for this. Note that if the backslope material is unstable it will slough and fill the drainage ditch.

For questions or comments please contact me at: David Weiss, 5170 Somersville Road, Antioch, CA, 94509, by phone 925,778-1904, or e-mail <weiss@ecis.com>.



Ranger shot and killed in the Great Smokey Mountains

By George Struble

In the last *Signpost* Pam Helmke submitted an article in memory of the fallen Rangers who gave their lives in the protection of our parks across the nation. May 15th was National Peace Officers Memorial Day. Sadly, the ranks of peace officers lost a National Park Service Ranger on June 21st. Ranger Joe Kolodski was shot and killed when he responded to a man with a gun call at one of the scenic overlooks in Great Smokey Mountains National Park.

According to the AP and CNN interactive, he was shot and killed after he stepped out of his vehicle. Ranger Kolodski was wearing his vest, but the rifle bullet penetrated the vest panels. Another ranger that responded had his windshield shot up before the suspect fled.

Ranger Kolodski had radioed another ranger and told him to stand by until they had a plan. The other ranger waited for instructions, but they never came. Ranger Kolodski stopped at the overlook without further discussing his plans. The events that led to Ranger Kolodski to stop at the pull out are not known.

What we do know is that Ranger Kolodski did what separates peace officers from the average citizen. He entered a potentially lethal situation to protect citizens from harm. Ranger Kolodski gave the ultimate sacrifice in protecting the visitors of Great Smokey Mountains National Park. We will not forget him.

Another incident where a Ranger was shot occurred in Colorado. Law enforcement officers were involved in a

high-speed chase of a stolen pick-up truck, May 29th. The National Park Service Ranger was shot and wounded during an exchange of gunfire. (San Jose PD Stay Alert bulletin)

We need to stay on our toes in the field and remember those who have fallen to protect and save the citizens and our most precious resources.

Soap Box

Rangers are not immuned to the criminal element of society, unfortunately some administrators continue to be reluctant to provide adequate law enforcement training for their ranger staff. We need to continue to request training and education to better handle the increasing criminal activity in the parks. If they do not offer rangers the training, rangers need to seek the training on our own; we owe our families that.

Defibrillators

The Next Step in Emergency Care

John Havicon

Annually, over 350,000 people lose their life in the United States due to sudden cardiac arrest. Those with heart disease are the most susceptible, but anyone can have a sudden cardiac arrest if they have stopped breathing for any reason, received a blunt trauma to his or her body or electrocuted themselves.

We all go through Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (C.P.R.) training annually and many of us have had to perform C.P.R. on victims. C.P.R. is the most effective way to provide the body's organs the oxygenated blood it needs to sustain life, but it doesn't start the heart pumping on its own (unless you're really lucky). Defibrillators are able to successfully

re-start the heart, but until recently, only trained paramedics and doctors could perform with them. The further away the medic with a defibrillator was, the smaller the chance the victim would survive, even with perfect C.P.R.. Successful defibrillations decrease 10% each minute that passes after arrest.

With new technology and changes in protocols, defibrillators are about to make some changes on how we handle cardiac arrests. It's predicted that automated external defibrillators (AEDs) will soon be a common site in every public building and also in your patrol vehicles. The American Red Cross and the American Heart Association are both gearing up to provide

the training needed for these units. The units themselves are small, rugged containers with computers inside that are able to analyze a victim, determine their pulselessness and deliver the needed shock. All of the AEDs have a voice prompt as soon as you turn it on, directing you what to do, including when to start or stop CPR; or when it's going to deliver a shock to the victim.

AEDs won't replace C.P.R., but will be an important tool to assist you. AEDs may make the difference of the survival of your victims.

For further information on AEDs, or a list of AED vendors, please contact me at (916) 676-0934

Haiku: Poetry in Our Parks

by Roger Abe, Park Ranger, City of San Jose

Haiku. Many people don't know this word. Or they might remember a lesson in school about a form of poetry—it has to be seventeen syllables, right? Haiku-like poems are often used in the media for their conciseness and power. For example, Starbuck's Tia ad says, "The wind in your hair. The sun on your face. A straw in your mouth," next to an iced drink. There are growing numbers of people who read and write haiku—people who are very interested in the natural world, which they often explore in our parks. Haiku visitors are looking for natural phenomena that can be described with just a few powerful words.

old pond
frog leaps in
water's sound
Basho (Spring)

Traditional Haiku poets make sure that there is a seasonal reference in each poem that is a strong indicator to time of the year as marked by seasonal changes and human events. In Japan, these special words have been compiled into almanacs (saijiki) and categorized by season. Saijiki have been meticulously maintained for hundreds of years. A typical "field guide size" saijiki may address up to 6,000 words with explanations and examples of use. Traditional writers who abide by the old rules are thus more closely enmeshed in a cultural consciousness of the perception of natural events. Examples of classic and modern poems that bring out the spirit of Haiku are shown (season words/seasonal themes are underlined).

if you are tender with them
the young sparrows
will poop on your hand
Issa (Spring)

All of the haiku poets I know are avid naturalists, birders and gardeners. Nature and humanity are the main subjects. Haiku provides a condensed

platform from which the poet crafts images to evoke emotion or insight—an integration of personal observations and feelings with specific natural and human experiences captured in a timeless "Haiku Moment." Something is revealed, usually between the second and third lines in English language haiku. The tone can be serious or humorous. Because of the brevity of the poem, emotions can be touched briefly, but not in depth. Do you hear an echo of principles of interpretation? As in interpretation, a connection is made from the individual to the world, introspection of the self is compared to minutiae of nature from falling leaves to ants emerging. The internal and the external are both examined and appreciated for their inherent truth and beauty.

family reunion
child's face lost
in watermelon
Addie Adam, FL (Summer)
from Haiku World

Writing haiku is a great exercise for contemplation, getting to know your feelings, expressing them and recording images and responses. The related tradition of Haibun intermixes haiku and prose. The density of imagery and the evocative depth of experience in Haibun can be overpowering. The prose can set the scene for a catalyzing poem. As the classics show and writers learn from experience, Haibun and Haiku both are helpful in journal writing and personal growth.

I go.
you stay.
two autumns.
Buson (Autumn)
from The Essential Haiku

Renku or linked verse adds the depth, challenge and fun of multiple writers taking turns in adding short poems together. Each link corresponds to a set format of themes to give the com-

bined poem structure. Historically, this was the form favored by courtiers to display wit.

no tree, no yard
but from my walk colored leaves
to hold and press
L.A. Davidson (Autumn)
from Haiku World

Haiku is simple enough for anyone to enjoy and appreciate. It can provide opportunities to practice thinking and language skills, to explore the interplay of senses, to create with imagination and to learn to communicate with imagery. Children can be amazingly deft in writing haiku with just a little instruction.

high wind whistles
through rocks, trees and chaparral
the canyon wren sings
Roger Abe (Winter)

Even Rangers can do it! I know there are writers and poets out there. Haiku is an art and an artform, a philosophy and a tool of philosophy, a comment and a slice of life. If you don't care to participate, at least be aware of Haiku as an interpretive and educational tool. Protect your special quiet areas conducive to contemplation. Know that poets are with us and are among our best customers. If you reach out to them through your interpretive programming, you will be rewarded. Further information is as close as your public library, local bookstore or a few mouse clicks on your computer.

Roger Abe is a Park Ranger for the City of San Jose at Overfelt Gardens. He enjoys promoting poetry in the parks and writing some. E-mail at R Akio@aol.com.

Thanks to poets Alex and Alice Benedict (President and Secretary of the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society) and poet June Hymas (past president, YTHS) for their comments in shaping this article. July 30, 1998.

Smitty's Book Report

I can remember setting under a large live oak at Uvas Canyon County Park early in my career, talking to a friend of mine, the county park game warden, Henry Coletto. We used to sit and just talk about a lot of resource oriented things, but mostly wildlife problems in the county. At the time it was deer poaching and the effects of grazing upon deer populations in the eastern foothills of Santa Clara Valley. Now, it is pigs. This issue's book deals with the invasion of non-native animal and plants, and lo and behold, there in chapter 2, entitled "Pig Country U.S.A, are several pages about my friend Henry. Seems the author, Robert Devine, spent some uncomfortable nights with Henry in his pursuit of pig poaching. **Alien Invasion, America's Battle With Non-native Animals and Plants**, published by the National Geographic Society is an "easy read." I guess I have been trying to also be "academic" in trying to find useful books to report on. This book the author did his homework so that up-to-date and scientific facts are presented in a manner that you and I can easily understand. Devine states that, "we cannot afford to keep ignoring or underestimating the invasion." Alien plants have already transformed our landscapes, and depleted our biodiversity. Obviously, it has also cost us billions of dollars. A 391 page report, published by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA), counted 4500 non-native species that have become established in America beyond "human cultivation and control." The report states that about 15% of all exotics cause "severe harm." I have already mentioned the chapter on pigs. That particular chapter was not very kind to the California Department of Fish and Game(DGF). In essence, the author accuses DF&G for the pig problem. They see the pig as an avenue to collect hunting dollars. In fact, one DF&G official went on record in the book as saying that he could not see that pigs do any resource damage! The pig chapter is very interesting reading, for sure.

Of course there are chapters that cover alien plants and animals that are not (as yet) in California. However, there are chapters on plants (Yellow Star Thistle), white flies, and some interesting reading on starlings, that are. The book is divided into three parts. The first, "The Invasion," deals with examples of alien plants and animals and part two, "Counterattack," deals with what needs to be done to cope with the invasion, and Part III, talks of the future.

I stated, above, that the book is an "easy read." I finished the book in one afternoon's sitting. It is 277 pages. It is a wakeup call for all of us in the park resources business. Go to your favorite bookstore (I got this one at Barnes and Noble in Richland Washington) and cough up the twenty bucks it takes to bring it home with you. I believe I paid \$21.95 for my copy. The book is foreworded by Bruce Babbitt, The Secretary of Interior. The author writes articles on exotic species for a variety of publications, including **Sierra**, and **The Atlantic Monthly**.

Devine, Robert, **Alien Invasion, America's Battle With Non-native Animals and Plants**, National Geographical Society, Washington, D.C. 1998

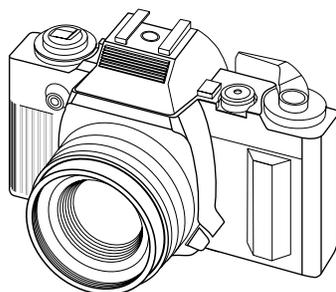
Photoshoot at the Refuge

by Sandy Ferreira

Last January in an article that I wrote, I spoke about how much I enjoyed taking pictures in the Photo Blind at Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. This article is a reminder that we are getting into the fall season. Migratory birds will begin arriving into our parks and wetlands.

The photo opportunity is near for taking great pictures. So if you want to experience thousands of birds flying overhead and all around you and take some great pictures, call the SFNWR now and make a reservation. The Photo Blind can be reserved only on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays for a fee of \$10.00. It is available October thru March depending on habitat conditions. For more information, call (916) 934-2801, they will send you a reservation form and a handout called the Photographer's Guidelines.

As always, happy birding!



Resources Workshop

Continued from page 1

"Practical Guide to More Powerful Presentations," a recently published book by the course instructor.

The course instructor, Dr. Jon Hooper, has taught communication workshops for more than 20 years in locations around the Country. He is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and holds degrees in environmental communication and wildlife ecology.

The workshop has been sponsored by the Western Section of The Wildlife Society for 28 years. The deadline for applications is October 30, 1998; the course fee is \$595. Late applications are accepted (they're placed on a waiting list in case of cancellations).

Applying for the workshop is easy. On letterhead, applicants should describe: (1) their current position within their agency/organization, (2) how they would use the training, and (3) any special reasons why they feel they should be chosen as a participant. Participation is limited to 16 people.

Submit applications to: Dr. Jon K. Hooper, Dept. Recreation and Parks Management, Calif. State University, Chico, CA 95929-0560. For more information, contact Jon by: **calling** (530) 898-5811, **faxing** (530) 898-6557, or **e-mailing** >jhooper@facultypo.csuchico.edu<

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Submission deadlines ARE THE LAST day of JANUARY, MARCH, May, July, SEPTEMBER, AND NOVEMBER.

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