

## Sudden Oak Death

by Matt Cerkel

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) first appeared in Marin County in 1995 and has since spread to areas from Sonoma & Napa Counties to the Big Sur region. Presently, SOD has infected three species of trees: California live oak, California black oak, and tan oak. SOD is almost always fatal and is marked by the rapid change of the foliage from green to brown. SOD has become a major concern for natural resource managers in the central coast region and research is on going.

In the summer of 2000 researchers discovered that SOD is caused by a previously unknown species of Phytophthora fungus. This is the same family of fungus that caused the Irish Potato Famine and currently afflicting the Port Orford cedar northwest. Recently, the fungus causing SOD has been discovered in rhododendrons in Santa Cruz County and in Europe. Research has already determined the while the Phytophthora fungus is the primary pathogen causing SOD, and that secondary agents such as bark and ambrosia beetles may accelerate tree death. The symptoms of SOD include:

- 1) Bleeding near the trunk base.
- 2) Fine, beetle boring dust.
- 3) Growth of Hypoxylon fungus fruiting bodies in the vicinity of bleeding and beetle attacks.
- 4) Rapid change of foliage color from green to brown.

To help prevent the spread of SOD avoid transporting oak material and/or soil that is potentially contaminated from SOD infected areas. Equipment should be cleaned and disinfected when moving from a SOD infected area to a new area.

There are other broader impacts on parklands. First, it is changing the very make up of some habitats, especially oak woodlands and mixed evergreen forest. Second, SOD killed trees rot very rapidly and increases falling hazards in public recreation sites, roads and trails. Finally, SOD can create a greater fire danger and has changed firefighting tactics.

Knowledge about SOD continues to rapidly increase. For more information on SOD you can contact UC Cooperative Extension Offices in Marin or Sonoma Counties (415) 499-4204, (707) 565-2621 or visit the following websites: [cemar.ucdavis.edu](http://cemar.ucdavis.edu), [camfer.cnr.berkeley.edu/oaks](http://camfer.cnr.berkeley.edu/oaks) or [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org).

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## PRAC Participates in BAEER Fair

by Mike Chiesa

On Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, PRAC participated in the Bay Area Environmental Education Resources (BAEER) Fair by staffing an informational exhibit in cooperation with CSPRA. The BAEER Fair was held at the Marin Center in San Rafael. State Park Rangers Dan Winkleman and Eileen Bielecki represented CSPRA and John Havicon and myself represented PRAC. We were on-hand to provide information about the two organizations and answer assorted questions people had about park career opportunities, different types of interpretive programs offered through various park organizations, and local park information.

The event attracted a diverse group of people who included teachers, environmental and outdoor educators, students, and fellow park professionals. The exhibit hall was full of exhibits with an environmental education theme. Since we had plenty of help to staff our exhibit, Eileen, Dan, John, and myself had opportunities to visit the other exhibits, some of which were staffed by fellow PRAC members, and gather lots of beneficial interpretive materials, most of which were free.

The BAEER fair was, as usual, a fun event to attend. I look forward to next years and I hope to see more of you there.

# From the President's Desk

Fellow members,

It's conference time again and I'm looking forward to meeting all of you there. Please be sure to stop and introduce yourselves to me and your board members. This conference will once again provide some excellent workshops and seminars. Being from Sacramento, I'm just a little biased. I think some of Sacramento's best qualities are showcased by the field trips to the Cosumnes River, our vernal pools and the golden state museum. If you have a little extra time bring along a bicycle and enjoy our 32-mile bike trail along the American River.

Next years conference will be in San Diego which will also be an excellent location for us and State Parks. I would like to get the ball rolling on planning this conference as soon as possible. I want to encourage all of you from the San Diego/Southern California area to get involved. This years conference planning team has been working on organizing and streamlining the process for future conferences. To help the next organizing committee, this years conference committee wants to follow-up with a debriefing with the new 2002 committee. This will occur some time late spring. What I'm really hoping for is folks down there to get involved and volunteer themselves.

We have some new board of directors to welcome. Steve Hogue has taken the District 3 position, (Sacramento Valley & Sierras). Steve is a Ranger from Chico City Parks. Tom Ash has taken District 5 (Riverside to San Diego). Tom is a Ranger from Riverside County. I would like to personally thank them for given some of their time to help run this organization. Please be sure to look for them at the conference.

Well, I am looking forward to meeting all of you at the conference. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to get a hold of me, anytime. You can get in touch with me best by phone, (916) 875-6672 or e-mail, onbelay@innercite.com.

Stay Safe,

*John Havicon*, President, Park Rangers Association of California

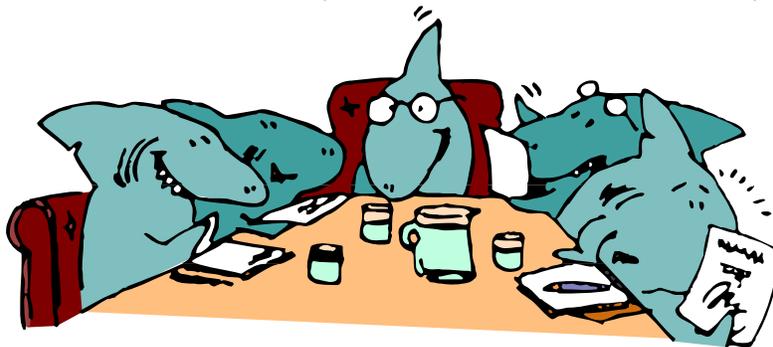
## Dare to Make a Difference

by Tom Ash

Hello everyone,

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Tom Ash and I am your new Region 5 Director for PRAC. I work for Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District. I am the Park Ranger at the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve. All right, enough about those long park names and me. I would like to say that I feel fortunate to represent a great group of people who have the best job on earth.

By the time this edition comes out, the Conference will be over and a hard decision will have been made about Park Ranger Peace Officer legislation. I would like to address those that could not attend or the members that I did not have a chance to meet at the conference. My decision on supporting or not supporting the legislation was made based on the opinions of the members of region 5 that I was able to speak with. Just so you know, I kept my personal feelings neutral. This brings to mind a problem in our region that we need to fix, low membership! For an area the size of Region 5, we should have a lot more members. I will be starting a Double the Membership Drive right after the conference so be ready to hear from me. Remember that there is power in numbers and better decisions will be made from a greater number of members. If you know of anyone that has mentioned of joining but just hasn't gotten around to it, please keep reminding him or her how important it is for them to be a member. I would also like to hear of any training needs you or your department might like to be made available. I have some ideas and I would like to hear yours. I'll close with a quote from Robert F. Kennedy; "Those who dare to fail miserably can achieve greatly."



# Preserving Archaeological Sites in Parks

by Tom Maloney

As the Senior Park Ranger at Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, a 4,000 acre open space preserve in Southern Orange County, I have many resources to monitor, preserve and protect.

One of this parks greatest resources is its history and its artifacts from the indigenous people who traveled and resided here during the past 10,000 years.

One of the local tribes professional archaeologists credit with living in this area were known as the Juaneneo, or Mission San Juan Capistrano band Indians. Recently, this tribe adopted a historical village name as their new tribal name. The new tribal name is "Acajchemem" is pronounced AuK-hosh-emem. These were Shosonean-speaking peoples whose ancestors migrated to California's west coast from the great plains area many centuries ago.

Several dozen village sites have been identified within the parks boundaries over the years and most have been identified and registered with the state. Most village sites are found along the Aliso Creek which was used in the past by tribal members during their annual migrations from the coastal mountains to the seashore, a distance of about 20 miles. Other small villages or encampments took advantage of the hundreds of sandstone overhangs, or rock-shelters as archaeologist call them, within the park. It was quite surprising for me to one day find evidence of a different type of a village encampment located on the side slope of a low hill.

At the time I was talking to a group of Mt. cyclists on a dirt road which had recently been re-graded to provide an emergency vehicle turn-around. In the course of conversation I happened to look at the ground near my boots, the usual items of a dirt road could be seen such as cigarette butts, those little black rubber bands that Mt. cyclists never seem to be able to pick up when changing inner tubes, and of course since it was a dirt road, lots of dirt and rocks. Out of this mosaic clutter, almost if by magic materialized a beautifully flaked, deeply serrated, red stone projectile point approximately 1.5 inches in length. This was laying on top of the soil and in plain sight. After carefully covering the projectile point with my boot and concluding my conversation with the cyclists I picked up the historical treasure and performed a hasty survey of the road surface.

I turned up several worked flakes, cores and a broken projectile point in a matter of a few minutes. My concern now was that trail users would stumble upon this site as I had and begin looting and digging up the site destroying it for future study. It was at this point I contacted the local Community collage archaeological professor and asked him to look at the site. He came out and agreed to survey the site (discreetly) with some of his trusted fieldwork students and record the site with the state. Afterwards, he informed me that the reason the site was in such an unusual loca-

tion, as compared with the more common seasonal migratory village sites, was because this site was most likely a "men's hunting camp". A place where adult men would teach adolescent boys how to create projectile points, make arrow shafts and hunt for deer. The camp was located approximately 70 yards form a year-round spring on a low hill that faced the morning sun. An area of approximately 2 acres was literally strewn with the remains of little stone flakes and stone cores chipped off larger stones. This was the only known site of this nature in the entire park and was therefore very important to keep secret and protect.

The archaeologist wanted the park road closed to public use, however, this was not an option as it was the only main road through the park which provides emergency vehicle access to both ends of the canyon. Nor was relocating the road an option as the surrounding land is lush with southern Californian coastal Sage-scrub, a protected plant community in Orange County. Besides, both of the first two options would draw unwanted attention to the site. Finally, we agreed upon covering the surface of the road with 3 inches road- base gravel. This was easily explained away to the curious public as "erosion control". This gravel layer would provide future archaeologists with a "sterile" level of identifiable material over the site and the sharp angular gravel would help hide any projectile points which might work themselves to the road surface. This as it turned out was also the most cost effective method of protecting the site as well.

This procedure appears to have succeeded, as no evidence of digging or looting in the area has been noted in over six years. The public continues to go on their way hiking, jogging and cycling, oblivious to the fact they are passing over one of the county's most significant ancient archeological sites. The rangers and the archaeologists know its location and that is just fine for now. I am satisfied the site is protected for the present so that future generations can best decide how and when to proceed with proper scientific research.



# Address The Real Issue!

by Stephen Thompson, Park Ranger, Monterey County Parks

Should we change "Park Ranger" to a Peace officer-only title? Until recently I said "yes." I said yes not because of any elitist feeling but because I figured P.O.S.T. wouldn't address the Ranger law enforcement training and equipment issues as long as non-Peace Officers also had the title "Ranger." My agency, Monterey County Parks, like so many others, has me out there doing things that P.O.S.T. never imagined when it required the most minimum of training to be a Ranger-Peace Officer. I make vehicle stops, deal with gang members and people under the influence of alcohol; I deal with large rowdy groups and situations in the dark and sometimes in remote locations. I am equipped with a radio, pepper spray, a baton, soft body armor and my common sense. I am not complaining about what my duties are, but I am concerned about my level of training and my equipment (or lack there-of). I hoped by restricting the Ranger title P.O.S.T. might then address the issue and develop Ranger-Peace Officer standards.

The more I've thought it through, the more I realize I was wrong in thinking that this proposal will solve the problem. Here's why:

a) P.O.S.T. can already make training prerequisites based on duties performed, regardless of title. P.C. 830.31 designates a Ranger a Peace Officer based on the Rangers's responsibilities (duties performed). Yet a person still could not exercise their Peace Officer powers until they complete P.C. 832 training.

b) If the problem is that our agencies are asking us to take more risk than we feel we've been trained or equipped to handle, imagine this scenario: 1) "Ranger" becomes a Peace Officer-only title. 2) many agencies reclassify their Rangers as "Park Technicians" or some other name. 3) to save money, those formerly Peace Officer-Rangers now Technicians are still asked to enforce park codes only now as so-called "Public Officers," and without any of the equipment, powers or protection of being a Peace Officer. If you're thinking that a public officer is safer since they can't enforce State codes, think again. The Monterey

County Parks code addresses nearly everything we use the State codes for. State codes are just a tool. Most of the situations that we would face would still carry the same risk no matter which code book is enforced. (Of the examples of situations mentioned earlier, only vehicle stops would end.) So then what? Yes, you might make a Union issue of safety and you might force your agencies to either bring in more outside enforcement agencies or they might hire Rangers as enforcement specialists. But is it worth the risk and hassle?

Instead I ask that we address the real problem: that P.O.S.T. does not have duty-based standards for Rangers and other Special Peace Officers. P.O.S.T. has set a broad minimum standard. Agencies could require and/or provide more (some already do). Since many agencies will not, we need P.O.S.T. to institute graduated equipment and training standards based on actual duties performed. This will help protect both Peace Officer Ranger and non-Peace Officer Ranger. (Isn't a graduated standard what we'd be asking for even if this Title proposal passes?)

"Park Ranger" has a long tradition that encompasses so much more than law enforcement. I have worked for a number of agencies and have held a variety of titles and had varied levels of enforcement responsibilities. To the public I was always a Ranger. I'm proud to be a generalist (I prefer the term "traditionalist"). But generalist vs. specialist is not the issue. I would hate to divide our profession and our organization over an "issue" that our agencies could get around while still ignoring the training, equipment, and safety issues. A title restriction will not provide the training and equipment to do the job safely if we are still doing the same job under a different title. All this effort will be for naught.

Let's drop this proposal! Instead, let's work with PORAC and P.O.S.T. to develop duty-based equipment and training standards that could effect not just Park Rangers but other "Special" or "Limited" Peace Officers as well. Let's address the Real Issue!

## Park Rangers Injured in Vehicle Accident

by Russ Hauck

On Monday, February 5, 2001 at approximately 9:30 am, L A City Park Rangers Joe Tafoya and Paul Hernandez were working with the L A County Fire Department on a controlled burn in Charmlee County Park near Malibu. The rangers were operating a 2300 gallon water tender and were driving the apparatus up one of the fire roads in the prescribed burn area. The soft soil began to give way, and the 30,000 pound vehicle slid off of the fire road and began to roll down the hill into a canyon.

Ranger Tafoya was ejected from the vehicle and landed directly in its path. Ranger Hernandez remained in the vehicle as it rolled down into the canyon. The vehicle rolled at least three times, one of which rolled over Ranger Tafoya. Tafoyas' pelvis was broken in four places and he sustained two broken ribs. The soft soil and the fact that the cab of the truck rolled on him rather than the fully loaded water tank undoubtedly saved his life. Ranger Hernandez sustained numerous contusions and lacerations, but escaped serious injury. Our thoughts and prayers are with both of them for a speedy recovery.

# An Old Timers View

by Randy Hawley

Well, another issue of Signpost and more views on the proposed legislation for Park Ranger/Peace Officer status. I am not going to spout a bunch of legal jargon, wave around agency policy or debate merits. I am going to say what I think.

I have been a Ranger since 1980. I began as a State Park Aide while I earned a degree in Park Management. I think that qualifies me as an "old Timer" in a lot of people's eyes. I have also been fortunate to work in a variety of places in different capacities as a Ranger. I started as a Ranger with full peace officer powers for 9 years on the beaches of Southern California. Next, I worked as a Ranger with public officer status for a municipality in the same area for 10 years. Currently, I am working as a Ranger in the Bay Area with no authorized enforcement powers. I still do enforcement. I just do not write citations or arrest anybody. Needless to say, my experiences give me a unique perspective on the issue.

While I was with State Parks, I wrote an essay for CSPRA which stated that to be the best possible interpreter, resource manager or peace officer you would need to focus your full attention to one of those functions while sacrificing the others. While you can do all three, you will never be the best you could be at any one of them individually while your focus is divided. Being anything less than fully focused on the responsibilities of a Peace Officer compromises everyone's safety. That said, being fully focused on Peace Officer duties limits your ability to do justice to the other diverse aspects of the job.

Any Peace Officer will tell you that your approach to visitors and their approach to you are different than that of an unarmed person, uniformed or not. If they tell you different then they are either not paying attention or they are severely compromising their officer safety.

I totally respect and admire those individuals who have chosen to put their life on the line to protect citizens from harm. You are to be commended. However, not every person who is or would be a great Ranger, is willing to accept the decision to kill someone in the line of duty as a requirement of our profession. If that became a requirement than we would severely limit the diverse talent pool that makes this profession so special and unique.

I do agree with standardization of the profession. The last thing I want to see is some scruffy guy wear a khaki shirt telling me "Yup, I'm a ranger just like you." Let's not focus only on a specific level of law enforcement as the pre-determining factor for Ranger title status.

Apparently some of us want to set themselves above the rest because they chose to carry a gun and are willing to use lethal force on another person. To tell the rest of us we are not Rangers is an affront to generations of dedicated professionals who have done this job with the best

tools the creator gave us...intelligences, compassion, verbal skills, good judgement and a love of people and the environment.

I have to agree with the Ranger from East Bay Regional Park District who proposed that those of you who want to be Peace Officers in a park setting call yourselves just that...Park Police. Then the public won't be confused. That's what the public sees. If you don't want to confuse anybody, then call yourselves that which you most resemble.

The rest of us can continue to talk to people without watching their hands and maintaining a "kick and a half" distance. We can look at a car without checking for expired tags or wonder if they are carrying contraband in the trunk. Most of all, the kids on nature walks will stop asking how many people we have shot with our weapons.

I think some of you need to have a cup of decaf, go smell the wonders of nature and listen to children play in your park. Is the reality of the world such that crime does occur in our parks? Unfortunately yes. Do we need people who are willing to "do the dirty work" to keep them safe and protected? Definitely yes. Are they the ones we think of when the term Ranger is used? Sometimes, but not usually. Taking the title away from the rest of us will start us down the road to eliminating the title altogether. Let us not even go there.



# Illegal Campsite Security System

by Steve Hogue, Chico Park Department

I found something rather interesting earlier this week in the City of Chico's Bidwell Park which I thought should be shared with everyone else.

An elderly park visitor reported to the police department an unusual sight. He said that as he was walking along Petersen Drive, he observed two adults either digging something up or burying something not far from the road. He became suspicious and later decided to call the police. The police then contacted me to meet the park visitor, per the visitor's request.

Upon my arrival, the visitor told about the digging which he observed. Unfortunately, he could not give me any more details on the pair, other than they appeared to be adults. We found a fresh path that led 40 feet north of the road, to a small thicket of trees. After notifying police dispatch of my investigation, we followed the path. At the edge of the thicket was what the visitor had seen being dug. It looked like a shallow grave site. It was approximately 6' x 3'. Off to the right, I noticed a makeshift teepee. I instructed the visitor to stay out of the area, as I followed the path to the teepee. As I walked down the path, I glanced down at the ground to make sure I did not trip on any vegetation. That's when I noticed a trip wire constructed of fishing line set up about 5 inches from the ground. I stopped and visually followed the line. It went up into a tree hanging over the path and connected to a 2-liter plastic soda bottle which

had been cut open in the bottom. It was weighted with rocks and had numerous nails protruding from the inside out. The intent, of course, being to severely injure a nosey person's noggin. On another path just to the left, was another trip wire leading to a dangling 2x4. Not knowing what else lay ahead, I retreated to my vehicle and instructed the visitor to remain next to his vehicle. I called for police assistance.

Upon police arrival, we cut down the booby traps and examined the campsite. A number of small trees had been cut down to make the teepee, but it was vacant. There was a large butcher knife located near the teepee. It was used to create "pongee" sticks, which I assumed would be placed in the shallow "grave" and used as an additional home security system. The campsite was then taken down.

The message behind the story is plain and simple: be careful! What appeared to be another typical illegal campsite, which I go out on regularly, was much more than it appeared to be. I have no clue as to whether the campers were just weird or whether they planned on doing illegal activities, or if they just didn't want to have their site burglarized. Regardless, they planned on trying to hurt anyone that went into their site, whether it be a ranger or a visitor. Don't be complacent. Remember to look high, look low and look all around, and stay safe!

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## The Law of the Hammer

by Russ Hauck

I was recently researching for a program when I came across a parable known as *The Law of the Hammer*. The saying is "If the only tool you have is a hammer, everything becomes a nail." This struck me as having great application to our profession, especially as we try to better define what we do (or should do).

I think this demonstrates the need to have many options as we do our jobs. If all you do is enforcement, then the only tool you have is a hammer, and every violation, intentional or not is handled as a criminal offense. Similarly, if you only do interpretation, then the only tool you have is a hammer, and you are powerless to enforce any violation with anything more than a scolding. Having the ability to use a variety of tools makes our jobs easier, and allows us to be more effective as we do it.

Every traffic stop doesn't have to result in a citation. Every scraped knee doesn't have to result in an ambulance response. Every inquiry about an animal or plant doesn't have to be referred to the interpretive specialist. Every broken sprinkler head doesn't have to be reported on a

work order request form and left for Monday morning. Having the ability to address the many issues we face with the many tools at our disposal makes us a valuable resource. We all need to be cross-trained to deal, at least minimally, with any circumstance that arises.

The Standards and Training Committee has been working diligently with the other committees to establish recommended minimum standards for any person working as a Park Ranger in the state of California. We hope to be able to present these to the membership and put the issue to a vote at the conference in March.

I think the job of Park Ranger is the greatest in the world. To me, the variety of issues, activities, and assignments makes it challenging and rewarding. I can't imagine being limited to doing only one facet of the job. I want to thank all of the committees for all of their hard work, and encourage all of you to fill your toolboxes with all of the tools you may need and not limit yourself to just a hammer.

# **A Book to Report On**

**by Lee Hickinbotham**

*It was a delicious solitude we were in, too. Three miles away was a sawmill and some workmen but there were not fifteen other human beings throughout the wide circumference of the lake. As the darkness closed down and the stars came out and spangled the great mirror with jewels, we smoked meditatively in the solemn hush and forgot our troubles and pains.* This is a quote from Mark Twain describing Lake Tahoe.

Since our visitor attendance is slow this time of year and I had to burn some vacation hours, I decided to take the week off between Christmas and New Years. I had the privilege of using a condo in South Lake Tahoe that a friend of mine owns. The weather was perfect for hiking and going sleighing with my family. I even got in a day of skiing despite the lack of snow at most places.

When I was not skiing, sleighing with the family, or fighting the crowds at the ski resort, I settled in next to the fireplace and enjoyed a book. This book wasn't about survival, First Aid, trail building, interpretation, or anything directly associated with my job (I was on vacation). It was why I became a Park Ranger; it was about California nature.

It is a literary anthology of California nature writing that will take you to a time back when there were more trees than people. When the air was crisp and the skies were blue everywhere. It includes essays and excerpts, as well as fiction from some of our favorite writers such as Mark Twain, Edward Abbey, Barry Lopez, John Muir, and Robert Luis Stevenson just to name a few. The title is *Natural State*, edited by Steven Gilbar. The cost is approximately \$21.00 and is well worth the price.

The quote I began with is just one of many of the fascinating essays. Take the time to read and enjoy the book.

# **Changes in C.P.R. Protocols Coming**

**by John Havicon**

Last summer, the American Heart Association reevaluated the protocols for C.P.R. and have come up with new recommendations. The new recommendations are expected to be taught in classes starting the summer of 2001. The changes are aimed at simplifying training and providing the most effective method of resuscitation.

The biggest change is that lay persons will no longer check for a pulse to decide whether or not to administer chest compressions. The new guidelines recommend looking for normal breathing, movement, response to stimulation and other signs of circulation to decide whether to begin chest compressions. This means, there won't be any choice of giving the victim just rescue breathing, all victims will receive chest compressions. These changes will not apply to the Professional Rescuer, as most of us are trained in, and we will continue as trained, to check for the pulse.

The changes were made because of the difficulty of the lay person finding a pulse in the first few seconds of a cardiovascular emergency. At least 35% of lay rescuers are wrong about whether or not the victim has a pulse. This guidelines also make it easier for a dispatcher to instruct a lay person, over the telephone, on how provide C.P.R.. The new guidelines also place more emphasis on

the use of Automatic External Defibrilators (A.E.D.s). A.E.D.s are becoming more available for public use. In the near future, it is expected that A.E.D.s will be found in all public places, like fire extinguishers are today.

Other recommendations include standardizing the chest compressions to breaths during adult C.P.R.. Lay rescuers will perform 15 chest compressions for every 2 breaths, regardless of whether one or two rescuers are present. Another change is for an unconscious adult with an obstructed airway, (choking). The lay rescuer will begin standard C.P.R., including chest compressions and will not conduct abdominal thrust or blind finger sweeps. Studies have shown there is enough pressure in the chest compression to eject a foreign body from an airway. The abdominal thrust (Heimlich Maneuver) will still be performed on conscious choking victims.

The American Heart Association is also recommending setting a goal of delivering electric shock by a defibrillator within 5 minutes for an out of hospital sudden cardiac victim and having A.E.D.s placed where there is a reasonable probability of one sudden cardiac arrest occurring every five years. Don't you think parks fall into this category?

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

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