



A Few New Ranger Jokes

Park Ranger Marie D. Fong

With the start of a new year, it is the quintessential time to have a new outlook for the upcoming challenges. Since we all have very serious and demanding jobs here is a quick, humorous reprieve I found on-line many years ago. These simple jokes are great ways to stall before a program as you wait for stragglers or missing presenters. Some you may have heard, some may be new, but since we have all heard the one about the Bald Eagle and the Spotted Owl and I think it just tends to aggravate us, it has been left out to keep us smiling into the new year. Happy New Year!!!

Q: What do you call a ranger who looks like a dinosaur?

A: A Rangensaurus rex ~ Alex Gomez - 8 years old

Q: What did the ranger get on his IQ test?

A: Mud ~ Rachel McKagan

Q: What did the doe say to the ranger as she ran out of the forest?

A: "I'll never do that again for a couple of lousy bucks!" ~Nancy Cucci

Q: How does a Ranger tell if he's being chased by a black bear or a grizzly bear?

A: He climbs a tree. A black bear will climb up after him, a grizzly bear will just knock the tree down. ~ Chris Torrise

Rangers advise visitors hiking in bear country to avoid surprising a bear by wearing little bells attached to their clothes and to carry pepper spray just in case.

Q: How do rangers tell if there are grizzly bears in their area?

A: By examining the bear scat they find. If it's black bear scat, it contains leaves and berries and smells musky. If it's grizzly bear scat, it contains little bells and smells like pepper spray! ~ Jim Hebard

Q: What did they call the ranger who took a second job at the bank?

A: The Loan Arranger! ~ Mrs. Barbara Mohler

A group of tourists, who had heard about how much fun it is to go ice fishing in the winter, decided to visit Yosemite and try it. After a few too many drinks at the lodge one evening, they collected their ice saws and fishing lines and headed out onto the ice. As soon as they started cutting a hole, they heard a voice booming out of the darkness: "THERE ARE NO FISH THERE."

Concerned and puzzled, they moved over about ten feet, and started cutting again. Once more they heard: "THERE ARE NO FISH THERE."

Hoping to have a successful experience, they moved all the way over to the other side of the ice and resumed their cutting. Again the voice thundered out: "THERE ARE NO FISH THERE."

Finally, one of the party called into the darkness: "Okay, we give up. But how do you know all this? Are you God?" The voice bellowed back: "No, but you're close. I'm a park ranger, and tonight I'm patrolling the Curry Village Ice Rink." ~ Jim Bearden

A pair of birdwatchers are arguing over the identification of a large black-colored bird. One insists it's a raven and the other is certain it's a crow. They see a ranger and decide to ask the expert how to differentiate the two species.

The Ranger just says, "Well, it's a matter of a pinion." (So for the general public you can use this one actually explain that a clear difference between the two birds is the number of pinion's on the wing.)

2011 Photo Contest

**New to the 2011 California Parks Conference is the Photo Contest.
Break out your cameras and show us your stuff !!!**

Categories for the photo contest are:

Wildlife (things that breath)

Landscapes and Still Life (stuff that does not breathe)

Rangers in Action (folks in uniform doing their thing)

Guidelines for Presentations

Contest Rules

Contestant must be a conference registrant to submit a photo.

To enter contestants submit an "Intent to Participate" by submitting the registration form and bringing the photos to the conference in person.

Submitted photos must be accompanied by the Photo Contest Entry Form

Contestants may register their photos at the conference by Monday 3-14-2011 at 7:00 pm.

Contestants must have taken the photo and have all rights to its distribution and use.

Contestants **MUST** submit an electronic version (jpeg format, min. 300 dpi), along with the print to facilitate possible future publication of winning photos on the PRAC and CSPRA web sites. Please bring electronic version on a CD labeled with registrant's name and all photo titles with your submission.

Velcro tabs will be attached to the back of the mat/mount, and a removable sticker to the front matting of each print.

By submitting your photo(s), you agree to allow PRAC/CSPRA to publish the image(s) in future association print and online materials.

The California Parks Conference cannot guarantee the security of your photo(s).

We are asking that willing participants donate their pictures for sale to Conference registrants after the contest. If you are willing to donate your submissions, please indicate your intention in the entry form. Proceeds of the sale will be used to support future California Parks Conferences.

Photo Formatting Rules

Images must be black & white or color prints, 8" x 10" in size, captured with a digital or film camera.

Entries must be mounted on a stiff backing with 11" x 14" matting. Mounted/mat size must not exceed 11"x 14." No framed prints, please.

Entries must be labeled on the back with: 1) category, and 2) entrant's name, address, phone number, and e-mail if available.

All photo submissions that do not conform to formatting rules, including un-mounted or un-matted entries may be accepted for submission in a catch-all category.

Photo Category Rules

Images that have been enhanced by removing scratches or dust, or by making slight alterations that have traditionally been made by filters or in the printing process may be entered in any category.

Images that have been extensively altered by double exposure; assembly from two or more images; removal of obstructions or other significant parts; addition, subtraction, or duplication of elements within the image; or other alterations are not permitted

Photo Contest Judging

Conference attendees will have until 3-15-2011 at 5:00 pm to cast their votes for Peoples' Choice winners.

Winning entries will be announced Banquet

Entries will be displayed until close of the Silent Auction. All photos donated for sale will be labeled as such and available for bids during the Silent Auction. The photo contest concludes at the end of the Auction.

All photographs not donated for sale and prizes must be claimed by 3-16-2011 at 5:00 pm Those photographs not claimed will be assumed donated for future sale by the California Parks Conference Photo Contest Committee.

San Jose Rangers Support Toys for Tots

Each year the San Jose Park Rangers Association chooses a community project to support. This year the rangers chose the United States Marine Corp Toys for Tots program. The program collects new toys for needy children to make sure they have something magical for the Christmas Holiday. Toys for Tots is also an active participant in the City's annual Holiday Parade and Christmas in the Park display in downtown San Jose.

drive. For this event the Marines try to collect enough toys to fill a standard city bus from top to bottom and front to back.

On Saturday 12-11-2010 San Jose Rangers Jane Lawson, Will Bick and Duncan Skinner arrived at the bus with a couple of brand new bicycles, complete with helmets, and several boxes of toys ranging from stuffed animals to R/C cars.



A call was put out to the rangers in November and donated toys began to arrive. The rangers decided to deliver the toys during the annual "Stuff the Bus"

This year Stuff the Bus not only met the goal of filling the bus but event was well on it's way to filling a second bus when the rangers made their delivery.



2011 California Parks Conference Photo Contest Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Photo Category	Title of Photo	Donate to Auction
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Wildlife	_____	_____
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Still Life	_____	_____
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Rangers in Action	_____	_____
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Submit Entry To: California Parks Conference Photo Contest,
region2@calranger.org

Questions?

Contact Pam Helmke at region2@calranger.org

Ready to Use Program Series

by Ranger Marie D. Fong

For each 2011 *Signpost* I would like to add one complete program outline to be available for any member to use or modify as needed. Since program development can be a tedious task, especially for those who are new to interpretation it can be nice to have a few pre-planned programs ready to go. And since we all have weeds in our parks, facilities, trailheads, and burrowed into our boots I chose the following based on its universal application abilities. Enjoy!

Program Outline #1: Weeds and Seeds!

Age Group: 6-12 years old

Program Description:

Materials Needed:

- Book of Choice
- Old Sock for each participant
- Potting container for each participant
- Potting Soil
- Collection of Various Seeds
- Collection of Edible Seeds
- Scissors
- Watering Can
- Sponge for each participant
- Ziplock bags
- Sunflower seeds
- Water source

Book Choices for the age group:

- The Tiny Seed Eric Carle
- Flower Garden Eve Bunting
- Growing Vegetable Soup Lois Ehlert
- The Carrot Seed Ruth Krauss
- From Seed to Plant Gail Gibbons
- How a Seed Grows Helene J. Jordan
- The Seed Bunny Jennifer Selby
- Eating the Alphabet Lois Ehlert
- The Reason for a Flower Ruth Heller
- I'm a Seed Jean Marzollo
- Allison's Zinnia Anita Lobel
- One Bean Anne F. Rockwell
- Tops and Bottoms Janet Stevens
- Sunflower House Eve Bunting
- Seeds Get Around Nancy White

Weeds and Seeds! Program Outline

Introduction: Ask the group, "What is a Weed?" Expand upon their ideas with the following information:

Weed is the generic word for a plant growing in a spot where it is not wanted. Weeds become of economic significance in connection with farming, where weeds may damage crops when growing in fields and poison domesticated animals when growing on pasture land. Many weeds are short-lived annual plants, that normally take advantage of temporarily bare soil to produce another generation of seeds before the soil is covered over again by slower growth; with the advent of agriculture, with extensive areas of ploughed soil exposed every year, the opportunities for such plants have expanded greatly. (Wikipedia)

The notion of "wanted" is of course entirely in the eye of the beholder. A weed in one situation might be a wildflower in another. Some people love dandelions for their yellow buttons, like gold coins on the ground. Children enjoy blowing the puffball seed heads that form on the dandelion, and adults might utilize the dandelion root as an herbal medicine. In some areas, dandelion leaves, which are edible, are sold in certain restaurants or grocery stores. Yet the caretaker of a lawn will generally regard the dandelion as a troublesome weed in that situation. (Wikipedia)

Ask the group to list a few types of weed that they know. Here are some examples of common species: Cleaver, Crabgrass, Dandelion, Daucus, Diffuse knapweed, Dock, Eucalyptus, Giant salvinia, Gorse, Goutweed, Hairy Vetch, Henbit, Japanese knotweed, Johnson Grass, Kudzu, Milkweed, Mullien, Plantain, Quackgrass, Red deadnettle, Shepherd's purse, Sunflower, etc..

Ask the group "Why are weeds bad?" Supplement their answers with the following information:

Habitat Destruction—Noxious weeds are invaders that have few or no redeeming qualities. When Knapweeds become established in the mountains of Idaho, they displace the forbs and grasses used by elk and deer. Big game animals

won't eat these plants, and as they spread, their old stalks build up the available fuel load that leads to the hot, widespread fires that plague our forests.

They attack our agriculture. Noxious weeds invade our fields and pastures. They can decrease yields, complicate harvesting operations, or they can contaminate our food and seeds. Our economic lively hood depends on our ability to keep these weeds under control, and out of our commodities.

Poisonous Plants—Some noxious weeds have sap that can cause blindness, or severe rashes that leave permanent scarring. Poison hemlock can cause fatalities even in very small amounts, when eaten by livestock, or when mistaken by people for wild parsley or dill.

Lower land values—Some weeds are so difficult to remove, and interfere with expected and normal uses of the land that property values are adversely affected. Deep-rooted perennials are very difficult, and expensive to control.

Interfere with irrigation, power generation and recreation. Eurasian Watermilfoil has the potential to plug intake pipes of power plants, canals, and factories. This plant can get so dense that boating is not possible in lakes it has invaded. Fish can be killed by the effect Eurasian Watermilfoil can have on the temperature, PH, and gas content of the water. Other plants like Purple Loosestrife can change the velocities of streams and ponds, adversely affecting the habitat of birds, fish and wildlife. (<http://www.wa.gov/agr/weedboard/education/educationhome.html>)

Check out some edible seeds!

Have each participant in the group try and name one edible seed each.

Remind them to be good listeners since we do not want any repeats. Have the collection of edible seeds with you to show them as they are mentioned. Sunflower seeds, sesame seeds, watermelon seeds, pumpkin seeds, flour, and spice seeds are all great examples to have. Keep moving around the group until they run out of ideas. Encourage them to think of ground up seeds as well. Ask the kids if they had seeds for breakfast.

(examples: bread/toast, bagels, Cheerios, Frosted Flakes, Rice Chex, Rice Krispies, fruit, etc.).

Discuss how most foods we eat start as seeds that grow into plants that are then processed into the ingredients for the foods we eat. For instance, corn seeds grow into corn plants. The corn is harvested and processed into corn meal, which can be used to make corn flakes or corn muffin mix. Even milk can be traced back to a seed. Milk comes from a cow. Cows need food to produce milk. The hay and grain they eat come from seeds.

Show the group the collection of random seeds to the entire group, pointing out their many differences. Have the group work in partners and pairs for two minutes discussing why the seeds are so very different. Walk among the groups showing them the seeds and asking guided questions. When the time is up have the groups volunteer their findings

Discuss the differences that they noticed and what the varieties might be for.

Go for a seed hike!

Give each participant an old, fuzzy, worn-out sock to wear over their shoe. The best time of year to go on this hike is in late summer or early fall. Go for a walk outside, in the city or in the country, in the woods, or in a nearby lot that's full of weeds. Walk back and forth through an area where plants are growing. Wear your socks through out the entire hike until you return to your starting point.

When you return to the potting area take the sock off and examine the kinds of seeds that are stuck to the sock. Try to identify some of the seeds. Use this time to discuss the various types of seeds that have collected on their socks. Discuss other ways that seeds can be dispersed: animal fur, wind, water, through scat, etc.

Fill the pots 2/3 full of potting soil. Cut a slit lengthwise through the sock. Arrange the sock in the pot with the seed side pointing up. Cover the sock with about a ½" of dirt. Remind the participants that all seeds need sunlight, water, soil and adequate room to grow. Lightly water the socks using the watering can, remembering that

kids will be transporting them home in a vehicle, so don't over saturate. The seeds should begin to sprout in a week or so! Encourage the kids to try this in different environments since you will get something different each time.

Read or interpret the highlighted sections in "The Power of Seeds" for younger kids. Older children will appreciate the full version.

The dry seeds you hold in your hand are asleep. To wake them up all you need to do is give them water or plant them in the ground at the right time of year. A seed that is alive but asleep is said to be dormant. Some times seeds can't be woken up the normal ways and people have to "break the dormancy" by freezing them or laying them out in the light, but the seeds will wake up with just a soak in cool water.

After you soak some bean or lentil seeds you can peel the tough outer coat off of a few just to look at them. The coat feels like leather and looks like plastic. It protected the seed from humidity and dirt while it slept. You can pull the seed apart into two halves that look just alike.

All bean-like seeds have two halves. They are called cotyledons. These cotyledons contain all the food that the seed needs to begin growing into a plant. And although they don't look like it yet, those two halves will become two leaves—the first two leaves on the young plant. But you will eat the sprout before the leaves come out, unless you want to grow some for longer to see what will happen.

When water is given to the seed amazing things start to happen. Scientists still don't really understand it all. A factory starts up in those cotyledons that changes the food that has been stored there when the seed was dormant into energy units called enzymes, which run everything that lives. The enzymes make the seeds a super nutritious food for people, birds, dogs, horses, cows, hamsters, mice, squirrels and all kinds of other creatures. We call them sprouts. Sprouts are very strong food. They have as much protein as meat and eggs, as

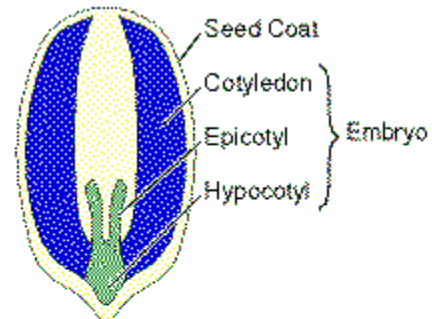
much vitamin C as orange juice, as much vitamin A as carrots, just to name a few.

As your sprouts grow the cotyledons feed a stem that grows between them and if you let the sprouts grow a really long time a tiny leafy bud would start to grow out of the top of the stem—but you'll eat them before that happens. A root comes out of the other end of the stem. It will grow long and will become the first root of the plant when the seed begins to grow. If you had planted your dry seed in dirt and then watered it, you would never see that root because it would be burrowing straight down underground.

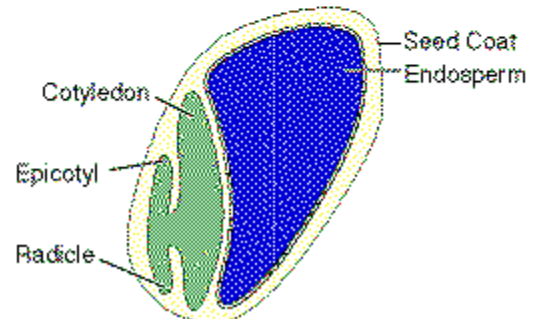
Most seeds have two cotyledons. Those seeds are called dicots. Dicot seeds are beans, lentils, peanuts, garbanzos, broccoli, alfalfa, clover, and just about everything you grow in a garden.

But some types of seeds have just one cotyledon and they are called monocots. Monocots are wheat, corn, buckwheat, rye and all the other grass plants. You can tell a monocot plant in the ground because it sends up just one grasslike spear of green—no leaves like the dicot seeds.

Dicot Seed Structure



Monocot Seed Structure



When you give a monocot seed water the factory is not found in the cotyledon. It is found in a special part of the seed known only to the grass family called the endosperm. The endosperm feeds the cotyledon while it is dormant, all winter long, getting it ready for the time when it will be planted and its dormancy will be broken. In monocots the cotyledon grows a stem and a root, just like in the dicot seeds, but without the endosperm it would die. The endosperm is what gives the yummy flavors we like in wheat, oats, corn, and all the other grains.

So seeds aren't really asleep. They are alive and moving in your hand, deep inside,

mysterious. They only look silent to us-until we add water! Happy sprouting!

Sproutpeople®

Plant a sponge garden.

Give each participant a sponge and have them soak it in water. Have each participant sprinkle sunflower seeds onto their sponge. Place the sponges in a ziplock bag to store on the way home. Remind them to give them lots of sunlight and keep them wet. Wait for the results!

Conclude by read a book of choice, thanking the participants and reminding them of the next program.

Recreate Yourself at Tenaya Lodge for the 2011 California Parks Conference

Recreation, defined – 1) an activity that diverts, or amuses or stimulates; 2) activity that refreshes and recreates; 3) activity that renews your health and spirits by enjoyment and relaxation; 4) the act of creating again.

Recreation is a prime function of our parks and open space – visitors come to rest and renew themselves; enjoying the scenic beauty, seeking exercise, and stimulating their senses. But how many park professionals take the time to recreate themselves? Everyday I talk with stressed out rangers, over worked due to decreased staffing combined with increased visitation, concerned about decreasing budgets taking the job they love so much, trying to make ends meet with decreasing pay and increasing bills. If ever a group of people need to refresh and renew it is the park professional.

From March 1⁴th through the 17th park professionals from all over the state will have the chance to come together in one of our states most iconic recreation areas – Yosemite – to stimulate and amuse our minds and to renew our spirits. I strongly urge you to join your peers in a supportive environment to enjoy the fresh pine scented air, clean snow and comfortable rooms at the Tenaya Lodge for the 2011 California Parks Conference.

Many will hesitate in this time of economic uncertainty to take the time to attend the 2011 conference, but now is exactly when you should attend. You will have chance to network with others, explore ideas on dealing with the new and growing challenges we face as guardians of our natural and cultural resources, and you can take time to laugh, rest and renew your spirit. The conference committee is working hard to keep costs low to help convince agencies to spend their limited dollars on training or to make it more affordable for other to self fund their attendance. Our friends at Tenaya Lodge have once again provided us with a very reasonable \$84.00 per night room rate.

Before you trap yourself into thinking you can't afford to attend conference – think about all the reasons you should.

“Climb the mountains and get their good tidings, Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.” *John Muir*

The Importance and Value of Parks and Open Space

by Thomas 'Smitty' Smith

Parks can mean different things to people. For some, parks are avenues of escape from the stress of modern life, and for others, they are places for high adventure and also for organized activities, such as soccer and softball. For that reason, we find all kinds of parks and open space, usually set aside and administered by government agencies and paid for by tax dollars. Because they are protected and managed by an interesting variety of agencies of government, they are often the brunt of budget cuts and cuts in services. They also are at the mercy of the people in the seats of power, and pressures sometimes are sometimes brought to bear to change park management philosophy depending upon political ideology; a crisis now facing park agencies everywhere, as well as here in the Santa Clara Valley.

Our County parks are of such importance that they draw people to them from further away than local neighborhood parks. They are set aside for unstructured activities, such as just meditating or hiking, boating, cycling, camping, picnicking, or riding your horse, and for the protection of open space and the biological diversity they contain. Because they are usually "natural," they protect the unique plants and animals indigenous to the area. As an example, every ecosystem present in our County is protected somewhere in our County Park System. The voting public of this County has generously provided funding through the County Charter for land purchasing and operations. The last renewal of the Fund was passed with over 80 percent approval!

There seems to be a gravitational pull toward nature on the human psyche. Noted biologist, E.O. Wilson calls it "biophilia," or a tendency for humans to affiliate with life and lifelike processes. Researchers have found that people of all cultures, when given the freedom to select where it is they would like to live, picked two choices. One was in a high place, where they could look far and wide, over a park savanna with copses of scattered trees and to be near a body of water, like a lake or stream. Wilson says that these preferences have been passed on for generation to generation as far back as primeval times. Man would seek places to live that allowed protection of trees and height, a view of wildlife, and a place to obtain water. People all around the urban area where I live, seek such places in an urban/

wildland interface in which to live. They are the most expensive homes. Few people can afford such property. Parks then became an "escape" into their natural world. Not only does it appear that the natural world is embedded in our genes, but in other aspects of our being.

Psychologists have discovered that just a view of natural environments generate a feeling of tranquility and a decline of moods of fear and anger and in some cases, even lower blood pressures. Buildings often have offices that open into landscaped patios because employees reported fewer feelings of stress and greater job satisfaction. Architects often design buildings to bring the outside, inside. The IBM "Think Tank" in Santa Teresa is such a building. The offices face a natural courtyard.

Recently, a University of Michigan study even revealed that people learned significantly better after a walk in nature, than after a walk in an urban environment. (San Jose Mercury News, August 26, 2010)

To some people parks are like temples. Places like Yosemite National Park and the cathedral redwoods and oak woodlands in our own county fill me with awe. So much so it is a religious experience to just visit there. When I was a ranger at Merced Lake in Yosemite, a good friend showed me fern "grottos" and secret meadows where shafts of light shown down upon wildflowers. Several of our own County parks have such fern "grottos" and wildflowers are abundant in the springtime. I often reminded my students about how lucky they were to live in a County and a State that valued it's natural character and it's open spaces. It is a great place to learn to be a ranger.

At a California Park Conference some time ago, the Key Note Speaker was Gary Machlis, a National Park Service scientist. Gary talked about what parks meant to him. I remembered some of the words that Gary gave to us that day long ago. Gary mentioned temples, along with other reasons why we have parks. He also mentioned that parks are places set aside for their natural diversity and their interest to science. Bill Mott, former East Bay Regional, State and National Park Director had once said that natural parks are the colleges and universities of our environ-

ment. How best it is to study things natural in places natural. I often have seen classes from San Jose State University out studying plant life at Calero, one of our local county parks not far from the campus. As a college teacher, I had my own students out in the park environment almost every day. Antibiotics come from plants. Could be parks could also hold the mystery for the cure for cancer, or for AIDs. That is not a far-fetched thought. Many plants on this planet's open spaces have yet to be discovered.

Parks, even at the local level, are also targets for ecotourism and are an important part of this Nation and the world's economy. Think about what the average family might spend visiting a local county park or a state park, or for a trip to Yosemite. Gas, food, lodging, equipment, are purchased from local stores and gateway communities. Yet when economic times are bad, parks are often the ones to take the monetary hits. As of this writing, Arizona is closing state parks, and California has cut back on when some parks are open. When California discussed the closing of several state parks to "save money," one State Senator who liked the idea was reminded of what would happen to the economy of his district if they closed a local State Park. He changed his mind in the hurry. It was brought out during the discussion to close some of the parks, that California State Parks gave back to the State in tax revenue, \$2.38 cents for every dollar spent on parks. What other government agency does that?

Parks are also things cultural and are a reminder of our past. Many state and national parks are created for just this purpose. Here at home, Alviso Marina, was once a very important gateway to San Jose during the times before and during the Gold Rush. Several of our County Parks were once Spanish Land Grants, the mines at Almaden/Quicksilver that provided mercury to the gold rush, and Mount Madonna, the home of a very famous person, Henry Miller. The new Cottle Ranch County Park will concentrate on this County's agricultural past, and Chitactac/Adams Park, features Ohlone Indian cultural history complete with petroglyphs

Over the years, there has been a huge urbanization of America that makes the preservation of open space even more important. A very high percent of all people now live in urban areas and the resulting development is encroaching upon all of our parks, regional, state, and national. Wildlife corridors that allow critters to migrate from one

open space to another are being cut off by housing and shopping centers and by highways and freeways. This causes parks to become "islands" in a sea of development that will eventually cause unhealthy wildlife populations caused by genetic inbreeding. Mountain lions are beginning to appear in backyards, coyotes are roaming the streets in the area that I live in, and the deer are eating the roses.

"Seeing" is not a popular activity for our younger generations. They are more into active pursuits like skateboarding, or baseball or soccer. Organized activities are taking precedence over unstructured outdoor play. Most modern children are not that close to nature and therefore lack the ethics necessary to take care of the land. An article written by Donna St. George of the Washington Post, and published in the San Jose California Mercury News on June 25th, 2007, states that there has been a 50% decline since 1997 in the number of children ages 9 through 12 that spent time in the outdoors in other than organized sports. That proportion has now dropped from 16 to 8 percent today. This research, accomplished by Sandra Hofferth of the University of Maryland, also showed an increase in computer playtime and time spent watching television and video games for the same age group. That is a worrisome trend. In a few years, that age group will be the ones that will be controlling the environment we live in and will be where the park profession has to draw from for new employees. It is extremely important that people have to have a passion for protection of natural land values and that is usually gained from outdoor experiences and not from a classroom.

This is a critical time for Parks. Pressures brought to bear to change the mission of park systems should be curtailed. Recent efforts by certain factions of national government attempted to change the mission of our national parks. I cringe at the thought. Now, I have heard that some people on our local County Board are giving thought to changing the mission of our County Park Department that would shift our regional park system into a more urban, city park structure, more prone to organized recreation.

Our County's Park Mission is to "Provide, Protect and Preserve, Regional Parklands for the enjoyment, education and Inspiration of this and future generations." It couldn't be stated any better.

**Park Rangers Association of California
Board Officers 2010**

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

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