

# The Signpost

September–October, 2011



## From the Bedside Table “The Wild Trees” by Richard Preston

Anyone who has ever gazed up towards the top of an old growth redwood tree in wonder needs to read this book. Michael Taylor (a grocery clerk) and Steve Stillit (a biology student) set out to find the tallest redwood tree. This book takes us deep into the heart of the remaining old growth forests and to the tops of the redwoods where they discover a virtual Garden of Eden of plants and animals that has never been explored before. As they measure and climb they begin to name the wild trees. The night they spent in the canopy of a tree they named Teleperion (Tree of the Moon) still gives me the goose bumps. Steve Stillit is now the world’s renowned expert on old growth redwoods and teaches at Humboldt State University. I highly recommend catching him at one of the few talks he gives each year about redwoods and his experience studying them. This book is a great guide and reference for anyone wanting to do a program on our state tree. I live and work under these magnificent giants and still learned quite a few new things about my own backyard. It is a story full of mystery, suspense, love and revelation.

Hope you got some time to do a little reading this summer.....put this on your winter reading list by the fire.

Rangers are the cornerstone of every park organization and they are extremely talented, versatile people. One day they pack mules: the next fight forest fires; another keep law and order; and so on during the week, trapping bears, comforting lost children, manning entrance stations. Whatever is not assigned specifically to someone else is done by the rangers. Every superintendent has used the phrase “have the rangers do it,” thousands of times. A park would not be a park without a ranger.

**George Hartzog**

*Director National Parks Service  
Battling for the National Parks*

# Voices from the Wilderness Unite

by Patrick Boyle Region 1

Sometimes it is hard to find your voice in a world that is spinning around faster than you can keep up with it. But sometimes enough is enough and something has to be said or done to be heard. I am guilty of drawing the line in the sand just as often as shrugging the whole thing off and chalking it up to "it is what it is." "Pick your battles" my dad used to say because you can't fight the world. In my little ranger world all the battles seem important nowadays, and I am still tasked with choosing between them. Where do we allocate our scant dollars to best protect our precious resources and still serve the public? We have a long standing proud heritage behind us that has fought their share of battles for parks, wildlife and open spaces.

Many visitors have approached me this year asking if the park is going to be closed due to budget cuts. I start by saying the general fund is taking a huge hit which is where our operation budget comes from since the tax payers and politicians have not set aside any tax revenue specifically for parks. People here are amazed that their local tax dollars are not being specifically allocated to a service they love. Of course sometimes trying to shake these same people down to pay their day use and camping fees is a whole other issue. Of course I hear the other side of the coin stating that parks have already been paid for and should be free and if the government can not keep them open maybe parks should be privatized.

Matt Cerkle wrote a great response to one of these individuals who does not know or seem to care about what we do on a daily basis. I urge you to read this on the PRAC NET forum if you have not already. Smitty had a great piece on the value of Parks and Open Space a couple of Signposts back. Don't be afraid of speaking out in response to these individuals and organizations who are uninformed and let them know what we do, and how important parks are to the people. After all one of our jobs includes education and every contact is a chance for some interpretation. Do not be afraid to point out that Parks are not run by individuals or private corporations. They are more like a public benefit corporation. To coin Ken Burns "they are Americas Best Idea". Otherwise anyone with 40+ acres of land would open campsites and parks. The problem is none of us would be able to afford them because they would need to be run like a business and make a profit. Between overhead, capital improvements, and insurance it is virtually impossible for any one private corporation or individual to run a park with the services we provide to such a wide spectrum of the public at such a reasonable cost. People love their parks and this is the time for our voices to be heard.

A voice cries out from the wilderness but does anyone really hear it?.....

It was nice to hear that Sacramento County is not only hiring rangers but the County Supervisors were supporting a proposed sales tax increase to support the parks. There is always hope.....

*He believed that even with the worst possible forecast for the future, it is more fun to take part in the battle for what you believe in than just to stand on the sidelines wringing your hands.*

*Mardy Murie (about Olaus Murie)*

Alaska Activists ANWR/ Wilderness Act Author

# **4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Three Corners Conference**

**by Park Ranger Marie D. Fong**

If you are looking for a short conference (or an excuse to go to Las Vegas during the cooler months) then look no further than the Fourth Biennial *Three Corners Conference* hosted at the University of Las Vegas Nevada. This region is rich in many forms of archaeological developments and would be a great supplemental learning opportunity.

## **Where and When:**

The conference will be held on October 29, 2011. Papers will start at 9:00am on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV).

## **Call for Papers**

Oral presentations are 12 minutes. Presentations may be on any anthropological research domain and time period within the region (i.e., southern Nevada, southeastern California, southwestern corner of Utah, and the extreme western portion of Arizona).

- Deadline for abstracts is September 26, 2011.
- PowerPoint presentations are highly encouraged.
- Proceedings of the conference are published.

## **Purpose:**

Archaeology in the area has continued to grow in scale and the orientation of archaeological research continues to shift. Due to the increase in the number and types of archaeological sites that have been discovered, there is a need for the regional researchers to present and discuss findings among professionals to promote the development/refinement of regional theory, methodologies, and management goals.

## **Send Abstracts To:**

[threecornersconference@yahoo.com](mailto:threecornersconference@yahoo.com)

## **Organizers:**

- UNLV, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, Lost City Museum,
- Bureau of Land Management, National Forest Service,
- Nevada Archaeological Association, Interagency Cultural Site Stewardship Team

## **Questions / Information:**

[threecornersconference@yahoo.com](mailto:threecornersconference@yahoo.com)

or, Mark C. Slaughter, (702) 293-8143



# **Interpretive and Outdoor Education Training**

## **Topics**

**Science Toys for Outdoor Education**

**Using Magic in Interpretation**

**Techniques for Outdoor Education**

### **Your Instructor**

*Frank Padilla Jr., a retired California State Park Ranger, is a well known, respected interpreter and outdoor educator with a popular following. Frank uses "message based magic" to promote outdoor education, conservation and outdoor safety. His techniques bring magic and science toys to outdoor education programs, which allow interpreters to develop programs that are more rewarding, educational, entertaining and FUN.*

*Frank has provided workshops for the California Parks Conference and at the American Camping Association.*

### **Course Information**

DATE: Thursday, September 22, 2011

TIME: 8:00 am to 5:30 pm

LOCATION: Guadalupe River Park and Gardens Visitor and Education Center  
438 Coleman Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95110

COST: \$50.00 per student—includes all materials and handouts

Due to the hands on nature of this workshop class size is limited to 24 students so register early to save your space!!!



This workshop is co-sponsored by the  
Park Rangers Association of California  
and the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy



# ***Interpretive and Outdoor Education Training***

## **REGISTRATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Member of: PRAC       Guadalupe River Park Conservancy

Registration Fee: \$50.00

Please make checks payable to **PRAC**  
Completed registration forms should be mailed to:  
Interpretive Training-Magic  
Guadalupe River Park Conservancy  
438 Coleman Ave.  
San Jose CA 95110

Please Call 408-201-2886 for Information on Credit Card Payments



This workshop is co-sponsored by the  
Park Rangers Association of California  
and the Guadalupe River Park Conser-  
vancy





## New Position for the Board of Directors

Are you a college student looking to improve your experience as member of PRAC and are you willing to help your fellow students and other PRAC members?

The Board of Directors is currently seeking applications for a one year term as a Student Liaison to the Board. The student liaison is an appointed, non-voting, one year term.

As an appointed member of the Board of Directors the Student Liaison will participate in all board activities including serving on committees and working on special projects, training opportunities and the annual California Parks Conference.

You will have the chance to participate in and learn how PRAC benefits uniformed park professionals from across California and Nevada, learn how to work in a not for profit organization, and develop skills that will help you as you progress in your park career. The Student Liaison will also speak for other student members bringing forth issues of importance and helping the board serve the needs of students seeking a career in parks.

If you are interested in becoming the Student Liaison please complete the attached application and submit it with a one page letter outlining why you wish to serve on the board and what your goals would be during your term. Applications must be submitted by November 1. The Board will review the applications and the applicant selected will begin their term January 1, 2012.

If you have any questions about the responsibilities or selection process please contact Pam Helmke, Region 2 Director at [region2@calranger.org](mailto:region2@calranger.org)

### Requirements for Student Liaison to the Board:

- Must be a student or regular member of PRAC
- Complete required application
- 1 year term
- Must be a student in an accredited college or university in the PRAC service area with a major that supports a career in park management
- Duties of the Student Liaison:
  - Serve as a voice for student members to the board
  - Chair the Student Advisory Committee to be made up other student members to assist the board.
  - Attend a minimum of three board meetings (can include conference calls) including the Annual General Membership Meeting.
  - Serve as or assist as the Volunteer Coordinator for the annual parks conference

# **Application for Student Liaison to the Board**

## **Park Rangers Association of California**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Evening Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**College or University:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a statement outlining why you wish to serve as the Student Liaison to the Park Rangers Association of California Board of Directors and, if you were selected as the Liaison, what your goals would be during your term on the board.

(Statement should be no more than one (1) page.)

Submit to:

PRAC Student Liaison  
P.O. Box 153  
Stewarts Point, California 95480

**Applications Must Be Received By November 1, 2011**



**Park Rangers Association of California  
Board Officers 2011**

**President**

DAVE Updike  
(310) 858-7272 EXT. 123  
FAX: (310) 858-7212  
E-Mail: [president@CalRanger.org](mailto:president@CalRanger.org)

**Region 1 Director**

PATRICK Boyle  
Cell (707) 768-3898  
E-Mail: [region1@CalRanger.org](mailto:region1@CalRanger.org)

**Region 2 Director**

PAM Helmke  
Cell: (408) 201-2886  
E-Mail: [region2@CalRanger.org](mailto:region2@CalRanger.org)

**Region 3 Director**

SHANE ROMAIN  
(530) 896-7834  
Cell: (530) 624-1102  
E-Mail: [region3@CalRanger.org](mailto:region3@CalRanger.org)

**Region 4 Director**

DAVE STERLING  
(562) 570-1765  
FAX: (562) 570-1134  
E-Mail: [region4@CalRanger.org](mailto:region4@CalRanger.org)

**Region 5 Director**

RICHARD WEINER  
Cell: (909) 952-1520  
E-Mail: [region5@CalRanger.org](mailto:region5@CalRanger.org)

**Region 6 Director**

MARIE D. FONG  
Cell: (775) 813-3629  
FAX: (775) 828-6614  
E-Mail: [region6@CalRanger.org](mailto:region6@CalRanger.org)

**Past President**

LEE HICKINBOTHAM JR  
(408) 483-0174  
FAX: (408) 354-8623  
E-Mail: [pastpresident@CalRanger.org](mailto:pastpresident@CalRanger.org)

**The Signpost Editor**

DAVID BROOKS  
(831) 336-2948  
FAX: (831) 335-1178  
E-Mail: [newsletter@CalRanger.org](mailto:newsletter@CalRanger.org)

**Scholarship**

BILL HENDRICKS  
(805) 756-1246  
FAX: (805) 756-1402

**Executive Manager**

BETSY ANDERSON  
(707) 884-3949  
FAX: (707) 884-1945  
E-Mail: [office@CalRanger.org](mailto:office@CalRanger.org)

**WebMaster**

JEFF PRICE  
(805) 278-9201  
E-Mail: [webmaster@CalRanger.org](mailto:webmaster@CalRanger.org)

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SUBMISSIONS CAN BE MAILED TO DAVID BROOKS, 560 HILLCREST DR., BEN LOMOND, CA, 95005. INFORMATION CAN ALSO BE SUBMITTED BY TELEPHONE AT (831) 336-2948.

**Submission deadlines ARE THE LAST day of JANUARY, MARCH, MAY, JULY, SEPTEMBER, AND NOVEMBER.**

EMAIL:  
[prangerd@ix.netcom.com](mailto:prangerd@ix.netcom.com)

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME _____		
ADDRESS _____		
CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP _____
PHONE _____		
HOME _____	WORK _____	
Email Address _____		
Employer or School _____		
Job Classification or Major _____		

Park Rangers Association of California  
P. O. Box 153  
Stewarts Point, CA 95480-0153

**First Class**

**Voting Membership**

REGULAR.....\$50 \_\_\_\_\_  
RETIRED.....\$35 \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-voting Membership**

AGENCY:  
(1-24 PERSONS—6 MAILINGS)..... \$100 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 PERSONS—12 MAILINGS)..... \$150 \_\_\_\_\_  
STUDENT.....\$20 \_\_\_\_\_  
ASSOCIATE.....\$35 \_\_\_\_\_  
SUPPORTING..... \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

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