

The Signpost

March-April, 2012



2012 Parks Training in the Santa Monica Mountains **by Mark Hada, Conference Co-Chair, Janet Carle, CSPRA Wave Editor, and PRAC webmaster Jeff Price**

Ah, Malibu in March! OK, not Paris in the springtime, but pretty darn good!

During the week of March 5–9th, park professionals from California and Nevada will be traveling to Agoura Hills for the 2012 Annual Parks Training. California State Park Rangers Association and the Park Rangers Association of California in cooperation with California State Parks

Training Department and the State Parks Foundation, will be sponsoring this annual event, which will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Agoura Hills.

The training events will appeal to professionals of every classification and many are either job required or job related. Tracks include Public Safety, Resource Management, Park Operations, Interpretation and Transitions. In addition, there will be optional educational/interpretive sessions on Monday, March 5 and Friday, March 9, with plenty of opportunity to network with representatives from other parks and agencies in the evening at other optional events. Most training sessions will be eligible for 24-hours of POST Continuing Education, advanced officer credit. Sessions include Resource Crimes, Special Effects Filming Safety, Active Shooter Response and more.

The Interpretation Track incorporates, in its entirety, the required class for interpreters “Interpretation for Diverse Audiences” (IDA). Interpretive staff and others who attend the entire track will receive a state certification for completion. Sessions include Using Social Media, Engaging and Welcoming Indigenous Peoples, and Using Live Animals with Diverse Audiences. The Resources Track has an extremely wide variety of topics including Moving Artifacts, Updating Exhibits, Restoration of Natural Habitat after a Fire, and Resource Advisor for Wildland Fires. The Park Operations Track includes a wide variety of topics as well. Sessions include Developing Partnerships, Trails Training, Preparing for Park Closures, and Water Treatment. Additionally there will be an orientation session on the new CAMP version.

The Transitions Track is focused on topics of interest to those retired or soon to be retired. An array of exciting activities has been planned for retirees and soon-to-be retirees by Jeff Price, Track Chair. Monday starts out with an opportunity to tour the remnants of the famous set of the TV show M*A*S*H at Malibu Creek State Park. Tuesday will feature several indoor sessions at the hotel, including RV Lifestyle, Travel with a Purpose, the California Senior Legislature, and Easy Magic for Grandparents.

(Story continues on page 4.)



From the Presidents Desk

2012 has started off with a dangerous trend for park rangers. As 2011 closed Florida Park Ranger James Davidson was shot at four times by an assailant over a parking citation in a Tampa park. On New Years Day NPS Park Ranger Margaret Anderson was murdered in the line of duty on a traffic stop at Mt. Rainer National Park in Washington. Rangers and other Law Enforcement Officers responding to her aid were also fired upon by the suspect. January also brought the loss of Ryan Hiller, a seasonal ranger working for a concessionaire during the winter, who was killed when a tree limb hit his tent cabin during a wind storm in Yosemite National Park.

Staffing shortages and decreases in training budgets make our jobs more difficult and more dangerous. As a profession, each and every member of our parks family needs be aware of the risks we face day-in and day-out. The most important job that we do is taking care of ourselves and our co-workers.

The job of the park professional is difficult and dangerous. Aside from the risks associated with law enforcement we face the additional dangers of working in an ever changing and isolated environment. Nature, for all its beauty, can be as cold and unforgiving as any criminal. Fire Suppression and SAR provide their own unique risks to park staff. When we chose to serve we accepted the risks but we can, with training and practice, mitigate these risks. The best safety tool you have is your mind. Think before you act, prepare for the worst, and plan for the unexpected.

As we proceed into 2012 I urge each and every one of you—please, be careful, stay alert and if you have it please wear your body armor EVERY SHIFT.

We are fortunate to have jobs we love. We protect that which is most beautiful, unique and part of the soul of our society. We share our love of the outdoors with others who may have never experienced the simple joy of watching a fawn take its first steps or listening to the soft music made by a flowing stream and wind through the trees.

I urge you to find that special place in your park or open space and take a moment to remember those who have gone before us, especially those who have given their lives in the line of duty.

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike.”

John Muir

PRACnet Is Here To Help

by Jeff Price, PRAC webmaster

If you are a regular, uniformed or agency member and reading this column in the "Signpost", you should be part of the member forum PRAC has set up to share ideas and get help with park problems.

Currently, we have 165 members subscribed to PRACnet, but in case you are new or not aware, we want you to join us. We post job opportunities, action items, park issue alerts, photos, discuss solutions to park issues, share info on developing standardized park regulations and many other topics. This list server was formed to promote this interchange of information, thoughts and opinions regarding the park profession in California and Nevada and the

programs, activities and policies of PRAC. More extensive information is available on the PRAC website at www.calranger.org.

If you would like to join to the PRAC Member list server on Yahoo!Groups, a free, easy-to-use email group service, please send an e-mail with your name, and agency to the PRACnet Moderator at webmaster@calranger.org. As a member of this

group, you may send messages to the entire group using just one email address.

We hope you will join us, if you are not already enjoying this member service. We have been sharing ideas in this way for almost 13 years, since April 2000, and want all PRAC members to be hooked in to



good park information.

Keeping in Touch with Our Members

Ever wonder what your Board of Directors does? Want to know what's happening in PRAC? Do you have a question or want to address the Board on an issue? Do you just want to listen in and hear what happens at a Board meeting? Now you can easily do all those things.

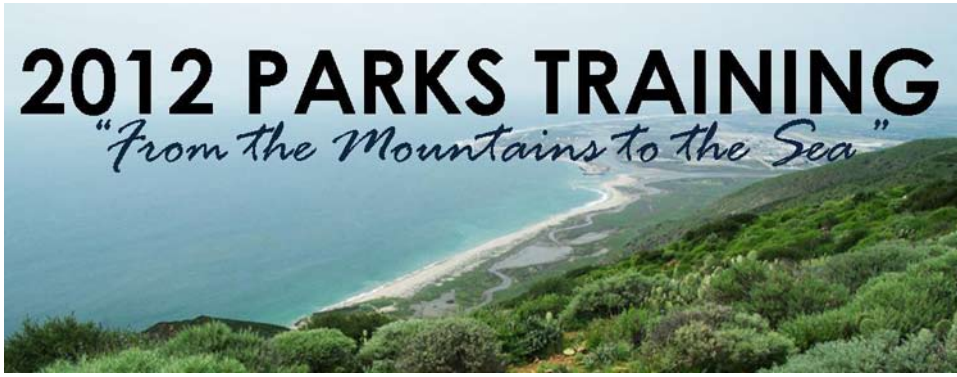
Starting in 2012 the PRAC Board will be placing our meeting agendas on the web page at least a week before each meeting. After the meeting a synopsis of what occurred will be posted so you can see who was in attendance and what the hot topics are. Our goal is to have that synopsis posted within 14 days of the meeting and we'll keep old issues available so you can follow the progress of topics that are important to you.

If you would like to participate in a board meeting, or just listen in, please contact your Regional Director. Most of our meetings are held by conference call and you are more than welcome to dial in. Your Director can provide you with the number and access code. If you have an issue you'd like to talk to the board about let us know at least a week before the meeting and we'll get you on the agenda. Along with agendas and their synopsis we've posted the Board's Calendar of Important Dates so you can see when a meeting is coming up.

Your Board wants to make it easy for each and every member to participate in our association. We hope that you will find our open and easily accessed communications helpful to you. To find the Board Agendas and Calendar enter the members only section of our web page and open the Get Connected link.

2012 PARKS TRAINING

"From the Mountains to the Sea"



(Story continues from page 1.)

Wednesday offers several field trips, including the Adamson House at Malibu the Getty Center Museum, and the Reagan Library. A late afternoon social will be followed by a Smoked Tri-tip Potluck at Malibu Creek State Park. Thursday will offer an early morning bird walk, lunch time tide pool exploration, and several indoor sessions on travel, GrayBears, transitioning to retirement and future state Retirees' Rendezvous. There will be plenty of time to enjoy the keynote speaker, banquet and CSPRA luncheon as well.

Camping is available on a limited at Malibu Creek State Park. If you are interested, please contact Jeff Price ASAP to reserve a spot at webmaster@calranger.org or 805-278-9201.

Exciting event field trips include whale watching, the Autry Museum, Will Rogers SHP horseback and house tour, and an evening tour of Mulhol-

land Dr. and the Hollywood Bowl. A special welcome will be hosted on Monday evening by the State Parks Foundation for attendees. Park organizations will have their Annual Membership and Board meetings at a 2-hour Wednesday luncheon.

These are just some of the sessions within the various tracks. There will also be optional opportunities for local field trips on the Monday and Friday of the Training, as well as evening interpretive and social occasions. The area abounds with opportunities to explore. Registration packets will start arriving soon, so save the dates of March 5–9, 2012 for this years Annual Training!

For more information go to <http://www.calranger.org/2012conf/index.html>

2012 Upcoming Events

March

05–09 Parks Training Symposium Check it on the website www.calranger.org

07 March General Membership Meeting at Conference 12–2 PM Luncheon

08 March Board Meeting at Conference TBA

31 March *Signpost* Deadline for May Edition

April

02 April Scholarship Info to Student members

12 April Conference Call Critique of 2012 Conference—Begin Planning 2013

28 April Save the Frogs Day www.savethefrogs.com

May

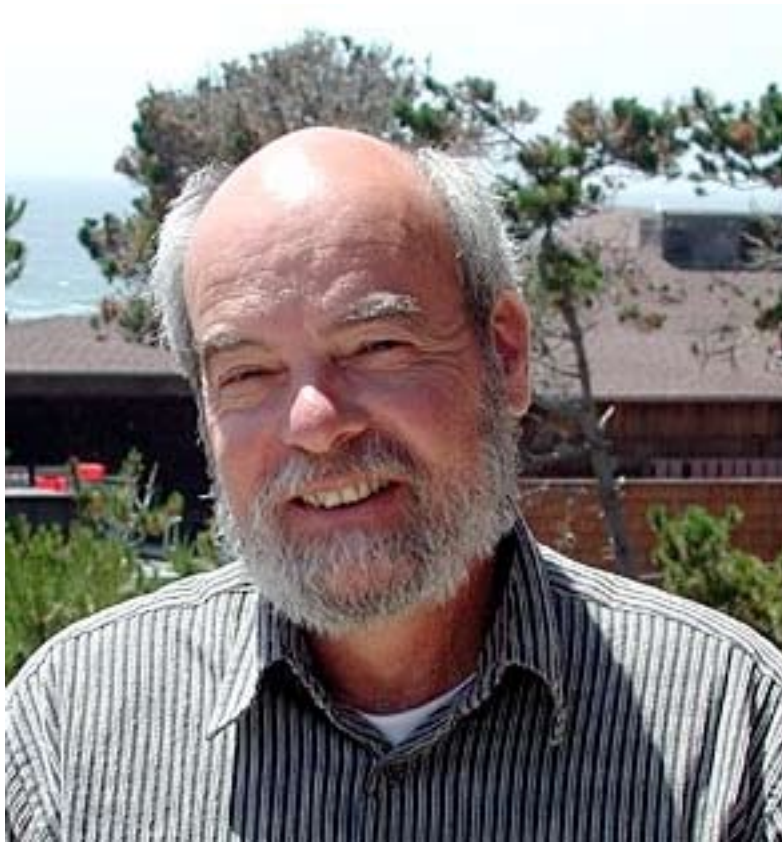
04 May Board Agenda Posted Online

10 May 7:00 PM Board Conference Call

14 May Board Meeting Synopsis Posted Online

31 May Deadline for July *Signpost*

If you or your agency have items you would like posted on the calendar please contact your Region Director. They can also be posted with a link for more information since this is available on our website as well.



Peter Douglas

PRAC's 2012 Honorary Lifetime Member Selection

In 1972 a young legislative aide to then Assembly member Alan Sieroty (D-Beverly Hills) became a key player in the drafting and passage of Proposition 20 in 1972, the Coastal Initiative. Later, this same aide helped write the California Coastal Act of 1976, creating the California Coastal Commission. He eventually became its longest serving Executive Director.

Peter Douglas was that legislative aide who was so involved in landmark California coastal protection. For over 30 years he has worked diligently to maintain public access to our coastline and has successfully diverted thousands of development projects that were not in the public interest or would have devastated our unique coast. Mr. Douglas has been one of California's most vocal and successful defenders of over 1,100 miles of dramatic coastline.

The California Coastal Act that he helped author, contains the strongest coastal protections in existence, and gave the Commission the responsibility to enforce those laws. Mr. Douglas began his service on the Commission in 1977 as the Chief Deputy Director and in 1985 he was appointed as the Executive Director. Mr. Douglas was a driving force, protecting California's unique and environmentally sensitive coastal lands. Since retiring in November 2011 he has focused on his writing projects, enjoying nature, and spending time with his friends, family and especially his grandchildren.

In honor of three decades of tireless and dedicated service to the people of California and our coastal environment, the Park Rangers Association of California is proud to select Peter Douglas as our 2012 Honorary Lifetime Member.

GUARDAPARQUE

February, 2011

Species Management

United States - Muir Woods National Monument

Climate Change Threatens Park's Redwood Trees

Summary: Climate change is causing higher temperatures that are decreasing the fog necessary for redwood trees to survive, and the situation is worsening.

Thousands of people visit Muir Woods National Monument every year to take in its grand redwood trees, but climate change could dissipate the cooling, wet fog that enables those trees to grow to towering heights. It could have no greater visible effect than in Muir Woods, where redwoods some 500 to 800 years old climb more than 200 feet toward the sky, providing a serene setting for visitors from Marin and around the world.

A report recently issued by the nonprofit National Parks Conservation Association concludes climate change could affect the formation and presence of fog along the entire Pacific Coast, and that in turn could stunt the giant redwoods. Another recent report issued by the Rocky Mountain Climate Organization in Colorado looking at the impact on state parks comes to the same conclusion—and says it's already happening. In Muir Woods, higher temperatures have reduced by 30 percent the coastal fog that redwoods depend on for nearly half their water supply, according to the report.

It's fog that rolls over the trees and provides moisture—nature's drip irrigation system—hat allows the redwoods to grow even in the driest of months. Branches covered with fine needles catch the fog's water particles, which then condense and fall to the forest floor below where their roots can absorb the water. Coast redwoods are limited to a few hundred miles in northern California, where a confluence of location, climate and elevation provides the only place they can be found. The fog created by the Pacific Ocean and atmospheric conditions keep the trees continually damp, even during summer droughts. The summertime fog provides about 40 percent of their annual water supply, according to the Rocky Mountain report.

Scientists have found that during the past century the amount of fog has dropped by about one-third, leading them to believe that the trees will have trouble growing to the dizzying heights they do now. The average temperature in Muir Woods could increase by more than 5 degrees by 2070, making it as hot as San Diego has been historically, according to the report.

Source: Marin Independent Journal, California, USA



Refusal to Identify During a Lawful Detention

Reprinted by permission of Robert C. Phillips
Deputy District Attorney (Ret.-County of San Diego)
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Question: Is it a crime in California for a person to refuse to identify himself to a peace officer during a lawful detention?

My opinion is that depending upon the circumstances, refusing to identify oneself during a lawful detention may be a violation of P.C. § 148(a)(1) for “delaying or obstructing” an officer in the performance of his (or her) duties. Some other “legal experts” disagree, arguing that P.C. § 148(a)(1) does not apply to such a situation. As I see it, there are two legal hurdles to validating my conclusion on this issue: (1) Is there a legal duty for one to identify himself when lawfully detained? (2) If yes, then is there a California state statute that a detainee is violating when he refuses to identify himself? As for issue #1, the United States Supreme Court has told us that a state statute requiring a lawfully detained person to identify himself when so requested by a law enforcement officer does not violate the Fourth Amendment. (*Hiibel v. Sixth Judicial District Court of Nevada* (2004) 542 U.S. 177.) California, however, has no such statute. But it is my argument that law enforcement’s right to temporarily detain a criminal suspect on less than probable cause (i.e., a “reasonable suspicion”) for the purpose of determining whether that person was, is, or is about to be involved in criminal activity—a power afforded by case law only (*Terry v. Ohio* (1968) 391 U.S. 1)—inherently includes the concurrent power to require that person to identify himself despite the lack of a statute so stating. Indeed, the United States Supreme Court has specifically held that: “[T]he ability to briefly stop [a suspect], ask questions, or check identification in the absence of probable cause promotes the strong government interest in

solving crimes and bringing offenders to justice.” (Italics added; *Hayes v. Florida* (1985) 470 U.S. 811, 816.) The *Hiibel* decision itself held that: “The principles of *Terry* permit a State to require a suspect to disclose his name in the course of a *Terry* stop” (i.e., a detention). (at p. 187.) The power to temporarily detain a suspect is, in my opinion, a hollow one without the concurrent power to also require him to identify himself. As for issue #2, P.C. § 148(a)(1) makes it a misdemeanor to delay or obstruct an officer in the lawful performance of his or her duties. When an officer lawfully detains a person, that person’s refusal to identify himself may, depending upon the circumstances, delay or obstruct the officer in the performance of his duties as he is forced to take the extra time necessary to determine who the detainee is. California case law has not of yet answered this question for us, but has instead inferred that if it can be charged at all, it will depend upon whether or not the detainee’s lack of cooperation, under the circumstances, did in fact delay or obstruct the officer in the performance of his duties. (See *People v. Quiroga* (1993) 16 Cal.App.4th 961; and *In re Gregory S.* (1980) 112 Cal.App.3rd 764.) If you choose to make case law for me on this issue, know that you must be ready describe in detail what it was about the detainee’s refusal to identify himself that in fact delayed or obstructed you in some way: E.g.: Did the detainee’s refusal to identify himself unnecessarily extend the time required to complete the detention or otherwise draw you away from performing other duties? If the answer is “yes,” then we have a good argument that the elements of P.C. § 148(a)(1) have been met.

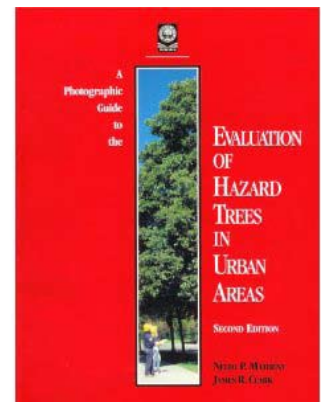
**From the Bedside Table
Patrick Boyle Region 1**

A Photographic Guide to the Evaluation of Hazard Trees in Urban Areas

By Nelda Matheny and James Clark

I was given this book after attending the day long conference training session in Yosemite on hazard trees. A few years later, and after much reading and discussion this became our departments' bible on hazard trees. We did not have a program in place at the time. After witnessing a few tree failures that were too close for comfort, we began the process of inventorying our parks and starting to understand some of the issues we were facing. At first the task seemed overwhelming but this guide really helped with our basic assessments and those surveys were backed up with an independent arborist. The guidelines and photos can help provide even a non tree specialist the ability to recognize potential failures. Trees are not the symmetrical Zen like structures we would like them to be. Rating trees is subjective and people have strong feelings towards them. I have even been told that I cut down someone's

favorite tree in the whole wide world. (It was a Eucalyptus tree.) This tree was shedding limbs and had taken a recent lean towards a popular trailhead and home that could not be relocated. The forms are easy to use and adapt to your departments needs. No program can stand any legal scrutiny without documentation. The forest service has some great photos and materials and is a fantastic resource to supplement this book. Get to know the trees and pathogens in your park from a new perspective. Hope you got a chance to do a little reading by the fire this winter.



Getting Connected **Patrick Boyle Region 1**

Ok so how are those new years resolutions holding up? I for one am still working on biggest one and that is finding better ways to get and stay connected with all of you. I always feel a little out of touch being behind the redwood curtain .To that end we have been busy working behind the scenes on updating the web page a bit. You can now find direct links to get in touch with committees on the get connected page. We have also begun posting the agenda and a synopsis of our director meetings as well as a calendar of the upcoming events in the members only section. Please feel free to have us put items on the agenda and calendar that are important to you and your agency. You are also always welcome to join in on the conference calls. Let us know and we will get you the info needed to join in on the fun.

We have also moved the *Signpost* into the public page so it will be easier for you to view and would like to hear your thoughts of delivering it directly to your inbox via email. This is your publication. You are welcome to submit articles / photos / upcoming events and programs for your park. They can be submitted online and also include link that that can direct folks to your website for more information. Contact our editor David Brooks for more info on getting your article published.

Don't forget to check us out on Facebook. Matt Cerkle has done a fantastic job with this site. If you have been resisting in joining the Facebook community like me, this is a reason to join. Check it out next time you are looking for a new friend! Speaking of friends, hope to see y'all down at Aguora Hills March 5th thru 9th. Maybe we can friend each other in person.

Rattlesnake Bite Management

Park Ranger Marie D. Fong

During these coming post-hibernation months it is not uncommon to receive many reports of rattlesnake bites occurring at local parks, trail-heads, and open spaces to both humans and dogs, occasionally horses; fortunately most of these reports are received after the fact by a recovering individual who has contacted park staff. In the United States there are only four groups of venomous snakes: copperheads, corals, cottonmouths, and rattlesnakes and while statistics show that only 0.1% (one in one thousand) of these bites are fatal, immediate medical attention can greatly impact the victim's outcome. As is true with many injuries and medical emergencies, bite victim who are children, elderly, or medically compromised individuals are at a greater risk of a fatal outcome. Children can receive a higher percentage of venom to their mass than an adult and the elderly individual can be challenged with generally less than ideal health in addition to any existing respiratory and cardiac conditions.

As any Park Professional can confirm, statistics show that the majority of all bites are to males between ages of 20-40 to the hands, feet, and face and in most instances alcohol or other controlled substances are involved. In these cases, the term bite victim can only be used tongue-in-cheek. Truly accidental bites are luckily rarer; approximately 40% of all initial bites by rattlesnakes are dry, meaning that the snake did not envenomate the victim. While a bite that has been envenomated is reported to have immediate effects, for field staff responding to the emergency it is imperative to treat all bites as if they were envenomated since symptoms often are not present in the victim until at least an hour after the bite. Use all time you have to treat a bite victim as if they have been envenomated and depending on your role as a rescuer or emergency medical care provider or in a worst case scenario, bite victim, make sure that further medical treatment is sought in a hospital or emergency care facility where envenomation can be determined and treated as needed.

Remember too that there are many variables that may affect the effects of a snake bite which include:

Species (and even geographic location) of snake involved

- Size of snake
- Amount of venom injected
- Size and overall health of bite victim
- Location and depth of bite
- Physiology of bite victim

- Reaction of bite victim: panics, remains calm, delays trip to hospital, etc...

Depending on your role in the bite emergency, again hopefully not as the victim, there are a few crucial facts to remember in addition to the basic medical procedures that you have been trained in. All Park Professionals have borne witness to the general lack of species identification knowledge that the public has to bear. For example: the panicked cry of "there is a huge Coyote over there" which upon investigation is just an off-leash Golden Retriever in the bushes. The rate of poor species identification seems to spike dramatically when the species is a "dangerous" or venomous species. If someone has been bitten by a snake and they are trying to convince you it was a rattlesnake, by all means this is the time to take their word for it. Treat, transport, and let higher medical care figure it out.

It is not imperative within the United States to find the snake that bite the victim to make a species or sub-species identification since the antivenom currently in use, CroFab, for pit viper bites is a polyvalent, meaning it will be effective against several strains of the same disease-producing microorganism, antigen, or toxin, in this case all venomous pit vipers native to the United States. If your bite victim brings home a dead snake they were bitten by and deposits it on your desk/hood of the patrol truck remember that a dead snake can have a bite reflex up to an hour after death, so it must be considered dangerous as well. (Gruesome note: beheaded snakes can still bite for some time as well.) One hopes that your bite victim will not bring the live snake with them but if you are so unfortunate remember that all pit viper species can deliver multiple envenomated bites within a short time frame. There is a tendency to use bite marks or puncture patterns to assess the possible species involved if there is no specimen available.

If your patrols take you into venomous snake territory it is time to review the best interventions and medical actions to be taken in the case of a bite. The following recommendations from Alex Heindl, Curator of Herpetology at the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History in the University of Nevada, Las Vegas can provide not only helpful, but potentially lifesaving. Please use the medical directive you have been trained under to guide any medical care you give. This is brief introduction to snake bite care.

(Story continues on page 10.)

Recommended actions and what to avoid

(Story continues from page 9.)

First, reassure the victim. Calm them down. The likelihood that the bite will be lethal is very small. Each year, more people are killed by lightning or attacks by domestic dogs or even bee stings than die from snakebite. Even the ride to the hospital is statistically more hazardous.

Next, remove any restrictive clothing, jewelry, etc. from around the bite – particularly objects lying between the bite and the heart. Swelling associated with snakebite can cause such items to seriously restrict circulation, with potential consequences more troublesome than the bite itself.

To the extent possible, immobilize the bitten limb and keep it at or just below the victim's heart level. Unnecessary motion simply speeds blood flow and spreads venom more quickly.

Rinse the bite area to prevent any venom on the skin from entering the wound.

Do not apply a tourniquet. Unnecessarily restricted blood flow invites gangrene. A compression band such as an ace bandage may be applied around the wound so long as it does not overly restrict circulation. Wrap it as for a sprained ankle, i.e., one or two fingers should easily slide underneath.

Do not cut the victim for purposes of withdrawing venom. Serious harm can be done by well-intended but ill-applied incisions that damage blood vessels, tendons, ligaments and nerves. Venom extractors are of questionable value unless applied within seconds after the bite is delivered. If you do use an extractor, apply it and leave it in place until the victim is under professional medical care. Continuous removal and reapplication can create a pumping action that aids venom spread.

Do not apply ice. Frostbite or freezing may do more damage than the bite itself. Cooling the area around the bite by wrapping it with a water-soaked cloth may help by slowing circulation.

Do not apply electric shock. This now disparaged "treatment" does nothing to alter venom action and may have serious, even lethal, side effects.

Offer no stimulants; avoid giving anything by mouth. Coffee, tea, soft drinks (sucrose sugars and sugar substitutes), alcohol and tobacco all increase heart rate, blood pressure and, thereby, the spread of venom. Avoid giving anything by mouth until it is determined that surgery will not be required as part of treatment.

Transport to medical care. If possible, inform the intended facility you are en-route. Give the victim's age, sex, weight, general health profile (e.g., allergies, health problems, etc.), current status, and anticipated time of arrival. Advise where the bite is located (e.g., hand, foot) and when it occurred. Mark the progression of bite-associated swelling on the bitten limb at 15 minute intervals. If possible, note the species of snake involved – venom toxicity varies greatly between species. If you cannot positively identify the snake, describe it (size, general color, markings, etc.) and the terrain (e.g., creosote desert, pinyon/juniper forest, etc.) where it was found.

If immediate transport is unavailable, call or send for help if you can. Do not leave the bitten person alone and avoid having them walk unless absolutely necessary. In such cases, move slowly and without unnecessary exertion. If swelling or other symptoms (dizziness, nausea, etc.) increase markedly, stop and have the victim lie down until symptoms subside. If they do not, stay where you are and wait for help.

Remember: Although venomous snakebite clearly warrants timely medical attention, bites from North American species are only rarely, in actuality, life threatening.

A hundred years is not a very long time. That's all the environmental movement is playing for these days—sanctuaries for a few remnant wild places. You can read about it and dream about it, but the sad and simple truth is that often we're not trying to change the world, nor even save it, but instead merely trying to endure.

These days we're trying to protect the last unaltered places and keep them connected—or to reconnect them in some fashion, so that wilderness can still travel through them, like electricity.

Rick Bass
The Lost Grizzlies

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