



prac region five newsletter

THE PARK RANGER

SIDEAKS

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DIRECTOR'S NOTEPAD

As summer begins to fade into fall, I feel the need to take advantage of this opportunity and not only welcome everyone to the "new" P.R.A.C., but to set some goals and objectives for Region V (i.e. Imperial, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego and Riverside counties) as well.

Back in May of this year, you all helped put into motion what I have referred to as the "new" P.R.A.C.. By breaking up the state into five geographical regions, we now realize the opportunity to be able to get involved at a more local level, have better representation at the state board level and to be more responsive to individual agency needs, while still retaining the opportunity to network at statewide conferences and professional oriented gatherings.

With this new found "freedom" and the responsibility of leading you through the first two years of the new system, I have set some goals for Region V which will require your participation in order for them to be reached.

***INCREASED MEMBERSHIP** - We all know from experience through other professional organizations that credibility and strength come in numbers. Whether we reorganize the membership categories and dues (i.e. part-time/seasonal category) and/or target specific resources (i.e. students) that have gone relatively untapped, I hope to increase membership (in Region V) by at least 50%.

***DEVELOP MASTER CALENDAR** - It has been my experience that workshops and conferences go unattended because agencies were unaware of them at budget time. I want to be able to develop a Region V master calendar for f.y. 92-93 that would include all the workshops, board meetings, and conferences, etc.. This would enable agencies to budget for them in advance.

***WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS** - If you are like my staff and have felt the frustration of not being able to attend the various workshops held in Central and Northern California because of the travel involved, then you will appreciate this goal. I would like to see Region V play host to a quarterly training workshop to help supplement the statewide workshops and conference. In addition, beginning in January of 1992, Region V will conduct monthly general membership meetings (a rotating schedule will be announced) to enable members to network and discuss general business.

***MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** - I hope to use this medium as a way to share ideas and to (continued on page 2)

(NOTEPAD Continued from page 1) recognize individuals and or agencies within the region who have performed above and beyond the call of duty.

***UNIFICATION** - In reading President Chris George's letter to the membership in the May/June 1991 edition of the "Signpost", I cannot help but think that there is, indeed, a lot of you (both members and non-members) who feel that their role as a Park Ranger does not fit the mainstream of the association. I would like to echo Chris's sentiments when he said that there is no mainstream Park Ranger. The "new" P.R.A.C. is a professional organization designed to educate and bring together fellow professionals into a single unit of solidarity.

In closing, I would like to encourage anyone who has a question, comment and/or concern about anything to do with Region V or P.R.A.C as a whole, to call me, Mon. thru Fri., at (619) 679-4386. In the mean time, I look forward to meeting and working with all of you in making P.R.A.C. an organization that we can all be proud of.

Brent Mason, Director

PROJECT WILD.....A WAY TO LEARN

Like many of the other features in the Region V newsletter, we will present a "lesson" from Project Wild each month. While our duties range from maintenance to law enforcement, environmental education has been found to be a viable alternative for all youth. As such, we feel it is our obligation to share these mediums with our peers in hopes that they may, in turn, use it to solve one of the major problem that we face today, "Problem Youth."

THE BEAUTIFUL BASICS

Objective: Students will be able to identify five basic survival needs shared by people and animals, including pets and wildlife.

Method: Students list and organize needs of people, pets and wildlife.

Background: All animals, either directly or indirectly, depend upon plants, sunlight, water, soil and air.

All animals - including people, pets and wildlife - need food, water, shelter and space in which to live. These must be in the quality and quantity required by the particular animal. Because animals need food, water, shelter and space to be available in a way

that is suitable to their needs, We say that these things must be available in a suitable "arrangement."

The major purpose of this activity is for students to identify the basic survival needs of all living things and to recognize that people and all animals - including pets - have similar basic needs.

Materials: Chalkboard

Procedure

1. Put three words on a chalkboard, so that a column of words can be listed under each: People-Pets-Wildlife. Ask the students, "What do people need in order to be able to live?" List the students ideas in the column under the word, "People." Do the same for pets and wildlife.

(Remember to do the activity, "What's Wild?" before this one, so that students know the major differences between pets and wildlife.)

2. After the lists are made, ask the students to look to see which ideas seem to go together into larger ideas. For example, warmth might be combined with physical comfort and both might fit within the concept of shelter. See if the students can narrow down the lists and come up with the essential survival needs for people, pets and wildlife. The most basic survival needs will be the same for each of the three groups. The lists, when reduced, could include and be limited to: **food, water, shelter, space, arrangement, sunlight, soil and water.**

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CITY OF POWAY WORKSHOP

On Friday, October 4th, the Park Rangers Association of California and the City of Poway Community Services Department will be conducting an all-day workshop at the Lake Poway Recreation Area. The workshop, which is scheduled to begin at 8:00 a.m., will feature experts in the field of Environmental Interpretation. The revised workshop schedule is as follows:

7:00 a.m. - 8:00a.m. = Registration

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. = Emilie Troxell, Naturalist State Dept. of Fish and Game

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. = TBA, Park Ranger, State Dept. of Parks and Recreation

12:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. = Lunch

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. = Dr. Steve Nieudeker, Chula Vista Interpretive Center

This schedule will give participants the opportunity to learn first-hand what it takes to lead a nature hike, to give an on-site interpretive talk and how to go about developing a top notch interpretive center.

The cost of the workshop is \$20.00 per person and includes workshop materials and a B.B.Q lunch (featuring: smoked trout, fried catfish, B.B.Qed shrimp, hamburgers, hot dogs, salad, dessert and drinks.

For more information and/or to make your reservations, call Brent Mason at (619)679 4386. Registration deadline is Friday, September 27th.

ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURE: San Elijo Lagoon

More than 18,000 years ago, the San Elijo Lagoon perched 400 feet above the ocean.

After the last Ice age, the sea level rose and valleys were carved out. Some valleys remained flooded. So began the bays and lagoons that now dot the California coast.

San Elijo Lagoon is one of the six major lagoons in San Diego County and the centerpiece of the 815 acre San Elijo Ecological Reserve owned by the State Dept. of Fish & Game and the County Parks & Recreation Dept.

The hourglass-shaped lagoon is bordered by the Pacific Ocean and old Highway 101 on the west and by three communities - Encinitas to the north, Solana Beach to the South and Rancho Santa Fe to the east. Upscale homes on the sandstone bluffs overlook the lagoon valley and Interstate 5, which cuts through the lagoon's middle.

Native Americans once feasted on mussels and clams from the lagoon. In 1769, Portola and Spanish soldiers camped near it and named it after St. Alexius. The lagoon supports many animals and plants as well as

six endangered species of birds.

Before the 1800s, the lagoon contained saltier water because of a large opening to the ocean that allowed the tide to flush in seawater.

But in the last century, San Elijo, like other lagoons throughout the state, changed dramatically. Its mouth started shriveling when numerous dikes were built for roads, railroad tracks, a freeway and sewage ponds.

Today the lagoon is rarely open to tidal flushing, except occasionally when big storms break through the -

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(LAGOON, cont) barricade of cobblestones, mud and sand that block the narrow mouth.

Fresh water drains into the lagoon from creeks that stretch as far as 77 miles to the east. Two main fresh water sources, Escondido and La Orilla Creeks, feed into the lagoon.

The natural state of the lagoon has been altered by man, and environmentalist keep close watch to make sure it isn't irreparably harmed. Treated sewage routinely leaked into the

lagoon until 1973, when the leaks were stopped. Runoff from homes and gardens has spilled into the lagoon for years; silt has filled up portions of it.

Despite the shrinking of the lagoon, thousands of migratory birds from Alaska and Canada stop by to feed and rest on their way to warmer climates. Many species of birds, fish, insects and other invertebrates live year-round amid the mudflats and marsh waters, and mammals such as

raccoons, bobcats, rodents and deer forage here and nearby.

The county parks department manages the entire lagoon as an ecological reserve and assigns two full-time rangers there.

by Mei-Mei Wang, Staff Writer

San Diego Union (6/29/91)

(Project Wild.....continued)

Evaluation

List at least four things plants and animals need for survival.

Which of these are needed by animals but not by plants: soil, water, air, food, shelter, arrangement, sunlight?

Age: Grade 2 (and older)

Subjects: Science, Language, Arts, Health

Skills: analysis, classification, comparing similarities and differences, discussion, listing, reading

Duration: 20 minutes

Group Size: any

Setting: indoors

Key Vocabulary: pets, wildlife, survival needs.

*** A friend is a person who knows you and still likes you. ***

THE WAY TO MATURITY

One of the unfortunate truths about human beings is that it takes most of us a lifetime to grow up. In fact, few ever really complete the job. Pockets of immaturity remain with most of us throughout our lives.

Nevertheless, complete maturity is a goal we keep striving for. According to some students of human nature, mature people are, among other things.....

Patient. They are able to pass up immediate pleasures when need be to achieve long-range goals.

Calm. They are able to hold their tempers, to control their anger.

Empathetic. They respond to the needs and feelings of others.

Resolute. They are capable of staying with and sweating out projects in spite of opposition and discouraging setbacks.

Positive. They retain a zest for life and

and are enthusiastic about their work and goals.

Courageous. They are able to conquer the fear of failure and to defeat any inclination to always play it safe.

Dependable. They can work with others for the common good of all and tolerate differences.

That's a big order -- few of us will ever be so perfect. It is to our credit, however, that we keep trying.

