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June
2012

Disney pledges \$2.9 million to the reforestation of CRSP



Photo by Paul R. Johnson

Environmental Scientist Lisa Gonzales-Kramer examines one of the young trees planted in a fire-ravaged area of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

State Parks issued an announcement April 26 stating that it received a \$2.9 million investment from Disney to support the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Reforestation Project. The funds will be used to plant thousands of additional trees in a forest almost completely destroyed by fire.

The investment builds on Disney's longstanding history of nature conservation and environmental stewardship, a legacy that spans more than 60 years. This investment marks more than \$20 million from Disney in forest carbon projects since 2009.

"Disney's citizenship efforts are focused on the well-being of children and families, and conserving nature for future generations is an important part of this commitment," said Leslie

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LOG JAM: Notes from the District, sectors

Montane Sector

From the desk of Superintendent Nedra Martinez:

Spring is in the air around our mountain parks. Both Palomar and Cuyamaca are green, in full bloom and noisy with baby birds. It is hard to get any work done when all you want to do is look out the window at the new green and flowers.

Thanks to a grant from our department, all campgrounds at both parks are fully open. Both parks are full on the weekends and once school gets out then weekdays will be just as busy.

We are waiting for Sacramento to sign the agreement between Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association (CRSPIA) and Friends of Palomar and the State in order to keep Palomar open. We are hoping we have good news soon.



Photo by Heidi Addison-Bier

CRSP's Arroyo Seco is especially beautiful at this time of year. In the last issue of Tracks, a caption of a photograph of Harper Spring was identified as part of Arroyo Seco. We regret the error.



Photo by Gary Reece

A mud hole, adjacent to CRSP's campground at Granite Springs, is mute testimony to destruction caused by feral pigs. Released about four years ago, pigs can transmit diseases to livestock and humans via contaminated water or when they are eaten, according to a spokesperson for the San Diego Natural History Museum.

We have been very lucky to have Interpreter I LuAnn Thompson at Cuyamaca giving her new mountain program to children across the state for her PORTS program. We are hoping this program can expand to also be given at Palomar.

In the meantime we are busy keeping up with the tall grasses, fixing water issues and getting those last 285s completed.

Now is the perfect time to come and visit. The ticks are out, the snakes are out and the weather isn't too hot yet.

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LOG JAM: District, sector notes (cont.)

(Continued from Page 2)

Salton Sea State Recreation Area

From the desk of Interpreter I Fredda Stephens:

As the finish of the fiscal year approaches, we have said a teary goodbye to our loyal volunteers who now are gone. Our last volunteer recognition party was well attended and everyone had a good time.

We had to move the festivities into the maintenance shop because of the windy conditions, but everything worked out.

The volunteers enjoyed hamburgers, salmon burgers, hot dogs, potato salad and a special cake baked by Acting Superintendent Paul Reisman's daughter. The ambiance in the shop was superb.

Our last Spring Festival April 7 was, as always, a fun event for the whole community. Thanks to the Sea and Desert Interpretive Association we again treated the families in the area to an egg hunt, hot dog barbecue, children's activities and mini kayak tours.

The kids did a great job making flower pinwheels artistically decorated and engineered



Youngsters (above) look for eggs during the annual Secrets of Spring egg hunt at the Salton Sea State Recreation Area. Children (below) from the community enjoy the food at SSSRA's annual Spring Festival.



for maximum wind speed. About 150 people attended and nearly 70 of those participated in the kayak tours for some fun on the water.

I am sure that many of those kids will always remember the good time they had here playing and learning about the birds. Hopefully this will not be their last picture of the Salton Sea.

Even when it is 115 degrees and the flies are awful, there is still no place like the SEA. We can't picture it gone.

(Continued on Page 4)

**Photos by
Fredda Stephens**
**Salton Sea State
Recreation Area
Volunteer Ingrid
Werner helps
children make
pinwheels
during the
Spring Festival
that about 150
people attended.**
**Nearly 70 of
those enjoyed
kayak rides on
the Sea.**



LOG JAM: District, sector notes (cont.)

(Continued from Page 3)

Palomar Mountain State Park

Rick Barclay, chairman of Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park, has announced that San Diego Gas & Electric has pledged \$20,000 to help keep the Park open and expand its educational programs for visitors and underserved communities.

"This gift from SDG&E will help keep us afloat, no doubt about it," said Barclay. "The grant will also move us forward by helping underserved children in the community visit the Park and learn about nature and stewardship for the environment. These are kids who otherwise would probably never experience the natural beauty of a place like Palomar. And that gets back to the original vision of the State Park system: to make sure everyone has access to California's natural and cultural wonders, such as Palomar."

SDG&E's support will sponsor the Park's *Outdoor Youth Adventure Program*, an umbrella program that gives young people a positive experience with nature and cultivates respect for the environment.

"We even have a working historical fire tower—something that few parks can boast of and which provides an excellent opportunity to teach kids about fire safety and responsibility," said Barclay. "Palomar's *Outdoor Youth Adventure Program* will give people yet another reason to visit the Park with their kids and grandkids. Getting more people to the Park means more revenue which we need to keep the doors open."

From the desk of Ranger Jessica Murany:

April 28 was a Trail Maintenance Unit work day at Palomar, consisting of trail brushing, chainsaw work and repairing water crossings with good stepping stones. During our work day we were delighted to find an unusual creature from underneath a log that was blocking the



Photo by Mark Whatley
Palomar Mountain State Park Ranger Jessica Murany shows off her new friend, a healthy *Ensatina eschscholtzii klaubri*.

Doane Nature Trail access. We weren't sure what we had found at first but knew it was some kind of salamander.

It had damp, smooth skin, large eyes that popped out and beautiful coloration of bright orange blotches over a black background. It was quite a neat specimen to find. After researching on the internet and Palomar's books, we concluded that the identification of

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LOG JAM: District, sector notes (cont.)

(Continued from Page 4)

the salamander was *Ensatina eschscholtzii klaubri* (large-blotched *Ensatina*).

Large-blotched *Ensatinas* are two to three inches in length. This species enjoys living in deciduous and evergreen forests in the mountains of San Jacinto, San Diego and Baja California. It can be found under rotting logs, bark and rocks. To the south, it frequents forests and well shaded canyons, as well as oak woodland and chaparral.

They spend the dry months underneath logs and wet months foraging through the forests. They lay eggs and deposit them underground, beneath bark or within rotting logs. After four to five months, the eggs hatch and fully developed young emerge. These miniature salamanders are about an inch long.

Ensatinas eat a wide variety of foods, including mites, spiders, sowbugs, beetles, slugs and snails, either while foraging through the forest or waiting for prey to pass by while they rest under logs.

A fascinating fact about the *Ensatina* is that this salamander belongs to the family Plethodontidae or lungless salamanders. It lacks lungs and respire completely through its skin. Therefore, it needs moist habitats to allow the skin to "breathe."

The large-blotched *Ensatina* currently is a U.S. Forest Service Sensitive Species and a California Species of Special Concern. Our large-blotched *Ensatina* was relocated to a new happy home underneath another log with plenty of moisture and rotting debris in a more protected area off the trail.

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

The Volunteer Potluck will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 19, at the Paroli Homesite in Culp Valley. Bring a complete place setting, a beverage, a potluck dish to share and a chair.



Photo by Sam Webb

Participants in ABF's Leave No Trace seminar at CRSP in May use their hands for binoculars while learning the seven principles which include planning ahead, minimizing campfire impacts, respecting wildlife, and reducing environmental impacts and the spread of invasive species.

District and ABDSP staff members are encouraged to attend these functions—a chance to interact and show appreciation to volunteers.

Superintendent Kathy Dice announced that the body of Guillermo Pino, Jr. was found and removed from a deep crevice of a mud cave in Arroyo Tapiado Canyon May 8. He had been reported missing April 8.

"It was a sad, but successful, resolution to a very difficult situation," Kathy said. "I do not use the word lightly when I say the members of the Mine Team of the L.A. County Sheriff Department's Search and Rescue Reserves were awesome! The nine-member team was professional and had an amazing 'can-do' spirit that carried us all through this complex recovery."

Kathy expressed special thanks to Southern Division Chief Ronilee Clark and Acting District Superintendent Gail Sevens for their support, San Diego Coast District Superintendent Clay Phillips for his offer of resources and Safety Superintendent I Kent Miller for changing his

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LOG JAM: District, sector notes (cont.)

(Continued from Page 5)

schedule to serve as the public information officer on the last day of the three-day event.

"As usual, the Anza-Borrego staff also provided unfaltering assistance—thanks to Maintenance Mechanic Mike Drye for procuring and delivering lumber to the mine team, Supervising Ranger Sue McLaughlin for her presence and planning assistance and to Rangers Jeri Zemon, Josh Heitzmann and Richard Duthaler for pulling long shifts in providing 24-hour security and assistance," Kathy wrote. "Many others on staff were willing to help so know that your readiness to help sustain the operation is noted and appreciated. As always—I am grateful to work with such amazing people and for California State Parks."

Picacho State Recreation Area

From the desk of Ranger Sue Barney:

The Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association (CRSPIA) voted to approve the memorandum of understanding between CRSPIA and Friends4Picacho (F4P) marking the first milestone for Picacho's newly-formed advocacy group. The agreement was ratified May 12 (see page 8).

F4P members asked me to relay their gratitude to all those involved for their hard work in making this happen in such a short time.

F4P is actively seeking ways to bridge the funding gap to keep Picacho State Recreation Area open. F4P is now set up to solicit and collect donations which can be sent to CRSPIA, P.O. Box 204, Descanso, CA 91916 (don't forget to note F4P in the memo line).

F4P is also in the process of setting up a PayPal account. The advocacy group has been working hard and it has made some important contacts, but needs additional support to reach its goal.

For additional information and to learn ways



Photo by Stephanie Buggert

Lorie Long of Friends4Picacho, Montane Sector Superintendent Nedra Martinez and CRSPIA President Dave McClure enjoy the successful signing of a memorandum of understanding between CRSPIA and F4P. The agreement makes CRSPIA the fiscal sponsor for F4P which is now known as Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association DBA Friends4Picacho.

you can help, go to the F4P website at www.friends4picacho.org and join the efforts to protect Picacho State Recreation Area and get it removed from the closure list.

Colorado Desert District

From the desk of State Park Interpreter Luann Thompson:

A \$50,000 grant from the Boeing Community fund allowed the PORTS program to hire Park Interpretive Specialist Lisa Spoon and put the satellite on the road doing Science in California State Parks. Lisa took over the studio programs in February and I went out in the field to cover the Borrego Valley Hawkwatch, bighorn sheep, mountain lion collaring and tracking, the Cedar Fire and Cuyamaca Reforestation Conservation projects. Together we taught 12,800 students this year!

Supporters, lawmakers work to save parks

As lawmakers write bills, consider improvements for the collection of entrance fees, recommend a box to check for a donation on tax returns and propose the sale of license plates to help keep state parks open, other groups have found more ways to help parks stay open.

California State Parks Foundation (CSPF) announced that it will award 13 grants totaling \$328,586 to organizations that are working to keep state parks off the closure list. These grants were made possible by funding from the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation and the Thomas J. Long Foundation.

CSPF President Elizabeth Goldstein said that they have been working hard on launching a major fundraising campaign and offering new technical assistance to nonprofit organizations who are trying to keep parks open.

Organizations who received funding in our District were Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association (CRSPIA) (for Friends of Palomar) and the Sea and Desert Interpretive Association SDIA (for the Salton Sea State Recreation Area).

CRSPIA Chairman Rick Barclay said that the contribution rounds out the group's first year



Photo by Leslie Bellah

With the help of groups such as CRSPIA and CSPF our smaller parks such as Palomar Mountain State Park will be open and cared for now and in the future.

mission-critical funding, which not only closes Palomar's projected operating deficit, but also gives the Park staying power in the face of unforeseen costs or underperforming revenue.

SDIA President Bill Meister said the funding is the jump start that SDIA has been looking for and now they will go back out to the media and put out a challenge to hopefully double and triple this money.

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Footprints

Environmental Scientist Joe Hopkins transferred to the Colorado Desert District. Joe has several years of experience as an environmental scientist and as a volunteer naturalist at ABDSP. He is on special, non-home base funding and will report to **Acting Senior Environmental Scientist Eric Holenbeck** at District Headquarters.

ABDSP's Visitor Center's **Senior Park Aide Carl Kennerson** underwent five-way bypass heart surgery in May. His wife, Gwen, said Carl came through the surgery just fine.

Cards can be sent to him at 5571 Nevada Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92647.

ABDSP's **Maintenance Aide George Lautenschlage's** last day was April 30; **Maintenance Aide Dennis Franklin's** last day was May 31 and **Maintenance Hosts Syd and Ernie Groves** left in mid-May. Syd and Ernie have moved to CRSP where they are camp hosts.

Resource Crew's **Park Maintenance Worker I Michael Tabanao** left State Parks mid-May for another position.

Small parks getting attention now (cont.)

(Continued from Page 7)

And May 12, Friends4Picacho (F4P) signed an agreement with CRSPIA in which CRSPIA agreed to become F4P's non-profit fiscal sponsor (see page 6).

In an email sent to PSRA supporters, F4P thanked Supervising Ranger Robin Greene, CRSPIA President Dave McClure, CRSP Superintendent Nedra Martinez and the CRSPIA



Photo by Leslie Bellah

CRSPIA has agreed to be Picacho State Recreation Area's fiscal sponsor, the first step in saving the river park from closure.



District file photo

Thanks to funding from the California State Parks Foundation, the SSSRA has seed money for a campaign to raise more money to keep the Park open.

board of directors for all of their hard work in putting this together so quickly.

The email said Picacho is very fortunate to have such a knowledgeable, helpful support group as F4P pursues its mission to save Picacho from closure. Continuing, the email said that CRSPIA has been operating for more than 20 years as a successful 501(c)(3) association, supporting the mission of California State Parks and was instrumental in keeping PMSP open.

This quiz is for the birds—see if you can pass it

A recent donation to the Stout Research Center Library, *10,001 Titillating Tidbits of Avian Trivia*, is full of amusing and interesting questions and factual answers about birds.

We've pulled a few out to see how much you know about birds. For this and other fun and fascinating books, tapes, videos and CDs, pay a visit to the Stout Research center Library.

Answers to the quiz are on page 21.

1. Which is the tallest flying bird?
2. What are birders called in Australia?
3. What is the largest songbird parasitized by cowbirds?

4. Who starred in the 1970 movie *The Owl and the Pussycat*?

5. When is the South American whistling heron most inclined to whistle?

6. Who wrote the classic composition *Swan Lake*?

7. Feathers account for what percent of a bird's weight?

8. Which birds are said to contract their pupils into the shape of a square?

9. What is the name of the largest-known butterfly, and how much more does it weigh than the smallest bird?

10. Which bird was sacrificed to facilitate man's race to the moon?

Volunteers dismantle gers at end of season



Photos by Sam Webb

After a successful Fifth Grade Camp season at ABDSP, volunteers came in to dismantle and store the gers for next year. ABF sponsors the camps for inner-city students.



CRSP's forests get help from Disney (cont.)

(Continued from Page 1)

Goodman, senior vice president of corporate citizenship at Disney. "The work we do with dedicated environmental stewards, including State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, is helping to protect forest ecosystems and wildlife habitats that are critical to the livelihood of communities across California."

"We welcome and applaud Disney's commitment to help reforest this treasured park," said Parks Director Ruth Coleman. "Disney's assistance will help restore vital habitat and provide important climate benefits of carbon sequestration."

CRSP's conifer forest was destroyed by the 2003 Cedar Fire and little natural regeneration has been observed to date. The reforestation project is a multi-year plan to restore a diverse native forest favorable for wildlife habitat that will be resistant to catastrophic fires.

The Park's forests have provided very important habitat in the region. During the past decade, more than 50 percent of the mixed conifer forest in San Diego County has been burned by wildfires. The project will restore biological diversity and ecosystem functioning, providing significant wildlife benefits. The project also will assist in preventing the spread of invasive weeds and reducing erosion risks which protect watershed function, archaeological sites, botanical reserves and the recreational capacity of the Park. CRSP has averaged 420,000 annual visitors in the past three years.

Long-term climate benefits will result from the accelerated restoration of the forest. The project is currently undergoing third-party verification to become the first reforestation project and first forest project on public land to be come registered at the Climate Action Reserve.

The Cedar Fire burned more than 270,000 acres in Southern California including nearly all of CRSP. This was the largest fire in California as recorded by fire perimeter maps which have



**Photo by
Lisa
Gonzales-
Kramer
Workers
head off
to plant
trees
that will
fill the
forests
with life
at Cuya-
maca
Rancho
State
Park.**

been used to document the extent of burned areas since the early 1900s. Conifer mortality in the Park was extremely high and few seed cones survived due to the fire severity and extremely high temperatures. The coniferous and mixed conifer/hardwood forest that existed prior to the fire has largely been replaced with *Ceanothus palmeri*, a shrub which now grows in dense stands throughout the Park.

California State Parks, working in conjunction with CALFIRE, the University of San Diego and other academic and stakeholder groups designed a multi-year reforestation plan which consists of planting approximately 1,000,000 seedlings across 10 percent of Park lands where the mature conifer forests once grew. Through maturation and seed dispersal, these seedlings will promote the restoration of the conifer forests in time.

Disney is part of a growing list of companies and organizations who are working to restore a healthy forest ecosystem to the Park. The list includes American Forests, Arbor Day Foundation, California State Parks Foundation, ConocoPhillips, Coca-Cola, Stater Bros. Markets, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association and Odwalla.

Volunteers visit canyons with Ranger Don



Photos by Sam Webb

Volunteer Jim Roller said the ABDSP volunteer trip to Rodriguez, Oriflame and Chariot canyons April 17 was truly amazing. Forty volunteers in 12 vehicles found Rodriguez Canyon a bit rough in places, but very passable because of road work that was done during the fire last year. Ranger Don Strampfer led the trip. One of the volunteers said she actually got a sense of the size of the Park by seeing tens of thousands of acres from one location. Wildflowers were abundant and vistas were beautiful, Jim reported.

The group lunched along the stream, drove to the fork leading to Chariot Canyon and Mason Valley Truck Trail where they split and took both roads. Because Don had a key, those on the Mason Valley Truck Trail drove through to the Tullock Ranch and to Highway 79. When they got to the top they encountered snow and enjoyed a snowball fight along the muddy road. Jim said Don shared a lot of information during their many stops, giving volunteers valuable insights and facts to share with visitors. He expressed special thanks to Don for his friendly, fun, professional and “awesome” tour.

Friends wish Jim Dice a happy retirement



**Photos by
Leslie Bellah**
Southern Division
Chief Ronilee
Clark (left) thanks
Senior Environ-
mental Scientist
Jim Dice (right)
for his years of
service to State
Parks at Jim's re-
tirement party
May 5.



(1) ABDSP Ranger Jeri Zemon and ABDSP Superintendent Kathy Dice sing *Mr. Botany Man* to Jim. (2) Kathy and (Retired Environmental Scientist) Paul Jorgensen wait for the program to begin. (3) GIS Analysts L.Louise Jee and (former employee) David Shaari catch up. (4) Retired District Superintendent Dave Van Cleve and (5) San Diego Coast District Superintendent Clay Phillips relate some fun stories.



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Super Moon, turkey visit with Jim (cont.)

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Photos by Leslie Bellah
 (6) Jim looks kindly at his gift, a turkey. (7) Dick Troy and Retired ABDSP Superintendent Mark Jorgensen are enjoying a discussion. (8) Mary and Chuck Bennett enjoy a dance. (9) Montane Sector Superintendent Nedra Martinez teases Jim. (10) Environmental Services Intern Paul



Johnson and Retired Park Planner Tina Townsend catch up on their news. (11) Even the Super Moon came to the party at the Visitor Center's Nierenberg Plaza. (12) Anza-Borrego Foundation Executive Director Conrad Kramer tells a story about Jim. (13) ABDSP Superintendent (and Jim's wife) Kathy Dice prepares to present him with gifts. (14) Senior Park Aide Larry Hendrickson and Park Maintenance Worker II Scot Martin enjoy the party.

Trail dedication is highlight of weekend



*Photos 1 and 2 by Mike Bigelow
Photos 3 and 4 by Sam Webb*

(1 & 2) Colorado Desert Archaeology Society (CDAS) members Astrid and Sam Webb and Shot Lincoln (center) cut the ribbon to officially open the new Morteros ('Ehmuu) Interpretive Trail in the Little Blair Valley Cultural Preserve. Shot is a Cupa Indian who prepared the art for the front of the trail guide. The ceremony was part of CDAS' ninth annual Archaeology Weekend April 14 and 15. (3) Associate State Archaeologist Sue Wade joined ABDSP Superintendent Kathy Dice and Retired Associate State Ar-



chaeologist Dr. Joan Schneider in welcoming visitors to the event. (4) Attendees were the first ones to hike the trail. ABDSP's Visitor Center's Discovery Lab was filled with people attending archaeological lectures given by archaeologists and anthropologists including John Foster, Dr. Mark Allen, Mariam Dahdul, Mike Wilken and Dr. Joan Schneider. (5) At the Visitor Center, the pottery demonstration table was probably the most popular venue of the

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Archaeologists show off their stuff (cont.)



5

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Photos by Sam Webb

weekend. Kumeyaay Indians from Baja California gave demonstrations of their basket making and offered hand-crafted items for sale. Dr. Schneider received a special award from CDAS for her ten years of service to the District and especially for her contribution in establishing the seven cultural preserves in ABDSP. (6) People look at items in the annual silent auction which is a big fundraiser for CDAS.



Silent Auction

6

Paleontology people attend symposium

By Dr. L. K. Murray, Paleontologist

The annual Desert Symposium, sponsored by California State University (CSU) at Fullerton, was held April 20 and 21 at the CSU Desert Studies Center at Zzyzx and included a field trip April 22 and 23. Paleontology Society members John Strong, Connie Spears, Lowell Lindsay, Sharron Sussman and Senior Park Aide Jeanne Johnstone and Paleontologist Emeritus George Jefferson and I attended.

The theme of the 2012 conference was *Life in the Desert: Adaptations to Environmental Extremes*. At the end of two days of PowerPoint presentations of current desert research, George moderated a special armchair session of hypotheses concerning the evolution of the Colorado River, among geology specialists working on the problem.

Among the presenters and a participant in the discussion was University of Oregon Professor Rebecca Dorsey, well known at ABDSP for more than a decade of local research, resulting in several student theses and dissertations, multiple publications, geology maps and presentations.

I presented a visual interpretation of the paper submitted by George, Society member Sandra Keeley and me for publication in the Symposium volume: *The Pliocene Fossil Record of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Western Salton Trough, California*.

The field trip, *Search for the Pliocene: Southern Exposures*, was designed to show attendees some of the faults and sedimentary exposures of Pliocene age (5.3-2.6 million years ago) visible in Southern California deserts.

Day one began in Lucerne Valley Sunday morning with approximately 30 people in 12 cars and ended at Willis Palms. Day two we met at ABDSP's Fish Creek campground and traveled up Fish Creek Wash to Olla Wash. George led the tour, with six stops showing sedimentary evidence of past transitions from terrestrial to



Photo by Lyn Murray

Paleontologist Emeritus George Jefferson raises a pick to alert field trip participants that he wants their attention.

marine environments (early Gulf of California), marine to river delta (Colorado River), and delta to local streams and alluvial fans.

By Lou Bahar, Paleontology Society

Our newest Paleontology Society members signed up in November and attended monthly lectures on paleontology and geology, were trained in techniques of field survey, laboratory preparation and curation, and participated in activities throughout the winter to prepare themselves for certification at season's end. Certification grants the volunteer full participation in field survey, laboratory and curation work and eligibility to serve on the Steering Committee. Seven volunteers were certified in late April.

As the active season of the Paleontology Society winds to a close many of the volunteers return to cooler climates while the work of the Society continues in different ways.

Outgoing Laboratory Supervisor Joanne Ingwall reported that this season volunteers brought in paleontology specimens from 116 localities to be cleaned and preserved in the laboratory. Of those that came in for cleaning,

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Group gathers in Zzyzx to study (cont.)

(Continued from Page 16)

71 localities were completed and sent on to curation for taxonomic and element identification. Specimens then are catalogued into the database, labeled and permanently housed within the organizational system of cabinetry and oversized shelving.

Volunteers Joanne and Dick Ingwall are passing along the leadership baton of the Stout Laboratory to Norm Gallagher, Linda Sund and Hugh Vance. These tasks appear to be myriad and cumulative. The job of laboratory manager originally rested with one person and later two people.

Joanne recently itemized a list of the tasks involved in maintaining the smooth operation of the laboratory throughout the year. These break out into six clearly divisible areas of responsibility: specimen processing; facilities maintenance; preparation and supplies; health and safety; curriculum support, and communications. To insure that all the tasks are addressed, three or even four people may be asked to help. As both volunteer personnel and protocols are in this transitional state, expect updates.



Photos by Lyn Murray

The next to the last stop during a field trip in Fish Creek gives participants their first look at the Olla Formation which dates from approximately 4.25 to 2.8 million years ago.



Participants in the annual Desert Symposium at Zzyzx lunch in the shade in ABDSP's Fish Creek during a field trip.

Freshman Volunteer Tom Spinks has taken on the fossil wood collection. During the season he cut and polished several large limb or small trunk pieces and has been organizing older parts of the collection and recording data from more recently collected specimens for entry into new database tables. Next step is to begin the process of learning how to identify the fossils to family, genus, and species.

George is working with volunteers Norm Gallagher and Lowell Lindsay to create a web-friendly guide for interpreting the stratigraphic units of Anza-Borrego. This will be a handy reference for those working with field notebooks, field data sheets, database entries and geology maps to identify and fill out forms requiring stratigraphic information.

Volunteer Steven Byrum from Southwestern College in Chula Vista will be working a second internship with Lyn this summer. The Paleontology Society assists students needing financial aid in support of their education.

A theme is being developed for the annual Open House at the Stout Research Center in late October. Judy and Jimmy Smith volunteered to take the lead, and ask for others to step up with planning ideas, display help and on-hand assistance during the Open House.

Maintenance people build new ramadas



Photos by Kerry Hunsinger and Michael Drye

ABDSP's Maintenance Host Ernie Groves and Maintenance Aide George Lautenschlage (above, left) measure and saw lumber they will use to build a new ramada. Maintenance Mechanic Mike Drye (above, right) drills holes so he can secure the beams.



(1) George and Ernie are hard at work while Park Maintenance Worker I Kerry Hunsinger climbs a ladder to get to her task. (2) Ernie and Mike (right) secure the ramada's beams at Borrego Palm Canyon Campground. (3) Ernie, George and Kerry put the finishing touches on the ramada.

Scientists, staff refill trenches at dry lake



Photos by Arnie Mroz

Scientists and state park staff (left and above) study San Diego State University's Michael Buga's interpretive photo section of the Clark Lake branch of the San Jacinto Fault. Evidence for ten major earthquakes during the past 2,600 years is seen in the trench. Afterwards, (below) the group refills the trench to restore the desert to its original state.



Volunteers plug our parks on Earth Day



Photos by Heidi Addison-Bier

An enthusiastic group of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association (CRSPIA) volunteers, coordinated by CRSP Ranger Heidi Addison-Bier, hosted an Earth Day booth at San Diego's Balboa Park April 22. Although the booth focused on saving Palomar Mountain State Park, the volunteers also provided information on CRSP and it's non-profit support group, CRSPIA. In correspondence after the event, members of



Friends of Palomar said how grateful they are to CRSPIA for its support and the friendships that have been made while the groups have been working to save PMSP. A report from Mi-



chael Walsh of Friends of Palomar noted the volunteers made 72 new contacts with email addresses, three forms totaling \$150 in pledges and \$82 in cash donations. At least another 100 people took cards with website information, rather than enter their personal information at the booth.

ABDSP Botany Society has banner year

The ABDSP Botany Society gave its members a final report of the season which was extremely successful for the group.

"A big part of our success this year has been an outstanding lineup of expert speakers, arranged by Diana Lindsay," Chairman Don Rideout wrote. "Mike Bigelow did a tremendous job getting the publicity out about our meetings and we've had full audiences at every meeting. In addition, Toni Alexander has consistently produced a top-notch newsletter that we can all be proud of."

Don reported that the third annual Fall Botany Festival and Plant Sale not only was a success, but it exposed hundreds of visitors to ethnobotany, gardening with local native plants and other aspects of desert flora.

The group funded and worked on getting the herbarium laboratory organized and hopes to have it fully functional by the start of next season.

A new crop of botany certification graduates will be joining the Society soon, thanks to Staff Advisor and Instructor Larry Hendrickson. This

year's classes were video recorded so the CDs can be used to augment normal class sessions in the future.

Next season the society is considering two levels of classes; a revised introductory course and an intermediate course for those who have completed the introductory course.



"On the fundraising front, our appearances at the Lions' swap meet, coordinated by Marilyn Dickson, have continued to put hundreds of dollars into our treasury," Don continued. ... "We have used some of our money to buy books for the Park, equipment for the herbarium lab and a video camcorder. We also pay an honorarium to

each of our out-of-town speakers ... In some cases our speakers have offered to lead walks for the public, coordinated through ABF and we have split the net proceeds with ABF."

The society also contributed funds for materials to construct a laboratory bench which was built by ABDSP Volunteer Chuck Bennett, and purchased five chairs for the laboratory and books for the library.

Here are the answers to the bird quiz on page 8

1. The sarus crane.
2. Birdos.
3. The brown thrasher
4. Barbara Streisand and George Segal.
5. In flight.
6. Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893).
7. Generally between four and 12 percent.
8. Some of the penguins, especially king penguins.
9. The rare Queen Alexandra birdwing, a

butterfly restricted to the lowland forest of Papua New Guinea. The larger, less colorful females average 8.27 inches (21 cm) across the wings and possibly up to 11 inches (28cm). Females also are the heaviest known butterflies, weighing up to 0.42 of an ounce (12 gms) or 7.5 times heavier than a male Cuban bee hummingbird.

10. The dusky seaside sparrow.

Looking for a late lunch inch by inch



Photos by Jason Duke

A loud commotion by birds nesting in the back of District Headquarters brought several employees out to find a gopher snake that had evidently crawled up a pipe to reach the chicks. It used concertina movement (similar to an inch worm) which consists of gripping or anchoring with portions of the body while pulling/pushing other sections in the direction of movement. This movement is quite strenuous and slow compared to other methods of locomotion. Energetic studies show that it takes more calories per meter to use concertina locomotion than either side-winding or lateral undulation.



Eye Safety Tips—From DPR's Tailgate Meetings

Almost anything that can splash into our eyes can damage them. Wear protective eyewear when working with detergents and cleaning solvents and never mix cleaning agents.

The following are some important eye safety tips.

1. Car batteries contain sulfuric acid and produce hydrogen gas while being charged. This is one of the gasses used to send rock-

ets into space. Always wear protective eyewear when working with batteries.

2. Know the proper procedures for handling batteries and jump-starting cars.

3. Never remove safety guards from power equipment. Wear protective eyewear to protect against flying particles.

4. Pick up all yard debris before using lawn equipment and wear protective eyewear while operating it.



Take a geologic trek across Castle Country

The Anza-Borrego Foundation's Institute Spring 2012 Desert-Hostel is presenting **A Geologic Trek Across Castle Country** Thursday, June 7, through Thursday, June 14. Join earth scientist Paul Remeika on an excursion through central Utah's Dinosaur Triangle and the Sleeping Rainbow.

This backcountry adventure will visit the famous Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry, Wedge Overlook and Goblin Valley in the San Rafael Swell, venture along the tilted landscape of the Waterpocket Fold through Capitol Reef National Park, then finish atop the Grand Staircase at Bryce Canyon. A visit into Zion Canyon and the dino footprint museum in St. George also is planned.

This is a high-clearance, four-wheel-drive field trip. The trip will follow established dirt roads that may have washboards, soft sand, ruts and washouts. Visits to fossil shell beds and dinosaur footprint resources add to the overall geologic



picture of the Grand Staircase and its colorful, stacked rock layers that are reminiscent of a sleeping rainbow. Back-up plans will be an option in case the roads become impassable due to rain or rockfalls.

The **42nd Annual Bighorn Sheep Count** will be held Thursday, July 5, through Sunday, July 8. During the Fourth of July weekend volunteers will head into Anza-Borrego Desert State Park to participate in the annual count. Any-

one who can brave the heat is invited to be part of this citizen science in action to help count this endangered population of desert bighorn sheep. A mandatory training for new volunteers will take place Saturday, June 16. Call (760) 767-5311 or email Ranger Steve Bier at sbier@parks.ca.gov for more information.

For more information on ABF programs or to register, call (760) 767-4063 or visit ABF at www.theabf.org.

Let's be kind to the Earth: Bag bans elsewhere

According to Body+Soul magazine, some countries are banning bags.

In 2002, Ireland was the first to tax (15 cents per bag) plastic-bag use. The law led to a 90 percent drop in consumption (a billion fewer bags annually) and more than four million gallons of oil saved—think about that next time you complain about gas prices! The tax raised nearly \$10 million which the country set aside for a “green” fund.

In parts of Australia, Africa, Europe, North America, India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, China, Pakistan and Taiwan, disposable-bag bans and fees are in effect or in the works—with potentially huge results. China's 2008 ban, for instance, was enacted to rein in what some calculated was a three-billion-plastic-bags-per-day habit.

We welcome input from readers. Please send your earth-saving ideas to Lbellah@parks.ca.gov.

TRACKS

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