

# News and Views 150th Commemorative Edition



150th Commemorative Issue



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This special issue of News and Views is a compilation of State Parks Anniversary information gathered in one place to commemorate the eventful year. Many of the stories and photos you have viewed previously in issues of News and Views or the Department Weekly Digest. Other stories and photos will be new. We hope this special issue will capture the 150th Anniversary of California State Parks and provide a place to look back while we look forward to our future historic milestones. We hope you enjoy.

## World's Largest 150th California State Parks Banner



**Photo (above):** The leadership of the 150th Anniversary Committee (l-r) co-chair Mike Lynch, staff Ellen Clark and co-chair Donna Pozzi

The giant 14-foot-high banner was produced by the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division. Thanks to Brian Robertson, the banner has been on display at the Prairie City "Hangtown" motorcycle races and the grand opening of the California Statewide Museum Collections Center at McClellan.

The banner was displayed January 24 at the Gold Discover Days in Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park. The event featured the ceremonial ground breaking for the reconstruction of Sutter's Mill where James Marshall discovered the gold that started the 49'er gold rush.

The banner also made appearances at the 150th Anniversary Commemoration of the Yosemite and Mariposa Grove grants at Yosemite National Park June 30, the California State Fair in July, and the commemoration of California accepting the Yosemite Grant September 28.

## 150th Anniversary Committee Steered Successful Salute

A great deal of planning went into the hundreds of events and activities that commemorated the 150th Anniversary year of California State Parks. While nearly every employee and volunteer had a hand in at least one event, the 150th Anniversary Committee, led by co-chairs Mike Lynch and Donna Pozzi steered the overall vision for the commemoration beginning planning more than a year in advance. Thanks to all who severed on the committee.

### California State Parks' 150th Anniversary Committee

#### Co-chairs

Mike Lynch, Auburn SRA  
Donna Pozzi, Chief Interpretation and Education Division

#### Members

**Yosemite National Park:**  
Kassandra Hardy  
Kristen Kosick

#### Committee staff:

Ellen Clark, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division  
Laurie Taylor, Park Operations Division  
Ingrid van Dijk, Interpretation and Education Division

#### Interpretation and Education Division (PORTS)

Brad Krey

#### California State Parks

##### Foundation representative:

Sara Feldman  
Cheryl Brier  
Cecile Caterson

##### State Parks field representatives:

Rich Rozzelle, Channel Coast District  
Wes Chapin, Channel Coast District  
Jess Cooper, Central Valley District  
Natalie Lohi, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division  
Greg Martin, Central Valley District  
Steven Ptomey, Tehachapi District  
Scott Liske, Gold Fields District  
Bob Rice, Northern Buttes District

##### Office of Grants and Local Services representative:

Jean Lacher

##### Division of Boating and Waterways representatives:

Denise Peterson  
Melissa Miranda

##### Acquisition and Development representatives:

Steve Watanabe  
Lisa Anthony

##### Training Section representative:

Chuck Combs

##### Office of Historic Preservation representative:

Jenan Saunders

##### Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division representative:

Brian Robertson

##### Tourism and local government representatives:

Karin Moss  
Nancy Johnson  
Peter Williamson

##### Quilter coordination:

Marcy Brown, Budget Section

##### Native Sons of the Golden West representative:

Doug Love

##### Communications Office:

Vicky Waters  
Dennis Weber

One of the icons of the 150th Anniversary of California State Parks was the design and distribution of lapel pins worn proudly by State Parks employees and volunteers.

The pins were designed to be a reminder of the year-long event and create pride in State Parks. Worn on the lapel or uniform, the pins signified the unprecedented event of preserving exceptional places for future generations. The federal government's grant of the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove in 1864 marked the first time a government had set aside land for this purpose. The grant was also the start of the California State Parks system.

Featuring the 150th Anniversary logo, the enamel pins were purchased with non-government funds from State Parks partners. The pins were popular and became a hot seller at visitor centers and the online store.



## 150th Anniversary Commemoration at Yosemite



**Photo:** National Park Service employees (left) and California State Parks employees gather as the NPS and Yosemite Superintendent Don Neubacher is presented with a plaque commemorating the two organizations joint heritage at Yosemite.

It was a commemoration worthy of the sesquicentennial of California State Parks and Yosemite National Park. The world famous park system and park marked their shared birthday with a joint event June 30, two formal ceremonies sandwiched around a Heritage Fair that reached visitors and media from across the U.S. around the world.

In 1864, in the midst of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation granting the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove to the state of California to be “held for public use, resort, and recreation, and shall be inalienable for all time.” In September of that year, California Governor Freder-

ick Lowe accepted the grant and appointed the first State Parks Commission. Galen Clark was appointed State Guardian of Yosemite in May 1866, at a salary of \$500 per year, becoming the first State Parks employee. These actions represented not only the birth of California State Parks, but in essence, the birth of the national park idea, which has spread throughout the world.

President Lincoln, Galen Clark and John Muir (embodied by modern day actors) were on hand for the anniversary event recreating the signing of the grant, speaking at ceremonies and leading visitors on historic tours.

A ceremony at the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees opened with a mounted color guard of both State Parks and Yosemite riders and an American Indian blessing. National Park Director Jon Jarvis, Congressmen Tom McClintock and Jim Costa and Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom spoke about the significance of the effort to preserve Yosemite and how those actions sparked the parks movement.

In the Yosemite Valley near the Visitor Center, State Parks, National Parks and supporting organizations including the California State Parks Foundation had displays and shared

information with more than

*(Continued on page 5)*

## 150th Anniversary Commemoration at Yosemite (continued)



**Photo:** Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom (center) gathers with State Parks staff after a ceremony recognizing the 150th Anniversary of the Yosemite and Mariposa Grove grants that were the start of the California State Parks system.

*(Continued from page 4)*

1,500 visitors. The Parks On-line Resource for Teachers and Students gave demonstrations and State Parks staff of historic significance was honored and staff shared with visitors the great resources of our parks. State Parks' mascot "Buddy" the plush bear was a favorite prop for families taking photographs. Historic Parks' vehicles were on display.

The day's second formal ceremony had Jarvis, Yosemite Superintendent Don Neubacher and State Parks Chief Deputy Director Aaron Robertson speaking to the shared history and mission of Yosemite and State Parks. Afterward State Parks presented the National Parks with a commemorative plaque to mark the event and a photo with dozens of staff from both organiza-

tions captured the mutual respect of the NPS and State Parks. Many thanks to all staff and volunteers who help plan and participated in the event.



**Photo:** Ellen Clark greets visitors at the State Parks' display at the 150th Anniversary Heritage Festival.

## SHPO Program Honors Historic Sites in State Parks

**Photo:** A new historic marker dedicated at Crystal Cove State Park was one of 10 scheduled to be placed for resources in State Parks during the 150th Anniversary year.



new State Historic Landmarks approved or awaiting approval include the site of the first railroad station in Los Angeles at Los Angeles State Historic Park; Asilomar at Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds; the Mountain Quarries Bridge at Auburn State Recreation Area; the Sierra Railroad Shops in Railtown 1897 State Historic Park; and Tomo-Kahni cultural site at

Tomo-Kahni State Historic Park.

A lot of history has been made in State Parks' 150 years of existence. A special legacy program, lead by the State Office of Historic Preservation, honors Parks' sesquicentennial by providing formal recognition to 13 historic sites located in State Parks units.

Six sites have or are expected to be added to the list of California Landmarks by the State Historic Preservation Commission. SHPO staff worked diligently to prepare nominating documentation demonstrating the historic significance of each site. Plaques will be installed at the historic site with help from partner history non-profits defraying the cost.

An additional seven sites previously were approved to the California Landmark list but never had a plaque installed or a formal ceremony recognizing the historic significance of these resources.

Under the historic initiative, that will be rectified. Partners in installing the plaques include the Native Sons of the Golden West, the Crystal Cove Foundation, and the Placer County Historical Foundation.

The legacy project was led by State Historic Preservation Officer Carol Roland-Nawi and Deputy Jenan Saunders. Nominations were researched and prepared by diverse team including Registration Unit manager Jay Correia, SHPO historians Amy Crain and William Burg, Archeology History and Museum Division archeologist Chris Corey, graduate volunteer Ann Roberts, and intern Brittani Orna.

Crystal Cove Historic Area was the first unveiling ceremony in January and unveilings are scheduled through October around the state. In addition to Crystal Cove,

Sites receiving their plaque that authenticates their historic status include the Custom House in Monterey State Historic Park; the residence of William B. Ide in the park that bears his name; the oldest house north of San Francisco at Olompali State Historic Park; the Bridgeport covered bridge at South Yuba River State Park; the community of Carnegie at Carnegie State Vehicle Recreation Area; the Plaza Hotel and Castro House at San Juan Batista State Historic Park and the Watts Towers of Simon Rodia.

California has 51 State Historic Parks. Statewide the parks system contains more than 64 resources on the National Register of Historic Places and 94 State Landmarks reflecting the Golden State's rich heritage.

## 150th Anniversary a Launching Pad for Future Innovation



**Photo:** The Goggle Trekker backpack is being deployed to map California State Parks trails and parks.

California State Parks' 150th year was a launching pad for a number of new technological advances.

State Parks and Google Maps officially unveiled panoramic street view imagery collected by Trekker cameras of 14 popular state park destinations and trails. The imagery will allow people all over the world to virtually explore California's state parks, trails and beaches, and is helping to modernize the way the department is connecting with visitors.

"We are listening to our customers, and doing what we can to meet the needs of our visitors, in our parks and online," said Lisa Mangat, Acting Director of California State Parks.

This is an ongoing project that will eventually cover more state parks across California. Trekker uses a camera platform that fits it all into a wearable backpack to take still photos as the operator walks. The images collected

allow viewers to virtually travel along parks, trails, and pedestrian routes via their computers or mobile devices in a 360-degree angle. To find the images visit the California State Parks website [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov).

Additionally, State Parks installed new automated payment machines at fee collection points throughout the state. The machines allow visitors to pay with a debit or credit card and pay not only entrance fees but camping, boat fees, annual pass sales, junior lifeguard registration, and small special events. Machines that can allow for hourly parking and even payment by smart phone are being piloted in a few Southern California coast beach parks.

A new Computer Aided Dispatch system was implemented at State Parks Communication Centers. This state-of-the-art technology allows for faster and clearer communication creating a safer environment for law

enforcement and safety personnel.

The Parks Online Resource for Teachers and Students expanded its distance learning program offerings and reached a record number of classroom students. State Parks Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms expanded public outreach with more than 49,000 Facebook users following State Parks' page.

## California State Parks Historic Timeline



**1864** Early preservationists urge Senator John Conness to ask Congress to grant the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Trees Grove to the State of California “to prevent occupation and especially to preserve the trees.”

**1864** Congress passes the bill and President Abraham Lincoln signs the bill granting the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove to California, establishing the first state park in the country on June 30.

**1864** Governor Frederick Low proclaims California’s acceptance of the grants on September 28, naming nine

unpaid commissioners to manage the grant.

**1866** Commissioner Galen Clark is appointed “guardian” of Yosemite, making him the first California state park ranger.

**1871-1875** The California Historical Society and Native Sons of the Golden West launch the California historic preservation movement.

**1890** James Marshall historic monument dedicated in Coloma, overlooking site of gold discovery. This is the first California State Historical Monument, the forerunner of today’s State Historic Parks.

**1891** Native Sons of the Golden West give Sutter’s Fort to the State of California.

**1899** At urging of photographer Andrew Putnam Hill Sempervirens Club founded to lobby for preservation of Santa Cruz Mountains redwood forest in Big Basin as a public park.

**1902** California Redwood Park established; now called Big Basin Redwoods State Park— now California’s oldest existing State Park.

**1906** Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Trees Grove returned to the Federal Government to become part of Yosemite National Park.

**1918** Save the Redwoods League founded to preserve Humboldt Redwoods and other redwood areas.

**1921** Humboldt Redwoods State Park founded.

**1927** State legislature passes bill establishing California State Parks. System has 14 park units.

**1927** The California State Park Commission is established.

**1928** State Park Commission appoints first state parks chief, Col. Charles B. Wing.

**1928** Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. surveys California for potential parks.

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## California State Parks Historic Timeline (continued)

*(Continued from page 8)*

**1929** Harriett “Petey” Weaver begins 20-year career with State Parks—the first female to perform California State Park ranger duties.

**1931** Eighteen park units in the system.

**1933 & 1935** Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Works Progress Administration (WPA) established. A response to the Great Depression, these organizations build park facilities from 1933-1942.

**1937** Seventy park units in the system. Governor Merriam approves legislation that requires 30% of all state income from oil royalties be deposited into a State Park Maintenance and Acquisition fund. Eventually the rate is raised to 70%.

**1940** State Indian Museum opens in Sacramento.

**1945** Post-war attendance spikes, creating need for more state parks.

**1947** California State Parks has 85 park units.

**1950** First State Lifeguard program established at Huntington State Beach.

**1956** California State Parks has 143 park units.

**1959** Record number of land acquisitions in a single year, totaling 59,316 acres.

**1959** First underwater reserve created off Point

Lobos State Reserve.

**1961** California State Parks has 169 park units.

**1966** California State Parks has 185 park units.

**1969** California State Parks Foundation is established.

**1969** Law enforcement training begins for all full-time rangers.

**1970** “Recreation Problems in the Urban Impacted Areas of California,” first urban-area study.

**1971** Chappie-Z’berg Act establishes Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division.

**1972** PRC 513 formally establishes the Cooperating Association relationship between non-profits and California State Parks. The first three cooperating associations are for Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Santa Cruz Mountains-area state parks, and Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park.

**1973** Junior Rangers Program formally established.

**1975** The Department of Parks and Recreation creates the Office of Historic Preservation directed by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

**1976** Roberti-Z’berg Urban Open Space and Recreation Program contribute \$25 million in grants to cities and local park recreation.

**1976** Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park dedicated—the first California State Park devoted to African American history.

**1977** Candlestick Point classified as the first Urban State Recreation Area.

**1977** California State Parks has 257 park units.

**1981** The Volunteers in Parks program is developed.

**1982** The Camp Host Program is implemented in 47 California state parks.

**1990** California Wildlife Protection Act allocates funds to protect threatened species.

**2001** Park Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) established, providing lesson plans for teachers and live videoconferences between interpreters and classrooms.

**2001** The Seventh Generation: Strategic Vision of California State Parks is published.

**2001** Urban Parks Act of 2001, finances the acquisition and development of parks in underrepresented areas.

**2013** There are currently 280 parks in the system.

**2014** Commemoration of California State Parks’ 150th Anniversary.

## California State Parks Training Conference returns to Where it All Began

Group photo of the attendees at the State and National Parks training conference. Photo courtesy of Chuck Grennell.



California State Parks brought its annual training conference back to where it all began – Yosemite. More than 200 participants, presenters and special guests from over 30 local, regional, state and federal park agencies and two colleges/universities, convened in Yosemite Valley for the 2014 California Parks Training Conference in March.

It was in here that the California State Park system began with a grant of the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove from the Federal government to the State of California. The conference returned to spot on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of California State Parks and the setting aside of Yosemite Valley as a park. The conference program included over 20 different trainings segments from Bats to the OHMVR Outreach Program to Fire Man-

agement at Yosemite National Park.

The annual parks conference is sponsored by the California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) and the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC) and this year was also supported by a wide number of agencies, groups and individuals, including the National Park Service (NPS) and California State Parks (CSP).

Former Director Anthony Jackson and Chief Deputy Director Aaron Robertson addressed CSPRA during the event. Yosemite National Park Superintendent Don Neubacher was a keynote speaker.

In addition to the distinctive and engaging training sessions, there was a unique memorial ceremony to honor Galen Clark, first Yosemite Guardian and California's first state park ranger, on the

occasion of his 200th birthday anniversary. The ceremony recognized his great-great granddaughter Lita Karlstrand.

Also featured at the opening session, was a screening of the brand new Ken Burns' film "Yosemite: A Gathering of Spirit". The film chronicles the setting aside in the 1864 legislation signed by President Abraham Lincoln, Yosemite Valley as California's first state park and the birthplace of the park movement in United States, branded by Burns as "America's Best Idea".

The conference was co-chaired by State Parks' Mike Lynch of Auburn State Recreation Area and National Parks' Jeff Ohlfs of Joshua Tree National Park.

## First Day Hikes Usher in 150th Anniversary Commemoration



**Photo:** Hikers string out along the sand at Pescadero State Beach for a First Day Hike to start California State Parks' 150th commemoration.

The 150th Anniversary commemoration of California State Parks stepped off to an eventful start as more than 3,300 visitors took part in First Day Hikes on New Year's Day.

Blessed with good weather in most locations, hikers enjoyed the redwoods, the sea, hills and the desert at 38 parks and on 45 different hikes. The number of hikes and parks participating was nearly double the previous record in 2013.

Many hiking groups commemorated the day with a group photo in front of a 150th Anniversary banner. Hike leaders explained the significance of this anniversary year to visitors.

More than 2,000 hikers took to trails at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve in a day-long event spearheaded by non-profit partner the Point Lobos Foundation.

Anderson Marsh State Historic Park reported about 150 hikers, while a hike at Moro Strand State Beach attracted more than 125 hikers. At Carnegie State Vehicle Recreation Area 28 riders turned out on New Year's Eve to climb to a vantage point and enjoy the surrounding lights. More than 55 persons traveled to remote Red Rock Canyon State Park for a vigorous hike.

At Humboldt Lagoon State Park, nearly 60 paddlers and more than 60 hikers turned out. The Division of Boating and Waterway shared its safety message with non-motorized boaters in kayaks, canoes and stand-up paddle boards and donated life vests to those who took the pledge to be water safe.

There were firsts and traditions. At Baldwin Hills State Park, all 15 hikers were first time visitors to the park as

were half those who attended at Santa Susana Pass State Park. At Torrey Pines State Park, a couple celebrated their 12th anniversary where they were married – with their four children in tow.

Hikers had company as dozens of migrating gray whales were spotted at coastal parks and a bald eagle soared over Humboldt Lagoons. A multitude of tide pool critters were revealed at San Elijo State Beach. Pescadero State Beach marsh yielded sightings of great blue heron, great egrets and red-tailed hawks.

State Parks is indebted to docents and volunteers who guided most of the hikes and to staff that helped organize the individual hikes and help get the word out.

## California Bear Travels Throughout State Parks And Beyond

**Photo:** The initial I Love You CA Bears gather for a group photo before heading out across the state to promote State Parks during its 150th Anniversary.



To commemorate State Parks' 150th Anniversary, Los Angeles Sector interpreter Scheereen Dedman had an idea to help unify parks across California with the people they serve.

"It could be like a Flat Stanley, you know? Or like the traveling gnome," said Dedman referring to the children's literacy and geography program and the mascot of a certain travel company. Dedman developed the concept with co-workers Jennifer Dandurand and Kristen Perry. The group set goals, worked with the Communications Office and the Interpretation and Education Division, and the I Love You CA Bears were "born."

The goals of this project are:

To promote park literacy and to connect the public to their state parks in a unique, creative, and participatory way;

To visually introduce the public to a variety of public resources, experiences, rec-

reational opportunities, and careers, inspiring them to visit parks for themselves;

To build our Department's online presence and reach younger audiences, underserved audiences, and people who do not normally visit or know about California State Parks.

To jumpstart the project, 38 flat, laminated bears were sent to lead persons in parks and divisions statewide. A website and Facebook page were set up. The website explained the project and how to print a bear. Park staff and visitors were asked to photograph I Love You CA Bears in parks then post them to Facebook. The response was huge with hundreds of photos from dozens of locations and more than Facebook 900 likes.

The bears have had some iconic state park experiences: meeting banana slugs in the redwoods, riding surfboards with lifeguards, fished

out of lakes by rangers, sitting at the feet of Greek statues at Hearst Castle and riding ATVs at OHV areas. You can see them on boats to Angel Island SP, in airplanes over Anza-Borrego Desert SP, and in tiny remote control jeeps at Hollister Hills SVRA. The bears went as far as Paris to see the Mona Lisa, the Parthenon in Greece and to national parks.

The project was featured in NBC Los Angeles' Worth the Drive travel section - "State Park Sweetness. . . I Love You CA Bear." Best of all, the I Love Your CA Bears wound up in the arms and hearts of state park volunteers and visitors. Using the image of the bear hugging California from the 1913 sheet music of the state song has turned out to be the perfect way for people to get to know their natural and cultural resources better, as well as to show their love of parks, and their love of California.

We hoped the I Love You CA Bear family would have an adventure of a lifetime, and they sure have!

The bears continued to travel with recent holiday themed stops. You can follow the bears' travels and read comments at I Love You CA Bear Facebook page or on the website.

## 150th Anniversary Commemoration Goes Strong



**Photo:** Governor Frederick Low (portrayed by docent Al Howenstein) accepts the Yosemite Grant and proclaims the formation of the California State Parks system at a re-enactment June 28.

The official beginning of California State Parks was commemorated September 28 when several hundred members of the public, staff, alumni and volunteers and distinguished guests celebrated California State Parks' official 150th birthday at the Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park.

It was 150 years ago to the day in 1864 that California Governor Fredrick Low signed a proclamation accepting Yosemite and the Mariposa Grove grants from the federal government creating the state's first park, the State Parks Commission and appointing Galen Clark its first ranger.

Governor Low, (portrayed by Governor's Mansion State Historic Park docent Al Howenstein) spoke of the importance of creating a park

"held for the public use, resort and recreation." Clark (portrayed by Miles Standish) implored the need to protect and preserve these natural treasures. Yosemite National Park Superintendent Don Neubacher spoke of the shared legacy between the National Parks and California State Parks that started in Yosemite.

A time capsule and some of the items it will contain reflecting State Parks past, present and future was on display. Children on hand were photographed together in hopes some will be there for the 200th anniversary commemoration.

150th Anniversary Committee co-chair Mike Lynch presided over the event along with coordination from co-chair Donna Pozzi. Costumed docents from the Cap-

ital District added to the scene while the Grand Isle Fire Brigade provided music. The event culminated with donated birthday cake, ice cream and balloons.



**Photo:** 150th birthday cake servers (l to r) Ingrid van Dijk, Pat Smith, Cate Murphy, Margo Cowan and Mary Helmich are all smiles.

## Time capsule marks 150th Anniversary and State Parks past, present and future

Photo: Included in this photo are a number of children it is hoped might be on hand when the time capsule is opened in 50 years.



As we say goodbye to the 150th Anniversary, State Parks is preparing a treasure of knowledge for future generations to discover. A time capsule will be placed at the Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park near headquarters to be opened on the 200th anniversary of State Park.

The time capsule will contain nearly 60 items pertaining to State Parks that were suggested by State Parks staff. Instead of just news clippings, photos and proclamations, the items included were carefully considered by a committee to present a meaningful picture of where State Parks came from, where they are at in 2014 and where are going.

Highlights will include badges, pins, publications, photos

and more items from the year-long 150th Anniversary commemoration. Also to be included are items that will likely be curiosities by the time the capsule is opened such as a paper timesheet, an iron ranger envelope and the Department's sea rise/ climate change notice.

Documents such as the 2014 State Budget for parks, the Parks Forward report and the history of State Parks brochure will provide benchmarks to measure progress in the future. Environmental documentation will include photos of drought at Folsom Lake SRA and a listing of birds at Salton Sea SRA.

The capsule will be a state-of-the-art vessel that should protect the contents from air, weather and aging.

Several dozen children were on hand September 28th for an event marking California's officially forming the state park system. It is hoped many will be on hand when the time capsule is opened 50 years in the future.

## Time Capsule Contents



**Photo:** A time capsule and some of the items that will be included and sealed in the capsule, is planned to be opened on the 200th anniversary of California State Parks.

Here is a list of contents for the 150th Anniversary of State Parks time capsule to be opened in 2054 (As of 1/13/15.):

- 150th Anniversary State Park Peace Officer badge
- Western Snowy Plover brochure and Department Notice 2014-02
- 150th Anniversary pin and patch from California State Parks
- 150th Anniversary pins and patch from Yosemite National Park
- Parks Forward: Parks employee survey summaries and draft report
- Coast redwood tree/giant sequoia cones and seeds
- Beach glass
- Sand from Carlsbad State Beach
- Image of Sempervirens Club at Big Basin
- Image of California League of Park Associations board
- Image of 2014 Introduction to California State Parks class
- Director's challenge coin
- Redwood Parks brochure
- Copy of annual State of California budget with Parks marked
- Uniform patches
- Off Highway Vehicle Division pin
- Paper employee time-sheet
- Employee rosters
- Anniversary photo album (prototype)
- A photo of Folsom Dam demonstrating the extent of the drought
- Photos of August 2014 earthquake damage at the Blue Wing Inn at Sonoma State Historic Park
- Facsimile of the Yosemite Valley Grant Act signed by President Lincoln
- Carleton Watkins photograph: "Grizzly Giant" sequoia tree in Mariposa Grove

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## Time Capsule Contents (continued)

*(Continued from page 15)*

- Asilomar poem by Californian Nick LeForce, written for the 150th anniversary
  - 150th anniversary annual visitor pass
  - Iron ranger payment envelope
  - Junior Ranger logbook, magnet and badge
  - Mobile smart phone, circa 2014
  - First release 2014 silver dollar
  - History of California State Parks brochure
  - Sea level rise/Climate change guidance: Department Notice 2014-03
  - Climate Change brochure
  - Basic Visitor Service Training Cadet Class 38 photos
  - Native American Consultation Policy: Department Notice 2007-05
  - Litter Getter brochure with stickers
  - I Love You CA Bear
  - PORTS booklet and Capitol PORTS brochure
  - California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights
  - Mobile phone/digital camera/data logger, circa 2007
  - Fingertip book: "What's Outside Your Door?"
  - 150th Anniversary stamped postal envelope with special cancellation
  - 150th anniversary bookmark, sticker, and postcard
  - Reserve America campground reservation brochure and map
  - Communications dispatcher's headset
  - Brochure from California State Railroad Museum and entry fee receipt
  - Copy of State Park Peace Officer/Ranger 2014 paycheck
  - Bird list from Salton Sea SRA
  - California State Parks organizational chart, 2012 (updating)
  - Transcript September 2014 Commission meeting ("Management and Restoration of Natural Resources") DVD
  - Facsimile of Yosemite Valley Grant Act acceptance by Governor Frederick Low
  - Boating and Waterways publications: Regulations, boating course, calendar.
- Expected to be added:
- Natural resource materials
  - Brochures from each park unit for which there are brochures
  - Department anniversary photo album
  - State Parks License plate
  - Thumb drive of events done during 2014.



**Historic Uniforms** - To provide a historic look during the 150th Anniversary year and events, State Park Rangers and interpreters were authorized to wear historic replica uniforms created through the efforts of Tehachapi District interpreter Steve Ptomey. Modeling the uniforms (l-r) are retired State Park ranger Mike Muetz in a pre-1940 unofficial uniform of the type adopted by some field rangers, Mike Lynch in a 1940s uniform, and Ptomey in a uniform from the 1940s-1950s.

## History of Beginning of State Parks

Photo: (Right)  
Visitors enjoy a  
ranger led nature  
walk at Calaveras  
Big Trees State  
Park.



The story of California's state parks began in the mid-1800s, prior to any organized environmental or cultural preservation movement.

The first state park was conceived in California in 1862. Captain Israel Ward Raymond and California's U. S. Senator John Conness wanted to have natural land areas at Yosemite set aside purely for the purpose of preservation and public enjoyment. Senator Conness introduced a bill that quickly passed through both Congressional houses. President Abraham Lincoln signed The Act granting the "Yo-Semite Valley" and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove to the State of California. Governor Frederick Low accepted the grant in September of that year.

In the late 1800s, few fore-

sters saw the day when the state's northern coastal ranges would no longer be blanketed with redwood forests. With alarming speed, entire mountainsides of ancient forests were felled.

But in the 1880s, Ralph Sidney Smith, editor of the Redwood City

Times and Gazette, began to enlighten his readers about the need to preserve part of California's unique redwood forests. His crusade was picked up and carried on by other prominent Californians, such as photographer Andrew P. Hill, various writers, and the new yet influential Sempervirens Club who promoted the idea of preserving the best of California, forever.

The actions of turn-of-the-century citizens and lawmakers to preserve islands of California's most valuable lands for future generations put the Golden State in the forefront of the preservation movement. After heated political battles and compromise a bill passes authorizing state funds for the purchase of redwood property in

Santa Cruz County – Big Basin. Big Basin Redwoods State Park is now the oldest California state park set aside for its natural values.

The Native Sons of the Golden West and the Native Daughters of the Golden West, working with other preservation-minded organizations, were instrumental in raising money and political support to identify and create state historic monuments. Their successes included the Monterey Custom House, the Pioneer Monument (Donner Memorial), San Pasqual Battlefield and the Bear Flag Monument in historic Sonoma Plaza.

Before 1927, no comprehensive plan existed for preserving California's recreational, natural, and cultural treasures. However, with leadership from the Save-the-Redwoods League, a broad coalition of groups and individuals united for a new campaign for a state park bill. The bill gained the unanimous approval of the Legislature and was signed into law by Governor C.C. Young in 1927.

The following year, a newly-established State Park Commission began gathering support for the first state park bond issue. Its efforts were rewarded in 1928 when Californians voted nearly three-to-one in favor of a \$6 million park bond act. In ad-

*(Continued on page 19)*

## History of Beginning of State Parks (continued)

(Continued from page 18)

dition, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. completed a statewide survey of potential park lands that defined basic long-range goals and provided guidance for the acquisition and development of state parks. By 1963 the California state park system grew to 150 beaches, parks, and historic monuments, which covered 615,000 acres.

During the 1960s, there emerged an intense public interest in preserving California's wild lands from encroaching development. Californians approved a \$150 million bond act in 1964, which allowed acquisition of new state park lands including Point Mugu and Ed Z'berg - Sugar Pine Point.

The 1960s were also a time of change in the structure and hierarchy of the state park system. William Penn Mott, Jr. became director in 1967, and vowed a new era of growth even though he was faced with gubernatorial budget cuts and hiring freezes. Mott successfully transformed the Division of Beaches and Parks into the Department of Parks and Recreation. With the reformed department came a shift to management of more active recreational facilities. The development of the Central Valley Project created reservoirs that provided recreational opportunities to be

managed by the new Department. The functions of the Department were centralized and individual parks were grouped under area managers who in turn reported to district superintendents.

A new mandate to acquire and operate state recreation areas and facilities was provided in 1974 when the people of California approved Proposition 1, a \$250 million state park bond issue providing for continued expansion of the parks system. The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division was added in 1971 and later the Division of Boating and Waterways merged in 2013.

Today California State Parks has 279 parks, 280 miles of coastline, 625 miles of lake and river frontage, nearly 18,000 campsites, 3,000 miles of hiking, biking and equestrian trails, and 450 miles of off-highway vehicle trails on nearly 1.3 million acres. California State Parks represents the most diverse natural and cultural heritage holdings of any park system in California except the National Park Service.



**Photo:** How times change. Big Basin Redwoods State Park once had resort-like amenities, common for the time period.



**Photo:** Proud citizens pose at the dedication of the Pioneer Monument at Donner Memorial State Park.

## Local Fairs Help Commemorate 150th Anniversary



A total of 29 county and agricultural fairs collaborated or honored California State Parks 150th Anniversary in some way. This was the largest presence by State Parks at local fairs in decades thanks to not only the fairs but participating districts.

A total of 15 local fairs hosted exhibit booths or displays with a State Parks theme. Sonoma County Fair offered a special gate promotion if attendees brought their parks pass on certain days of the fair. Alameda County Fair had the California State Park Green Screen photo booth at their fair.

State Parks prepare a special prize package to be used by fairs for contests that include ribbons, pins and passes for winners. Fairs used the packages for special contests in photography, cooking, quilts and social media.

Other ways of participation in

the 150th Anniversary theme included horticulture displays, stage show, feature exhibits, gardens, vignettes, crafts, dioramas, poems, essays, fine art, and coloring contest.

The Western Fairs Association sponsored two competitions encouraging fairs to collaborate with State Parks on exhibits, displays, programs, and projects. Additionally, awards were given for the best anniversary themed competition factoring how it was promoted, what was offered, entry numbers and overall results.

Results were recently announced at the Western Fairs Association annual conference winners were (categorized by attendance): Mega Fair, San Diego County both categories; Large Fair, Mid-State Fair (Paso Robles), both categories; Medium Fair, Dixon May Fair, collaboration and Monterey County, Competition; Small Fair, Agricultural and

Nutrition Fair, (Los Angeles) both categories. Collaborating State Park districts were San Diego Coast and Ocotillo Wells districts (San Diego County Fair); San Luis Obispo and Oceano Dunes districts (Mid-State Fair); Bay Area District (Dixon May Fair); Monterey District (Monterey County Fair) and the Interpretation and Education Division (Agricultural and Nutrition Fair).

According to the Western Fairs Association, Bay Area District participated in the most fairs with five, followed by Northern Buttes with four and Central Valley with three. Thanks to all district staff that worked hard to make these collaborations a success.

## State Parks at the 2014 California State Fair



**Photo:** Entrance to the State Parks 150th Anniversary exhibit at the 2014 California State Fair.

Visitors to the California State Fair were entertained, educated, humored and left nostalgic by the large exhibit celebrating California State Parks. More than 150,000 visitors toured the 7,200 square foot space that displayed the diversity of State Parks and explored its past, present and future.

State Parks participation in the State Fair was its first in many years and was by far its largest footprint ever. While the exhibit featured all of State Parks, it had a special focus on the 150th Anniversary of the system.

Park's exhibit had something for everyone. Fairgoers viewed pictures and information on various types of state parks (historic, recreation areas, beaches, etc.), historical artifacts, and some ways in which the department connects with California's communities through youth programs, grants and loans, and safety and education campaigns. The Division of Boating and Waterways

was on hand to extol water safety and the fun of boating, while the Division of Off-Highway Vehicles brought an interactive ATV simulator and remote control vehicles to teach safety and environmental awareness to young visitors. Visitors were also given the opportunity to promote California State Parks on their social media accounts, through an iSnap kiosk. More than 2,500 iSnap images were taken.

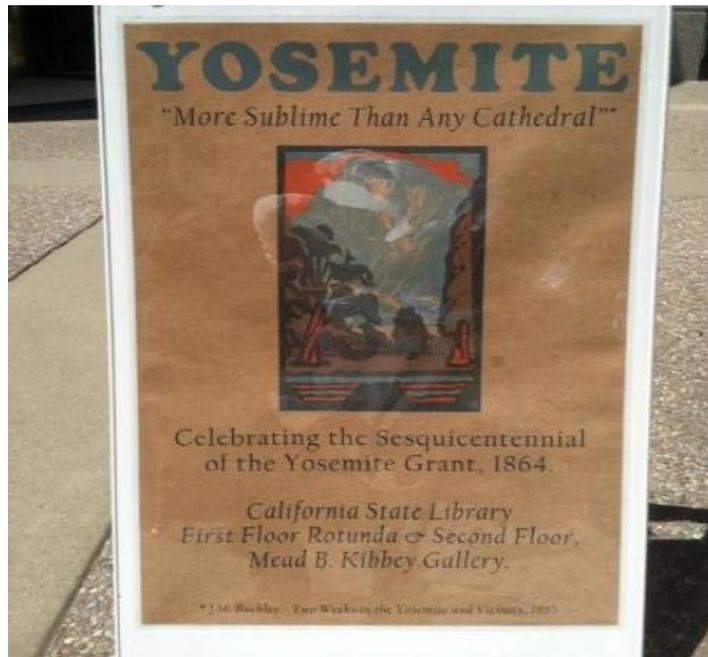
A typical camping scene complete with State Park mascot Buddy the Bear was a hit as folks eagerly gathered maps and other information to learn more while volunteers shared their knowledge. Many visitors were nostalgic sharing stories of family camping traditions and childhood visits to State Parks as historic photos brought back memories.

Another popular area was the innovative "camping cabin" designs. These designs aimed at attracting non-traditional campers to Cali-

fornia State Parks made their debut at the fair. Architecture students from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona designed the cabins as part of the efforts by the Parks Forward Commission. Fairgoers were able to see four designs, including a full-scale prototype built by Phoenix-based Cavco Industries, and vote for their favorite cabin. This information will inform the approach going forward on expanding the types of camping experiences available in the Parks system.

The department would like to thank all the volunteers that participated in the state fair, and helped us connect with people about our department. We would also like to thank the staff for their efforts in making this an exhibit to be proud of, from beginning to end.

## Special Exhibitions Honored State Parks 150th



**Photo:** A poster advertises the exhibit honoring the 150th Anniversary of Yosemite at the State Library.

The sesquicentennial of the Yosemite Grant was commemorated in a fascinating exhibit of Yosemite art, literature and memorabilia at the California State Library. The Yosemite and Mariposa Grove grants were the beginning of the California State Park system and the start of the concept of preservation of land for public use, enjoyment and recreation.

The exhibit "Yosemite, More Sublime Than a Cathedral," offered a copy of the grant with President Abraham Lincoln's signature. Additionally paintings, drawings, and prints from the 1860s through the 20th century were displayed. There was memorabilia including advertising to attract visitors, early blueprints of the now readily recognized rustic park architecture and items that brought the wonders of Yo-

osemite to those who could travel there themselves including 3-D stereographs, postcards and guidebooks. There was also a selection of books and brochures describing Yosemite some dating to 1868 including first editions by John Muir.

Photographers represented include pioneers Eadweard Muybridge, J.C. Pillsbury and Carleton C. Watkins and the more contemporary including Ansel Adams, Bob Kolbrenner and Earl Payne. There are paintings and prints by Chiura Obata, Alfred Beirstadt, and Currier and Ives.

The California State offered an exhibit included the original proclamation signed by Governor Low accepting the Yosemite Grant. There are a number of items related to Galen Clark's time as first

park Guardian including letters and personal items. Additionally, there are early records of the Park Commission. Columbia, Allensworth and Big Basin are just a few of the parks featured. Plans, photos, maps, correspondence and many fascinating materials were included in the exhibit.

## Quilters Inspired by California State Parks

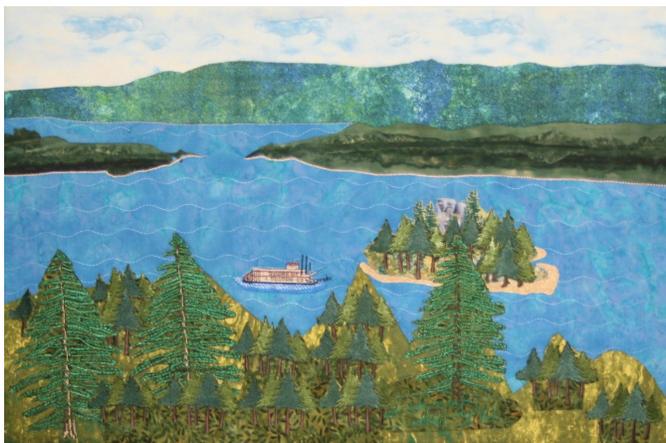


The Sew-ciety Quilters of Redding came up with a unique idea to commemorate California State Parks 150th Anniversary, quilts inspired by parks. The challenge resulted in 156 quilts. Some of these quilts were featured at exhibits at Leland Stanford and Bidwell Mansion state historic parks as well as the California State Fair, many local fair and quilting showcases as far away as Kentucky. This beautiful work remains in an on-line gallery you can view by clicking [here](#). Sew-ciety Quilters project Cris Rohn Hartman and Patti Abers co-chaired the project with Budget Office's Marcy Brown coordinating.



**Photo (top):** Quilt of Fort Ross made by Judy Bowman & Lynn Wilen, Shingletown

**Photo (center):** Quilt of Poppies, made by Dorinda Goff, Redding



**Photo (bottom):** Quilt of Emerald Bay made by Sharon Jones, Redding

## Interpretation and Education Division Provides Narrative of State Parks' First 150 Years



**Photo:** The Interpretation and Education Division staff pose for a group photo.

The face of the 150th Anniversary commemoration in logos, web pages, publications and educational tools to tell a story of State Parks history were provided by the dedicated team in the Interpretation and Education Division.

The Division developed the anniversary logo and ensured its placement on everything from pins to posters. They also produced the iconic black and white poster with the ranger dwarfed by the redwoods. A brochure telling the State Parks history was created along with bookmarks with a timeline of State Parks which were handed out throughout the state at various events.

The 150th Anniversary web page was an ambitious undertaking that highlighted the many facets of State

Parks including vision and dedication (farsighted groups, partners, employees and volunteers that moved state parks from concept to reality) and history and heritage (looking at the irreplaceable cultural landmarks and artifacts in the entrustment to State Parks.) The “promise to the future” section considers the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations.

There was also content on the wonder and inspiration of our parks as well as the recreation to be found there. This resource includes historic photos and a detailed timeline of important State Parks events. You can still read this web page and reference its resources by clicking here.

An extensive tool kit provided field staff with ways

to promote the 150th Anniversary and tell the story of State Parks at events big and small. The kit included table top displays, fact sheets and talking points, graphic help for banners and posters, photos, a slide show, historic documents and many other resources. A special fair awards packet was developed with ribbons and prizes that were used for contests at the California State Fair and 29 regional fairs. There was also a Junior Ranger themed program created.

Finally, the Interpretation and Education Division coordinated the time capsule that is a fitting finale to the commemoration of the sesquicentennial beginning of State Parks.

**California State  
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150th Commemorative Issue

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**State of California, Executive Department**

*Sacramento, Sept. 28th, 1864*

*Proclamation*

*Whereas, the United States, by an Act passed at the first Session of the thirty eighth Congress, has granted to this State the territory comprising the "Yosemite Valley" and the "Mariposa Big Trees Grove", to be held and used for the purposes mentioned in the said Act; and whereas it is also provided in the Act, that the management and control of the tracts of land shall be confided to a Board of Commissioners' to be appointed by the Governor; Now therefore be it known that I, Fred'k F. Low, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the authority in me vested, have appointed Fred. Law Olmsted, Prof. J. D. Whitney, William Ashburner, I. W. Raymond, E. S. Holden, Alexander Deering, George W. Coulter, and Galen W. Clark said Commissioners to whom is confided the management of the aforesaid tracts of land; and I hereby warn and command all persons to desist from trespassing or settling upon said territory, and from cutting timber or doing any unlawful acts within the limits of the said Grants.*

*All propositions for the improvement of the aforesaid tracts of land, or for leases, should be made to the Commissioners through Fred. Law Olmsted, Bear Valley, Mariposa County.*

*In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this twenty eighth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and sixty four.*

*Fred'k F. Low*

*Governor of California*

*Attest: B. B. Redding, Secretary of State By F. W. Redding,  
Deputy*