



THE THIN GREEN LINE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

January - March 2012

Volume 20

Number 1

The Thin Green Line is a quarterly publication about the activities of the International Ranger Federation (IRF), an organization of non-governmental and governmental ranger organizations from around the world. If you have a submission for **The Thin Green Line**, please send it to both IRFmailings@gmail.com and to Editor Dana Dierkes (dmdierkes@verizon.net). Thank you to our volunteer translators—Osvaldo Barassi and Rick Smith—for the Spanish edition.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

President's Report

Dear IRF Friends and Colleagues:

In December, I attended a national meeting of rangers in Chile. Discussions centered on changes in how Chilean protected areas will be managed in the future. Proposed legislation will change their current employment agency from a private/public agency into a public agency. There were a number of presentations from attorneys and labor specialists to explain what will change for employees. The presidents, or their designees, of ranger associations from Argentina, Peru, and Bolivia, as well as the president of the Latin American Ranger Federation, joined the Chilean Ranger Council for discussions and presentations. I was able to meet with the ranger association presidents, as well. The Chilean rangers voted to establish a ranger association. We look forward to welcoming them into the IRF family in the future.

Partners

Thin Green Line Foundation: IRF and the Thin Green Line Foundation (TGLF) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to officially establish our partnership regarding support for the families of rangers who died in the line of duty. IRF transferred funds previously held for the "Ranger Dependents' Fund" to the TGLF for distribution to rangers' families. The MOU also covers our shared work in supporting rangers, especially in reducing their risks in the field.

The TGLF obtained charitable status in Australia this past year, so Australians will now receive tax credits for donations. This is a useful incentive for individuals and companies to support the foundation at a higher level. In addition, the TGLF is developing a new website, which they expect to launch in March.

Amazon Conservation Team (ACT Brazil): Osvaldo Barassi, the IRF representative working on ACT Brazil's "Rangers Brazil Project," spent the first quarter learning about the situation of Brazilian rangers and giving presentations at a variety of events about the importance of the work of park rangers in protected areas. He shared basic data about the situation of rangers in other countries and showed how other countries recognize the role of park rangers. His new connections with communities resulted in additional training courses being requested.

World Conservation Congress - September 2012, Jeju, Republic of Korea: The World Conservation Congress has accepted IRF's proposal for a poster addressing the topic "Well-trained rangers are critical to healthy ecosystems and healthy communities." We will now be working with partners, such as TGLF and the Amazon Conservation Team Brazil, to develop the poster.

World Ranger Congress VII

Krissie Clark has an informative update about the upcoming World Ranger Congress in this newsletter. Check <http://www.pamsfoundation.org/world-rangers-congress> for more details.

In the last newsletter, I reported about the formation of a team, which would be led by Gordon Miller, to find sponsors so we can send as many people as possible to the next congress. There are now eight members from Australia, England, South Africa, and the USA who have joined Gordon. The group is contacting ranger associations and conservation partners to seek sponsorship funding. If you have contacts for them please e-mail to Gordon at: irfhquk@gmail.com.

World Ranger Congress VIII

The Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR), U.S.A, has been selected to host the World Ranger Congress VIII (WRC), to be held in 2016. This is especially fitting since the 100th anniversary of the U.S. National Park Service is August 25, 2016. The ANPR expects the WRC will receive extra attention during the centennial year.

To ensure all associations knew of the opportunity to host the WRC, the IRF solicited proposals for the 2015/2016 Congress three times: August 2009, March 2010, and August 2011. The only proposal received during each of the three calls was from ANPR. We are very pleased that the U.S. association is undertaking the Congress and that the members are enthused about the possibilities of hosting rangers from around the globe.

Ranger Recognition and Remembrances

News reports about ranger deaths are now covered in IRF's **Guardaparque** news bulletin.

Letters from IRF, on behalf of all members, will be sent to the families of fallen rangers. Please keep these rangers and their families in your thoughts. If you know of a ranger's death, please e-mail me at IRFdeanne@aol.com and Sean Willmore at sean@thingreenline.info. Any information you have about a ranger's death, including related contact information, is appreciated by both the IRF and the TGLF.

Upcoming

- Marketing of the 20th anniversary of IRF and celebration of World Ranger Day on July 31.
- Preparing to send IRF representatives to the World Conservation Congress in September where we will co-present the International Young Conservationist Award, present a poster, and participate in two workshops on capacity-building with our International Union for Conservation of Nature partners.
- Preparing for the World Congress Membership Meeting held during the WRC in Tanzania in November and the election of the new International Executive Committee.

Best wishes,

Deanne Adams
IRFdeanne@aol.com

Vice President's Report

Thank you to all who responded positively to the call for abstracts to present papers or posters at the World Ranger Congress VII. With just under nine months to go before this most important event on the IRF calendar, it is time for everyone who intends to attend and present something at the congress to do so shortly to ensure your place, while there are still many available. If IRF member associations would like to contribute to the congress, it would be helpful for them to solicit sponsors to enable as many rangers as possible to participate in the conference. As we know from the experience of some, attending a World Ranger Congress can be a life-changing experience. So, help from anyone in this regard would be of much value and greatly appreciated! We look forward to welcoming you to Tanzania on November 4!

Unfortunately, there has still not been a response to the follow-up letter sent by our president to the director of the World Heritage Centre last year concerning the roundtable meeting held in Kinshasa in January 2011. Due to the deaths of rangers in Virunga National Park and the need to act on the agreements reached, we have just drafted follow-up communication to reiterate our call for action on the IRF's main recommendations as communicated at the meeting. Our IRF President Deanne Adams will send the letter imminently. We hope to report a positive response to it, similar to the first letter, which was a catalyst for the Kinshasa meeting finally taking place after its being proposed at a World Heritage Committee a few years earlier.

There are many challenges, some similar and some very different, being faced by rangers across the world. In the continent of my birth, at the present time, we are experiencing an upsurge in the scourge of commercial poaching, with hundreds of rhino being poached for their horns in southern Africa per year and thousands of elephants being slaughtered for their ivory elsewhere on the continent. TRAFFIC, an international organization that is a wildlife trade monitoring network, drew on data gleaned by its Elephant Trade Information System announced that "2011 has seen a record number of large ivory seizures globally, reflecting the sharp rise in illegal ivory trade underway since 2007." The report makes the point that the number of seizures of illegal ivory jumped from an average of 4 a year since 2000 to a record high of 13 seizures amounting to 26,676 kg (52,200 lb) last year. This represents the deaths of 3,400 elephants (at the very least), but it is likely that the picture is much grimmer. As the data shows, the cumulative number of elephants killed is not less than 15,000 elephants killed since 2000. And the real figure is probably several times that, since no one knows how many illegal shipments of ivory are NOT seized. A widely-held estimate is that only 10% of illegal drug or endangered pet-trade shipments are intercepted. This factor suggests some 150,000 elephants could have been killed in the last decade.

We need to work together across borders if we are to succeed with conservation. Best wishes to all rangers and friends of rangers for the year ahead!

Regards from Tanzania,

Wayne D. Lotter
wayne@pamsfoundation.org

Secretary's/Executive Officer's Report

A lot of my work this past quarter was put into completing the documentation of our joint International Young Conservationist Award. We now have a clear record of all the tasks and the timing for managing this prestigious award. The year 2012 will be the fifth year for presentation of the award, which is given jointly by IRF and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, World Commission on Protected Areas. Online nominations are being accepted until April 23, 2012. To complete the online nomination, visit http://www.georgewright.org/yca_app, and follow the instructions.

Another project that required plenty of writing was the development of final recommendations on the proposed IRF Rangers without Borders (RWB) program. The International Executive Committee (IEC) has reviewed and commented on the first set of recommendations. The RWB committee (co-chaired by Jay Wells and me) will now address the comments and send a final recommendation with motions for the IEC vote on.

The third project for this quarter has been working with the website committee on selection of a website designer. We have raised \$5,000 to get us started from Australian supporters of IRF. If your association or other IRF friends can help with a little more, we'd put it to good use. Three designers submitted proposals, and the committee is in the final stages of clarifying details in the proposals. We expect to make a selection in February and start work in March. This puts us behind our original estimated launch in January, but we expect the new website will be available by May.

IRF has a new provisional member – Kevin Murphy is representing Alaska State Park Rangers in the U.S.A., while they are establishing their ranger association. We anticipate welcoming their association into the IRF in the near future.

I look forward to supporting associations as you prepare for this year's World Ranger Day, which falls on the 20th anniversary of the IRF. If your association or organization has not yet hosted events for World Ranger Day, which will be held on July 31, 2012, this would be a good year to start. I'll be sending out materials and suggested activities to the IRF mailing list soon.

Elaine Thomas
irfsec@yahoo.com.au

Editor's Report

I am pleased to report that CJ Wilson has agreed to become an assistant editor for **The Thin Green Line**. She currently works for the National Park Service as a transportation specialist in California in the U.S.A. I will be providing her with ongoing training this year.

Please continue to send your articles and photographs for **The Thin Green Line** to both Deanne Adams at IRFdeanne@aol.com and me at dmdierkes@verizon.net. In addition, please mark your calendars with the following upcoming submission due dates in 2012:

- May 12, 2012
- August 12, 2012
- November 12, 2012

Happy Trails,

Dana M. Dierkes
dmdierkes@verizon.net

REGIONAL REPORTS

North American Regional Representative Report

The year began on a sad note for my fellow U.S. National Park Service rangers and me with the murder of Margaret Anderson at Mount Rainier and, two weeks beforehand, the death of Michael Boehm at the C&O Canal where I used to patrol many years ago. My condolences go out to the families, along with all the families who have lost loved ones in our protected areas. Let's be safe and go home at night.

With holidays and family commitments, my IRF work was slow this quarter. I made contact with the District of Columbia park rangers. As I've mentioned before, most state rangers in the U.S. do not have professional associations. I am proud to have Kevin Murphy step up and be IRF's first U.S. state provisional member to represent the rangers of the Alaskan State Parks. I am hoping Kevin will not be the last of this type of representative, as I am speaking with rangers in Florida, Oregon, and the Army Corps of Engineers. Welcome aboard, Kevin, and we look forward to you sharing information from the "Last Frontier!"

March will be the California Parks Training, which is the professional meeting of the California State Park Rangers Association and Park Rangers Association of California. I will be attending the training and will report back in the next issue. I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful springtime!

Semper presidium,

Jeff Ohlfs

deserttraveler2@roadrunner.com

COMMITTEES & STAFF

World Ranger Congress VII Update

Registration

A big "Thanks" goes to all who registered early for the World Ranger Congress VII. We really appreciate this. For those of you who still need to register, this is just friendly reminder to not delay. Accommodation and field trip options are filling up fast, so register soon. Visit www.pamsfoundation.org/world-rangers-congress for more information.

Call for Papers – Submit before February 29

Abstracts for the World Ranger Congress VII need to be submitted during the month of February. The theme for the congress is "Healthy Parks, Hungry People - Working towards Healthy Parks, dealing with Hungry People." In broad terms, this relates to all that we are striving for towards achieving healthy and well-conserved parks and any and all of the challenges that limit or may prevent us from achieving this goal. The word 'Hungry,' in this context, means people who threaten the integrity or existence of conservation areas because of their real needs, or for greed, land, resources, power, status, or money.

We invite you to submit an abstract on one or more of the following sub-themes:

- 1) Working towards Healthy Parks (What we are striving for as rangers)
 - Capacity Building – needs & solutions
 - Marketing and Networking
 - Making it Happen
- 2) Dealing with Hungry People (The challenges limiting rangers from achieving healthy parks)
 - Challenges Facing Protected Areas & Solutions
 - The Ranger's Job – Challenges & Solutions

Abstract Submission Deadline: February 29, 2012

For details about the themes: <http://www.pamsfoundation.org/world-rangers-congress/congress-themes>.

For further information about submitting your abstract, go to: <http://www.pamsfoundation.org/world-rangers-congress/abstract-submissions>.

Showcase Movies and Other Work at the Congress!

Should you have anything else other than a presentation or poster that you wish to showcase at the congress, please submit your ideas to abstractswrc@gmail.com by **February 29, 2012**. Ideas could include showing a movie, giving a training session about your specialty, holding a workshop, launching a book, or displaying your work in a booth.

New YouTube Clip about the Congress

A YouTube clip about the Congress has been updated, so please pass it on to all your friends and colleagues. It can be seen at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZN5E0X6Of 4>.

Krissie Clark, Congress Organizer
TanzaniaWRC@gmail.com

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Association of National Park Rangers (United States)

We Accept an Invitation to Host World Ranger Congress VIII

The Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR) was recently notified by the IRF that it had been chosen to host the World Ranger Congress VIII in the United States in 2016. (More details can be found in the President's Report section of this issue of **The Thin Green Line**). President Stacy Allen wrote the following in his notice of ANPR acceptance:

I am excited ANPR possesses this wonderful opportunity to partner with IRF in developing the 8th World Ranger Congress. Our members are excited to have the chance to host and welcome National Park employees from around the world to the United States in 2016 - a year which marks the centennial anniversary of the founding of the United States National Park Service.

I look forward to working with yourself, [IRF President] Deanne [Adams], Tony [Sisto] and everyone at IRF to get ANPR and the partner organizations who desire to participate, proceeding steadily on the pathway to developing a provocative and meaningful 2016 World Ranger Congress.

The ANPR will give a presentation at the World Ranger Congress VII in Tanzania this November about its plans for hosting the congress.

Follow-up On Murder of U.S. Park Ranger Margaret Anderson

As reported in the last issue of **The Thin Green Line**, Park Ranger Anderson was shot and killed during a traffic stop in Olympic National Park on January 1. A public memorial service was held on January 10, to celebrate her life. In the well-attended service, rangers, officers, and other first responders came from neighboring communities and from throughout the state of Washington, as well as Idaho and Oregon. A large contingent of Royal Canadian Mounted Police also attended. U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, U.S. National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, and Olympic National Park Superintendent Randy King spoke, as well as others.

Ranger Eric Anderson, Margaret's spouse, recently sent along a "thank you" note to all those who have supported and continue to support him and his family, saying in part:

On behalf of myself and my family, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the love and support I received from the extended National Park Family after the tragic loss of my beloved, Margaret. I especially want to acknowledge the many individuals and parks who donated their time, energy and love during this time of need...Thank you so much for your support and forbearance as we negotiate our way through this difficult time.

Travel well,

Tony Sisto
Tsisto47@aol.com

Finnish Rangers' Association (Finland)



The Finnish Rangers are doing well! The Finnish Rangers' Association – FiRA - celebrates its 15th anniversary this year. For many years, the association was just a name, but during the last few years the association has risen to become a known and recognized group of nature conservation experts.

FiRA's members are situated in all parts of Finland. They work in national parks, world natural heritage areas, geoparks areas, natural parks, and other conservation areas. They do various jobs, including customer service, planning,

biological work, field maintenance, surveillance, and protection of species. Finland is a long country with diverse conditions and ecosystems, from the Arctic Lapland to bogs/forests to the sea/lakes.

The last two years have been vital to FiRA. The association arranged a big event about nature interpretation together with Metsähallitus, the state enterprise that manages more than 12 million hectares of land and water areas to benefit Finnish society to the greatest extent possible. FiRA gathered rangers to work in a volunteer camp to earn money for the organization. FiRA established blogs and a website to publish many announcements and to encourage journalists to write stories and do radio interviews about rangers.

FiRA's goal is to promote its members' expertise and professional skills countrywide and to raise our professional pride. For FiRA, it is important that the general public in our country and abroad knows that there are rangers in Finland. Of course, FiRA wants to offer its members opportunities to meet other rangers from other countries and to learn about what ranger work is like in different countries.

Last year, FiRA developed a logo. The logo's elements are bear, water, and forests, which are combined to represent "nature" in Finland.

We also signed a cooperative agreement with the employer of most of the members—Metsähallitus—to boost the professional skills of FiRA's members.

Our rangers welcome you to beautiful Finland!

Minna Koramo

<http://suomenrangerit.nettisivu.org>.
suomenrangerit@gmail.com

Gardes Nature de France – French Rangers Association



The first general assembly of the French Ranger Association, which is called Gardes Nature de France, was held from December 10-11, 2011. Approximately 15 rangers met in the Parc National de Port-Cros, a protected island in the south of France. Members came from different organizations: Parcs naturels régionaux, Parcs Nationaux, Réserves naturelles, and Grands sites de France. The schedule for the weekend included hiking, visiting the marine area of the national park by boat, presentations about the daily activities of different rangers and, of course, the general assembly.

During the general assembly, the president presented his annual report, which mainly focused on communication. Indeed, this year has been devoted to setting up the association and looking for new members. At the end of 2011, approximately 60 members are part of Gardes Nature de France!

Other topics were discussed, including IRF membership. Then, the treasurer presented details about the finances of the organization. Finally, the general assembly concluded with different remarks and thoughts about 2012 projects, including the quarterly newsletter, looking for new members, and the participation of few French rangers at the next IRF World Ranger Congress.

At the end of the weekend, the French rangers went back to their own territories full of ideas and memories. This was a great meeting with much networking, as well as relationship and skill development. We thank the rangers of the Parc National de Port-Cros for their warm welcome.



Julien Cordier

j.cordier@pnr-scarpe-escaut.fr

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 5-9, 2012 *California Conference* held by California State Park Rangers Association and Park Rangers Association of California, Renaissance Hotel, Agoura Hills, California, USA.
<http://www.cspra.com/>
- March 19-23, 2012 *33rd Annual Park Law Enforcement Association Conference*, The Summit Conference Center at Haw River State Park at the Browns Summit, North Carolina, USA. For additional information, contact John R. Byrd, Sr., at 919-608-4809 or jrbseior@charter.net.
<http://myparkranger.org/81801.html>
- May 8-12, 2012 *NAI International Conference*, Pacific Islands, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i, USA. The National Association for Interpretation hosts its seventh annual international conference on the subject of heritage interpretation. The conference will feature three full days of concurrent sessions and one day for an off-site session, as well as keynote speakers, special events, and pre- and post-conference tours. The conference will bring together 150 to 200 delegates from 30-40 nations in an effort to create opportunities for professional development for attendees and establish a network for professional associations and individuals.
<http://www.interpnet.com/ic/>
- July 31, 2012 *World Ranger Day* - IRF member associations, protected area agencies, individual rangers, sponsors, and the public are invited to create or join in events and activities that recognize the work of rangers across the globe.
www.int-ranger.net/whatsnew.html
- July 31, 2012 *20th Anniversary of the International Ranger Federation*
- September 6-15, 2012 *2012 World Conservation Congress*, International Convention Center, Jeju, Republic of Korea
<http://iccjeju.cafe24.com/eng/>
http://www.iucn.org/2012_congress/
- October 28 – November 1, 2012 *ANPR Ranger Rendezvous*, Miramonte Resort & Spa at Indians Wells, California, USA (www.miramonteresort.com). Sponsored by the Association of National Park Rangers.
<http://www.anpr.org/>
- November 4-9, 2012 *VII World Ranger Congress*, Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge in northern Tanzania, Eastern Africa. Organized by PAMS Foundation. Sponsored by the International Ranger Federation.
TanzaniaWRC@gmail.com
<http://www.pamsfoundation.org/world-rangers-congress>
- November 13-17, 2012 *National Interpreters Workshop*, Hampton, Virginia, USA. The National Association for Interpretation's workshop brings together more than 1,000 interpreters to train, network, share ideas, and enjoy a different part of the country.
<http://www.interpnet.com/>

MEMBER DIRECTORY

The following is for quick reference only and does not include the names of individual ranger associations. Where more than one name is listed for a given nation, it is because there's more than one ranger association in that country. For a complete list, please contact Elaine Thomas, IRF secretary, at the address below.

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¹ National

² National

³ State - California

⁴ National

⁵ State - California

⁶ State – Alaska (provisional member)

⁷ National and State (Northern Territory)

⁸ State (New South Wales)

⁹ State - Queensland

¹⁰ State – South Australia

¹¹ State - Tasmania

¹² State - Victoria

¹³ State – Western Australia

INTERNATIONAL PARKS COMMUNITY

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YOUNG CONSERVATIONIST AWARD RECIPIENTS

2011	Héctor Antonio Caymaris Zanelli	Uruguay	caymaris@gmail.com
2010	Alasdair Harris	Scotland / Madagascar	al@blueventures.org
2008	Edwin Sabuhoro	Rwanda	esabuhoro@rwandaecotours.com
2006	Christian Teran	Ecuador	cteran2@yahoo.es

¹⁴ Fauna Flora International

¹⁵ Great Apes Survival Project (UNEP)

¹⁶ International Centre for Protected Landscapes

¹⁷ International Union for Conservation of Nature

¹⁸ World Commission on Protected Areas

¹⁹ Royal Society for the Protection of Birds