



## **INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION NEWSLETTER**

**Spring, 1997**

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### **Second World Congress – Costa Rica**

The second world IRF Congress will be held at the Hotel Cariari in San Jose, Costa Rica, between Thursday, September 25, and Monday, September 29, 1997 - just FIVE months from now. If you are planning to attend, NOW is the time to register for the congress. We need to have a substantial number of registrations by the end of May to assure that our reservations are held at the hotel. It is therefore imperative that you not put off registering until the summer. If we can't get a sufficient number of delegates by that time, we may have to consider calling off the congress.

A number of major developments have occurred since the last newsletter. The President of Costa Rica, Jose Maria Figueres, has agreed to address delegates at the opening session. Costa Rica has submitted a funding request to World Heritage for \$20,000 to fund the attendance of some delegates; Scottish National Heritage and other groups may also come through with supporting funds. The director of the California state park system (a park system equivalent in size and variety to many national systems) in the U.S. has expressed his personal support of the congress and offered to support it. And congress coordinators Rick Smith and Rick Gale spent a profitable week in San Jose in late March. They made significant headway in making arrangements for the congress, including the following accomplishments:

- Meetings were held with the staff at the Hotel Cariari, and a contract was signed with the hotel.
- Meetings were held with the principals of several Costa Rican conservation organizations - SINAC (Costa Rica's national park service), FUNDECOR (a non-profit park support organization), and the Costa Rican National Park Foundation - on the program and possible funding of some aspects of the congress.
- A meeting was held with Horizontes, one of the two official travel agencies for the congress, on field trip sites (Parques Nacionales Poas, Irazu, Tapanti and Braulio Carrillo, and Biological Reserve Carara). The sites are all within two hours of the hotel and will include bilingual guides and lunch in the field at a local restaurant. This was followed by site visits to all the field trip destinations, accompanied by their respective park directors.
- A meeting was held with the organization which will provide simultaneous translation services, and a contract with them was completed and signed.
- A meeting was held with AGUA (Asociacion de Guardaparques), one of the two Costa Rican ranger associations affiliated with IRF. AGUA members were very enthusiastic about the congress and will be providing local support.
- A site visit was conducted to Parque Nacionale Arenal, one of the destinations for post-congress trips.

All of these meetings and trips were both positive and productive. Meanwhile, the program for the congress has been largely completed. Here are the highlights:

- September 24 - Informal opening of congress, "potlach" dinner and a slide show of the congress in Zakopane. A potlach is a dinner in which each delegate brings traditional food and drink from his or her country to share with others.
- September 25 - Formal opening of the congress, including speech by President Figueres; keynote address; plenary speech on sustainable development, followed by participant workshops; opening banquet; a slide show on protected areas in Costa Rica.
- September 26 - Follow-up on participant workshops on sustainable development; state of IRF speech; plenary speech on ecotourism; participant workshops on ecotourism; panel discussion featuring ecotourism operators; delegate slide shows in the evening.
- September 27 - All-day field trip to CR protected areas.
- September 28 - Plenary speech on participative planning; participant workshops; plenary speech on constituency building and generation of public support; participant workshops facilitated by CR conservation area directors; address by Minister Castro on Costa Rica's sustainable development policies for the 21st century; delegate slide shows in evening.
- September 29 - IRF business meeting; closing banquet; slide show on next congress in Kruger NP in South Africa.

Once again: It is very important that you make your reservations for the congress NOW. The congress registrar is Lyn Rothgeb in the U.S. Her mailing address is 730 East Main Street, Luray, VA, 22835, USA; phone and fax are 540-743-1775; Internet address is rothgeb@aol.com. ALL applications for financial assistance MUST be received by Lyn by the end of May.

If you have questions about the congress, you can reach congress coordinator Rick Smith at 2 Roadrunner Trail, Placitas, NM, 87043, USA. Telephone: 505-867-0047; telefax: 505-867-4175; Internet: rsmith0921@aol.com.

A special note to rangers in Europe: Journeys, the organization which handled the Zakopane congress, has negotiated a good deal for rangers to fly to Costa Rica from most European airports via Amsterdam on KLM for about \$800 U.S. Outbound trips can take place on either September 21st or 23rd; return trips can be booked for September 30th, October 2nd or October 5th. Contact Christine at 44-1298-84955 (fax) or 44-1298-84855 (phone) for particulars.

## **IRF News**

### **IRF Business**

IRF held a business meeting in the United Kingdom in early April. Three of four IRF officers were in attendance - chairman Gordon Miller, treasurer Mike Marshall, and secretary Bob Reid (Scotland) - along with supporters from England's Countryside Management Association.

Although the group is not yet representative of all the national and state member associations, it is the only alternative available for undertaking necessary business until IRF's international council is in place.

Highlights of the meeting follow:

- Finances - IRF has only a very modest sum of fund in the bank at present. Fund-raising is therefore a priority. IRF is approaching a major English bank for possible core funding, which would be used to pay for a staff person to work on federation business for several days a week for from one to three years.

- Merchandising - Despite the lack of resources, a modest program has been begun to raise IRF's profile through the creation of plastic decals for vehicle windows and metal lapel pins. Decals are available for \$1.00 U.S. each; lapel pins for \$2.00 each. The minimum order must be 50 units in order to cover mailing costs. That could be 50 pins or 50 decals or any mix totaling 50. If you would like to order either the decals or the pins, please contact Colin Dilcock, 86 Little Dale, Pickering, North Yorkshire YO18 8PS, England (telephone: 44-1439-770657, telefax 44-1439-770691). IRF also has grey sweatshirts with the green and blue logo and the words 'International Ranger Federation' available. These sell for \$25.00 each U.S., including postage. Member associations may also use the IRF logo on items produced locally for sale, with prior approval and a 10% return to IRF. Important note: If you chose to reproduce the IRF logo locally, the standard Pantone (PMS) colors are #293 for blue (possibly screened at 80% to lighten the color) and #341 for green (100%).
- Financial Statements and Annual Reports - Both of these are DUE NOW from all member associations.
- Zakopane Proceedings - The proceedings have been completed and disseminated to all who attended the congress. A modest number are also available for other uses. The proceedings can also be photocopied in order to make more available.

## **Newsletter**

The newsletter is mailed to the principal contacts for each national, state or territorial ranger association that is a member of IRF. It is then to be reproduced in the member association's own internal publication. Copies are also available to interested parties via electronic mail. If you'd like to receive the newsletter in that manner, send your Internet address to the editor. NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: June 1.

## **Federation Directory**

In order to reduce mailing costs, we will be mailing the complete directory of member nations and their presidents or chairs and their IRF representatives only once or twice a year. In the interim, we will provide you with changes to the listing through the newsletter:

- The new address for Canada's National Park Warden Association is Box 145, Leamington, Ontario, N8H 3W1, Canada. The telephone number is 519-322-5988. Mark Halley, NPWA's coordinator, can be reached on the Internet at: [Mark\\_Halley@pch.gc.ca](mailto:Mark_Halley@pch.gc.ca)
- Chairman Gordon Miller can be reached through Internet at his office as well as at his home. The office address is: [north@peakrang.u-net.com](mailto:north@peakrang.u-net.com)
- Vlado Vancura of the Slovak Rangers Association can be reached through the Internet at: [vpfond@netlab.sk](mailto:vpfond@netlab.sk)
- Add another new member to IRF: Naturvardarna, the Swedish ranger association. See below for particulars. The contact person continues to be Thomas Hansson.

## **News About IRF Associations**

### **Canada – Mark Halley**

The new National Park Wardens Association is off to a strong start:

- Elections are planned for this spring. No firm date has yet been set.
- Liaison continues with Parks Canada, which has been very supportive of this new association. A more formal working relationship between the two organizations will likely be developed.
- The association has developed a newsletter and is transmitting it to all members regularly. A Web site is also under consideration.
- NPWA has officially joined the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association and the International Ranger Federation. It's also working closely with the U.S. Association of National Park Rangers.

NPWA now has nearly 200 members and is still growing.

## **England - Mike Marshall**

The Countryside Management Association (CMA) met at the Edale Youth Hostel on December 4-6, 1996. About 50 rangers attended what was probably the best CMA conference in years. The meeting focused on the current and future situation for countryside management. Speakers stimulated the gathering to serious thought with stirring words on a host of current topics, including missions, investors, supply and demand, critical assets, sustainable growth, sustainable communities, training, strategic services, statutory obligations, and downsizing. The question and answer period had to be limited to one hour, but could have easily continued throughout the night. This session was followed by a day of workshops on the urban countryside, recreation, professionalism and other topics.

## **Germany - Gordon Miller, Uwe Nehring**

The German Ranger Association met in April during that country's third national park ranger meeting. The conference was attended by 150 rangers, along with representatives from environmental organizations and elected officials from the state and federal government.

Gordon Miller, chair of IRF, and Uwe Nehring of the U.S. Association of National Park Rangers attended and spoke on IRF, the coming second world congress, and the different yet complimentary roles of rangers around the world. Gordon Miller reports: "(The presentation) seemed to strike a chord, because a number of wavering rangers joined the German Ranger Association following my talk - I think because they realized that rangers is not parochial." Members agreed to send Jan Brockmann to Costa Rica to represent them; others may come as well. They also took up a collection for Nigerian rangers, and were able to raise 1,000 DM to send to them (see below for the situation in Nigeria).

Gordon and Uwe also participated in several press conferences and meetings while there, and had several profitable meetings on coordination of international ranger activities with the German Ranger Association, Naturwacht Verbund and other participants.

## **South Africa - John Forrest**

The annual general meeting of the Game Rangers Association was held at Pilanesburg National Park on February 12-16. Approximately 60 to 70 people attended, which is somewhat less than normal. This is because many Natal Parks Board and Kruger National Park rangers were unable to attend.

The theme of the talks and subsequent workshop was "the future of the game ranger in Africa." The problems besetting the game ranger in Africa were clearly stated and not always palatable, but the future role of the game rangers is still not sufficiently defined and needs further consideration. A strategic planning workshop with a professional facilitator is planned for May or June.

Pilanesburg is a beautiful park with a wide variety of game animals, so the many game drives arranged for both day and night proved popular. Sun City, Africa's largest casino, entertainment hotel and complex, is just outside the park's boundary, which provided an attraction for those with some spare cash. The usual traditional South African "braai's" (barbecues) were held every evening.

Also attending were Mike Marshall, Declan Kelley and Susan Clark from CMA and IRF, and Christine West, who is involved in environmental education. The next AGM will be held in the Giant's Castle game reserve, which is in the Drakensberg Mountains of KwaZulu-Natal.

## **Sweden - Thomas Hansson**

In late January, Swedish rangers gathered for a meeting in the Stockholm archipelago. They met for two reasons. The first was a seminar on nature conservation and ecotourism which featured speakers from various organizations. Participating rangers also talked about their own experiences from their field work in different regions in Sweden, ranging from the mountain areas in the far north (parts of which have just been dedicated as world heritage sites) to the more urban areas in the south. The second reason was to start a new organization called "Naturvardarna," which translates roughly as "the nature conservation staff." Thomas Hansson was named as chair of the new board; Marlen Fuglsang is the secretary; Sten Soderlund is the treasurer. Regional contact persons were also identified; others will join soon. On the agenda: Membership in IRF (which has since become official), creation of a quarterly journal, and a meeting in November. The first issue of the journal will be sent to around 200 possible members, possibly more.

## **Uruguay - Juan Carlos Gambarotta**

Juan Carlos, who is representing Uruguay pending development of a national ranger association, has developed a questionnaire for members of associations in the IRF. He will share the results with all. The cover letter and questionnaire are at the end of this newsletter.

## **News About Rangers**

### **Nigeria**

IRF treasurer has forwarded a February letter from a friend in Nigeria regarding the difficult and dangerous situation rangers there are facing. Excerpts follow:

"We have hit many serious problems in Nigeria; the poaching has escalated to new commercial heights involving armed gangs intent on serious killing of game. Unfortunately, they are also prepared to kill game guards, too. There has been a gun battle in Kainji National Park, which I believe involved 15 dead, including five guards. Death threats have been issued to senior staff here, and my friend...at Yankari National Park (doing the same job) was hit by a poacher three weeks ago. He received flesh wounds and is back in the U.K. recovering. He was lucky.

"Anyway, I am able to view this situation positively. I met with the state governor for Kaduna last week and the problems will be discussed at government level. I am meeting the director of national parks next week and possibly the president to brief them, too. The most important thing however is a new, intensive training programme for my staff here based on the Game Rangers Association's field ranger training...My staff are loving it, even the drills. It's all so vital now.

"I shall tell the director next week all about IRF and the training initiative. He is quite receptive, so its a good chance to get Nigeria really moving now. I have always said you can even use the real problems positively.

"All of the staff here are now equipped with boots, berets, etc. (provided by voluntary ranger contributions). It's made a huge difference in everybody's morale..."

If you find your work difficult, think a bit about your comrades in Nigeria. Continuing support our hard-pressed brethren here and elsewhere should be a top priority for this federation in coming years....

## **Upcoming Events**

- May, 1997 Annual Meeting, Australian Ranger Association. Date and location to be announced. For more information, contact Kristen Appel, PO Box 1046, Alice Springs, Northern Territory 0871, Australia (telephone: 61-89-569770; telefax: 61-89-569819)
- September 25-29, 1997 Second World IRF Congress, Hotel Cariari, San Jose, Costa Rica. Contact Lyn Rothgeb, Congress registrar, via telefax in the United States at 540-743-1775, or via e-mail at: rothgeb@aol.com
- October 14-16, 1997 21st Ranger Rendezvous, Association of National Park Rangers, Sheraton Harbor Place Hotel, Fort Myers, Florida, U.S.A.

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The International Ranger Federation Newsletter is produced four times per year and distributed to the IRF representatives for each member association. The newsletter is edited by Bill Halainen of the U.S. Association of National Park Rangers. He can be reached in any of the following ways. The preferred means for fax communications is the work number.

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- Phone – 717-686-3828 (home), 717-588-2430 (work)
- Fax – 717-686-3828 (home), 717-588-9652 (work)
- Electronic mail - [Bill\\_Halainen@nps.gov](mailto:Bill_Halainen@nps.gov)

## Ranger Questionnaire

You have been selected as either a ranger or someone who has contact with a ranger in your country. If you are not a ranger or park guardian, please pass this questionnaire on to one of them - or, even better, make copies and pass them on to others.

At our meeting in Poland in 1995, we found that the backgrounds, activities and work conditions of rangers throughout the world are very different, making it difficult to define our profession.

I am doing an evaluation of ranger work at the world level in order to make conclusions and send them to the next congress in Costa Rica.

For this study, a ranger is defined as anyone who works in a private, state or national natural protected area, who lives in the protected area or very close to it, and who is in charge of watching and protecting the area (but also may have other functions).

I hope that the results will be useful for all guardians of nature. In a very special form, the results will be useful for me, as one of only three rangers in Uruguay. We hope to increase our numbers and undertake work similar to that of our colleagues working in national parks in other countries.

Please send your responses to: Juan Carlos Gambarotta, Guardapaque, Post Restante, Castillos, 27.200, Uruguay.

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Name of Country \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Protected Area \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Ranger (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

1) Please list the different functions you do at work. Do you think any function should not be done by a ranger? Which one(s)? Would you like to dedicate more time to any function? Which one(s)?

2) Do rangers in your country rotate periodically from one park to another? If so, do you think that rotation is good?

3) Do you patrol alone or in company?

4) Do you think that you risk your life in your job?

- 5) Do you use a gun? If so, does your employer provide you with one?
  
- 6) If you do not have a gun, would you feel more protected with one?
  
- 7) If you wound or kill someone in the course of your work, would you receive good support from the law?
  
- 8) Does your employer or state provide you with life insurance?
  
- 9) Do you have authority to do inspections and take guns from poachers without the help of police?
  
- 10) Do you think you make a good salary?
  
- 11) Are there clear regulations on what activities are permitted and what are prohibited in your protected area?
  
- 12) Do you think that you have received enough training?
  
- 13) Do you have any other thoughts you would like to add?