1988 FIELD STUDY VACATIONS WITH SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

If your vacation plans call for a trip to the great outdoors, San Jose State University Field Studies In Natural History has six trips planned for destinations throughout the United States in 1988. Besides being fun, the excursions allow you to earn university credit.

Trips include the Colorado and Chihuahuan deserts (January 3-13), Death Valley (March 27-April 2), the Monterey Coast (June 19-25), the Grand Canyon (June 27-July 7/July 2-10), Hawaii (July 10-28), the Trinity Alps (August 7-13), and Alaska (a two week trip, dates to be announced).

For further information call (408) 277-3736, or write: Field Studies In Natural History, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA., 95192-0135

"CALIFORNIA WILDS" WORKSHOP TO BE HELD AT POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE

Point Reyes new Clem Miller Environmental Education Center will be the site of the "California Wilds" natural history workshop sponsored by the Western Interpreters Association and Point Reyes National Seashore Educational Program. The dates for the workshop will be October 2-4, 1987.

The workshop sessions will be held in the field and will concentrate on various interpretive topics. Titles include: Close Encounters With Insects, Raptors On Migration, Ferns, Mammals And Plant Galls, and Ethnobotany. Evening sessions will include a night hike to the top of Mount Wittenburg, and storytelling by Ane Rovetta.

Fulltime registration fees ($90 for WIA/NPS members, $115 for non-members) including lodging and meals. Day registration is also available.

For more information contact Marilyn Nishio or Savina Fazio at (415) 521-6887
TEMPTING NATIVE BIRDS WITH SIMPLE HOUSING AND GARDEN FARE

Adapted From Elizabeth Hones Article, San Jose Mercury News, April 2, 1987.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Information in the following short article may be of interest to rangers/naturalists seeking ways to attract local birds to their visitor centers for interpretive programming purposes.

To many birdwatching is a rewarding diversion. A good method of attracting local birds is to set up a planter box/bush hedge combination outside a window, or next to an exterior viewing area.

Boxes can be planted with any flowering plant, including marigolds, pansies, and daisies. Another idea is to use native flowering plants, such as California poppy, lupin, California Blackberry, and sticky monkeyflower. Besides being compatible to the surrounding park environs, native plants can also be used in your interpretive programming.

Bush hedges should be of an open variety for easy viewing. Examples include: rosebushes, lemon trees, azalea, and rhododendron. The primary purpose of the bushes for the birds is to provide protection. Another form of protection for small birds such as sparrows is to place small birdhouse structures in your viewing area. One economical idea is to use a 3-pound coffee can with both ends open. Use two plastic fitting tops, with half the inside cut out, so birds can see through and feel safe. The structure can be hung by punching two holes in each end of the can, and suspending it from a free-standing pole, or from the ceiling with framing wire.

To attract large numbers of birds on a regular basis create a "lunch stand" with plastic dishes or pie pans. Use cracked chicken or scratch feeds. Cracked grains will not sprout if spilled on the ground, and will offer food for ground-feeding birds. In winter, sweeten the mix with sunflower seeds.

Dishes usually require a refill once a week. All feed pans should be covered, or taken inside, at night. This keeps the feed fresher longer, and discourages use by nocturnal animals like raccoons and opossum. During the day feed pans can be hung or placed in the planter boxes.
Birdbaths also attract birds, and can be a focal point for interesting and amusing bird behavior. Economical manufactured baths can be purchased at most garden stores. Baths can also be made from the ends of 35 gallon drums, or even large pie pans.

Since birds are messy eaters the viewing area will require regular cleanup. The birds also feed on the flowering plants, so periodic replanting may be required.

These ideas are designed to provide you with a bird-watching area that will provide you (and your park visitors) countless hours of education and enjoyment.

"TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA AWARDS"

Applications are now available for the 1987 "Take Pride In America" awards program, a national public awareness campaign designed to educate the public about its stewardship responsibilities and encourage involvement in the wise use of our public lands, including natural and cultural resources.

are available from: Public Relations Office, California Department of Parks & Recreation, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, California, 94296-0001. State competition winners will be selected in November. State winners will compete nationally in the Spring of 1988

1987-88 S.A.R COURSES SCHEDULED IN MARIN COUNTY

The Northern California Criminal Justice Training And Education System, located at Santa Rosa College, has just released its schedule of 1987-88 courses.

Under the coordination of Mr. Rob McLeod, courses will run between August 1987 and June 1988. Topics include Search & Rescue Techniques, Cliff Rescue, Boat Rescue, and Swiftwater Rescue.

For more information contact: Northern California Criminal Justice And Training System, Santa Rosa Junior College Center, 7501 Sonoma Highway, Santa Rosa, California, 95405, (707) 539-5210.
CAMPAIGN FOR PRESERVATION OF WILDLIFE, COASTLINE, AND PARKLANDS

The Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Initiative is a statewide campaign which, if passed by the voters in June 1988, would provide $776 million for open space/parkland acquisition. The initiative, sponsored by Californians For Parks And Wildlife, requires 375,000 valid signatures to be placed on the ballot. The deadline for signature gathering is November 15, 1987.

The initiative provides $153 million to the State Park System, $336 million for local and regional parks, and $287 million for coastal protection, historic preservation, fish and wildlife habitat protection, trails, and urban streams/forestry.

The initiative is supported by the Planning & Conservation League, the Sierra Club, the National Audubon Society, the League Of Women Voters, many other conservation organizations, and local business/civic groups.

For more information on this initiative contact: Californians For Parks & Wildlife, 909 12th Street, Suite 203, Sacramento, California; (916) 446-1786.

OUTDOOR ANTICS

The Far Side © Gary Larson

Impollite as they were, the other bears could never help staring at Larry’s enormous deer gut.
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FOR PARK RANGERS

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following are bills currently before the State Legislature which may impact on our jobs as park rangers. For further information on specific items contact the California Parks & Recreation Society at (916) 446-CPRS.

AB 425
(Agnos) Abandoned Vehicle Trust Fund Measure would require payment of $1 fee for all registered vehicles, and would continuously appropriate these monies to the DMV for allocation to eligible counties for removal of abandoned vehicles.

AB 480
(McClintock) Litter: Cleanup Measure would change the crime of placing of specified burning or combustible materials on property from a misdemeanor to an infraction, increase minimum fines for littering and would authorize the court to require a defendant to pick up the litter for a first or subsequent offense.

AB 898
(Farr) Littering On Public Or Private Property Measure would increase fines for littering on public or private property.

SB 1272
(McCorquodale) Abandoned Vehicle Trust Fund Measure would repeal and recreate the Abandoned Vehicle Trust Fund; provide for a special $1 registration fee, designated as a standby disposition fee and not a special tax; and counties to dispose of abandoned vehicles with a value of $100 or less.

SB 1475
(Mello) Controlled Substances Measure would include minors in existing law providing that selling controlled substances on any school grounds or playgrounds is a felony. CPRS is working with author to specifically include "parklands."
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