

THE SIGNPOST

JULY - AUGUST 1988
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AUTUMN BARBEQUE IN MARIN COUNTY

PRAC is scheduling a barbeque in beautiful Marin County following the quarterly Executive Board Meeting on Friday, September 16, 1988. The meeting site will be announced in a flyer later this month. So mark your calendars and plan to attend. All PRAC/CSPRA members and friends are welcome. Call Bill Hendricks at (415) 663-9305 for more information.



NEW STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE CHOSEN

PRAC's new Student Representative is Mark McGonegle. Currently a Park Aide for Sonoma County at Spring Lake County Park, Mark is a graduate from the University of Cincinnati. He is also a park and recreation major at Santa Rosa Junior College.

Mark looks forward to serving PRAC's growing student constituency. If you wish to contact Mark to say hello or to have some questions answered, call him at (707) 539-5604.



WELCOME TO PRAC

We wish to introduce two important new members to the Park Rangers Association of California. We are sure your energy, skills, commitment, and enthusiasm will make a significant impact on PRAC, and on the park ranger profession. You are encouraged to network with other members, and any ideas you have for making PRAC better are always welcome. If you should have any questions or assistance feel free to contact your Executive Board members (see the back of newsletter). Again welcome to PRAC:

Bill Trunick- Sacramento County
Parks & Recreation Department

Karen Suzanne Weiss- California
Department of Parks &
Recreation.



I am sure I forgot someone, you always do when you try to do something like this. But, the bottom line is you never accomplish anything like this alone. I shall never forget all your kindness, and I will always be at your service. Thank you again for this great honor.

A SPECIAL LETTER TO PRAC

Tom "Smitty" Smith

Dear PRAC Members:

As you all know, I received the "first ever" honorary life membership to PRAC at the 1988 Annual Conference. In my lifetime, I have received many awards, but none means more to me than the one you bestowed upon me in March. I accept it with a great deal of pride and humility. When one is honored by peers, it certainly means more. Of course, it is tough to say thank you to all of you who had a hand in what I accomplished. Behind such an award lie many people. People that have had a large impact on my life, both professionally and personally.

The early years of PRAC were both frustrating and rewarding. Frustrating in that the purpose was so clear, yet so difficult to get across to people in the field. This time was rewarding because of the people who jumped right into the jobs given to them so we could be off and running. Jerry Lawrence of Palo Alto, Pat Hayes of Fremont, Raleigh Young of Santa Clara County, Bill Lawrence of San Mateo County, John Ramirez of Ventura County, Walter Cacace of Santa Cruz, and of course Doug Bryce were always around to help with anything. Denzil Verardo of CSPRA was a great help in combining like functions.



SOUTHERN REPRESENTATIVE SOUGHT

PRAC is recruiting for a Southern Representative to replace Chuck Tello of Ventura County. The Southern Region takes in San Luis Obispo south to the Mexican border, and east to the Arizona-Nevada border. It's a big territory in need of a big person. If you're up to the challenge call PRAC President, Bill Hendricks, at (415) 663-9305.

LAGUNITAS LAKE LETS YOU
CATCH 'EM-
AGAIN AND AGAIN

Submitted By
Bill Hendricks
From The
Marin Independent Journal

The early reports are in:
There's some fun fishing
available in a catch-and-
release program at Lagunitas
Lake.

The Marin Municipal Water
District, Department of Fish &
Game, Cal Trout, and the Marin
Rod and Gun Club have combined
to plant approximately 8,000
Shasta strain rainbow trout in
this lake near Fairfax, and
they can be caught- again and
again.

That's because of the special
restrictions which call for
artificial lures only, with
single, barbless hooks. The
limit is two fish, and any
trout between 10 and 16 inches
in length must be returned to
the lake. Since the trout
dumped into the lake were
between 9 and 13 inches, that
means that in the early stage
of the program virtually all
fish must be returned.

If the project is successful,
the planted fish will spawn in
the winter and provide more
sport for anglers.

The project has been in
operation for only a few weeks,
but so far the rangers who
patrol the lake report having
little difficulty with people
who are not obeying the laws.

"Most violators have been kids
who don't know about the
restrictions," Bill Hendricks,
one of the MMWD park rangers,

said. He said the MMWD rangers
are patrolling the lake two or
three times a day and finding
very few rule violators.

"So far it is definitely a
success," Hendricks said.
"There are a lot of fly
fishermen that are coming out."

Racci De Luca, another of the
MMWD rangers, said members of
Cal Trout who fish the lake are
helping newcomers to the game
of catch-and-release.

According to Eric McGuire,
environmental services
coordinator for the MMWD and
project coordinator for the
Lagunitas Lake trout
enhancement program,
"Can the lake support 8,000
fish? The lake was previously
dominated by bass. The food
base has to reach an optimal
level for trout."

McGuire said if the trout have
a successful spawn and the
there is enough natural food in
the lake, "We'll be in good
shape."

There are no longer any bass in
the lake. The lake was drained
and all fish removed or killed
as the first phase of the
enhancement project. When the
lake refilled from rains over
the winter, an aerator was
installed and the trout
planted. The aerator, to keep
the oxygen levels suitable for
trout, was the most costly part
of the project. The aerator
and pump cost \$50,000, the
money being raised by Cal
Trout and the Marin Rod and Gun
Club.

"This is the only project of
its type in a metropolitan
area, a very unique situation,"
Gerry Martin, Cal Trout member
said. "My early observation has
been very positive so far."

INAUGURAL MESSAGE FROM
PRAC PAST-PRESIDENT

By John Ramirez

The two terms I have served as President of the Park Rangers Association of California have included some of the most enjoyable times of my life. It was always fun and exciting to meet fellow park professionals, and to share mutual concerns, opportunities and successes.

PRAC has come along way in four years, and the Board is now in an excellent position to accomplish much and to offer more to the membership. We must continue to plan for the future of park ranger profession. To quote Christopher K. Jarvi, Vice-President of the California Park & Recreation Society, "The parks and recreation profession is undergoing continual change caused by unusual (social) changes, rapid technological growth, continual economic uncertainty, political turbulence, and dramatic shifts in personal values."

What this means to PRAC is we must be constantly attuned and responsive to the many changes affecting our chosen profession. This points out the critical need for a variety of articles for publication in The Signpost and The California Ranger. With these information sources kept current and well-defined, we will be able to plan and properly carry out our goals.

I would like to challenge each member to recruit a new member, and to submit ranger related articles. With statewide involvement, PRAC will continue to grow into a leadership role for the park ranger profession.

A DEAD BREED

A Book Review of
"In Condor Country-
A Portrait of a Landscape,
its Denizens, and its Defenders"
By David Darlington

"When Eben McMillan first moved to eastern San Luis Obispo County, California, big shadows would cross the lawn. Everbody would stop eating, run outside, and- if the shadow was still there- see a black condor against the blue sky. Forty years ago, days that presented an opportunity for condor- watching were more common than those that didn't." Today that can no longer be said for the California Condor is a dead breed in the wild.

"In Condor Country" chronicles life in an arid region of rolling grassland which has historically been a favorite foraging ground for the rarest of North American birds. The cultural and natural history of this area is deeply etched. But this book is much more than that.

"In Condor Country" portrays the life of ranchers Eben and Ian McMillan, who have spent their entire lives as conservationists in this region. Through their story one learns of about a bird's struggle for existence against the elements and, more importantly, man.

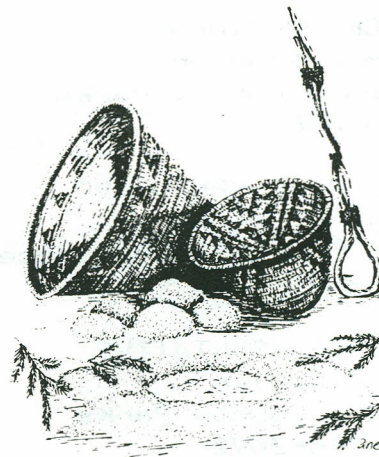
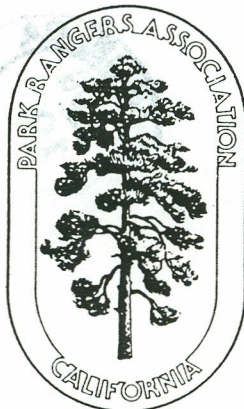
"In Condor Country" shows us that this unique creature is symbolic of how we are quickly contributing to the doom of our planet- and our lives. For those of us in the park field, this book is an important guide in showing us we can better take care of the resources we are sworn to protect. All of us can learn from the lives of the McMillans.

1988-89 GOALS SET

At its last meeting, the PRAC Executive Board set the following goals for the upcoming year:

1. Continue to expand PRAC membership in the Southern Region, in the new Student Section, and by 30% total.
2. Increase membership input in "The Signpost" and "California Ranger" publications.
3. Further develop correspondence with CSPRA.
4. Develop the PRAC Professional Citation Award.
5. Develop a PRAC Scholarship Program.
6. Increase annual training sessions to three.
7. Increase Association social activities.

In order for these ambitious goals to become reality, ambitious individuals are needed. If any of these topic areas interest you contact PRAC President, Bill Hendricks, at (415) 663-9305.



PRAC MEMORABILIA FOR SALE

PRAC now has coffee mugs, T-shirts, and decals available for purchase.

Mugs (\$5.00) and decals (\$.50) can be obtained from Vice-President, Tom Hofsommer, by calling (916) 366-2072.

T-Shirts (\$5.00) can be bought from PRAC Executive Manager Doug Bryce at (916) 381-4620.

All items are emblazoned with the PRAC seal. Show your support for PRAC and the park ranger profession by purchasing and using these fine items.

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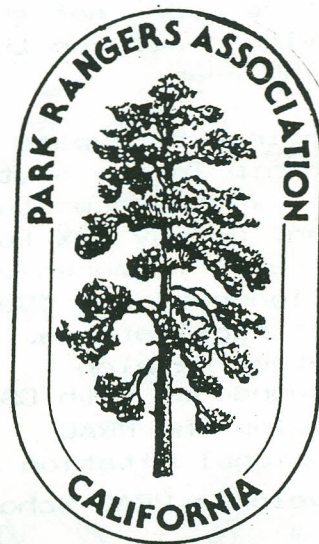
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