



SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ELFIN FOREST WORK PARTIES

Small Wilderness Area Preservation (SWAP) organizes first Saturday of the month work parties. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Info: (805) 528-0392

NOVEMBER 28

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

at the SLO Vets Hall
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Info: Kathy (805) 466-0191

DECEMBER 5

COWBOY CHRISTMAS AT TEMPLETON PARK

Shop for holiday gifts at this great craft fair!
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
There is still vendor space available.
Info: Laurie(805) 434-4900

DECEMBER 19

KID'S FISHING CLINIC AT LOPEZ LAKE

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Come before 11:00 a.m. to allow time to fish.
Info: (805) 781-5930

DECEMBER 19

LOS POSADAS AT THE RIOS CALEDONIA ADOBE

Luminarias light the path to the old adobe where a creche awaits the visitors, complete with live figures in repose.
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Donation requested
Info: (805) 467-3357

View our complete Special Events Calendar at www.slocountyparks.org



On Sunday, November 15th the Friends of Lopez Lake, in partnership with San Luis Obispo County Parks, hosted the 2nd Annual Turkey Festival at Lopez Lake Recreation Area. Day Use Entry fees into the park were half price making it an even more affordable day for everyone to enjoy. The event kicked off at 10 a.m. and featured a variety of fun, family oriented activities including: live music by "Those Guys", a Kids Carnival, a Tiny Mile Turkey Trot and 5K Turkey Trek, quality handcrafted arts and craft Vendor Expo, Food, Turkey Call contests, Kids and Adult Raffles, Free Nature Boat Cruises and tractor-pulled Hayrides! The main events took place at the Sycamore Group Area located across the road from Mustang Water Slides. This years Tiny Mile Turkey Trot and 5K Turkey Trek were a great success and enjoyed by all who participated. We look forward to seeing everyone next year!



2010 ANNUAL PASSES

Are you looking for that perfect gift for your outdoors enthusiast? How 'bout one for yourself? Beginning December 1st you can purchase a 2010 Annual Boat or Vehicle Pass at either Lopez Lake or Santa Margarita Lake. You have the choice of purchasing a pass for you favorite lake or a Regional Pass which will work at both Lopez Lake Recreation Area and Santa Margarita Lake Recreation Area.

For more information contact Park Staff at Lopez Lake or Santa Margarita Lake by calling (805) 788-5930.



RECREATION PROGRAMS

- ❖ **YOGA w/ Shoosh**
at SLO Vets Hall
Mon's & Wed's
5:15pm Beginners
6:30pm Continuing
Info: (805) 772-3560
- ❖ **FREE YOGA FOR CANCER SURVIVORS**
at the SLO Vets Hall
Wednesdays
Info: (805) 772-3560
- ❖ **SCOTTISH DANCE**
at SLO Vet's Hall
Thursday Evenings
Info: Guy Wallace at
(805) 528-8280
- ❖ **DOG OBEDIENCE**
at Cuesta Park
Wednesday Nights
Info: Janet Neumann
at (805) 610-1157
- ❖ **TENNIS LESSONS**
at Nipomo Park
Tuesdays & Fridays
Info: David Mascia at
(805) 458-4008
- ❖ **TANGO CLASSES**
at SLO Vets Hall
Monday Evenings
8:00 pm - 10:00pm
Info: Rich Howe at
(805) 783-0596 or
www.slotango.org
- ❖ **DOG TRAINING**
at Los Osos Red Barn
Thursday Nights
5:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Info: Eric Duggan at
(805) 550-2292



COUNTY PARKS MAKES STAFF CHANGES IN THE COMMUNITIES BEST INTEREST.

BY ERNIE DEL RIO, PARK SUPERINTENDENT



Lynn Henriksen, Park Ranger III

Recently County Parks made some changes to its ranks to improve the quality and delivery of excellent customer service. County Parks Ranger III ranks are the Supervising Ranger at the field level. This is where the rubber meets the road. They are often: immediately involved in problem solving, they are the “go to” Rangers whenever there is an issue that requires urgent attention and they are referred to as the middle managers since they interact with customers, field staff and administration. This is a solid group of individuals that provide great support to staff and provide excellent service to our customers.

County Parks recently promoted two Ranger II's to Ranger III. There were many highly qualified candidates and the choices were difficult. As a manager this is a nice place to be. In addition, two other Ranger II's were transferred, all in the interest of providing enhanced customer service.



Glenn Princic, Park Ranger III

Ranger II Lynn Henriksen was promoted to a Ranger III in the South County and Ranger II Glen Princic was promoted to Ranger III, and assigned to the North Coast. As a result of these promotions Ranger III Brian Wilder formerly assigned to work the Santa Margarita Lake Recreation Area will be given the opportunity to serve in the Lopez Lake Recreation Area. Ranger III Chuck Woodard will now serve in the Santa Margarita Lake Recreation Area. I know they will all excel in their new assignments. With the exception of Ranger Henriksen who was already assigned to the South Coast, all will have begun their new assignments effective October 5, 2009. Please take the opportunity to congratulate all of them and wish them well.

COUNTY PARKS RECOGNIZED FOR BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR

BY ERNIE DEL RIO, PARK SUPERINTENDENT

County Parks was recently presented the “Good Neighbor Award” by the Avila Beach Farmers Market Association. Over the past six years County Parks has worked with the Farmers Market Association (FMA) and the Avila Business Association (ABA) to facilitate the FMA’s operations and help to assure their success. The Farmers Market has been a welcome attraction on the Avila Beach Plaza over the years bringing in thousands of visitors every season. They continue to add value to recreation opportunities in the community of Avila and help spur the economic vitality of the area.

Julie Andrews Scott, FMA coordinator has done a great job with the event, making it a huge success. I would like to thank Julie and her staff for their hard work and dedication. Working with Julie has been easy and I look forward to working with her next year. I wish Julie and those associated with the event continued success.



DOG SPASH DAYS A WET SUCCESS!

BY PAULA O'FARREL, PARKS 4 PUPS



Over 150 dogs and their owners participated in the 3rd Annual Dog Splash Days held at Templeton Community Pool on September 11-13. Dogs only were allowed in the pool, which was equipped with special ramps to facilitate dogs entering and exiting the water. Dog trainers donned wetsuits and worked as “dog lifeguards” to help dogs get in and out of the water and dog life vests were available for those first-time swimmers. Event organizers also provided plenty of frisbees, tennis balls, and rubber ducks to greet the swimmers. All breeds of dogs attended the event with a larger participation from labrador and golden retrievers.

The event was a fundraiser with the proceeds benefiting Vineyard Dog Park in Templeton. Event organizers plan to repeat the event next year on September 10 – 12, 2010.

Photos and 2010 calendars are available for purchase from the Parks-4-Pups website at www.parks4pups.org.

WANTED: RECREATION PROGRAM CONTRACT CLASS INSTRUCTORS

San Luis Obispo County Parks is expanding its Recreation Programming and we need your help! Do you have a hidden talent that you would like to share with others? Come and join our team of contract instructors and help us offer more classes that help build healthy lifestyles as well as personal enrichment. If you are interested please contact Stacey King, Park Operations Coordinator at (805) 781-4385. She will work with you on developing a program that works best for you and meets our community needs. Current program classes can be viewed on our website at www.slocountyparks.org/recprograms/recprograms.htm

ELFIN FOREST BOARDWALK EXTENDED INTO ROSE BOWKER GROVE

SUBMITTED BY YOLANDA WADDELL, S.W.A.P.

In September 2007 the Small Wilderness Area Preservation (SWAP) Board of Directors decided that it was necessary to protect ancient Coast Live Oak trees in the heavily-used Rose Bowker Memorial Grove by constructing a boardwalk extension and observation deck in the grove. The extension would allow visitors to enjoy that special environment with minimal harm to the oaks, and it would also be easily accessible by people with disabilities.



SWAP Chair Ron Rasmussen prepared a draft of the project and shepherded it through a thorough review by consultants including an archaeologist, botanists and a biologist, and by the California Coastal Commission and San Luis Obispo County Parks. SWAP was granted permission in July of this year to undertake construction.

The Hind Foundation of San Luis Obispo granted funds for construction of the extension; funding also came from PG&E. Final drawings were prepared by Mark Dariz of Design Solutions in collaboration with architect Paul Wolff of Cal Poly.

On August 18, the California Conservation Corps (CCC) began construction, basing their methods on those used in construction of the main boardwalk. The project was supervised by James JT Taylor who also supervised the building of the original boardwalk; Crew Chief Meggan Gehring; SWAP Conservation Chair Pete Sarafian; and SWAP Conservation Committee member Bob Meyer. CCC Crewmembers carried all materials and equipment into the Forest on their shoulders and in wheelbarrows. Work was completed on August 31, 2009. Bob Meyer has produced a day-by-day photo album of the construction for SWAP's website, <http://www.elfin-forest.org/>.

The boardwalk extension was formally opened on September 5, 2009 with Greg Hind, Director of the Hind Foundation cutting the caution tape “ribbon.” Pecho District Supervising Park Ranger Chuck Lowe and retired Parks Manager Pete Jenny attended. The extension is expected to give many years of service. Most importantly, it will protect the oaks while allowing free access for visitors to the grove.



From the Directors Chair

Recently our San Luis Obispo County, Board of Supervisors took actions will benefit our parks, recreation programs and open space for many years to come! On October 27, 2009 the Board approved the Parks and Recreation Commission’s 2009 Annual Report, including our shared priorities, goals and completed projects list.

The number one priority – to pursue a “Needs Assessment” report for our park system that will be of great significance to the health and well being of all of our County residents and park visitors. This document will be a companion to the Parks and Recreation Element completed in December of 2006.

The new report will provide a highly detailed view of park, program, open space and facility needs in the County. This planning report will take approximately 14 – 16 months from initiation to completion. Residents, user groups, advisory groups and all stakeholders will be able to provide their input which will help shape this important document. With Parks staff facilitating discussions and providing leadership, we will create a view of our current service levels and note areas and communities that are in the greatest need for parks and recreation improvements and enhancements.

The Commission’s second highest priority is to examine ways and means to increase the funding levels and support for County Parks’ recreation, open space and park facilities. As the Needs Assessment is completed, funding may be matched together with the needs that have been identified.

The third highest priority as stated by the Parks and Recreation Commission is to, “Continue to enhance partnerships and collaborative efforts with community groups, businesses, non-profit agencies, organizations and the media.” Together with the members of this fine County, our Board of Supervisors and Commissioners, we will build a better parks system for the future!

Curtis Black, GSA Deputy Director-Parks

Curtis Black.....	GSA Deputy Director - Parks
Ernie Del Rio.....	Parks Superintendent
Denis Philbin.....	Parks Superintendent
Josh Heptig.....	Golf Course Superintendent
Jan DiLeo.....	Senior Park Planner
Shaun Cooper	Park Planner III

Stacey King.....	Park Operations Coordinator
Anna Diaz	Parks and SLO Vets Hall Reservations
Chuck Lowe	Supervising Park Ranger, Pecho Dist.
Mark Wagner	Supervising Park Ranger, Mesa Dist.
Ken Klis.....	Supervising Park Ranger, Salinas Dist.
Don Melin.....	Supervising Park Ranger, Huasna Dist.



San Luis Obispo County Parks
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