

GrayBears Discussion Group



Photo of Statewide June 1956 Seasonal Park Naturalist Training at Big Basin State Park, and the article that ran in the August edition of "News and Views." *Thanks to Mike Whitehead for sending photo and text.*

Division of Beaches and Parks

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Fifth Annual Park Naturalist Conference

On the page facing is a group picture commemorating an historic occasion – The Fifth Annual Park Naturalist Conference, June 18 and 19, which was the first one attended by all of the park Supervisors in whose parks naturalist services are being held this summer.

Unfortunately, Deputy Chief Earl Hanson, one of the first State Park Naturalists, could not be present for the entire two-day, two-night session, and therefore is not included in this photo.

Supervisor of Conservation Education Elmer Aldrich administered the conference and invited several from outside agencies to participate: Doug Hubbard, Park naturalist, Yosemite; Paul Covell, Naturalist, Oakland Park Department; and Jack Parker, Naturalist East Bay Regional Park District. These men contributed immensely to the program from their background.

The agenda went like clockwork, for the Sergeants at Arms Andy Anderson and Bruce Swinehart rang the gong – the last one seated had to lead a song. The most outstanding songleader was Assistant Superintendent Llewellyn Griffith.

A considerable portion of the conference dwelt upon general park problems at various levels. Toward this, Superintendent Jess Chaffee from Monterey and Assistant Superintendent Griffith from San Francisco, summarized, in discussion form, the major operational field problems and how the park naturalists and field staff can cooperate in carrying out an excellent public relations program.

The curriculum ran the full gamut of necessities of the naturalist services, with special emphasis in conducting guided tours, evening campfire program, research and information services. The history and purposes of these services was traced eloquently by Deputy Chief Hanson. Practical application of methods was demonstrated both with and without the public participating. Supervising Park Naturalist George Lawrence ably conducted the field

demonstrations as well as assisted in the planning of the conference. State Park naturalist Leonard Penhale, as usual did much of the basic good work in the planning and running of the conference. The staff of the Big Basin Redwoods State Park rushed a needed, temporary recreation hall floor replacement for the conference, and did everything possible to make all visitors feel at home. Most of the Big Basin staff attended some of the meetings.

On the afternoon of the second day, Chief Newton B. Drury spoke to the group, emphasizing the value of the Park naturalist services to the Division. Inspiring, indeed, was his treatment of the basic fundamentals of the System – the very reasons why all of us are in this type of work. Important were his guides on the treatment before the public of the major pressures, now being brought to bear, which threaten the System.

Great credit is due Gus Sgarlotto and his lodge concession staff in supplying, at a very reasonable rate, housing and the best in a steak barbecue and buffet dinner for some 75 conference participants and their families. Only those who know Gus can realize what a wonderfully cooperating fellow he is.

The worth of a conference is judged by its results: up and down the State from the public come glowing reports of a most effective park naturalist Service. Outstanding teamwork between the park naturalists and Rangers is making this possible.

Participant Picture Key: Bottom to Top Left to Right Bottom Row (Row #1) #1. Ken Legg Park Supv., Prairie Creek #2. Jack Parker, Naturalist, East Bay Regional Pk. Dist. #3. Glenn Wheeler, Naturalist, Richardson Grove #4. Don Jenkins, Naturalist, Cuyamaca Rancho #5. George Hagens, Park Supervisor, D.L. Bliss #6. Don Stoner, Naturalist, Big Basin #7. Dave Willis, Naturalist, Big Basin #8. Glen Jones, Park Supervisor, Patrick's Point #9. Fletcher Palmer, Naturalist, Big Sur Bottom to Top Left to Right Row #2 #1. Elmer Aldrich, Supervisor of Education #2. Lewis Griffith, Park Supervisor, Big Sur #3. Ralph Naffziger, Naturalist, Patrick's Point #4. Bob Campbell, Naturalist, Big Basin #5. Jim Tryner, Park Superintendent, Calaveras #6. Jim Avant, Park Supervisor, Palomar Mountain #7. Len Fisher, Assist. Park Supervisor, Big Basin #8. Bill Epperly, Ranger, Big Basin Bottom to Top Left to Right Row #3 #1. George Holmboe, Park Supervisor, Big Basin #2. Paul Covel, Naturalist, Oakland City Park Department #3. Jack Schlotter, Naturalist, Cuyamaca Rancho #4. Newton Drury, Chief, Division of Beaches and Parks #5. Jess Chaffee, Superintendent, District 2 #6. Lewis Griffith, Assist. Superintendent, District 4 #7. Louis Alcorta, Naturalist, Portola #8. John Michael, State Park Naturalist Bottom to Top Left to Right Row #4 #1. Bruce Swinehart, Naturalist, Prairie Creek #2. Maurice Morgan, Park Supervisor, Cuyamaca Rancho #3. Ed Earl, Ranger, Big Basin #4. Ed Wood, Naturalist, Humboldt Redwoods #5. Jim Whitehead, Park Superintendent, Point Lobos #6. Bill Haussler, Park Superintendent, Richardson Grove #7. Roy Kerr, Ranger, Big Basin #8. Leonard Penhale, State Park Naturalist Bottom to Top Left to Right Row #5 (Top Row) #1. Floyd Younger, Naturalist, D.L. Bliss #2. Paul Mitchell, Naturalist, D.L. Bliss #3. George Lawrence, Supervisor Park Naturalist #4. Jim Hall, Naturalist, Big Sur #5. Bill Reinhardt, Park Supervisor, Borrego #6. Pat Dougherty, Park Supervisor, Portola #7. Bill Marshall, Ranger, Point Lobos #8. Doug Hubbard, Park Naturalist, Yosemite #9. Carl Anderson, Park Supervisor, Humboldt Redwoods #10. Nick Doudnik, Naturalist, Calaveras