



The Mariposa

Fall_Winter 2005

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY PARKS' OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

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PARKS DISTRICTS COMBINE FORCES

Located along Highway 1 between an historic dairy house and the 7th green at Dairy Creek GC is the new office and maintenance shop for County Parks' Pecho and Mesa Districts. This two-story, metal building is designed to resemble a rural agricultural building to blend in with the surroundings. Office space, conference room, storage rooms and a three-bay maintenance shop highlight the 4,000 square foot building. Also included in the project is a 1,000 square foot pole barn that will provide necessary shelter for tractors and other heavy equipment used for park service and maintenance.

The upgraded facilities will house two of our four districts. The Pecho District manages County's parks up the coast from San Luis Obispo to Cambria; the Mesa District manages facilities from San Luis Obispo to Nipomo. The new maintenance facility will accommodate both districts' staff that will result in improved efficiency of County Park's operations and enhanced public service.



CAL BOATING GRANT TO IMPROVE LOPEZ LAKE INFRASTRUCTURE

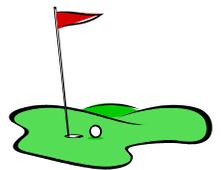
Lopez Lake will see some major improvements over the next year thanks to a grant of the California Department of Boating and Waterways. A grant totaling \$763,100 has been allocated to pave the main launch ramp parking lot, replace launch and courtesy docks and replace fish cleaning stations.

Previous Cal Boating grants have funded improvements at Lopez and Santa Margarita Lakes and are a major source for capital projects at these important regional facilities.

County staff is currently in the planning phases of this project and work could begin as early as spring 2006.

GOLF COURSES OFFER 2006 ANNUAL PASS WITH INSTANT REWARDS PROGRAM

County Parks has added further value to our 2006 Discount Golf Card with an instant rewards program. With the purchase of an Adult, Senior, or Volume Discount Card, the purchaser receives 3 free rounds of golf, one round each at Morro Bay, Dairy Creek, and Chalk Mountain, with no time restriction. In addition the purchaser receives a guest card that allows them to bring guests (up to 9 total) to any of the three County golf courses. The greens fees for guests will be the same discounted price the cardholder pays! Also, all 2006 cardholders will be allowed a 2 for 1 entrance into the Morro Bay State Park Natural History Museum for the entire year, courtesy of California State Parks.



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www.SLOCountyParks.org

TREES PLANTED IN NIPOMO PARK

On Saturday, October 29th, approximately 25 volunteers and Parks Staff descended on Nipomo Community Park to plant 27 trees. Individuals, local businesses, and organizations donated the trees as part of a long-term resource management plan.

The majority of the trees in the park are *Pinus radiata* (Monterey Pine), many these trees are infected with Pine Pitch Canker (*Fusarium subglutinans*) and are in a state of decline. Pine Pitch Canker is a serious fungal disease of pine trees. Symptoms include yellowing of the needles and wilting and dieback of the branch tips. The needles eventually turn red and drop from the tree. Cankers (lesions) may appear on the main branches or trunk. Resin is exuded from these cankers, often in copious quantities.



Diseased and dying trees are being removed and replaced with a variety of tree species that are disease resistant to prevent this type of problem from reoccurring.

The trees planted are part of a long-term strategy to make sure there are trees for shade and enjoyment for future generations of park patrons. In addition, the Tree Planting Plan will work hand-in-hand with the Nipomo Park Master Plan to minimize the impact on future development.

Overall the tree planting was a success. It was a beautiful fall day with volunteers and staff having the feeling that they had accomplished something that will have a positive long-term effect on Nipomo Community Park's urban forest. County Parks wishes to thank everyone involved and especially thank those who donated the trees.

TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

Would you like to plant a tree for a special occasion or in honor of a loved one? San Luis Obispo Parks Open Space & Trails Foundation (SLOPOST) has applications available online at www.slopost.org or for



more information call 805-781-5930.

SKATE PARK BOARD BASH FUNDRAISER

On Sunday, November 20th, Cal Poly Recreation 210 students along with the Kiwanis Club of Los Osos organized the 1st Annual Skate Park Board Bash. The event raised over \$2000 which will go towards Free Skate in 2006 at the Los Osos Skate Park.

Some of the event activities were; a skate clinic for kids 10 & under, competitions for all ages, a "Bowl Jam" where local skaters showed off their best skateboarding tricks, and two raffle drawings.



Thanks to local businesses there were over 100 items for the raffle which included; skateboards, safety equipment, gift certificates, a framed autographed Tony Hawk poster as well as other great prizes. The Kiwanis Club prepared and sold hot dogs, hamburgers and Tri-Tip sandwiches nachos, snacks and drinks.

Anyone interested in becoming a sponsor or would like to make a donation please contact Tara Keltz, Kiwanis Club Youth Services Committee at 805-235-4781



2006 ANNUAL PASSES AVAILABLE

Are you looking for a gift for someone who likes the outdoors? Or are you a regular visitor to Lopez or Santa Margarita Lake? If so! You may now purchase your 2006 Annual Boat or Vehicle Pass at either lake facility. Boat or Vehicle passes are \$60 each. Regional passes, which can be used at either lake are \$90. Senior/Disabled Boat or Vehicle passes are \$54 and Senior/Disabled Regional passes are \$81. For more information contact Lopez Lake at 805-788-2381 or Santa Margarita Lake at 805-788-2397.



DONATE LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE TO LOPEZ LAKE



Are you purchasing a living Christmas tree this year but just don't have the space to plant it after the holidays? Consider donating your tree to Lopez Lake. Many people forget that a cute little Christmas tree can grow to 80 feet or more and requires a lot of room. At Lopez Lake they will have room to grow and provide shelter to countless visitors and animals. By continuing the holiday spirit of giving, your donation will increase the number of trees in your local parks while providing you with a tax deductible contribution. Contact Lopez Lake Ranger Staff at 805-788-2381 for details.

COUNTY PARKS IS EXPECTING CHANGE

County Parks and Golf is experiencing a lot of turn over in staff due to retirements. In the next couple of months we will hire, promote and transfer over 30% of our staff. A time of major change is upon us, and even with our best efforts, it has been and will continue to be difficult to prepare for the loss of over 125 years of professional work experience. While County Parks is working fast and furious to fill vacancies it is important that we plan for the future.

Our "Succession Planning Program" is paying dividends, but we still have a long way to go! The bigger concern now is preparing for the next wave of staff turnover. We have recently hired three Park Ranger II's and we will be looking to hire several more Park Rangers when County Parks take over daily operations of the Sand and Surf RV Park October 1, 2006.

Please welcome our new
 Park Ranger II's
Lynn Henricksen
Glenn Princic
Keith Kuiken



From the Manager's Desk

With the holidays just around the corner, many of us are making those lists and checking them twice. This is a great time of year to think about giving to others. And what better gift can anyone give but the gift of good health. So as you think about that Xbox 360, Ninetendo or maybe a new laptop for one of the special kids on your list, also think about something that will help get them outdoors and exercising. Your County Parks are a great place to improve wellness by going for a hike, playing a little basketball or even some quiet fishing. Obesity is rapidly becoming this county's number one killer. Our children are fighting an epidemic of obesity than could result in this youngest generation being the first in our

history to live shorter lives than their parent's generation. And it's not just too many cheeseburgers and French fries. We have become far too sedentary in our daily lives. Labor saving devices mean we get less exercise at work, at school and at home. Coupled with our typically less-than-healthy diets, the results are not unexpected. Just unhealthy. But a big part of the solution is really pretty simple . . . exercise more. And that can be as easy as going for a walk on your closest trail or through a neighborhood park. Encourage your kids to turn off the video games now and then and go outside and play. And maybe a new pair of sports shoes or a brand new football for Christmas will help reinforce that message. For us older "kids" think about a pass to play some golf or go boating on a local lake. There are lots of options to make you holiday gift giving a health alternative. Happy Holidays from County Parks.

Pete Jenny, Parks Manager

Pete Jenny..... Parks Manager	Anna Diaz Parks and SLO Vets Hall Reservations
Ernie Del Rio..... Parks Superintendent	Tom Massey Morro Bay Golf Course Supervisor
Denis Philbin..... Parks Superintendent	Russ Krok Dairy Creek Golf Course Supervisor
Ray Festa Golf Course Superintendent	Chuck Lowe Supervising Park Ranger, Pecho Dist.
Jan DiLeo..... Senior Park Planner	Mark Wagner Supervising Park Ranger, Mesa Dist.
Shaun Cooper..... Park Planner III	Ken Klis Supervising Park Ranger, Salinas Dist.
Stacey King..... Park Operations Coordinator	Don Melin..... Supervising Park Ranger, Huasna Dist.



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