



CALIFORNIA  
STATE PARKS  
FOUNDATION

# parklands

The Newsletter for Members of CSPF | Spring 2017

Make a Difference for  
State Parks This Earth  
Day—and Every Day



# Thank You for Carrying on the CSPF Legacy

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What a pleasure it is to be writing to you as the Interim Executive Director of this amazing organization! As you may know, I led California State Parks Foundation once before, from 1996 to 2003. I am thrilled to be taking the reins again as we thank Elizabeth Goldstein for her 12 years of distinguished leadership.

In February I attended the grand opening of the William Penn Mott, Jr. Presidio Visitor Center at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, named in honor of CSPF's founder who spent his entire career advocating for parks and the many benefits they provide people and our environment. The ceremony inspired me to reflect on the enduring legacy William Mott created, and the important role we all play in carrying it on.

CSPF has never been about any one person, but rather the concerted efforts of many — working together to protect and improve parks across the state and to increase access for all Californians. Supporters like you have contributed in so many ways to strengthening and sustaining our magnificent state parks.

I know William Mott would be thrilled that the organization he founded 48 years ago has grown to tens of thousands of members and continues to ensure that our beautiful state parks are protected for generations to come. Our Board of Trustees is conducting a nationwide search for CSPF's next Executive Director. In the meantime, I will be here working with you to create a vibrant future for California's state parks.

Thank you for your partnership!

Susan Smartt, Interim Executive Director



John Mott and Bill Mott, CSPF supporters and sons of founder William Penn Mott, Jr., celebrate the grand opening of the visitor center named in his honor at Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

©CHARLOTTE FIORITO/COMPASS PHOTOGRAPHERS,  
COURTESY OF GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL PARKS  
CONSERVANCY

## ABOUT CSPF

California State Parks Foundation is a member-supported nonprofit dedicated to protecting and improving our state parks and expanding access to their natural beauty, rich culture and history, and recreational and educational opportunities for all Californians, now and in the future.



## WE LOVE HEARING FROM YOU

Contact us at any time at [members@calparks.org](mailto:members@calparks.org), sign up for eNews and action alerts at [calparks.org](http://calparks.org), or follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest updates and news.



## Volunteers Champion Greenspace in Downtown LA

CSPF's Park Champions program continues to grow to meet park demand, adding 16 new sites in 2016 and five so far in 2017.

Last year, more than 1,500 intrepid volunteers completed improvement projects at 43 parks, working over 12,000 hours to make parks more beautiful, well-maintained, and a better home for wildlife. The program now serves 48 parks throughout California, including Los Angeles State Historic Park. CSPF was excited to be invited to mobilize community members to help prepare the park for its grand reopening on April 22.

After its landmark \$31-million redevelopment, the park will bring much-needed greenspace to the heart of downtown LA. With it come unrivaled opportunities for exploration, discovery and rejuvenation for the thousands of families, school groups, and residents from the surrounding communities.

The park will offer public plazas and event spaces, an elevated walkway and observation deck, pedestrian paths and interpretive trail loops,

places to play and exercise, demonstration wetlands and habitat areas, a Welcome Center, and more.

Located within a five-mile radius of one million residents and easily accessible by public transportation, the newly reopened park is expected to draw more than 300,000 annual visitors from the greater Los Angeles area and beyond.

Volunteering has been a great way for local park lovers to get a sneak preview of LA State Historic Park. Park Champions have spent five workdays at the park planting thousands of trees and bushes. After the reopening, CSPF plans to create an ongoing habitat restoration team for the park.

Thank you to our members and donors for helping us provide this invaluable program.

Visit [calparks.org/parkchampions](http://calparks.org/parkchampions) to find out about upcoming opportunities to volunteer! ●

### ONE VOLUNTEER'S SWEAT EQUITY PAYS OFF

Since becoming a Park Champion in early 2016, Arrik McQueen (pictured above) has put his sweat equity into nine projects in Los Angeles area parks. In recent months, he's been working hard to help get LA State Historic Park ready to reopen.

"The park system in LA is overlooked by many locals because of their busy everyday lives. I'm one of those people," he admits. "When I started the program I was very surprised that we had a state park sitting right here in the middle of our city and knew nothing about it."

Arrik got involved after researching ways to give back to his community through [volunteermatch.org](http://volunteermatch.org). Having been an avid camping and outdoors enthusiast as a kid, he knew Park Champions was a perfect match for him.

At Rio de Los Angeles State Park, he and fellow volunteers have built a series of demonstration gardens to educate the public about the importance of native plants for healthy ecosystems and water conservation.

"My reward in all this," Arrik says, "is knowing that I helped to make these state parks a staple in our city's future."

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"After 15 years of planning and restoration, we are thrilled to provide this vital open space in the heart of downtown LA and reconnect millions of Angelenos to its vibrant history. Thank you for your help, Park Champions!"

SEAN WOODS, LOS ANGELES SECTOR SUPERINTENDENT, DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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## Give Back This Earth Day at a State Park Near You

Whether you are a frequent park user or an occasional visitor, the experience of working with others to improve your local community is an incredibly rewarding way to spend time in a state park this Earth Day. In a few short hours, the work of dozens of individuals can restore a site in disrepair to a beautiful haven for recreation.

You can help make this happen by volunteering at one of 46 parks throughout California on Saturday, April 22, as part of our 19th Annual Earth Day Restoration and Cleanup presented by PG&E. Since 1998, the Earth Day program has provided our underfunded state parks with much-needed grant funding and volunteer muscle to complete critical maintenance and improvement projects.

Over the years, sponsors like PG&E and Oracle – a 19-year partner! –

have made substantial contributions and engaged their employees in support of parks in their communities.

This year, PG&E's \$200,000 grant will support restoration and cleanup projects at 10 locations in Northern and Central California, benefiting local communities and their natural environment for generations to come.

Visit [calparks.org/earthday](http://calparks.org/earthday) to learn more, see a complete list of project sites statewide, and sign up to help! ●



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EARTH DAY  
2017

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## Make Every Day Earth Day

State parks need your help on Earth Day — and every day. There are two important ways you can help!

First, please consider volunteering at one of our worksites throughout the state on Earth Day. It's a great feeling to lend a hand for the California state parks you love.

And just as important, we hope we can count on you to make a special contribution by April 21 to help us reach our \$75,000 Earth Day goal!

Your gift will make an impact far beyond this special day by helping ensure our state parks get the resources and support that they need.

**MAKE YOUR  
EARTH DAY  
GIFT TODAY!**

[calparks.org/EarthDay2017](http://calparks.org/EarthDay2017)

Thank you for all you do for California's state parks — on Earth Day, and every day of the year. ●



## Your Gifts at Work

Thanks to the success of the 2017 State Parks Improvement Campaign, we are making great things happen in state parks.

With your help, the campaign raised over \$200,000 to fund critical efforts to improve and protect state parks. The following recent CSPF Park Enrichment Grants highlight the impact you are making today, and for future generations.

### **Sugarloaf Ridge State Park: Educating the Public**

*Introducing visitors to the wonders of the night sky*

Valley of the Moon Observatory Association is installing interpretive posters to help visitors learn how the new telescope in the park's Robert Ferguson Observatory works, and the astronomical objects they can use it to discover.

### **Southern California State Beaches and Parks: Kids in Parks**

*Engaging the next generation of outdoor leaders and advocates*

High Tech Elementary is connecting students ranging in age from 5 to 12 and their families in overnight, full-day, and virtual hiking, biking, camping, and environmental stewardship outings at local state parks.

### **Moss Landing State Beach: Restoring Habitat**

*Restoring a half-acre of sand dune and marsh habitat*

At workdays organized by Elkhorn Slough Foundation, volunteers and local students are restoring habitat by removing weeds, collecting seeds, and planting an estimated 600 native plants.

### **Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park: Preserving the Past**

*Protecting the oldest building in Santa Cruz County*

Over the past 25 years the reconstructed adobe building has deteriorated. To protect the adobe floors and preserve this historical treasure, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks is installing wooden platforms in three rooms in the adobe.

Learn more about these and other projects at [calparks.org/grants](http://calparks.org/grants). ●

**“We know as California citizens it is our responsibility to protect the places where we play and CSPF has now empowered us to do so.”**

SCOTT SHEPHERD, OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP EXPLORATORY TEACHER, HIGH TECH ELEMENTARY

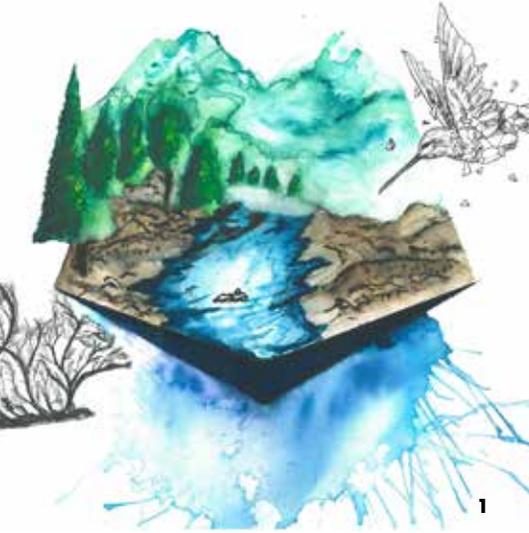
## Free and Easy Ways to Leave a Legacy

You can strengthen the future of California's state parks through a legacy gift that requires no assistance from an attorney or other professional advisor. Examples include an IRA or pension plan, life insurance policy, stocks and bonds, savings and checking accounts, donor advised fund, commercial annuity, or real estate.

In most cases, it's simply a matter of filling out a form and possibly having it notarized. Start by contacting the institution that holds your asset to ask for a beneficiary or designation form. (Real estate requires a bit more work, but it's still simple and cost effective.)

When you name CSPF in a beneficiary form, we'd love to enroll you in our William Penn Mott, Jr. Legacy Society. We'll also invite you to special events and include your name in publications like this one. Or you may choose to make your gift anonymously.

For more information, visit [myplanwithcalparks.org](http://myplanwithcalparks.org) or contact Natalia Straus at (415) 578-6084 or [legacy@calparks.org](mailto:legacy@calparks.org).



“I went to a science camp in a state park and kissed a banana slug there. It felt so cool to be close to nature.”

JUDGES AWARD RECIPIENT **JESSICA QUI**

## State Parks Inspire California Youth

At CSPF we strive to ensure that all children in California — today and for generations to come — can discover the diverse history, beautiful natural environment and amazing outdoor recreation opportunities found in our state parks.

- 1 Yun Yas Joyce Zhang**, Ages 16–18 First Place
- 2 Emma Y. Li**, Ages 7–9 First Place
- 3 Maggie Liu**, Ages 4–6 First Place
- 4 Anika Huang**, Ages 10–12 Second Place

Last fall, we asked youth ages 4 to 18 to participate in our 2nd Annual Youth Art Contest by creating artwork inspired by the theme “Discovering State Parks.” This year’s competition was exceptionally competitive, with nearly 400 entries.

Winners were selected by a panel of judges based on creativity, originality and depiction of the theme and received prize packages from CSPF.

In addition to being featured on our website, some art pieces will also be displayed at the State Capitol and other venues throughout California this spring.

Relive your own joy of "Discovering State Parks" when you visit [calparks.org/youthart](http://calparks.org/youthart) to see the winning entries in each of five age categories and learn about the talented artists! ●





## See Wildflowers Spring to Life at State Parks This Season

A wet winter has set the stage for a dramatic wildflower bloom this spring. These are just some of the state parks where you can experience vibrant flowers in the upcoming months.

### **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park**

Rain-soaked sand and mild temperatures are the perfect precursors to an epic desert bloom at this expansive park stretching across San Diego, Imperial and Riverside counties. Springtime brings the landscape to life, carpeting the park with desert sunflowers, primrose, lilies, brittlebrush and Ocotillo, as well as brightly colored blossoming cacti. A popular three-mile hike into Borrego Palm Canyon takes you through a desert oasis where you might also see big-horn sheep by the stream.

### **Kruse Rhododendron State Reserve**

Each May, brilliant pink blossoms dazzle this pristine forest of second-growth redwoods, Douglas firs, Grand firs and Tanoaks. The abundance of rhododendrons is the result of normal plant successions after a severe fire, and the reserve has been maintained so that they continue to thrive in this lush but competitive environment. Take a five-mile hike through clusters of

rhododendrons along fern-covered canyons and seasonal streams, or picnic in this serene Sonoma County forest adjacent to Salt Point State Park.

### **Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park**

This Humboldt County park is the largest expanse of ancient redwoods left on the planet, but visitors on the lookout for flowers may be surprised to find delicate, elusive orchids hiding among the towering giants. A walk through awe-inspiring Fern Canyon will reveal bright yellow monkey flowers and creamy colored fairy lanterns between rock walls smothered in green ferns. After you've explored the seasonal blooms, be on the lookout for magnificent Roosevelt elk grazing in open meadows.

As you think about exploring all the wonder and beauty in our state parks this spring, visit [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov) to learn more about these and other great destinations! ●

### **SHARE YOUR PHOTOS AND ENTER TO WIN PHOTO OF THE MONTH**

Does being outdoors inspire your photography? Join our My California State Parks Flickr group, an online community of park lovers sharing their photos from California state parks.

You can post images, see photos submitted by other members, and swap advice on snapping the perfect park photo! Once a month a winning submission will be chosen to receive a prize from our sponsor, Lowepro.

Winning photos will be featured in the CSPF e-newsletter and on our Facebook page. All photos uploaded to the group are automatically entered to win as long as the state park where the photo was taken is indicated, and you can also use hashtag [#myCAstateparks](https://www.instagram.com/myCAstateparks) when uploading to be considered.

We can't wait to see your incredible California state park photos!

Visit [calparks.org/gallery](http://calparks.org/gallery) to learn more.





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**READ PARKLANDS ONLINE**

View this or previous issues of *Parklands* at [calparks.org/Parklands-Online](http://calparks.org/Parklands-Online).

**THANK YOU!**

Our power comes from thousands of people like you who have joined together to protect the natural and cultural beauty of our parks, and enjoy membership benefits too! [calparks.org/membership](http://calparks.org/membership)

**VOLUNTEER**

Volunteers are critical to the work we do for state parks. Together, we can accomplish so much to make our parks safe and enjoyable for visitors and their natural inhabitants. [calparks.org/volunteer](http://calparks.org/volunteer)

**SPEAK UP**

Your voice matters! For ways to use your voice to help state parks, visit [calparks.org/speakup](http://calparks.org/speakup).

**SHARE YOUR STATE PARK PHOTOS**

Join the My California State Parks Flickr Group to share your photos, see images from other members, share tips and advice, and enter to win our monthly contest. Learn more at [calparks.org/gallery](http://calparks.org/gallery).

**MAKE A LASTING IMPACT**

Your legacy gift, most often a bequest in a will, will strengthen the future of California's state parks for generations to come. To learn more, call (415) 578-6084 or visit [myplanwithcalparks.org](http://myplanwithcalparks.org).

**CALIFORNIA PARKLANDS**

Spring 2017, Volume 34, Number 1 (ISSN: 0892-0095) is published by the California State Parks Foundation ©2017 CSPF. All rights reserved. Editor: Erin McNerney

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*Remember CSPF in your will*

"MONARCH BUTTERFLIES" BY YOUTH ART CONTEST WINNER CHINYOUNG SHAO (AGES 10-12 FIRST PLACE)

