Park Rangers Association of California

2021 Zoom Virtual Conference Program Schedule and Annual Membership Meeting
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Zoom session video and audio presentations are scheduled separately for events on March 10, 11, 12 and 16, 2021 (see schedule below). Each presentation will last an hour or less. We will keep an hour between sessions that are on the same day as a break. As a courtesy, members and guests are asked to please mute your speaker as you dial in.

Note the unique Zoom link below for each event you want to attend.

Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 11:00 AM

Opening Remarks and Introduction
Matt Cerkel, President, Parks Rangers Association of California

Zoom Video Link:
<https://zoom.us/j/94211662623?pwd=dVZ2SEUzdThrdzRCNk9yNmV6eDh0QT09>
Zoom Audio Dial-in: (669) 900-6833
Meeting ID: 942 1166 2623
Passcode: 752584

Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 11:10 AM

Keynote Address
Decision Making in Parks
Steve Shackleton, UC Merced, National Park Service (Ret.)
sshackelton@ucmerced.edu

The same Zoom Video Link will continue after President Cerkel’s introduction

Summary: Steve will discuss the importance of effective decision-making in parks and what field staff can do to assist with the decision-making process
Bio: Steve currently works on a split appointment at UC Merced, with half of his time on the development team for UC Merced’s Gallo School of Management and the other half in the Chancellor’s Office developing UC Sierra. He served as the Executive Director of the Sierra Nevada Research Institute and founding Director of the Merced Vernal Pools Grassland Reserve.

As an Associate Director of the National Park Service, he managed programs that included: fire management, wildlife protection, law enforcement, search and rescue, emergency medicine, aviation, wilderness, public health, safety, risk management, and critical infrastructure security.

Before Washington, he was the chief ranger in Yosemite National Park, superintendent of Pinnacles National Monument; legislative affairs in Washington, D.C., nine years in Alaska, and five years in Hawaii. He began his park service career at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming as a park ranger and as a firefighter on the Sierra National Forest.

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Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 1:00 PM

**The Civilian Conservation Corps and its Lasting Impacts on Parks**

Matt Cerkel, Senior Park Ranger, Marin Municipal Water District

matt@calranger.org

Zoom Video Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/93297849389?pwd=RmY2dUxLR0thMmxhOWNkbjhWU2c2UT09>

Zoom Audio Dial-in: (669) 900-6833

Meeting ID: 932 9784 9389

Passcode: 082989

_Summary: It has nearly been 90 years since FDR established the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933. Learn how this New Deal works program has had a lasting impact of parks in California._
Bio: This year marks Matt’s 30th year in the parks, having started as a Park Aide with MMWD in 1991. He has served as a Park Ranger with MMWD since 1995 and was promoted to Senior Ranger in 2018. He has been a member of PRAC since 1993 and has served as President since 2016.

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Thursday, March 11, 2021, 11:00 AM

**New Conservation: Challenging Orthodoxy**

Mike Moran, Supervising Naturalist
Big Break Visitor Center at the Delta, East Bay Regional Park District
mmoran@ebparks.org

Zoom Video Link: [https://zoom.us/j/92697132162?pwd=WFPFZ3hTdEJQ4NBFQQWJuM29yZ3hUUT09](https://zoom.us/j/92697132162?pwd=WFPFZ3hTdEJQ4NBFQQWJuM29yZ3hUUT09)
Zoom Audio Dial-in: (669) 900-6833
Meeting ID: 926 9713 2162
Passcode: 981704

**Summary:** The Bay Area is graced with so many conservation innovations and successes spanning the past century. Let’s look forward by examining and challenging some of our conservation orthodoxies to see how, and if, they still apply. We’ll look at things like vegetation management, park design, water policy, endangered species, demographic shifts, climate change. Let’s explore challenging topics, stretch understanding and hopefully unveil common approaches to future innovations and successes.

Bio: Mike has been a Naturalist with the East Bay Regional Park District since 1994, and Supervising Naturalist since 2012, interpreting the Delta and assisting in the development of the Big Break Visitor Center at the Delta. His areas of interest are California water, birds, and local history. Mike has worked with the National Park Service, California State Parks, National Marine Sanctuary System, Yosemite Institute (now Nature Bridge), and led natural history and whale watch programs in Alaska, Canada, New England, Washington, and California.

He attended San Francisco State University (BA Recreation & Leisure Studies, BA Geography & Human Environmental Studies), and the University of California, Berkeley (MS, Wildland Resource Science, studying San Joaquin River basin salmon).
Mike was awarded the national Master Frontline Interpreter Award in 2012 from the National Association for Interpretation, and the 2013 Robert G. Brownlee Award for Bay Discoveries from the Marine Science Institute.

Thursday, March 11, 2021, 1:00 PM

**Best Practices on Incorporating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**
Francis Mendoza, Naturalist
East Bay Regional Park District
akialoa@gmail.com

**Summary:** For millennia, the region now known as California has had a long history of diversity, from biodiversity to a diversity of cultures, languages and resources. We’ll explore this diversity through the lens of a naturalist who works with indigenous peoples, interprets natural and cultural resources, and engages marginalized communities in a meaningful, authentic way. Join Naturalist Francis Mendoza (he/they/sila) as he presents best practices on incorporating DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) principles into our member organizations.

Bio: Francis Mendoza is a Naturalist at the East Bay Regional Park District in the Oakland/San Francisco Bay Area. He has worked for Literacy for Environmental Justice, served as the Steering Committee Chairperson for Change Scale (an Environmental Education Collaborative in the San Francisco and Monterey Bay areas), and specializes in working with BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) and other marginalized communities. He is a certified California Naturalist, Certified Interpretive Guide and Interim Director of the JEDAI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Accessibility and Inclusion) Section of NAI (National Association for Interpretation).

Zoom Video Link: https://zoom.us/j/97084894365?pwd=blZ3WHZOObFNCCUwzdDI0Mkj0eU1sZz09
Zoom Audio Dial-in: (669) 900-6833
Meeting ID: 970 8489 4365
Passcode: 082755

Friday, March 12, 2021, 11:00 AM

**Response to the CZU Fire**
Brad Pennington and Miguel Perez,
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Summary: They will discuss the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District’s response to the unprecedented CZU Lightning Complex Fire in 2020 and lessons learned from that response.

Bio: Brad is an Area Superintendent for Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. He started as a ranger in 2008 and promoted to Supervising Ranger in 2015. During this period he also served as the Field Training Program Supervisor. Holding a Masters in Public Administration, with a focus in Administration of Justice and Policy and an undergraduate in Recreation Management, he strives to serve the District’s constituents in a way that provides them with a safe experience while visiting the Preserves.

Bio: Miguel has been with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District for 13 years and serves currently as a supervising ranger and has held the positions of Ranger and Field Training Officer. His current assignments are Field Training Program Supervisor, Motorcycle Patrol unit supervisor, and interpretive services program supervisor.

Tuesday March 16, 2021, 10 AM

Autism Safety for First Responders
Summary: This is an educational opportunity for First Responders to better understand the unique challenges of interacting with persons on the Autism Spectrum and help to ensure safe outcomes in emergency situations. In this session, participants will be provided with an understanding of autism, as well as the tools to recognize and respond to emergency situations involving persons in this population. By the end of the presentation participants will be able to describe Autism and associated characteristics, identify safety concerns regarding those affected with Autism and be able to formulate a plan to effectively respond to and treat patients with Autism in the field safely.

Bio: Beth Wyatt has over 15 years of experience as a Park Ranger in Sonoma County. This experience includes emergency medical services provided at the EMT level, law enforcement contacts and search and rescue emergencies. She is also the proud mother of two children diagnosed with Autism. This combination of professional and personal experiences and education makes her uniquely qualified to speak on the challenges of working with patients on the Autism Spectrum. She has successfully delivered training to departments on recognizing, preventing and deescalating emergency situations involving individuals affected by Autism.
Summary: The future park ranger may look like the men and women who wear the uniform today, but there are many differences we can’t ignore. Jody Maberry will discuss what we can expect from future park rangers and today’s park managers can prepare for building the next generation of park leaders.

Bio: Jody Maberry is the host of the Park Leaders Show, which he started in 2014. He’s has previously served as a Washington State Park Ranger. Over the past several years, Jody has talked to rangers of different positions, ranks, experiences, and roles. With the Park Leaders Show, Jody stays connected to the issues and challenges facing modern park leadership.

Tuesday March 16, 2021, 7:00 to 9:00 PM
PRAC Annual General Membership Meeting

Meeting Agenda will be sent to members on/about March 9 for the March 16 evening meeting.

Zoom Video Link:
https://zoom.us/j/95448644305?pwd=SVZYN0R5QWFKcTh0ZFl0UWhnUTBPUT09
Zoom Audio Dial-in: (669) 900-6833
Meeting ID: 954 4864 4305
Passcode: 837287

If you miss a presentation or want to review it again later, all will be available in a few weeks for viewing on our YouTube Page