

EXPLORER

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*Newsletter of
Cabrillo National Monument
and Cabrillo National Monument Foundation*

Change

*By Jason M. Richards
Interpretive Park Ranger and Explorer
Editor, Cabrillo National Monument*

This past year and a half has been turmoil—not a bad one—yet, I have experienced a new city, a new climate, a new park, and three different homes. We are constantly living with change. Personally, I believe change can be a good thing, and a great way to introduce myself as the new editor for *the Explorer*. Editing *the Explorer* is one of my main collateral duties—one I am indeed excited to have. I thought long and hard about the theme for this current edition, and *Change* seemed to be relevant for a number of reasons.

In 2006, the better half of my life, my wife Barbara, applied for and was honored to get the position of Administrative Officer for Cabrillo National Monument. Although I was Park Ranger for Carlsbad Caverns National Park, I encouraged Barbara to accept the position and gambled that I, too, would soon be employed at Cabrillo National Monument. Carlsbad Caverns put me on the status of "leave without pay" for a period of six months from the time I left, so if there was indeed an opening, I would not have a break in service.



When we arrived in San Diego, I immediately started looking for work.

Prior to our departure from Carlsbad, I had sent my résumé to the Maritime Museum of San Diego, thinking how cool it would be to work aboard the *Star of India*. I got my wish! I was a living history instructor in the role of "Cookie" for

third through fifth graders. I soon realized that San Diego was insanely expensive and needed a better income. I left the Maritime museum and started selling yachts. Gee, from

a guaranteed income to commission only. By the time I sold my second yacht (three months), I was offered the position of visitor use assistant at Cabrillo National Monument, and I eagerly accepted! Back in the green and gray! Nine months later, I was again an interpretive Park Ranger. However, during my time as a visitor use assistant, I worked with some very incredible people and met some of the most dedicated visitors.

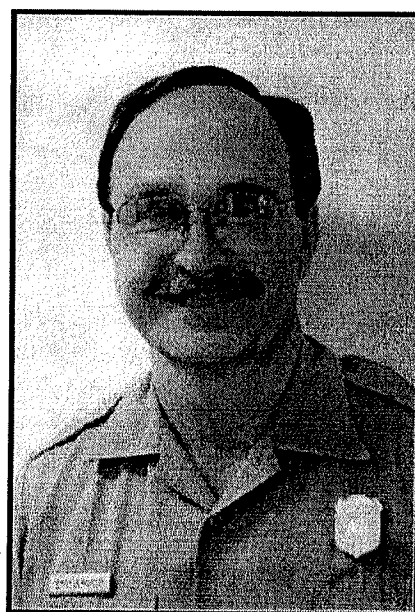
Natural history is where my interests lie. During the first nine years at Carlsbad Caverns National Park I was a natural resource specialist working in caves. In fact, I was one of the few that could honestly look you in the eye and say... "I work underground for the United States Government". When I became an interpretive park ranger, my focus was on the interpretation of geology, speleology, microbiology, and the chemistry of caves. Now, I have coastal sage, tide pools, an 1850's lighthouse and an ancient conquistador to interpret, *what a change!* I am hoping, though, to bring more science programs to our schedule, with special emphasis on coastal habitat, inhabitants, and tidepools. Cabrillo National Monument is an incredible, and very interesting resource to interpret, and I *will*, learn to appreciate history.

So, as the new editor, I am following a very special person, Patricia Heusner. Patricia moved to Oregon to be with her fiancé, and teach school. However, Patricia has the "Green and Gray" in her blood and I truly feel the National Park Service is still in her future. Patricia left behind some very large shoes to fill, but instead of trying to fill her shoes, I am going to work with an entirely new pair. I was the editor for "The Cavern Speaks" newsletter at Carlsbad Caverns National Park where we also had a call for

articles, themes, and due dates. However, I feel it is more important to receive articles, no matter what the theme may be. So, if you really cannot think of anything to write on the designated theme, please write *something*. All writers and editors bring a bit of their life, imagination, and personality into their literary creations. As editor, I will not change the content of any article; that's not what editors do. However, along with editing grammar and spelling, I will be the first to provide encouragement and praise to all prospective authors to have them continue their writing and contribute to *the Explorer*.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Terry DiMattio, recently retired superintendent of Cabrillo National Monument. Terry made a tremendous impact on Cabrillo NM, his employees, and the City of San Diego. He retired from the National Park Service after 34 years of dedicated service on June 3, 2007. He started his career at Cabrillo as a volunteer, and it is fitting that that he retired here as the superintendent. As with the retirement of any superintendent, changes will occur to match the management style of the predecessor. I hope our new superintendent will also create a new pair of shoes to fill, but will remember the legacy Terry DiMattio left behind.

OK, so you are probably thinking, "Jason gave up a 14-year career to let his wife pursue her career; were there other ulterior motives?" Well, the answer to that is, of course! Barbara and I are both sailors. We had our Catalina 25 sailboat on a trailer in our back yard in Carlsbad; now she is proudly in a slip where we can use her more often. So, now I can have my cake and eat it too. Change is not a bad thing; on the contrary, change brings with it new and fresh ideas, and a



Terry DiMattio
Superintendent, Cabrillo
National Monument,
June 1990–June 2007

chance to revisit old ideas. This will indeed be an interesting year at Cabrillo National Monument. I look forward to working with all of you, and please, send in your articles.

Jason



Did you know. . .

*that 2% of the vegetative
land mass in the world is
"coastal sage scrub," and
found only between the 30
and 40 degree parallels
above and below the
equator?*

Superintendent DiMattio's final report

May 31, 2007

This is my last "Superintendent's Corner." It is hard to believe that I have been the superintendent of this wonderful park for almost 17 years and that I have been a park ranger for 33 years. Time really does pass quickly when you enjoy the work that you do. And, except for a few days scattered here and there, it has been a joy to have served as superintendent. I have been privileged to work with a host of talented people dedicated to the mission of the National Park Service. Together we have accomplished a lot and have made great strides in our knowledge of the resources entrusted to our care and our ability to preserve them on behalf of the American people. To all of you who have given me your counsel, support and friendship as we have worked together to serve our visitors and make this a better park: thank you. You have enriched my life immeasurably and thanks to you I have had a very gratifying and fulfilling career. I wish you all the best wherever life takes you.

At the risk of overlooking someone, I would like to recognize and thank several people who made my life as a park ranger possible. I would not have had a career in the National Park Service if it had not been for Superintendent Tom Tucker, Administrative Officer Kay Leahy and Chief Ranger Denny Davies. Tom and Kay figured out a way to get me into the NPS and, Denny, Rich Rambur, Larry Wiese and Ellis Richard taught me what I needed to know to get started and grow, and forgave my mistakes. Throughout my career Tom has been a friend, mentor, confidant and champion. When Regional Director Stan

Albright was trying to select a superintendent for Cabrillo NM after Gary Cummins transferred to Petrified Forest NP, Tom convinced him that I was the right person for the job. I am indebted to Stan for having selected me and for his trust, support, encouragement and friendship. During his tenure as regional director, and afterward, Stan and his wife Kris regularly attended the annual Cabrillo Festival. He would always tell me that I should relax, that everything would be fine. His faith in us and his calm demeanor were a source of strength and I always appreciated his being here. There have been others who have encouraged me, entrusted me with more and more responsibility, counseled me and pushed me when I needed it: Superintendent Ray Foust at Whiskeytown, Superintendent, and later Regional Director Karen Wade at Fort McHenry National Monument & Historic Shrine, and Regional Director Don Castelberry who selected me for my first superintendency at George Rogers Clark National Historical Park. And then there is Norm Magnuson, who, when we were trying to protect the park from the effects of the expansion of the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant in the 1990s was a source of knowledge and strength and regularly encouraged me to stand firm.

There have been many, many others here at Cabrillo NM, in regional offices, at Harpers Ferry Center, the Denver Service Center, the Western Archeological and Conservation Center and at parks who patiently educated me about how things work in the NPS, answered my questions and supported our efforts. I owe them



I have been privileged to work with a host of talented people dedicated to the mission of the National Park Service. Together we have accomplished a lot and have made great strides in our knowledge of the resources entrusted to our care and our ability to preserve them on behalf of the American people.

all a great debt of gratitude. In ways large and small they have helped us care for the park, improve our service to the visitors and complete a number of wonderful projects that have made the park a better place. We could not have accomplished all that we have without everyone's help and support.

Even though we have accomplished much, there is a lot yet to do, and the new superintendent and staff will be busy in the years to come. In the next few years, using the fees we collect at the entrance station, we can look forward to the replacement of the Whale Overlook and the rehabilitation of Tidepool Parking. The

Cabrillo National Monument Foundation is completing a strategic plan that will guide it as it strives to improve its ability to support the park's interpretive, educational and scientific programs. It is in the process of adding new members to the board of trustees so it can raise awareness of the park in the region and funds to help the NPS better serve our visitors and protect the park. President Bush's National Park Centennial Initiative offers hope for increased funding each year for park operations as we prepare to celebrate the centennial of the National Park Service in 2016, and Cabrillo National Monument looks forward to its centennial in 2013.

There is though an emerging issue that has the potential to greatly harm the park. Under the Clean Water Act, the City of San Diego may have to upgrade the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant to secondary treatment if it either chooses not to seek a third waiver, or if its request for a waiver is denied. The Metropolitan Wastewater Department, which operates the sewage treatment plant, has indicated that if the city has to go to secondary treatment, it would seek to acquire either 30 acres of Navy land to the north or Cabrillo NM land on the west side of the park to the south. These 30 acres would amount to 25% of the undisturbed habitat in the park. We do not believe it should acquire either the undisturbed coastal Mediterranean habitat within the Point Loma Ecological Conservation Area on Navy land, or that which is in the park. The mission of the National Park Service is to preserve unimpaired the cultural and natural resources and values entrusted to its care for the enjoyment and benefit of this and future generations. National park land, which is owned by the people of the United States, should not be removed from

Cabrillo N.M. so the city can expand its sewage treatment plant. The park land being eyed by the city extends from the southern boundary of the plant to a point below the Old Point Loma Lighthouse. If this land were taken, over 850,000 visitors from across the nation and around the world be greeted by the noise, odors and visual impact of an operating sewage treatment plant when they stop at the entrance sign and look at the ocean to the west. Such a travesty would impair park resources and values forever and demonstrate to tens of millions of tourists that the city is willing to sacrifice one of its premier visitor attractions for expediency when other alternatives have not be explored and discussed by all those who might be affected. We have urged the Metropolitan Wastewater Department to hold a meeting, or series of meetings, to engage the Navy, the National Park Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the California Coastal Commission, US Fish and Wildlife Service, San Diego Coastkeepers, representatives of our elected officials and the public to discuss this important issue and together find a solution that achieves the goals of the Clean Water Act while protecting the resources on Point Loma and Cabrillo NM. We believe there is a better answer than acquiring either Navy or NPS land. The NPS is ready to work with the city and other partners to find a solution that meets the metropolitan area's sewage treatment needs while protecting the ocean environment and this spectacular national park.

Thank you again for your friendship and all the support that you have given me and this special place that is Cabrillo NM during my time as superintendent. I appreciate it very much and will treasure it always.



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Jason Richards, Editor
Jim Nauman, Production

1800 Cabrillo Memorial Drive
San Diego, CA 92106

www.CNMFKaren@aol.com

NEWS FLASH! CABRILLO DID NOT DISCOVER SAN DIEGO ON 28 SEPTEMBER 1542!!

He didn't discover San Miguel, either.

THINGS CHANGE! The Cabrillo Festival must be altered to reflect reality!

by Bob Munson, CNM Historian

Wait a minute, what are we talking about here? What's going on and what changes are we supposed to be making?

Well, it all depends on whose calendar you're talking about. Recently we were reminded that according to the Gregorian calendar, currently used by the United States, Cabrillo arrived here on 8 October 1542 and we should celebrate Cabrillo Festival on 8 October—NOT 28 September.

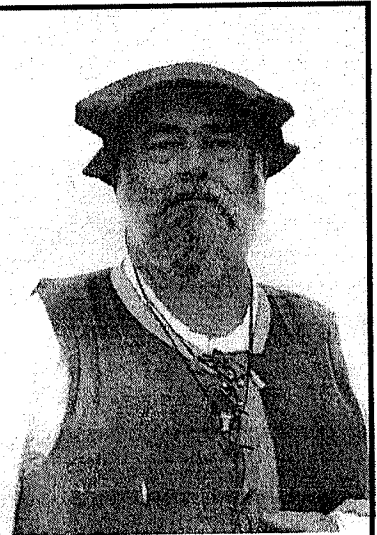
Why? Well, let's step back a bit. Most of the world has accepted the calendrical system established by Julius Caesar in 45 BC (or BCE in deference to those societies who don't). This year was established because the previous methods of breaking the year into manageable chunks, called months, had gotten so

screwed up that some years were 377 days long. In fact, 46BC was officially 445 days long! This might still fall into the "So what?" category except for the fact the Roman year was based on the Greek concept of the "Tropical Year" which is related to the equinoxes and solstices. Religion aside, a reliable calendar is of use in predicting weather and crop cycles, among other things. It's no wonder that Julie baby got together with the great Alexandrian astronomer Sosigenes and said this nonsense has got to stop. To make a long story short, this is where our 365 1/4 day year beginning on 1 January got started. It took a bit of additional tweaking, but by AD4 it was up and running.

And all this is based on the imposition of an artificial numbering system on the fact the planet doesn't exactly make an even number of rotations in its journey around the sun. We all know that the earth doesn't go around the sun in 365 days; rather it's 365 1/4 days, which is why we have Leap Year. Unfortunately, it's a bit more complicated than that.

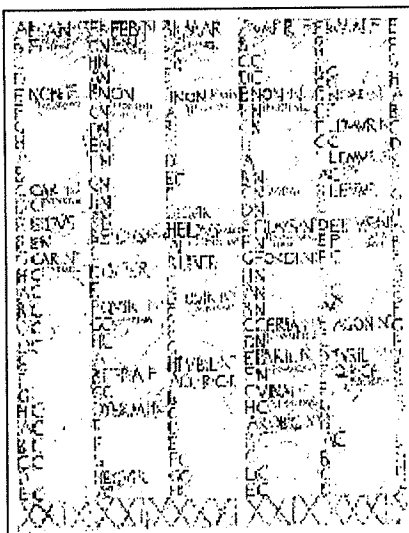
So if the Julian calendar was so great, how did this Gregorian calendar show up.

Well, it turns out the year is NOT 365 1/4 days long. It's actually 365 days, 5 hours, 49 minutes and 12 seconds long. Which means we lose 10 minutes, 48 seconds every year. To, once again, try to make a long story short, by the 16th Century the calendar was ten days out of



For history to be valid, it must be kept in the context in which it occurred, not subjected to the values of a later time.

Bob Munson



The Julian Calendar

synch. Again, not overly important except that it threw the vernal equinox off by ten days and more importantly it meant that the traditional celebration of Easter was NOT when the Council of Nicaea (325 AD) had established that it was. It took 800 pages of calculations by Christopher Clavius, to establish what it would take to put everything to rights, and

even then a lot of people wouldn't buy it. This included the Russians who didn't go Gregorian until 1917, when it became a Revolutionary concept with nothing to do with Easter. The fact that the Gregorian calendar was instituted by a Papal Bull of Pope Gregory XIII meant that the calendar was not popular in the non-Roman Catholic world which is why its adoption was a lengthy and hodgepodge process.

Sooo, getting back to Caesar for a minute: Did Cabrillo find the bay on the 272nd, or the 282nd, day of the year which begins on the Roman-established arbitrary date of 1 January (the 1st day of the "Tropical" year)?

It doesn't really matter. What if we were measuring things in terms of the Mayan calendar? Would we celebrate the discovery on the 6th of Cau'ac? No, we base our celebration on the calendar used by Cabrillo himself at the time, not the Mayan, the Hebraic, the Chinese or the whatever calendar. In fact, many of these other systems would not even recognize 1542 as the correct year. But Cabrillo was using the Julian calendar and he gave our bay the name San Miguel because by his Julian calendar it was found the day before the Feast of the Archangel Michael, i.e. 28 September. Just as Vizcaino renamed it San Diego for that Saint's Day on the Gregorian date of 12 November 1602. The fact that Cabrillo arrived here on the 282nd rotation of the planet (8 October by our modern Gregorian calendar) is of importance only in the way the later date might have had a minor influence on the weather he encountered. For history to be valid, it must be kept in the context in which it occurred, not subjected to the values of a later time.

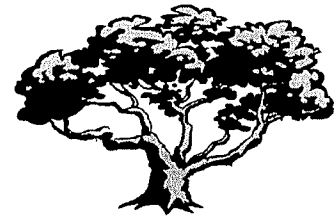
In fact, while Spain adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1556, fourteen years after Cabrillo, the British Empire (including the

American colonies) didn't get around to adopting the Gregorian calendar until 1752 which would skew the Vizcaino date as well. So if we want to be absurd about calendars, since we are an English-speaking nation, we should drop back and use the Julian calendar used by the English in 1602, which means perhaps we're not really San Diego at all, but Todas Almas (All Souls Day).

So, in a nutshell, we celebrate, and probably will continue to celebrate, the landing of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo at Ballast Point on 28 September because it's easier to use the date in force at the time (1542), with the calendar being used at the time (1542), rather than have to alter all the primary resources. After all, it's the celebration of the event, not a calendrical notation. We celebrate Christmas on 25 December, a date chosen largely from the tradition to celebrate the mid-winter pagan Roman feast of Saturnalia. Scientifically we have excellent reason to believe Christ was actually born on 17 April 6BC (Gregorian). It's the event we celebrate, not a date.

At any rate, the date of 28 September has achieved an historicity in its own right, one which the National Park Service has agreed to honor along with the rest of the community.

Now, for a change of subject: The main reason we celebrate Cabrillo's arrival on 28 September is really that that's my birthday we're celebrating, and I wasn't born on 8 October.



Naive

If trees had legs

They could get out of the way

But what then, would hold the earth

The strong embrace

Roots

If trees had legs, they could escape the blade

And shade would become an uncommon and valuable thing

A cooling cover

Leaves

If trees had legs, they could run fast and hide

But we would find them and the rest is

History

**By Ted Washington
CNMF Staff**

Editor's note: This is a tribute to the tree that was recently removed to accommodate the new Law Enforcement/Resource Management building. Ted Washington, an accomplished poet, has published poetry books; he has his own publishing company.

The Evolution of the Cabrillo National Monument General Management Plan

*By Charles Schultheis
Chief of Maintenance
Cabrillo National
Monument*

The General Management Plan (GMP) for Cabrillo National Monument (CABR) was completed in February 1996, and outlines the management vision for the monument for the next 10-15 years. (General Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, February, 1996).

General Management plans are required by the National Park Service (NPS), and adhere to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), in that the GMP involves proposed alternatives, the environmental impacts of those alternatives, and public input and comment regarding the alternatives.

As stated in Cabrillo's GMP, "The Proposal (Alternative B), the National Park Service's management plan for the monument, would enhance protection and restoration of natural and cultural resources, improve visitor facilities, and better accommodate existing visitor activities." (CABR,GMP, p. iii).

The GMP, and any management decisions, including facility management decisions, should reflect the mission of the National Park Service, as stated in the Organic Act of 1916, which is, "...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

In the 160 acres that comprise Cabrillo, that preservation has

come to include cultural resources, including the 1854 Old Point Loma Lighthouse, 21 historic military harbor defense structures dating from 1915 to 1943, and the statue of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo. It also includes natural resources such as the marine intertidal life along the western Pacific Ocean shore of the monument, coastal sage and scrub vegetation ecosystems, native wildlife, and migratory birds. Provisions for the visitor and employees include built assets such as visitor and administrative buildings, interpretive facilities, roads, parking areas, scenic overlooks, trails, and utility systems.

To achieve management goals for the preservation of the natural and cultural resources, and provide for visitor enjoyment, planning objectives were set forth in the GMP. Asset management decisions by the Facilities Management branch of operations at Cabrillo should take into account the impact of those decisions in relation to the planning objectives.

For example, the planning objective for the Old Point Loma Lighthouse states, "Restore, preserve, and maintain the Old Point Loma Lighthouse as it was in the late 1800's, and acquire, display and care for appropriate furnishings." (CABR,GMP, p. 18). Any restoration or preservation work should comply with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, and current historic preservation theory,

principles, techniques, and procedures. To show compliance with the law, and the potential impact of the work, an Assessment of Action form is prepared, and routed to various NPS experts for review and comment. I have been trained in, and specialize in historic preservation, and am able to utilize this experience and knowledge, when planning and executing a historic preservation project on the lighthouse or any of the historic structures at Cabrillo.

In contrast, consider a historic preservation project on a historic structure in a natural area, the coastal sage/scrub vegetation. The park is also charged to preserve the natural resources. In this case, an asset management decision should take into account the potential impact of the work on the natural resources of the site. Compliance with laws, policy, and guidelines must be considered. Before any work is begun, meetings with the park resource managers occur, and an Environment Screening Form (ESF) is completed which documents potential impacts on the natural resources and efforts or proposals to mitigate those impacts.

For example, the work area is surveyed for any sensitive plant or animal species that may occur, a proposed entry and exit pathway established, and procedures for earth/vegetation disturbance agreed upon. These decisions are documented in the ESF, and Assessment of Action. Communication and cooperation with the

For Cabrillo NM, the implementation of the majority of items in the GMP has indeed helped accomplish “programs, actions, and support facilities necessary for proper management of park resources, appropriate visitor use, interpretation of resources, and efficient park operation.”

other branches of operation in the park are essential for preservation of the resources—a key component of asset management decisions.

Interpretive planning goals of the GMP include visitor education related to the cultural and natural resources of the monument. Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo and his voyage of discovery is a primary interpretive theme, and is shown, asset-wise, in the Cabrillo museum exhibits and commemorative statue and plaza. Park facilities management was involved in the adaptive reuse of a portion of the monument's Mission 66 auditorium to house interpretive exhibits related to Cabrillo's voyage, and contributes to the ongoing care and maintenance of the facility.

Another interpretive objective in the GMP, which will be addressed in FY 08 in terms of facilities, is to ...“provide visitors with a sheltered facility consistent with the monument's architectural theme from which to watch the annual winter gray whale migration and to inform visitors about the gray whales and related park interpretive themes.” (CABR,GMP, p.18).

This major project will consist of structures, interpretive exhibits, and paved walkways, all of which are considered facilities in FM. As such, they will have a life cycle cost, and “full cost of ownership,” from planning to construction through their life cycle to eventual disposal. The planning phase for the main features of this project should, and does, take into account costs of maintaining these facilities over their life cycle,

including preventive and recurring maintenance, component renewal, and general operations and maintenance.

It is interesting to note that while planning in the GMP takes ideas such as the full cost of ownership into account, and recommends increases in staff to accomplish the elements set forth, the reality is quite different.

Since the GMP was written in 1996, the Park Service's Regional and Deputy Regional directors have stated that Cabrillo NM is one of the NPS units that have implemented most of the items in their GMP. There has been an increase in the number of facilities and square footage of buildings since 1996.

With the completion of many new facilities, however, there has not been a corresponding increase in maintenance staffing to conduct the general operations and maintenance needed to maintain these facilities. The GMP in their “Recommended Staffing” table (CABR, GMP,p. 48) notes that the current (1996) maintenance staff consists of 7 positions. To implement the proposed Alternative, it was recommended that the staffing increase to 8 positions.

Currently, the maintenance staff of Cabrillo National Monument consists of 5.5 positions, an actual decrease from 1996. Maintaining facilities with inadequate staffing is a challenge for any Facility Manager. Current tools, such as the upcoming Park Asset Management Plan, will help to prioritize the maintenance needs of the highly important assets/facilities to either keep them

in good condition or bring them up to good condition. This tool will help address the reality of understaffing and decreased budgets in facility maintenance.

For Cabrillo NM, the implementation of the majority of items in the GMP has indeed helped accomplish “programs, actions, and support facilities necessary for proper management of park resources, appropriate visitor use, interpretation of resources, and efficient park operation.” (CABR,GMP, p.3) Facility Management has assisted in this accomplishment, and will continue to do so for the future.

*Did
you
know. . .*

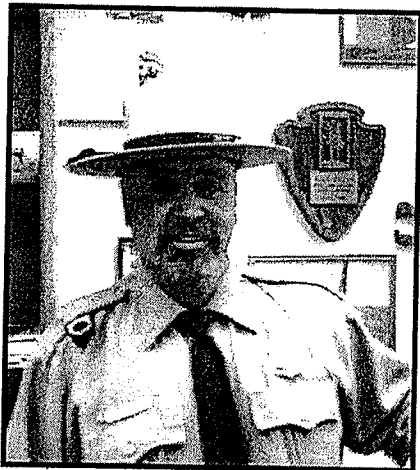


*Cabrillo National
Monument has five
species of lizards?*

*Orange-throated whiptail
Side-blotched lizard
Western fence lizard
Alligator lizard
Legless lizard.*

Biography of David Vecera

By Linda (Curley) Cramer
Senior Visitor Use
Assistant, CNM



was in the cards for him. Once on the "Left Coast," he was compelled to apply, and was selected for, a law enforcement position here at Cabrillo National Monument. After 24 years, Dave has ended his National Park Service career at Cabrillo. He plans to fix up his sailboat—even sail it occasionally—travel lots, attend family reunions, and spend time with his wife Linda and dog Butch.

Editor's note: Dave's constant, non-stop sense of humor (sometimes a bit on the crude side) will be missed at Cabrillo National Monument. As a fellow sailor, I can truly say that I am jealous. Fair Winds, Dave!!

As a young lad, David had always wanted to be a park ranger. He had the chance to realize his dream early on, and was hired seasonally at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore for a few seasons. Dave's Law Enforcement career started at Sleeping Bear Dunes and then continued to Amistad National Recreation Area. From Amistad, Dave moved to the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, MO, where he met Linda (Curley), now his wife of many years. He transferred to Everglades National Park, which he considered his favorite park. He loved operating boats of all sizes in the Florida Bay backcountry of Everglades NP. A year at Big Bend National Park in Texas kept him busy climbing mountains and fording streams. Back again to South Florida for a few more years at Everglades, and then at the Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Dave was not done yet! A dramatic move to Redwood National & State Parks



The author, Ranger Linda Cramer, who, fortunately for us, will remain at her station welcoming visitors to the park in her usual charming manner.

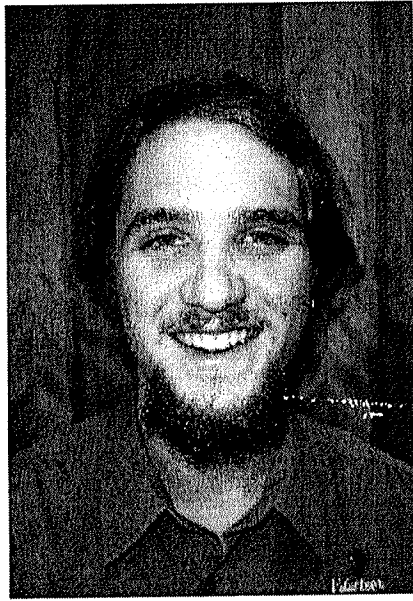


Did you know. . .

That on a per capita basis, more National Park Rangers die in the line of duty than any other law-enforcement agency!

Cabrillo National Monument welcomes Shawn Eccles to our Entrance Station staff

Here is his autobiography:



Shawn Eccles

Outside of the park, I attend Grossmont Community College as an English major and I plan on becoming a high school English teacher. I have also been playing the bagpipes for the past 5 years and now play in a professional band called the Cameron Highlanders. When I played in my high school band I earned the rank of Pipe Sergeant my junior year, and was promoted to the top rank, which is Pipe Major, my senior year. I am also a huge fan of video games, reading, and renaissance fairs. I have been to England and Scotland with my High School bagpipe band. We played in the Edinburgh Parade and consequently, made the front page of the Edinburgh newspaper.

Shawn Eccles
Visitor Use Assistant
Cabrillo National Monument

I am a San Diego native. My mother is Karen Eccles, the executive director of Cabrillo National Monument Foundation. She has been working here since I was two years old, therefore, I have been around Cabrillo National Monument almost all my life. I began volunteering at Cabrillo when I was eleven years old. The first year or so, I picked up trash, but eventually, I began participating in the living history program of the interpretation division. Eventually, I became knowledgeable enough to create my own program on 16th-century Spanish Games.



Did you know. . .

*the Kumeyaay Nation
consists of 12 reservations
in the United States, and
6 reservations in Mexico?*

Times are improving!

By Marcy Marquez
Interpretive Park Ranger, CNM

Statistically speaking, visitation has continued to decrease at Cabrillo National Monument since I began to volunteer in 2000. I can remember volunteering in the Visitor Center while still in college. The constant change and chaos was "oh so fun!" We had visitors from around the world, of different ages; first-timers and regulars; and lots of beautiful children running around. The hours would just fly by.

I decided that I would quite enjoy working for the National Park Service while on a camping trip at Yosemite National Park with my geography class. I can still picture my campsite: It was a beautiful warm and sunny day; I lay looking up at Half Dome and listening to the Merced River slowly roll on by. It was at that precise moment that I thought how wonderful it would be to help protect and preserve these beautiful and natural areas for my grandchildren and others to come. I returned to volunteer at Cabrillo NM and after a few months I was offered an internship, which after some 900 hours turned into a permanent position for Cabrillo!

Instead of coming in at my whim and leaving at my leisure, I was now expected to wear a clean, pressed uniform and work at least 20 hours a week! The learning curve was extremely high my first couple of years. Work was busy and chaotic in the Visitor Center. I would arrive at work and before I knew it the day would be over. It was rewarding and challenging to help connect visitors to the park and service.



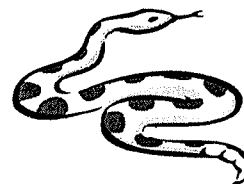
Marcy Marquez

Before the bombing of the USS *Cole* and the devastation of September 11th, we averaged 1.2 million visitors annually. As one can imagine, park visitation dropped dramatically. Work was a lot slower and new tasks were taken to help the transition from a fast-paced Visitor Center to a more relaxed environment. The days flew into months, years, and into the present.

I can happily say that we have had more visitors come into our bookstore in the last eight months. Our visitors are buying more from our non-profit partner, Cabrillo National Monument Foundation. Their overall sales have increased 4.5% from last year. The number of visitors buying actual products has also increased from 3.5 % to 4.8% for the same time period. As long as the percentages increase, that is a good sign, however slight they might appear.

I can say that we have been pretty busy in the Visitor Center

since summer began. It is once again feeling like it was a mere 6 years ago: children wanting to become Junior Rangers, visitors needing information lined up at the desk, phones ringing, feet cramping from standing, and a good night's rest due to a day well spent!



Did you know. . .

*Cabrillo NM has
six species of snakes?*

*Pacific rattlesnake
Ring-necked snake
Night snake
California king snake
Striped racer
San Diego gopher snake*

Cabrillo National Monument—a third of a century of change

by Mike Nelson, Volunteer, CNM

In July 1974, I visited Cabrillo National Monument for the first time. Quite frankly, I remember only two things about that first visit. The first is that the view of San Diego was marred by the high levels of rusty brown smog of that era, *and* that I was able to park south of the Old Point Loma Lighthouse where native vegetation flourishes today. *That* was the beginning of a third-of-a-century love affair with Cabrillo National Monument.

As with all things, the passing of time brings many changes, some good and some not so good. My love affair has gotten sweeter and more mature over the years... just like a fine wine.

Some things are gone but not forgotten:

- The old tidepool exhibit in the Visitor Center. I don't know how long it was there or even when it was removed, but it took about half of the eastern window space. The display was a cutaway view made of fiberglass and acrylic, depicting life between the tides.
- The fountains and pools that were once in the visitor center breezeway have now been replaced with colorful plants.
- When the park chose to remove exotic vegetation and to stop massive irrigation, the eucalyptus trees were among the first to go. The last tree was removed in 2006 near the military exhibit.
- The "Steps to The Sea" slide show ran daily from 1983 until it was retired in 2006. "Steps to the Sea" has been scanned and turned into a video file.
- The "Voyage of Cabrillo" (the "Running Grunion Show") with Abel Silvas and cast was a live drama presentation that ran on

summer weekends for several seasons.

- After years of being located at the Monument, the Cabrillo Festival moved to the submarine base in September, 2006.
- The original statue of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo. Well, it's not really gone! It had deteriorated badly and was removed from service and now sits in a crate in CNM's lower maintenance facility. A faithful replica of the original still stands as a majestic centerpiece for the view of San Diego.

Some things are changed:

- In 1986, the Old Point Loma Lighthouse was renovated and restored. The 130 years had taken a toll on its structural integrity. It was strengthened and refurbished to an 1880s appearance. A third-order Fresnel lens replaced the incorrect one. All the rooms were refitted with period furnishings and fixtures including seashell picture frames made by Maria Israel.
- The Cabrillo Historical Association became the Cabrillo National Monument Foundation.
- The Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo exhibit was completely renovated; only a few display items from 1966 were incorporated into the new 2001 exhibit.
- The living history program expanded to a great extent. Today, on weekends, visitors find volunteers and rangers at the lighthouse, the military exhibit, around the visitor center, or roaming in period attire from the 1880s, the 16th century, or the 1940s.

Some things are new:

- The Tidepool Education and Restoration Program for tidepool

monitoring, protection, and interpretation continues to grow and flourish since its inception in the early 1980s.

- "The Search for Cabrillo" video has run daily for more than 15 years in the auditorium.
- The Fee Collection Program enacted by Congress in the late 1980s (along with the Foundation) has helped to fund a large number of resource management and interpretative programs at the park.
- The two maintenance facilities were built. The lower maintenance facility is also used for curatorial storage.
- The tactile whale cow and calf give visitors a visual and tactile impression of the mysterious Pacific gray whale.
- The military exhibit in the former WWI radio room opened to the public in 1999.
- The park greenhouse located on McClelland Road provides most of the seedlings used to restore the habitat to its 1880s roots (pardon the pun).
- The tactile lighthouse exhibit lets the visually impaired "get a feel" of how the lighthouse looks.
- The Assistant Lighthouse Keepers Quarters exhibit opened in 2005. While historically accurate, some complain that it has ruined the view of the lighthouse. However, it wonderfully tells the stories of the San Diego lighthouses.
- "On the Edge of Land and Sea" premiered in 2006 after years of anticipation. It greatly exceeded the expectations.
- Lastly, the additional wing to the administrative building, currently under construction, will be completed soon.

In a time of stark budgets and

shrinking staff, it's easy to get discouraged and think that "new and improved" will never come. However, the legacy of the last 33 years at Cabrillo shows that change is inevitable—and it's usually good. My love affair with Cabrillo is still growing. I hope the best is yet to come.



*Did you
know. . .*

*that black abalone, once very
common off Point Loma and
CNM, has not been seen since
1990? A combination of
overharvesting, poaching, and
disease has contributed to their
loss.*

Ever changing

By Interpretive Park Ranger New Thanyachareon



Since this could be my last article for *the Explorer* and the topic is about change, I decided to write the article about myself and the changes my family and I are about to embark upon.

To me, change is definitely a constant that's always present. We see it all around us. During my stay at Cabrillo National Monument, I have seen and been a part of, many changes. The appearance of the lighthouse is different than first time I saw it.

Non-native plant removal has given way to flourishing native species. However, it was the beautiful color of the exotic ice plants surrounding the parking lots that added to the incredible scenery. I said to myself, "I wouldn't mind working here." Little did I know that my wish would come true. I've been here almost four years now, and the change is evident. I have seen staff members come and go. Now, I have come to realize that *I too* will be moving on. Change can be a good thing.

Change can have a positive and a negative effect on people—that's what I'm feeling now. I am leaving behind some wonderful people whom I consider good friends, maybe as close as family. I will miss every thing Cabrillo National Monument has to offer—that's definitely the negative feeling I have about this change. The reasons for the changes in my life are for my family and the needs of our son. This is the positive side, and how we get there is another story. We know change is for the good but we cannot help but worry a little about it. There are many things you have to put in motion in order

for the change to happen. I'm not sure I'm actually happy about it at this point, however, I know it to be what we need. Change can be a good thing.

I am very familiar with our destination, so it wouldn't be like we were starting over. It has been a few years since we've been back, and I'm sure changes have affected our destination also. Where people reside, they see the gradual change. If you moved away and returned years later, the changes would be more dramatic. It would be like visiting your childhood home, and while reminiscing, you notice all the changes that have occurred during the years. I will have that same opportunity, *and* I'm looking forward to it. Change can be a good thing.

For me, it will definitely be a change in the weather. California has comfortable weather. Florida has sweltering heat, biting insects, and flooding rain. Can change be a good thing?



The Junior Ranger Ambassador Program

By **Nikole Duvalle**
Student Conservation Assistant
Cabrillo National Monument



Hello! My name is Nikole Duvalle, and I am a Junior Ranger Ambassador at Cabrillo National Monument this summer. I will be spending 11 weeks here at the park creating an exciting Junior Ranger program for children in pre-K through 2nd grade to compliment the park's existing program for older children in 3rd through 8th grade.

The National Park Service Junior Ranger program revolves around the themes of explore, learn, and protect. Age-appropriate activities provide the opportunity for children to connect with the historic, cultural, and natural aspects of National Parks. The ultimate goal of the Junior Ranger program is to promote the stewardship of the parks for future generations. Kids who complete these programs will feel proud after receiving their badge and certificate, while Park Rangers will be proud to know that children will leave their park with a little more knowledge and a lot more enthusiasm. If this knowledge and enthusiasm stay with the children as they grow up, the future generations of Americans will hold the National Parks and what the parks stand for with high esteem and regard. In the roughly 400 National Park Service sites, there are currently 260 Junior Ranger programs.

In addition to the in-park Junior Ranger Programs, the National Park Service has a web-based Jun-

ior Ranger program called WebRangers. WebRangers allows children of all ages to learn about various parks while completing fun and challenging internet activities with a historical, cultural, or natural base. The activities and games are separated into categories based on difficulty and subject area. As a WebRanger, children also have the opportunity to upload pictures from their visits to parks as well as share stories. WebRangers can be accessed at www.nps.gov/webangers.

The Junior Ranger Ambassador program is made possible through partnerships between the National Park Service, the National Park Foundation, and the Student Conservation Association. The Student Conservation Association is partners with numerous environmental groups and parks on the national and state level and places high school students, college students, and college graduates in internships around the country. This year the Student Conservation Association is celebrating its 50th anniversary with roughly 50,000 alumni. Every year, nearly 3,000 students intern through the SCA providing over a million hours of service. There are a total of 30 Junior Ranger Ambassadors interning at 30 different Park Service sites this year. Some of the other sites include: Dinosaur National Monument, Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, Rocky Mountain National Park, and San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. You can

learn more about the Student Conservation Association by going to www.thesca.org.

Originally from Miami, Florida, I graduated from the University of Florida in May of this year with a degree in sociology and a strong interest in the environment and children. I am so happy to be here at Cabrillo National Monument working on this project because I know that by creating an activity package for young children, the opportunity to make connections will be available for many more families.... GO GATORS!



Did you know. . .

the Kumeyaay people practiced controlled burns to promote the growth of food plants, medicinal plants, and to attract more game?



CABRILLO NATIONAL MONUMENT FOUNDATION

by Karen Eccles
Executive Director

*I*n May of this year, Cabrillo National Monument Foundation (CNMF) completed a strategic planning process. As a result of this process we have revised our mission and vision statements, formulated our values as an organization, and stated our overarching principles. I would like to share them with you along with our renewed focus and dedication to supporting Cabrillo National Monument (CNM).

CNMF Mission Statement

The Cabrillo National Monument Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the efforts of the National Park Service to preserve and promote the natural environment, cultural resources, and quality visitor experience by supporting its educational, interpretive, and scientific programs.

CNMF Vision Statement

CNMF is the premier supporter of the educational, interpretive, and scientific programs of Cabrillo National Monument, meeting the needs of the National Park Service.

CNMF Values

- CNMF Supports the mission of CNM and its educational, interpretive, and scientific programs.
- CNMF is volunteer driven, open, transparent, and managed in the public interest.
- CNMF operates not-for-profit, impartial, and continuing programs consistent with its mission as well as those activities being pursued by CNM.
- CNMF is an inclusive membership organization with active and meaningful member programs.
- CNMF actively promotes community involvement in CNM and CNMF activities.
- CNMF values and supports its employees and their families.
- CNMF cooperates with other National Park foundations and other associated organizations in raising awareness of and support for National Park Service activities.

Overarching Principles

Cabrillo National Monument is regarded as a cherished and unique community asset.

Resources that are entrusted to the National Park Service are preserved and protected for the next generation, pursuant to the NPS mission. This is essential to supporting our democracy and our legacy as a people and a nation.

Cabrillo National Monument has a local, regional, national, and international audience. The Foundation will conduct outreach effort to connect people with San Diego's national park.

CNMF will seek opportunities to educate the broader community about the significance of the park and the NPS. The Foundation has

a special affinity to residents of Point Loma and other local communities, so strong relationships with San Diego County residents will remain important.

CNMF recognizes that its fundamental purpose is to support the park and its mission. In order to become more effective in fulfilling this purpose, CNMF will strive to broaden support for the Foundation and awareness of the park as it supports park programs and special events, meeting our goals and becoming well known.

CNMF will maintain a strong board of trustees and will build upon a heritage of 50 years in service and leadership. To implement this strategic plan, the board will draw upon the expertise and strength of its membership and other individuals and entities, collaborating and supporting one another as we move forward.



Make a Lasting Legacy

The CNMF Endowment Fund, established in 1997 with the San Diego Foundation, is another way you can support the endeavors of Cabrillo National Monument. Interested donors can contact us at

(619) 222-4747

or by e-mail at

CNMFKaren@aol.com



Please visit our website:

www.CNMF.org



New Members

Cabrillo National Monument Foundation
welcomes the following new members.



Genevieve Beagle
Chang-Yi Chiao
Diane Clay
Carlyn Collins
Robb Crowder
Curtin Family
Elizabeth Dyer
Terri Grieison
Charles & Annette Hughes
Gayle Klusky
Sharon & Parley Leemaster

Michael Liembach
Mary Leu
Catherine MacGregor
Michael Magee
Brandi McLeod
Christine Miller
Carl Nettleton
Ellen Polen
Dakota Roberts
Paul Ross

E & F Sanchez
Stuart Simmons
Dee Anne Snyder
Karen Sowell
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Cabrillo National
Monument Foundation
1800 Cabrillo Memorial Drive
San Diego, CA 92106

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