



Pinnacles Partnership News

Name the Newsletter Contest. Winner will receive a framed poster of custom Pinnacles artwork. Submit ideas to info@pinnaclespartnership.org.

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May 12, 2007
Member's Day at
the Pinnacles.
Great food and
new friends.

THE VOICE OF THE PINNACLES PARTNERSHIP

Congratulations! You are a founding member of the Pinnacles Partnership. Your support will help ensure excellence in education, resource stewardship and visitor experiences at Pinnacles National Monument for present and future generations. There are many important new and innovative plans for Pinnacles, some of which will be described in the newsletter today, others will be in future newsletters.

Through much hard work by community volunteers and a local law firm, Grace & Albert, the Pinnacles Partnership filed for California State Articles of Incorporation, adopted Bylaws, and received non-profit, 501(c)(3) status in March 2007.

At the first annual membership meeting held at the Pinnacles on May 12, a volunteer board of directors was elected. At the inaugural Board of Directors meeting held on June 19 in San Juan Bautista, officers and an interim Executive Director were appointed.

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PP SUPPORTS IMPORTANT PROJECTS

The Pinnacles Partnership, with your member support and active grant seeking, has many plans and ideas.

- Promote hunter education concerning lead bullets and how to protect the Condor from lead poisoning
- Support a science camp for school aged children
- Sponsor star parties
- Promote a change in status from "Monument" to "Park"
- Support wildlife habitat restoration
- Participate in the Pinnacles' Centennial Anniversary 1908 - 2008

CALENDAR

AUGUST 17: GRUB CLUB

Try out our local restaurants with good company. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at La Poblanita, 313 3rd, San Juan Bautista, 831.623.2161

AUGUST 21: FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

6:45 p.m. All members are welcome to attend. 501 San Benito Street, Suite 201, Hollister

ON-GOING: RANGER AT THE RESERVOIR

Every Saturday & Sunday, 10 am – 1 pm

RANGER TALK BEAR GULCH VISITOR CENTER.

Every Saturday & Sunday, 3 pm

NIGHT HIKES BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER.

Check park website or call for more information: 831.389.4485

Tell us what you think and provide your ideas. The next full board meeting is:

August 21, 6:45PM

501 San Benito St., Suite 201

Hollister

All members are invited to participate.

The Voice of Pinnacles Partnership Continued from page 1

The Partnership Executive Committee:

Tim Regan, Paicines, CA - President

David Cole, Burlingame and Paicines, CA - Vice President

Kelly Campos, Aromas, CA – Treasurer (PP member not on the Board)

Edie Nelson, Santa Cruz, CA – Secretary

Other board members are Tom Breen, Hollister; Paul Rovella, Salinas and Hollister; Mark Paxton, Hollister; Paul Hain, Tres Pinos; Julie Dupris, Hollister; and David Baumgartner, Hollister.

Pearl Masterson of San Juan Bautista is our stellar volunteer Executive Director (we are actively seeking grants to fund a full-time paid Executive Director). Our Board and member volunteers have a great diversity of interests and talents--- birding, astronomy, education, non-profit organization expertise, law, strong community service ethics and members with family history associated with the park. You will hear more about these members in future issues.

As active members, we encourage your thoughts and ideas for the Partnership. Let us know if you want to be more involved – we need your help!

NEWS FROM THE PINNACLES CONDOR CREW

During the past weeks we observed most of the Pinnacles flock and some of the Big Sur flock feeding on dead pigs south of the monument. We confirmed that at least one of those pig carcasses had been shot with lead ammunition. As a result, we stepped up efforts to capture those birds to test for lead poisoning, and managed to trap eight condors. Two of the Condors (306 and 318) had extremely high blood lead levels requiring emergency treatment at the LA Zoo. Unfortunately, the lead scare continues. It seems like every week we observe more condors feeding outside the park. They are behaving as scavengers should, but we just wish that the food on the landscape were safe for them to eat.

You may be wondering about our newly released condors. Condors 400 and 401 are often seen together both in and out of the Pinnacles. They occasionally join up with some of the older condors at feeding sites, but are more often separate. This is normal behavior for young condors; it takes some time before they are fully integrated in the flock. Condors 405 and 411 are still being held in the flight pen. We hope to release them at the same time we release Condors 306 and 318.

Both of the chicks being reared in the wild by Big Sur condors seem to be maturing well. Our crew has been observing one chick lately and it just had its 100 day birthday!

Thank you all for taking the time to read this. If anybody has any condor sightings or other information, please call us (831.389.4485 x276).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

CA CONDOR LEVEL

\$1000 AND ABOVE

Patagonia, Inc
E-Bay Foundation
Grace & Albert
Regan, Timothy
DMB, Inc./El Rancho San Benito
Grace, Larry & Paula
Cole, David
Western National Parks Assoc.

GOLDEN EAGLE

\$500 - \$999

Szydlowski, Peter

PRAIRIE FALCON

\$250 - \$499

Coile, Jennifer
Monroe, Mia
Albert, Mary
Louie, Denise

ACORN

WOODPECKER

\$100 - \$249

Veranda Cafe
Babalie, Timothy
Brunnemann, Ursuline
Forrest, David & Christine
Baumgartner, David & Jo Anne
Hernandez, Esperanza
Nelson, Edith

AMERICAN KESTREL

\$50 - \$99

Kaplan, Grace
Maio, John & Mary
Hain, Paul
Monaco, Reb
Louie, Betty
Rovella, Paul
Skiver, Tim
Hain, Helen
Tilenius, Eric
Weinheimer, Carolyn
Williams, Erika
DuPrie, Julie
Casey, Joan
Aldrich, Susan
Johnson, Carol & Steve
Williams, Gordon & Beverly

CA QUAIL

\$15 - \$49

Van Rooy, Frank & Sharlene
Foy, David & Helen
George, Daniel
Edwards, Paul & Kevin Keedy
Brenner, Carl
Fuller, Carol
Jacinto, William
Nelson, Nina
Gibson, Frank
Webb, Jim & Ina
Slater, John
Johnson, Gordon & Carol
Johnston, Cece
Luther, Michael



When Is the Bear Gulch Cave Open? [The Balconies Cave is always open]

The Bear Gulch Cave is home to a colony of state-sensitive Townsend's big-eared bats as they hibernate in winter and raise their young in summer. The colony in the Bear Gulch Cave is the largest maternity colony between San Francisco and Mexico. These bats prefer open roosting areas in large rooms and do not tuck themselves into cracks and crevices as many bat species do. Their preference for open spaces in caves makes them more vulnerable to disturbance. In order to find a way for people and bats to coexist peacefully in the cave, the National Park Service has developed a plan based on carefully monitored bat activity.

A new gate allows for much of the cave to stay open to the public through the winter while still protecting the hibernating colony of Townsend's big-eared bats in the upper part of the cave. A new trail leaves the middle of the cave and connects with the Moses Spring Trail, which leads to the reservoir.

Most of the Bear Gulch Cave is usually **OPEN for over 9 months from mid-July through mid-May** each year, depending on bat behavior and activity. The entire cave is **CLOSED from mid-May to mid-July** while the bats are raising their young.

During especially warm springs, however, it's possible that the entire cave will be closed before mid-May if the maternity colony is present.

The entire Bear Gulch Cave will also be open twice a year for at least one week and up to four weeks each March and October, depending on the presence of the colony of bats. **To find out current information about the Bear Gulch Cave check out the park website at: <http://www.nps.gov/pinn/planyourvisit/cavestatus.htm>** or call park headquarters at: 831.389.4485.



**SOME GREAT NEWS . . .
WE JUST RECEIVED THE
FOLLOWING GRANTS:**

Ebay Foundation \$2,500 to support volunteers in habitat restoration and condor reintroduction projects.

Patagonia – Santa Cruz office: \$8,000 to support a new project working with the Institute for Wildlife Studies on a Lead Awareness Campaign in central California. Includes several free non-lead shooting events in the local area.

Community Foundation for Monterey County: \$12,500 towards a part-time bi-lingual community outreach coordinator based in the Salinas Valley. The grant will help PP better understand and serve our Salinas Valley neighbors.

**NEXT ISSUES OF
PINNACLES
PARTNERSHIP NEWS
WILL INCLUDE:**

More information about the developing Pinnacles Science Camp.

Condor news and more information about condor biology and the very real threats to recovery.

2008 Pinnacles Centennial Celebration

Habitat restoration, how we are using volunteers to make a difference.

PINNACLES EARLY HISTORY

The Pinnacles were and still are an important place for people. From pre-historic times to the early ranching era, we can sift through their stories through artifacts, archives and oral histories. So much is still unknown about the indigenous peoples, but we know there was a rich human presence in a sacred place where perennial water flows, wildlife and wildflowers abound and unusual rock formations are an anomaly to the surrounding landscape. The National Park Service is working towards gaining a greater understanding with the Pinnacles' very early history and to understand its significance to existing native peoples today.

Greater knowledge exists for the early ranching era when settlers arrived in Bear Valley beginning in the 1860's. Ranching families gathered for picnics in the shaded valley at the eastern foot of the Balconies. A primitive road was cleared along Chalone Creek and picnic tables were constructed. It was not until a local rancher, Schuyler Hain, took a Stanford University professor to Bear Valley, who declared that this geologic formation was the finest example of its type he had ever seen, that Schuyler Hain (the great-grandfather of one of our Pinnacles Partnership Board members) began to promote the Pinnacles in the Bay Area. He gave talks and presented his magic lantern show, using some 50 hand-painted glass slides he prepared to attract more people to visit his beloved retreat. With great persistence, Hain persuaded David Starr Jordan, president of Stanford University, to send botany professor Dr. William Russell Dudley to visit. Jordan, then convinced of the significance of the place, contacted President Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, head of the U.S. Forest Service, to petition to have the land proclaimed a national forest.

In July 1905, 16,000 acres were set aside as the Pinnacles National Forest Reserve. From there a series of proclamations ensued. Roosevelt proclaimed the rock formations of Pinnacles a National Monument in 1908, leaving the rest to the Forest Service. When the Forest Service decided to withdraw protection from the surrounding 16,000 acres, Hain succeeded in establishing a state game preserve to protect the area. In 1914 Congress passed the Organic Act, which established the National Park Service, and the Pinnacles was transferred to the authority of this new agency. Schuyler Hain continued to enthusiastically promote the Pinnacles, encouraging people to take the Railroad to Tres Pinos, and then go by auto stage to Bear Valley, where his brother Arthur would arrange lodging and guide services to the Park.

. . . to be continued in the next issue, stay tuned!

