



# NEWSLETTER

## FALL 2018



## Charrette Explores Next Steps in Park's Development

The Friends of California Citrus Park retained The Dangermond Group to conduct a design charrette of the Concourse area of California Citrus State Historic Park. One of the highest priority needs identified by the Friends' strategic planning effort was to seek ways to develop the Concourse area of the Park. This strategically located area is currently one of the most obvious undeveloped portions of the park. The opportunity represents an important next step in the development of the Park and can create the setting to tell new stories, attract more visitors, and generate increased revenue. Preparation of a master plan for the area would be a logical objective, but needs to be done in coordination with, and building upon, past and present efforts of State Parks.

Therefore, the primary impetus for, and objectives of, the charrette were:

1. To assist in the refinement of State Park's original Request for Proposals in 2010 for the improvement of the Grower's Estate as a concession opportunity, to make appropriate adjustments to make it a viable business opportunity that will add value to the visitors' experience.
2. To implement findings from the Relevancy and History Project partnership between CCSHP and the University of California, Riverside. Such implementation could be guidance in the development of historic facilities and key interpretive stories, as well as public outreach to relevant groups and individuals.
3. To prepare a Master Plan which can guide the further development of the Park, increasing its significance and offerings to the public, and subsequently increasing the Park's visitation.

The Friends hired the design team, invited State Parks staff, and convened a group of regional business persons, area experts, cultural advocates, and other community leaders to attend and participate in the meeting.

The design Charrette was structured in two primary steps. The first day included a review of background information followed by discussions focused on primary design influences - to determine what visitors to attract, stories to tell, businesses to invite, and which facilities and elements should be included in the Concourse Area. The second day was structured around four sketch studies that illustrated issues and alternative solutions, which included site conditions that shaped the design, the preferred size of facilities, aesthetic considerations, and the location of facilities to best accommodate basic visitor flow. The findings are currently being shared with State Parks.

## New Exhibit in the Visitor Center



On Sunday, March 25, 2018, the park visitor center welcomed its newest addition to the exhibit floor, Finding Ourselves in the Groves: Stories and Storytellers of Citrus in Inland Southern California. A product of the state's Relevancy & History pilot project, the new exhibit hopes to retell the stories of the diverse groups in California's citrus industry that were once thought lost. Under the leadership of Catherine Gudis, History Professor at the University of California, Riverside, the exhibit is a product of the culmination of many months of gathering artifacts and interviews from individuals who worked in the industry and their families. The exhibit's main topics: African Americans in Citrus, Single and Segregated, Women's Work, Child's Play, and Stories and Storytellers Today.







## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**2018** marks the 25th Anniversary of the California Citrus State Historic Park. It is an honor to be the President of the Friends of California Citrus Park. It also represents an opportunity, and time, to work together with State Parks to make major changes and improvements at the Park. In December the Friends will host a community dinner at the Sunkist Center to celebrate the past and to highlight future directions for the Citrus Park.

Seven quick points, first kudos to an excellent Board of Directors, an effective and hard working Executive Committee (Greg Neal, Sherli Leonard, Maureen Kane) and a superb General Manager, Vivian Pradetto. Kudos also to Stephanie Breads, Gift Shop Manager and to a superb intern, Sergio Robles. Over my two past years as President, many people have stepped up and worked successfully on a variety of projects.

Second, kudos to the Relevancy and History Project led by Cathy Gudis, UCR History Professor under contract with State Parks. The working title is "Finding Ourselves in the Groves: Stories and Storytellers of Citrus in Inland Southern California." The Project

underscores the importance of voices, for the Park is indeed much more than trees. On July 17, 2018 the Press Enterprise printed a front page story on the Park, "Citrus grove laborers recognized with exhibit." The story captured the objectives of the Project: "What's missing are the faces, names, and stories of thousands of workers who labored in the the once sprawling groves and packing houses...."

Third, kudos to the Interactive Interpretive Trail Project. The Friends contracted with Doug Grove, partner in RHA Landscape Architects Planers, Inc. Grove has proposed varied interpretative sites along primarily trails in the Varietal Groves. The purpose is to enhance the recreational experiences and interpretive understanding of those who come and walk the Park. Former Board member Terry Nielsen is the visionary leader of this Project.

Fourth, kudos to Grow Riverside, and especially to its visionary champion, Chris MacArthur, 5th Ward Councilman. Grow Riverside is centered in Arlington Heights. It is a national best practice to encourage local agriculture—"grow local; eat local." The objectives are to grow farmers, create local jobs, support local demand, reduce food waste, increase food and health equity, and build distribution. Kudos also to Joyce Jong, Board member and City staff leader for Grow Riverside. Grow Riverside and the Citrus Park should have an important future working partnership.

Fifth, the Park's capital improvements/investments are less than 30% of what was called out in the original General Plan. The Friends contracted with Robert Stockton,

Principal with Rick Engineering Company, to estimate the construction costs for completing the major projects not yet built. Kudos to Rick Engineering's excellent report—noteworthy, their estimated costs for the remaining major projects totaled \$15 million.

Sixth, kudos to the Concourse Area Charrette. The Friends contracted with Pete Dangermond and Karin Winters. Kudos to the many people who participated in the two day charrette, May 23rd and May 24th. Let me quote from the Executive Summary prepared by Dangermond and Winters: "The Concourse Area...represents an opportunity to achieve multiple goals at the Park, including creating historic settings in the Park, increasing revenue and visitations, and enhancing the visitors' experiences. The current timing represents an opportunity to realize these goals with the nexus of the passage of State Bond funding, a motivated non-profit support group, and the excitement of the Relevancy and History Project at the Park."

And seventh, the passage of Proposition 68 offers an historic opportunity to realize the vision of the Citrus Park, to change the Park from a passive to an active interpretative and recreational experience. Working with State Parks and Senator Richard Roth, we should compete for funds to build major projects called out in the General Plan. Beyond Proposition 68 funds, State Parks and the Friends should undertake a comprehensive fund raising campaign to complete the vision of the Park that started 25 years ago.

Ronald O. Loveridge, President  
Friends of the California Citrus Park

## RANGER REPORT:

It's been a busy year for the Rangers at California Citrus State Historic Park. We enjoyed helping the Interpretive staff with the Junior Rangers and Urban Campfire programs at the amphitheater. California Citrus SHP has continued to expand educational and interpretive tours and programming.

Our school tours continue to be well attended with more than 2,000 school children touring the park between January and April 2018.

In addition to our general interpretive programming, California State Parks partnered with the University of California, Riverside, California State University, San Bernardino, and California State University, Fullerton on a unique pilot project,

"Relevancy and History." The goal is to expand relevancy to our diverse local community and find untold stories of the diverse men and women who contributed to the history of the citrus industry in California. Students who conducted research discovered fascinating stories of African American, Latino, and Asian immigrants who contributed to the rich history of California citrus as laborers, horticulturists and land and citrus grove owners.

Bring your smartphone next time you visit the park! California Citrus SHP installed a web-based "TagHunt" along trails throughout the park. This STEM-based educational scavenger hunt can be enjoyed by both parents and kids alike and is a great way to

spend family time while learning about history, agriculture, and nature. Look for the welcome signs near the Visitor Center and Group Picnic area and have your QR reader ready. Take the challenge and see if you can locate all 10 Tags!

Automated Pay Machines (APM) were installed to make it more convenient for park visitors to pay for parking. The APMs accept cash, credit, and debit cards and were installed near the main entrance and in front of the Visitor Center. They have proven to be a great advantage for both park visitors and staff and are always available during park hours.

We look forward to seeing you in the park and thank you for your support.

-Ranger Staff





## Volunteer Spotlight: with Kathy Bales

**Q:** How long have you volunteered at the California Citrus State Historic Park?

**KB:** I have been volunteering at the park for more than 3 years. It is rewarding, I enjoy meeting new people at the Visitor Center and it's fun to teach them about citrus. Most just don't realize how many different varieties of citrus there are and that we have more than 100 different varieties in the park.

**Q:** What is your favorite part of the job?

**KB:** Working with the students is one of my favorite aspects of volunteering here. I love the school tours and teaching the kids. I also like the tastings. It's fun to see the kid's faces when they try the sour citrus fruits and when you tell them they can eat the peel, they get excited. I usually get one or two who have eaten the whole fruit.

**Q:** Are you a Riverside native and does your family have ties to the citrus industry?

**KB:** I was born at March Air Force Base, moved away for many years and returned to Riverside 21 years ago. Yes, my family has ties to the citrus industry. My grandparents moved from Oklahoma to Riverside in the early 20s, so they were here at the end of the gold rush. My grandfather worked in the citrus fields lighting smudge pots. They lived in the grove before moving to a two-story flat board at Jackson and Indiana Streets that's still there today. My uncle worked for the grower across the street from where I now live and he would tell me stories of what it was like which was very interesting. Also, my aunt worked in a packing house packing oranges.

**Q:** What would you recommend to someone interested in volunteering at the park?

**KB:** Come on, join us! Training is provided and there are multiple opportunities to volunteer at the park. If you are interested in being a docent at the Visitor Center contact volunteer coordinator Steve Moreno-Terrill at [Steven.Moreno-Terrill@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Steven.Moreno-Terrill@parks.ca.gov) or you can volunteer at the Gift Shop by contacting gift shop manager Stephanie Breads at: [stephaniebreads@yahoo.com](mailto:stephaniebreads@yahoo.com)

## Friends Support Education

### *Bus Funding for School Tours:*

The end of April marked the end of another successful school tour season at the California Citrus State Historic Park. As one of the most successful partnerships between State Parks and the Friends of California Citrus Park, the school tour program at CCSHP offers elementary school students in the Inland Empire and greater Southern California a chance to visit the park and learn about the history of citrus in California. Park staff and docents lead the children through interactive lessons via museum tours, nature hikes, and a citrus tasting. The Friends group sets aside a limited amount of funding each year for bus transportation to assist schools with educational field trips to the park. This year, more than 2,000 students from 20 elementary and special-needs high school classrooms and 25 home school groups visited the California Citrus State Historic Park through the school tour program. For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact Megan Suster at [Megan.Suster@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Megan.Suster@parks.ca.gov).



School tour led by Michaela Malneritch.

### *Scholarships for Student Volunteers:*

The Friends of California Citrus Park are committed to enhancing educational opportunities for our local students beyond elementary school tours. For those students wanting to pursue a post-secondary education, the Friends offer four \$500. scholarships. The scholarships are available to any high school junior or senior who has completed 50 hours of community service at the park either out in the groves with the rangers or working in the gift shop learning customer service skills, has a GPA of 2.5 or better and has completed the application process. This scholarship opportunity is aligned with our mission and the board is investing in Riverside's future leaders. Our hope is that the recipients of these scholarships will return to Riverside and become civically engaged and pursue a career in Parks and Recreation or Agriculture. We are very excited to announce that in May the Friends of California Citrus Park awarded our first-ever scholarships to four deserving Norte Vista High School students: Stephanie Duran, Osiris Ruiz, Jose Valdiva and Angel Jandres. Congratulations!

### *17, 70 or somewhere in between?*

*we welcome volunteers of all ages*

If you are interested in volunteering at the park, please contact Stephanie Breads: [stephaniebreads@yahoo.com](mailto:stephaniebreads@yahoo.com).



NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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Riverside, CA



#### PARK HOURS

October - March: Daily 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
April - September: Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Saturday & Sunday 8:00 am - 7:00 pm

VISITORS CENTER HOURS Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

#### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please send correspondence & donations to:  
**CALIFORNIA CITRUS STATE HISTORIC PARK**  
**NON-PROFIT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION**  
PO BOX 21292, RIVERSIDE, CA 92516

State Ranger Office	951.780.6222
Non-Profit, General Manager	951.333.6786
Visitor Center, Museum & Gift Shop	951.637.8045
CCEM for Weddings & Events	951.515.6689
<a href="mailto:citrusparkweddingandevents@yahoo.com">citrusparkweddingandevents@yahoo.com</a>	
<a href="http://www.californiacitruspark.com">www.californiacitruspark.com</a>	

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Damon McJunkin, Supervisor  
Kelly Elliott, District Superintendent



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Join us for History Hikes  
11:00 am every Friday,  
Saturday and Sunday.

### SEPTEMBER

9/29: Dichos de Familia:  
Sharing Family Stories  
7:00 pm in the amphitheater

### OCTOBER

10/27: "Speak to us Eliza"  
7:00 pm in the amphitheater

### New Programs:

Girl Scout Badge Program  
Cub Scout Adventure Program

Each program is designed to be 60-90 minutes long and take place in and around the Visitor Center. For more information or to schedule a program contact Megan Suster at (951) 689-8645 or [Megan.Suster@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Megan.Suster@parks.ca.gov).