

# **THE THIN GREEN LINE** NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

# April - June 2012

## Volume 20

Number 2

**The Thin Green Line** is a quarterly publication about the activities of the International Ranger Federation (IRF), an organization of non-governmental and governmental ranger organizations from around the world. If you have a submission for **The Thin Green Line**, please send it to both <u>IRFmailings@gmail.com</u> and to Editor Dana Dierkes (<u>dmdierkes@verizon.net</u>). Thank you to our volunteer translators–Osvaldo Barassi and Rick Smith–for the Spanish edition.

# **OFFICERS' REPORTS**

# **President's Report**

Dear IRF Friends and Colleagues:

This quarter, I am sending a short report. My IRF time has been focused on supporting Elaine Thomas in her executive officer and secretary projects. (See her reports below for details.)

We've established a Marketing and Communications Committee, with Sheri Gerhard as chair. She is already working on a marketing and communications plan.

### Ranger Recognition and Remembrances

News reports about ranger deaths are now covered in IRF's **Guardaparque** news bulletin. Please keep these rangers and their families in your thoughts. If you know of a ranger death, please send an e-mail to <u>irfmailings@gmail.com</u> and to Sean Willmore at <u>sean@thingreenline.info</u>. Any information you have about a ranger's death, including related contact information, is appreciated by The Thin Green Line Foundation and IRF.

### Upcoming

On a personal note – we have sold our house in California and are moving back to Alaska to be near family. My IRF time in the last part of this quarter has been impacted as we focus on the details of a big move. In the next quarter, I expect to be back with my volunteer work, especially preparations for the World Conservation Congress in September and the World Ranger Congress in November.

Best wishes,

Deanne Adams IRFdeanne@aol.com

# Vice President's Report

With less than six months to go before the World Ranger Congress VII, there are still gaps to be filled in the program. I would like to appeal to more participants to contribute to the most important event on the IRF calendar and the development of rangers from around the world. Please share your ideas and possible solutions to challenges by presenting papers or posters at the congress. The deadline for the submission of abstracts will be extended for this purpose.

In addition, the organizing team still needs more people to help find sponsorships and to review abstracts. Specifically, IRF member associations who want to contribute could still solicit sponsorships to enable as many rangers as possible to be able to attend and participate in the congress.

Past World Ranger Congresses have been hugely positive experiences for many rangers and even life-changing events for a few individuals. This congress promises to live up to the same level and deliver some meaningful outcomes for the IRF and its members. Excellent diverse submissions have been received from all continents. Submissions received from African rangers have come in from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Kenya, Egypt, and the Seychelles.

On another front, I am pleased to report that IRF has been asked to champion and take a leading role in certification program development and global roll-out, of several initiatives including (1) the Western Indian Ocean – Certification of Marine Protected Area Professionals (WIO-COMPAS), which the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and IRF endorsed in 2010, and (2) by accreditation of training providers and guides in the nature-based tourism industry. WIO-COMPAS is keenly interested in working closely with us in this regard, as well as with their exchange program and helping to review their draft survey tool that will be sent to me during July. Further, concerning our work with IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WPCA) and partners (including WIO-COMPAS) in the field of capacity-building, we have been active via Skype and e-mail in discussing a draft program called "Global Program for Professionalizing Protected Area Management." In our role as a professional association that serves the needs and interests of park staff, IRF has been seen as the most suitable organization to lead this program, which forms the main part of IUCN's WCPA strategy for capacity-building. The IUCN has been talking to donors about supporting this initiative. Although likely a long way off in the future, current thoughts include a global committee of various partners, including IUCN and IRF to help steer course content and certifications. A workshop will be held on these topics as part of the World Ranger Congress VII later this year.

From organizational efforts down to individual efforts, it is great when people get inspired and decide to do something for a good cause, especially when this is done for rangers and for natural areas/wild places. Two Americans, Lacey Dupré and Robert Burwell, photograph rangers and their parks in the name of conservation and biodiversity worldwide. With the help of Kickstarter, they will produce a full-color art/photo essay book and an accompanying website. The book, "*Something for Wildness*," will include landscape photos, excerpts from interviews with park rangers, and portraits of rangers. Alongside each landscape photograph will be a Quick Response (QR) Code that links to an interactive map with elevation, latitude/longitude coordinates, <u>www.SomethingForWildness.com</u>, and more. In addition, the book will include original art by Lacey from along the journey. This is an effort to give back to many dedicated rangers across the world. For more info: <a href="http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/924429290/something-for-wildness-rangers-reserves-and-restor">http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/924429290/something-for-wildness-rangers-reserves-and-restor.</a>

Sadly, we continue to see an upsurge in the scourge of commercial poaching each year as hundreds of rhino are poached for their horns in southern Africa and thousands of elephants are slaughtered for their ivory elsewhere on the continent. The need to work together across borders in order to succeed with conservation is re-emphasized on a regular basis in various ways. I look forward to seeing some of you in the UK in July and many of you in Tanzania in November!

Best regards,

Wayne D. Lotter wayne@pamsfoundation.org

# Secretary's Report

### Election of IRF International Officers and Regional Representatives

The next IRF World Congress membership meeting will be held on the final day of the World Ranger Congress VII in Tanzania. At this meeting, we will elect international officers (president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary) and regional representatives who will lead the IRF for the next four years.

### Nominations

By the time you get this newsletter, you should have received the call for nominations for these positions. I'd like to encourage anyone, who is a member of a ranger association that is a full member of the IRF and who is committed and passionate about helping the IRF and rangers, to consider a nomination for an open position. Nominations must be sent to <u>irfmailings@gmail.com</u> by September 9. If you have any questions, please contact your regional representative or e-mail the Election Committee at <u>irfmailings@gmail.com</u>.

### Voting

Only full members of IRF will be eligible to vote at the World Congress membership meeting in Tanzania. Each full member of IRF will be required to nominate a delegate, who will be attending the meeting. If no one from your association plans to attend, a proxy may be nominated instead. I will send out a delegate nomination form shortly. This form must be submitted by September 9.

### Reports

In addition, I will contact associations for reports outlining their activities over the past three years. The reports will be presented during the World Congress membership meeting.

#### **New Members**

Membership in the IRF continues to grow over time. Since the last edition of **The Thin Green Line**, we have two new members. The Croatian Association of Supervisors and Guardians of Nature has joined as a full member. The Agrupación de Guardaparques de Areas Silvestres Protegidas Privadas de Chile, a group of rangers that work in Chile's private protected areas, has joined as an associate member. Welcome to both of these associations.

Several other organizations from Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines, and Israel have inquired about membership recently. I will be working on these potential memberships in the coming months.

Elaine Thomas irfsec@yahoo.com.au

# **Executive Officer's Report**

I have just completed my second year as executive officer of the federation. During this time, I have continued to work on the projects that I started in my first year.

This year will be my third and final year in this position. I am hoping to be able to either complete these projects during this time or get them to a position where they can be handed on to the next executive officer for completion.

Below is a short summary of the status of the key projects I am working on:

### Website

I am pleased to report that things are progressing well with the revamping of the IRF website. The company we contracted to work with us has designed the site and is in the process of "installing" it on the web. The team's next job is to prepare the text for the site. We are aiming to launch the new site by the end of June.

### Rangers Without Borders

Earlier this year, Jay Wells (ANPR) and I completed a proposal for the IRF's Rangers Without Borders project. Our proposal contained a series of recommendations on how the project should be implemented. The International Executive Committee is currently voting on these recommendations.

### Young Conservationist Award

The 2012 International Young Conservationist Award (YCA) will be presented at the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN's) World Conservation Congress in Korea in September. This year we have received 22 nominations. The YCA Committee--Ernesto Enkerlin Hoeflich (IUCN), Matt McGettigan (IRF Youth Representative), Alasdair Harris (IUCN Youth Representative and a previous recipient) and I are busy assessing the nominations. We will prepare a short list of the top candidates for final selection.

### World Ranger Day

As you all know, July 31 is World Ranger Day. This is the day we commemorate the many rangers killed or injured in the line-of-duty. In addition, it is the day we celebrate rangers, in general, and the work they do.

This year World Ranger Day coincides with the 20th anniversary of the IRF. How will you celebrate?

Elaine Thomas <u>irfsec@yahoo.com.au</u>

# **Editor's Report**

Please continue to send your articles and photographs for **The Thin Green Line** to both the IRF email at <u>IRFmailings@gmail.com</u> and me at <u>dmdierkes@verizon.net</u>. In addition, please mark your calendars with the following upcoming submission due dates:

- August 12, 2012
- November 12, 2012
- February 12, 2013
- May 12, 2013
- August 12, 2013
- November 12, 2013

Thanks again to CJ Wilson, our new assistant editor for **The Thin Green Line**. She assisted with this quarter's newsletter.

Happy trails,

Dana M. Dierkes dmdierkes@verizon.net

# **REGIONAL REPORTS**

# **European Regional Representative Report**

The Czech and Slovak Ranger Association held its annual meeting May 11-13 in the Protected Landscape Area Pálava. As well as various training sessions, there was an opportunity to discuss matters relating to Junior Ranger programs throughout Europe with several IRF colleagues attending the meeting from other European countries.

The Scottish Countryside Rangers Association recently launched their new Scottish Ranger Award in the presence of the Scottish environment minister. In his keynote address, the minister highlighted the importance of rangers in welcoming the public to the countryside and caring for Scotland's natural heritage.

The EUROPARC annual Junior Ranger Camp will take place in Slovenia from July 21-28. The camp is organized as part of a transboundary cooperation project between two parks - the <u>Triglav National</u> <u>Park</u> (Slovenia) and the <u>Prealpi Giulie Natural Park</u> (Italy). The theme of the camp will try to discover how parks communicate with youth. Up to 10 European parks will take part in the camp. (See full article in Special Reports.)

The Finnish Ranger Association held their annual meeting in April. During this meeting, the trustees of the association were chosen for the next year. Mr Pekka Veteläinen agreed to continue as head of the association. In addition, there are at least two representatives from each--Lapland, Ostrobothnia, and Southern Finland – on the board of trustees.

In April, the German Ranger Association annual meeting took place. Approximately 130 German, Swiss, Austrian, and Netherlands rangers attended the meeting.

The Swiss Ranger Association grew very fast last year and now has approximately 100 members, or 60 more than last year. For more info, visit their website at <u>www.swiss-rangers.ch/index.php?lg=1</u>.

Next year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the German Rangers Association. The annual meeting will be held in the Bavarian Forest National Park.

The Ranger Association of Romania held their General Assembly during April. Mihai Gligan was elected as president.

Finally, we hope that the new Ranger Association of Croatia will soon be applying for IRF membership.

Florin Halastauan Florin\_hombre@yahoo.com



#### IRF brings scout leaders together

As well as sharing leading roles in their respective national ranger associations, Borek Franek of the Czech Ranger Association and England's Roger Cole of the Countryside Management Association found they shared a common interest – both being scout leaders. So at the recent Czech Ranger Association meeting in Pavlov, Moravia, Borek and Roger took time out to celebrate 100 years of scouting in the Czech Republic with the international scout handshake.

# North American Regional Representative Report

This is my park's busy season so I do not have much to report...

In March, I attended the California Parks training, which is the professional meeting of California State Park Rangers Association and Park Rangers Association of California. With the exception of the hotel fire on the final morning, it was a great conference. It was encouraging to see the director of the California State Parks in attendance. I spoke for a few minutes at the closing banquet about the IRF. It appears California will have a good contingent at the congress in Tanzania.

I'm sharing this YouTube video with you, and hope it brings a smile-<u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQlUubWSDR8</u>.

Semper presidium,

Jeff Ohlfs deserttraveler2@roadrunner.com

# **COMMITTEES & STAFF**

### World Ranger Congress VII Update

#### Registration

The month of May has been a bumper month for registrations and we expect June will be just as good. Registration closes on June 30, 2012, so don't forget to register soon if you have not done so already. Go to www.pamsfoundation.org/world-rangers-congress/registration.

#### Abstract Submission

There are still a few spaces available for presentations & posters, so please contact the abstract review committee at <u>abstractswrc@gmail.com</u>, if you are interested.

For further information on submitting your abstract, visit: <u>www.pamsfoundation.org/world-rangers-</u> <u>congress/abstract-submissions</u>.

### Showcase Movies and Other Work at the Congress

Do you have anything else, other than a presentation or poster, to contribute or showcase at the congress? Examples of other ideas include showing a movie, giving a specialist training session, holding a workshop, launching a book, or displaying your work in a booth. Please submit your ideas to <u>abstractswrc@gmail.com</u>.

#### Flags

The organizers are in search of national flags to display at the congress. If you have access to a flag and would be able to bring it to the congress, please contact the organizers at <u>tanzaniawrc@gmail.com</u>.

Krissie Clark Congress Organizer <u>TanzaniaWRC@gmail.com</u>

### **ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

# **Countryside Management Association (England/Wales)**

Training Day Report – Making a Coracle



In March, the Countryside Management Association (CMA) held a training day for members on how to build a coracle, a type of boat used in Britain for hundreds of years. Four key stages of coracle construction were demonstrated:

- 1. Trimming willow poles to make the frame (arguably the most important stage)
- 2. Working willow into shape and binding it together
- 3. Sewing calico onto the frame and painting it with bitumen to be watertight
- 4. Learning how to sail the coracle

The final activity was very popular and seemed to spur the participant's enthusiasm. At least one participant managed to fall in... more than once! Training and study days are a regular feature of the CMA's annual program for members as shown in the following schedule:

- April 26 Working with Communities Carsington Water, Derbyshire
- April 26 Adder (Snake) Study Day Warburg Nature Reserve, Henley-on-Thames
- May 8 Multi-partner Management at Colne Valley Regional Park, Buckinghamshire
- May 25 Grassland Restoration Monmouthshire, Wales
- May 30 Visit to National Trust/Habitat Project Orford Ness, Suffolk
- June 14 Working Wetlands Project Devon Wildlife Trust, Devon
- July 5 Wildlife and Habitat Improvement Lydiard Park, Wiltshire
- October 9 Fungal Foray and Identification Day Exmoor National Park, Somerset

Roger Cole rangerroger@hotmail.co.uk

### SPECIAL REPORTS

# **EUROPARC Federation (Brussels)**

### International Junior Ranger Camp 2012 - Registration Open

The 11th International Junior Ranger Camp will take place in Slovenia from July 21-28, 2012. This year, for the first time, the camp is organized as part of a transboundary cooperation project between two parks. While most of the activities will take place in the Triglav National Park (<u>www.tnp.si/national\_park</u>) in Slovenia, we will also have plenty of time to visit Prealpi Giulie Natural Park (<u>www.parcoprealpigiulie.org/en/Home.aspx</u>) in Italy.

The camp title is "PATH-FINDER: find your way through park informations." During the camp, we will try to discover how parks communicate with youth and gauge the level of youth's understanding. In the Triglav, we will particularly focus on information panels, signs/boards, and other infrastructure that should help visitors discover and understand a protected area. Can we find our way through all of the park messages? What do junior rangers think about park communication? What suggestions could they make to improve it?

For more information about camp activities, visit our website at: <u>http://europarc.org/what-we-do/junior-ranger/11th-international-j/</u>. Registration was open to a maximum of 10 parks, each one represented by one adult ranger/mentor and two junior rangers (age 14 - 16). Registration was accepted on first-come, first-served basis, but no more than two parks per country would be admitted (-unless at the end of the registration period there is still space available.)

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the camp!

Best wishes,

Federico Minozzi (Article submitted by Roger Cole, <u>rangerroger@hotmail.co.uk</u>.)

### Over 100 Graduate from Nicaragua's First Junior Ranger Program

On February 1, 2012, 120 young people from five communities along the western slope of Nicaragua presented themselves as candidates to become the country's first junior rangers. Their parents gave permission for their children to participate, and the kids promised to complete the program. The children were required to participate in 95% of the classes (twice-a-week for six weeks) and obtain four badges (discipline, respect, working in teams, or badges related to the protection of bats, turtles, insects, monkeys, birds, or fish). In addition, they worked as a team in a community clean-up event (at a beach or school or by making signs urging conservation, etc.) and participated in 95% of the field-trips held in conjunction with the program.



On April 26, 2012, a total of 103 participants graduated as junior rangers! The graduates received hats that read "guardaparque junior" (Spanish for "junior ranger"), a vest, and their badges. Photos of the graduation (see left) show the obvious pride these participants felt at graduation, but they aren't done yet. As a follow-up, the kids have a monthly task that involves conservation and community service.

This project was organized and carried out by a small grassroots nongovernmental organization that works in Nicaragua called Paso Pacifico (<u>www.pasopacifico.org</u>). Paso Pacifico's rangers and its environmental education specialist are responsible for managing the program. (*The*  environmental education specialist is Julie Martinez, who finished second in last year's Young Conservationist Award sponsored by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the IRF.) Rangers involved in the training included Jairo Coronado, Irvin Chaves, Felix Reyes, and Fernando Pilarte. All involved recognized that a sustainable environmental future for Nicaragua must start with the young people of the country. The junior rangers' parents were invited to participate in the program so they could see their children's commitment to a sustainable future. The junior rangers were recognized by MARENA, the Nicaraguan Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources.

Paso Pacifico wishes to acknowledge the generous financial support of the Embassy of Denmark and the Turner Foundation for this program.

Rick Smith rsmith0921@comcast.net

## **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

July 31, 2012	World Ranger Day - IRF member associations, protected area agencies, individual rangers, sponsors, and the public are invited to create or join in events and activities that recognize the work of rangers across the globe. <u>www.int-ranger.net/whatsnew.html</u>	
July 31, 2012	20th Anniversary of the International Ranger Federation	
September 6-15, 2012	2012 World Conservation Congress, International Convention Center, Jeju, Republic of Korea <u>http://iccjeju.cafe24.com/eng/</u> <u>http://www.iucn.org/2012_congress/</u>	
October 8-November 30, 2012	8th Regional Course for Latin American Park Rangers www.capacitacionapn.gob.ar	
October 28-November 1, 2012	ANPR Ranger Rendezvous, Miramonte Resort & Spa at Indians Wells, California, USA ( <u>www.miramonteresort.com</u> ) - Sponsored by the Association of National Park Rangers. <u>www.anpr.org/</u>	
November 4-9, 2012	World Ranger Congress VII, Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge in northern Tanzania, Eastern Africa - Organized by PAMS Foundation. Sponsored by the International Ranger Federation. <u>www.pamsfoundation.org/world-rangers-congress</u> <u>TanzaniaWRC@gmail.com</u>	
November 13-17, 2012	National Interpreters Workshop, Hampton, Virginia, USA - The National Association for Interpretation's workshop brings together more than 1,000 interpreters to train, network, share ideas, and enjoy a different part of the country. www.interpret.com/	

## **MEMBER DIRECTORY**

The following is for quick reference only and does not include the names of individual ranger associations. Where more than one name is listed for a given nation, it is because there's more than one ranger association in that country. For a complete list, please contact Elaine Thomas, IRF secretary, at the address below.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> National

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> National <sup>3</sup> State - California <sup>4</sup> National

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> State - California

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> State - California
<sup>6</sup> State - Alaska (provisional member)
<sup>7</sup> State (Northern Territory)
<sup>8</sup> State (New South Wales)
<sup>9</sup> State - Queensland
<sup>10</sup> State - South Australia
<sup>11</sup> State - Tasmania
<sup>12</sup> State - Victoria
<sup>13</sup> State - Western Australia

### **INTERNATIONAL PARKS COMMUNITY**

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2008	Edwin Sabuhoro	Rwanda	esabuhoro@rwandaecotours.com
2006	Christian Teran	Ecuador	<u>cteran2@yahoo.es</u>

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Fauna Flora International
 <sup>15</sup> Great Apes Survival Project (UNEP)
 <sup>16</sup> International Centre for Protected Landscapes
 <sup>17</sup> International Union for Conservation of Nature
 <sup>18</sup> World Commission on Protected Areas
 <sup>19</sup> Royal Society for the Protection of Birds