



GUARDAPARQUE

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Guardaparque is a publication prepared monthly and issued by the International Ranger Federation (IRF), an organization of non-governmental and governmental ranger organisations from around the world. **Guardaparque** carries reports on emergency service and law enforcement incidents, on protection of parks and the natural and cultural resources within them, on programs to educate visitors and communities on the values of parks and protected areas, and on the people who are responsible for all these activities.

If you have a submission for **Guardaparque**, please send it to editor Bill Halainen (Bill_Halainen@nps.gov). Summaries in Spanish for each article were prepared by Rick Smith (rsmith0921@earthlink.net).

Emergency Services And Law Enforcement

Malta – Mellieha Reforestation Site Ranger Shot In Ambush...For Second Time

Summary: A ranger on Malta who has been repeatedly attacked for trying to protect an area where a reforestation project is underway was shot in the head and right ear on April 14th. Fortunately, his injuries were not severe.

Resumen: *Un guardaparque de Malta que ha sido agredido varias veces por tratar de proteger un área en donde hay un proyecto de reforestación fue fusilado en la cabeza y la oreja derecha. Afortunadamente, los heridos no son tan graves.*

Ranger Ray Vella suffered a second attack by a gun-wielding aggressor at a reforestation site he manages in Mellieha on the island of Malta. Vella was attacked at 6 am on the morning of 14th April and shot in the head and right ear by a man with a shotgun. Two years ago, Vella was shot by another man while tending to his own field in Wied il-Mizieb. In both cases the shot contained lead pellets, which rarely causes life-threatening injuries but can easily blind the victim or result in infection.

Vella, a long-time member of BirdLife Malta, a conservation organisation, has been the ranger at the Foresta 2000 site in Mellieha for the last four years, personally tending to the trees near the Red Tower, where 3,000 saplings were felled by vandals in May 2007. He had just arrived at the west end of the site when he found the gate of the project site forced open and the padlock broken. He got out of his jeep to shut the gate, leaving the engine running and the lights on. At that point he was shot in the head and ear by an aggressor hidden in nearby trees.

"We believe that this is no accident and Ray was ambushed by someone who was waiting for him," BirdLife Malta president Joseph Mangion said during a press conference organised at the Din l-Art Helwa headquarters in Valletta. "It was dawn and the lights of his jeep were on when he was inspecting the gate and the broken padlock."

An administrative law enforcement patrol unit arrived at the site shortly after the shooting. Vella was taken to the Mater Dei hospital by an ambulance and treated in the emergency ward, where it was found that he had only suffered an injury on his right ear and bruising to his head.

This is one of many attacks Foresta Ranger suffered over the last two years. In the incident in September 2007 noted above, Vella was shot in the face by a hunter who then swore at him and cursed BirdLife before fleeing away. Last June, Vella's family farm was set on fire, his olive trees were uprooted, and oil was poured down his freshwater well. Vella also suffered greatly when the Foresta 2000 project site that he cared for many years was targeted by vandals who uprooted and chopped down thousands of trees and shrubs in May 2007.

"Over the last two and a half years BirdLife Malta conservation sites, volunteers and staff have been seriously targeted over 20 times. In all these cases no one has been brought to justice," Joseph Mangion said. "This failure, therefore, protects the perpetrators of these crimes and gives them free rein to continue the abuse. We do not want to hear any more condemnations or promises that these criminals will be brought to justice but want to see results."

This article was taken from *Malta Today Midweek*
supplemented by information from a BirdLife Malta website forwarded by Roger Cole

Madagascar – Marojejy/Masoala National Parks Pillaging Of Park And Other Sanctuaries Continues

Summary: The destruction of forests and species following a political coup in Madagascar, reported in the last issue, is unfortunately continuing. According to one conservationist, it has undone all the conservation work done in the past 30 years.

Resumen: Desafortunadamente, la destrucción de los bosques y las especies después de un golpe político en Madagascar, (vea el último número de Guardaparque) se está continuando. Según un conservacionista, la destrucción ha borrado todo el trabajo conservacionista de los últimos 30 años.

- In the last issue, we reported on the paralysis in government that had been caused by a recent coup, which in turn led to environmental disasters. Conservation areas were being invaded by gangs illegally harvesting trees and threatening species, and rangers were abandoning their posts due to the danger. Unfortunately, little has changed. Here's a report from a Madagascar conservation organization:

Gangs of illegal rosewood loggers continue to pillage the wildlife-rich forests of north-eastern Madagascar, reports a local source.

"More and more people are entering the [protected area] to cut wood," said the source, whose identity has been concealed for protection. "All the rosewood, regardless of its diameter, will disappear." The source adds that due to fears of prosecution, local villagers are not directly participating in logging. "Instead, they look for the good trees and then guide the logging teams to the trees."

The outbreak of logging in the rainforests of north-eastern Madagascar followed rangers' abandonment of park posts during last month's military coup in Madagascar. Chinese timber traders took advantage of the opportunity, paying armed bands to raid Marojejy and Masoala National Parks, both of which are considered jewels in Madagascar's protected area system for their astounding biological richness. The loggers' primary target was rosewood, ebonies, and other hardwoods. It is unclear how much timber has been cut from protected forests since the political crisis began, but photos provided by another confidential source show substantial stockpiles of contraband wood in local towns.

The political crisis in Madagascar brought on by a conflict between former president Marc Ravalomanana and interim president Andry Rajoelina, who seized power in mid March, has brought to a near standstill Madagascar's \$400 million-a-year tourism industry. A number of countries, including Britain and the United States, have warned travellers against visiting the country.

"The \$400 million tourism industry has just been levelled, and that means trouble ahead for the forests of Madagascar," said a local conservationist. "This coup d'état undermines everything we have worked for for 30 years."

Conservation in Madagascar is highly dependent on income from tourism. Half of park entrance fees are returned to communities living in and around protected areas. Without this source of income, locals in some areas may be forced to turn to conservation areas for timber, fuel wood, and agricultural land as is beginning with criminal syndicates in Marojejy and Masoala.

Report taken from the WildMadagascar.org web page

United States – Buffalo National River Rangers Respond To Drunken Campground Brawl

Summary: Rangers at a U.S. national park investigated a drunken fight in which a number of people attacked each other with sticks, fists, knives and motor vehicles.

Resumen: Los guardaparques de un parque nacional en los EEUU investigaron un pelito de borrachos en donde un número de participantes se atacaron con palos, puños, cuchillos y vehículos.

In the early morning hours of March 21st, the park's dispatch office advised rangers of a violent fight among a group of about seven campers at Rush Campground, a remote area in the Lower Buffalo District. The person who reported the fight said that he'd fled the campground for his own safety.

Rangers Noel Mays and Kevin Moses responded with deputies from the Marion County Sheriff's Office. Upon arrival, they were met by several other campers who told them that the group in question had departed the campground within the last half hour. While rangers were inspecting the campsite and obtaining witness statements, the county sheriff reported that four members of the party had just arrived at its office to report the incident and that several had sustained injuries, including injuries from a large stick and from a knife. The rangers met with the four people at the sheriff's office, two of whom said that they'd been injured but declined medical treatment. Shortly thereafter, officers from nearby Flippin Police Department arrested a fifth member of the group for drunk driving and transported her and her two companions to the sheriff's office.

Rangers interviewing the members of the camping party and determined that two of them (who are engaged to be married) had been involved in a fight with two other members of the camping party, a married couple, after which an all-out drunken brawl ensued involving sticks, fists, knives, and motor vehicles. The investigation continues at this time with ongoing interviews.

Report taken from the U.S. National Park Service's daily Morning Report

Species Management

International – Parks And Protected Areas 2009 Proclaimed 'Year Of The Gorilla'

Summary: Several organisations have joined together to declare 2009 as the "Year of the Gorilla." The objective is to better protect gorillas worldwide.

Resumen: Varias organizaciones se han juntado para declarar el año 2009 como el Año del Gorila. El objetivo es el mejorar la protección de los gorilas mundialmente.

The UNEP Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the UNEP/UNESCO Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) have joined hands to declare 2009 the "Year of the Gorilla."

The objective of the "Year of the Gorilla" is best captured in GRASP's mission statement. That organisation's objective is "to lift the threat of imminent extinction faced by gorillas (*Gorilla beringei*, *G.*

gorilla), chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*), bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) and orangutans (*Pongo abelii*, *P. pygmaeus*) across their ranges in equatorial Africa and south-east Asia.”

The “Year of the Gorilla” website provides a wealth of information on events and activities, partners and projects. You can find it at www.yog2009.org/

Information from “Year of the Gorilla” web site sent along by past president Gordon Miller

Parks And Protected Areas

United States – National Parks And Protected Areas President Signs Major Law Protecting Wild Lands And Rivers

Summary: President Obama signed a major new law creating about two million acres of wilderness areas, plus parks, trails, heritage areas and other important new sites.

Resumen: El Presidente Obama firmó una ley significativa creando aproximadamente 900.000 nuevas hectáreas de áreas designadas como wilderness (área silvestre oficial). La ley también creó nuevos sitios, senderos, y áreas de patrimonio sujetos al manejo del Servicio de Parques Nacionales y sus socios.

On March 30th, President Obama signed into law a major law protecting wild lands, creating or expanding national parks and related areas, and otherwise strongly advancing conservation in the U.S.

As the president remarked, this legislation is “among the most important in decades to protect, preserve, and pass down our nation’s most treasured landscapes to future generations.” He went on to note that “this legislation guarantees that we will not take our forests, rivers, oceans, national parks, monuments, and wilderness areas for granted; but rather we will set them aside and guard their sanctity for everyone to share. That’s something all Americans can support.”

Among the significant achievements of this law is the designation of more than two million acres (about 800,000 hectares) of wilderness across nine states, more than has been designated over the last eight years combined. Five parks, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Joshua Tree National Park, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Rocky Mountain National Park, and Zion National Park, join several Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management areas in achieving this important land protection.

In the coming years, the National Park System will be expanded with the official creation of three new units when acquisition or donation of land is completed. President Obama’s signature also created nine new national heritage areas, almost one-fifth of the 49 heritage areas now authorized. And the law designated thousands of miles of new scenic, historic, and recreational trails including the Arizona National Scenic Trail (NST), the New England NST, the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail, the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Trail National Historic Trail (NHT), the Pacific Northwest NST, and additions to the Trail of Tears NHT. The Taunton wild and scenic river will be protected through this law, and other rivers and trails will be studied for potential designation in the future. Thirteen other areas also were identified by Congress for study for potential future additions to the National Park System or national heritage areas.

Numerous individual park units also benefitted from this law, some which had been waiting years for its legislation to pass. For example, a boundary expansion of the Baratavia Preserve unit of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve was finally achieved. Based on a 1996 boundary study, it has taken six successive Congresses for this authorization to be completed. Other boundary expansions that required great patience to achieve include those at Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, and Pecos National Historical Park.

The law also includes a paleontological resources protection authority that was over a decade in coming. Finally, the Save America’s Treasures and Preserve America programs secured permanent recognition in this law.

Taken from InsideNPS, a U.S. National Park Service internal publication

Afghanistan – Band-e-Amir National Park Afghans To Get First National Park

Summary: Afghanistan is getting a new national park, a spectacular region of deep blue lakes separated by natural mineral deposits.

Resumen: En Afganistán se creó un parque nacional nuevo—una región espectacular de profundos lagos azules separados por depósitos de minerales.

Afghanistan has established its first national park in a spectacular region of deep blue lakes separated by natural dams of travertine, a mineral deposit. Band-e-Amir is visited by thousands of Afghans and pilgrims, though foreign tourism stalled with the increase in violence since 1979. Declaring Band-e-Amir a park should help protect its fragile environment. The new park is near the Bamyán Valley, where the 1,500 year-old giant Buddha statues were destroyed by the Taleban.

Afghanistan's National Environmental Protection Agency (Nepa) said the creation of the park would help the region attract international tourism and obtain World Heritage Status.

"The park will draw people from Herat to Kabul to Jalalabad... to be inspired by the great beauty of Afghanistan's first national park, Band-e-Amir, " said Mostapha Zaher, Nepa's director-general.

In the stillness of the high, thin air, the blue and turquoise waters are often like glass, perfectly reflecting the slopes around them. However, this quietness may be occasionally punctured by the damaging local practice of fishing by blasting the lake waters with hand grenades.

Much of the park's wildlife has been lost, according to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). But recent WCS surveys show it still contains ibex, a species of wild goat, and urial, a type of wild sheep. Other wildlife include wolves, foxes, smaller mammals and fish, and various bird species including the Afghan snow finch, which is believed to be the only bird found exclusively in Afghanistan.

From a BBC News report

Park Management

United States – National Parks And Protected Areas \$750 Million To Be Invested Into U.S. National Park System

Summary: As part of an economic relief bill called the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the U.S. government will be investing \$750 million in more than 750 projects in parks across the nation.

Resumen: Como parte de una ley aprobada por el congreso para proveer asistencia económica llamada, La Acta de Recuperación y Reinversión Americana, el gobierno invertirá \$750 millones en 750 proyectos en los parques nacionales del país.

From the Statue of Liberty and Independence Hall to Yellowstone and Death Valley, the National Park Service will undertake more than 750 projects at parks across the country to create jobs, restore and protect the nation's parks, and preserve its history and heritage for future generations.

The projects reflect an investment of \$750 million in our national park system under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, part of more than \$3 billion the Interior Department is investing in the nation's economy under President Obama's recovery plan.

The National Park Service's Recovery Act projects will benefit both large parks such as Yellowstone, where more than \$9 million will be spent to completely overhaul an antiquated waste water treatment facility, and smaller parks such as Perry's Victory and International and Peace Memorial in Ohio, where \$7 million will be spent in the first phase of renovating the 352-foot monument that commemorates Oliver Hazard Perry's naval victory during the War of 1812.

All the projects are long-standing priorities of the National Park Service based on its capital planning process. With an array of projects identified by stakeholders as critical, the service worked through a rigorous merit-based process to identify investments that met the criteria put forth in the Recovery Act: namely, that a project addresses the Department's highest priority mission needs; generates the largest number of jobs in the shortest period of time; and creates lasting value for the American public.

For a full list of the projects, go to the Department of the Interior's Recovery Web Site at interior.gov/recovery.

Taken from InsideNPS, a U.S. National Park Service internal publication

Scotland – Loch Lomond National Park/Trossachs National Park Rangers Given Authority To Arrest Lawbreakers

Summary: Rangers in these two national parks in Scotland are to be given new authority to make arrests in order to deal with the problems caused by upwards of two million visitors a year.

Resumen: Los guardaparques en estos dos parques nacionales de Escocia recibirán autoridad de detener a infractores para tratar con los problemas causados por 2 millones de visitantes anuales.

According to a short article in the March 29th *Glasgow Sunday Mail*, rangers who patrol Loch Lomond National Park and Trossachs National Park have been given the power to arrest people. They've been sworn in as Central Scotland Police special constables, but won't wear police uniforms. They will tackle increasing problems with vandalism and "anti-social behaviour" among the parks' two million annual visitors. Typical offenses include felling trees for campfires, dumping rubbish, making excessive noise, and disobeying speed limits.

[Taken from the *Glasgow Sunday Mail*]

News About Rangers

United States – National Park Service Death Of Rick Gale

Summary: Rick Gale, a career ranger in the U.S. National Park Service, past president of the Association of National Park Rangers, and one of the three original signers of the agreement creating the International Ranger Federation, died of a heart attack at his home on March 27th.

Resumen: Rick Gale, un guardaparque profesional del Servicio de Parques Nacionales de los EEUU, ex presidente de la asociación de guardaparques nacionales de los EEUU y uno de los tres firmadores originales del acuerdo que estableció la Federación Internacional de Guardaparques, murió de un infarto en su casa el 27 de Marzo.

Rick Gale, retired NPS chief of fire operations, a ranger with more than 40 years of field experience, and a founder of the International Ranger Federation, died unexpectedly of a heart attack at his home in Boise, Idaho, on Friday, March 27th.

Rick began his career in 1958 as a fire control aid at Lava Beds National Monument, and then served in various ranger positions at Sequoia/Kings Canyon, Yosemite, Glacier and Grand Canyon National Parks and Coulee Dam, Lake Mead and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Areas. He also served at the National Interagency Fire Center as NPS chief of fire operations prior to becoming the deputy chief ranger for the National Park Service, stationed in Washington.

Rick served on national Type 1 incident management and area command teams for 27 years (1971 through 1997) as logistics section chief, operations section chief, assistant area commander (logistics), incident commander and area commander. Three of his most memorable assignments were serving as area commander for the Greater Yellowstone Area fires in 1988 (seven weeks, during which he supervised 13 teams with a total of 9,550 personnel), as incident commander for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor (1991), and as incident commander for the aftermath of

Hurricane Andrew in four south Florida parks in 1992 (seven weeks). In addition to his fire assignments and qualifications, Rick served as search commander on several large-scale search missions, and was one of the first law enforcement specialists in the National Park Service, serving in that capacity at Lake Mead National Recreation Area from 1969 to 1973.

Rick helped develop and taught a wide variety of national level courses, including managing the search function, managing lost person incidents, emergency response incident commander, command and general staff for all risk incidents, aviation management, and multi-agency coordination group and fire management leadership. From 1975 to 2001, Rick was on the faculty for the advanced incident management (S-520) and area command (S-620) courses and served as the steering committee chair for both from 1990 to 2001.

In May, 1994, President Clinton personally presented the first Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award to him at a ceremony in the White House. That award is given to a park ranger who "exceeds normal expectations" in his or her work, and who has displayed the attributes of "initiative, imagination, perseverance, competence, creativity, resourcefulness, dedication and integrity" throughout his or her career. Rick received the award for being "at the cutting edge of innovation in almost every major ranger program area over the last two decades, a period when ranger work became truly professionalized in the NPS." Along with the many accomplishments noted above, he was cited for the following:

- Served as the protection team leader for the Alaska Task Force in 1979.
- Served as a member of the task force that rewrote most of 36 CFR in 1980 and 1983.
- Developed the first NPS special events team advanced training course while the chief ranger at Santa Monica Mountains.
- Developed the first intensive seasonal law enforcement training program in the National Park Service at Lake Mead, as well as the Service's first law enforcement command course.
- Lead the revision of NPS-18, the Service's wildfire guideline.
- Co-developed countless fire suppression courses in command, operations, logistics and ICS.
- Co-developed SAR courses for incident commanders and planning section chiefs.
- Developed all-risk incident management team training courses for regional Type II incident management teams and trained teams from seven of the Service's ten regions.
- Developed the first NPS resource management training course for superintendents while serving as a training specialist at Albright in 1980.
- Lead the effort to develop NPS-60, the Service's aviation guideline.
- Co-developed the first NPS aviation management course.

Rick also was a founding member and principal in the Association of National Park Rangers from its inception in 1977 to his death. He served as president from 1988 to 1994, during which time he:

- Initiated the so-called "endangered ranger" study in 1988 that led to Congressional hearings on ranger pay and benefit problems and to subsequent efforts to improve housing, correct abuses of seasonal and temporary employees, and improve ranger pay, grades and professionalism.
- Testified before Congress on housing and temporary employee benefits legislation.
- Testified before Congress on the critical need to maintain the integrity of the National Park System, to protect its irreplaceable natural and cultural resources, and to assure sufficient funds and staff to achieve those ends.
- Testified at the Vail hearings and repeatedly pressed the NPS to establish clear goals and management plans.
- Established links with rangers throughout the world and was one of the three signatories, along with the presidents of the Scottish and English ranger associations, of the accord that established the International Ranger Federation, a group that now includes associations in dozens of nations all around the world.

Condolences may be sent to The Gale Family, c/o Fisher, 4252 E. Homestead Rim Drive, Boise, Idaho 83716. You can also send them online at sympathytree.com/rickgale1937 .

Prepared and published by the International Ranger Federation as a service to rangers around the world. Submissions should be sent to Bill Halainen at Bill_Halainen@contractor/nps.gov .