

CAPSule

E-Mail CAPS at: caps@capsscientists.org

Website: www.capsscientists.org

June 2017, Issue #17-06

Wear Your CAPS T-Shirt on SCIENCE FRIDAYS!

CAPS wants you to wear your **FREE** t-shirt every Friday workday to show solidarity and support for your fellow State Scientists.

CAPS is providing a high-quality green CAPS t-shirt to every current member **who hasn't already received one**, and to every State Scientist who joins CAPS in the future, **while supplies last**.

Place your order via the CAPS web page: <http://capsscientists.org/>.

(NOTE: only one t-shirt per member, please.)

You Can Purchase Extras. Members who wish to buy extra t-shirts for friends and family can do so via the CAPS website, **while supplies last**.



Science Matters. California State Scientists

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EnCAPSulations...



March for Science CONTINUES! Please take a moment and watch the short video recounting the April 22 March For Science across California and the role State Scientists had in it. You can watch it via the CAPS website: <http://capsscientists.org>. CAPS again thanks everyone who participated, especially those who helped organize CAPS members at the various march sites around the state.



CAPS Board Acts. Your CAPS Board of Directors met in Sacramento on June 3 and adopted a Resolution calling on all State Scientists to show solidarity by wearing their CAPS t-shirt on every Science Friday where practicable. If you haven't yet received one, your shirt can be obtained free of charge via the CAPS webpage, while supplies last. One t-shirt per member, and MEMBERS ONLY! The Board also took the following notable actions:

- **Welcomed New CAPS Local Reps.** George Chow (DTSC-Berkeley), Bailey Franklin (DTSC-Chatsworth), Tracey Harper (CalRecycle-Sacramento), Aron Lindgren (CDPR-Sacramento) and Julia Dyer (Waterboards-San Luis Obispo) were approved as the newest CAPS Local Reps. Local Reps interface with CAPS leaders and staff on issues of importance. THANKS to all for your willingness to serve!
- **Appointed Elections Committee.** CDFA Sacramento Local Rep Rynne Mason, was appointed as the Elections Committee Chair to oversee the upcoming Board elections to ensure fairness, transparency and accuracy.
- **Endorsed Dr. Ed Hernandez for Lt. Governor.** The CAPS Board endorsed Senator Dr. Ed Hernandez's candidacy for Lt. Governor. Hernandez has been a strong and consistent supporter of State Scientists during his lengthy tenure in the state Legislature.



Retiree Health Care CoPay Effective July 1. The second of three 5% salary increases provided for in the CAPS MOU will be effective during the July 2017 pay period. A separate MOU Section (8.9) requires payment of the first installment for prefunding your health care during retirement. That amount is .7% of salary, pre-tax. The State is making its own payment in an equal amount, all to a fund administered by CalPERS. So all rank-and-file State Scientists will receive a net increase of 4.3% effective with the July pay period.



Environmental Scientist Needs Your Help! Career State Scientist Renee Roberts of DTSC again needs help. Last year she was diagnosed with adenocarcinoma of the lung, and recovery has been painfully

slow. Renee has again exhausted her leave credits and is in need of leave contributions in accordance with the Catastrophic Leave Program (MOU Section 3.10). The CAPS MOU lets you transfer certain leave credits to fellow scientists in need: annual leave; CTO; personal leave; vacation and/or holiday leave. Qualified leave credits can be transferred in whole hour increments, except in the case of personal holidays, which must be donated in full-days. Sick leave can't be donated. To help Renee receive a paycheck until she can return to work, please download and complete her Catastrophic Leave Donation Form from the CAPS webpage. Designate the amount and type of leave credits you are donating and submit the form to your department personnel/payroll staff to process. Find the donation form on the CAPS web page under "For Members Only" and "Help A Fellow Scientist." **Renee and CAPS thank ALL who can assist!**



Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. Individuals who received a federal student loan under the William D. Ford Direct Student Loan Program (often referred to as a *direct loan*) may qualify for loan forgiveness through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. In order to qualify, applicants must have made 120 qualifying monthly payments (ten years of monthly payments) after October 1, 2007. The program will begin forgiving qualified applicant's loans in October of this year. To learn more about the program or to determine your eligibility, please visit: <http://capsscientists.org/links/public-service-loan-forgiveness-program/>.



CAPS Insurance Premium Adjustment. Some CAPS members who have insurance through CAPS with The Standard Insurance Company will see an increase in their insurance premium deduction effective with their pay warrant received at the end of July (August 1 warrants for retired CAPS members).

Members who turned 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, or 60 since July 1, 2016 will see an age-related premium increase as specified in plan documents. (Please note that The Standard Insurance Company does not send individual letters notifying affected individuals of these increases.)

Everyone should periodically review their estate plan to ensure loved ones are financially secure in case of death or disability. If you want more information about CAPS' low-cost insurance benefits, or obtaining a quote on insurance coverage— with the convenience of payroll deduction— please contact CAPS (caps@capsscientists.org), or visit the CAPS web page: www.capsscientists.org/benefits/insurance.

*CAPS Board of Directors' Resolution
In Support of Science Fridays
June 3, 2017*

WHEREAS, the President of the United States, Donald Trump, on June 1 withdrew United States' participation from the Paris Climate Accord; and,

WHEREAS, national policy seems to be trending away from supporting science-based decision-making on critical issues of climate change and the health and safety of all living organisms; and,

WHEREAS, national public health research, public safety policies and programs are being targeted for substantial spending cuts; and,

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of our elected leaders and public institutions to promote public health and environmental security with scientific integrity, and,

WHEREAS, recognizing that the climate is warming globally, that the world community must work together to limit the amount of future warming, that there are vast economic opportunities including job creation by reducing the United States' carbon footprint, and that using sound science as the basis for these efforts, all should not be part of the partisan divide; and,

WHEREAS, it is imperative that public and private sector organizations at all levels ramp-up funding and support for science-based solutions to the critical health and safety problems facing the world community; and,

WHEREAS, California leads the nation in scientific research and green energy solutions; and,

WHEREAS, California is home to national laboratories and state of the art equipment and intellect;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the CAPS Board of Directors on Saturday, June 3 2017 designates every Friday for the foreseeable future as "**Science Friday**" to underscore the need for a wide spectrum of qualified scientists whose work will help ensure a healthy environment for all living organisms for generations to come.

Furthermore, Be It Further Resolved that the CAPS Board of Directors calls on every State Scientist to wear his or her CAPS T-shirt every Friday when it is practicable as a demonstration of solidarity in support of sound science, of state scientific programs and State Scientists as stewards of environmental protection and public health and safety.

Adopted this 3rd day of June, 2017.



CAPS President Patty Velez, on behalf of the
3000 State Scientists represented by CAPS



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SCIENTISTS

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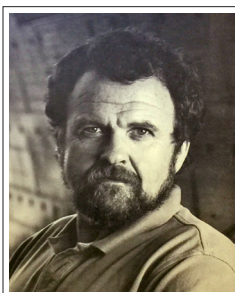
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A CDFW Legend Passes John Grant: October 8, 1941 – May 15, 2017



John Joseph Grant, 75, of Hamakualoa, passed peacefully in his sleep on Monday, May 15, 2017 after several years battling cancer. He was born in Liverpool, England to the late Jack and Josephine Grant and immigrated to the U.S. with his family as a young boy.

His lifelong passion and love for marine life led him to pursue studies in Marine Biology at Sacramento State, where he completed his doctorate and was hired into California's Department of Fish and Game. His fondness for nearshore, benthic and tidal systems took him on many adventures documenting and assisting in the prosecution of "accidental" taking of wildlife and bringing responsible parties to justice for oil spills along the coast, among other things. In his "spare" time, John served many years on the CAPS Board of Directors, including two terms as President.

When he retired in his 50s John moved to Maui on a friend's request and got hooked on windsurfing. He learned about the history of the islands and grew to love and defend its culture and people.

John was a fierce, no-nonsense champion of the underdog. Whether it was stopping an attempt to lengthen Maui's main runway or helping to shape Kaiser's Patient Advisory Council, John was never afraid to push for justice. He was a huge Liverpool Football Club fan, loved his discus, was a great carpenter who renovated every house he ever lived in. John started Maui's first pipe band and taught bagpipes for free to anyone who wanted to learn.

He is survived by his only sister Maria (Mitch) Sine, of Brentwood, CA and his companion Trinette Furtado, of Hamakualoa, Mauinuiakama. A celebration of his life was held in Maui on June 11th with shared memories and bagpiping. His ashes were subsequently spread in the ocean he loved so much.