

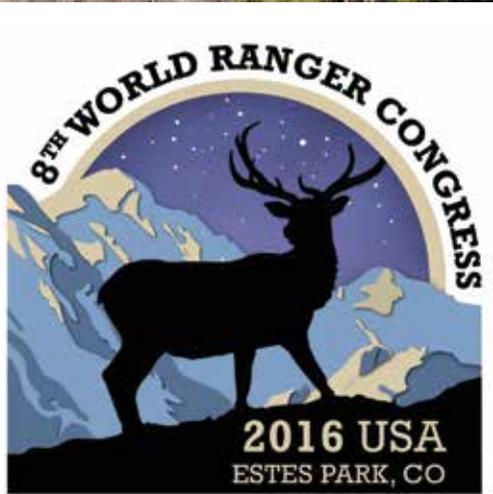
# RANGER

The Journal of the Association of National Park Rangers

Stewards for parks, visitors & each other

Vol. 32, No. 2 | Spring 2016

8<sup>TH</sup> WORLD RANGER CONGRESS | ESTES PARK, CO | USA | 2016



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COVER: The Continental Divide is reflected in Sprague Lake at Rocky Mountain National Park. Photo by Connie Rudd, retired NPS superintendent

## In this issue:

Enthusiasm for the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service has swept the land. A record 305 million people visited America’s national parks in 2015, an increase of 12 percent over the previous record set the year before. The U.S. Congress passed the largest budget in NPS history in 2016. Most parks received welcome, though moderate, operating increases, helping to protect our nation’s cultural and natural resources — modest and vast, urban and wild.

According to an NPS press release issued in January: “Record visitation tests the capacity of the park system and challenges parks to continue to provide great experiences for all visitors. Park managers are adjusting to make sure they have sufficient staff to provide [services].”

National park personnel are the very people who perform these services, and rangers are some of the most visible and highly trained professionals among them. Like their counterparts around the world, members of the Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR) are dedicated to their calling.

In an important way, *Ranger* magazine is also part of NPS history. This journal was established as the ANPR newsletter in 1979, two years after the association was launched to foster improved communications among rangers and also other employees of the NPS.

In this issue of *Ranger*, longtime ANPR member-rangers bring readers stories of dedication, valor and heroism, public policy, versatility, connectivity, and enthusiasm for sharing their knowledge and expertise at the World Ranger Congress in Estes Park, Colorado, and later in the year at ANPR’s 39th Annual Ranger Rendezvous in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

As we celebrate the NPS Centennial, we also honor the legacy of ANPR and *Ranger*. As surely as the NPS will change over the next 100 years, so will ANPR and *Ranger*. This is why we ask you to tell us about the *Ranger* magazine you envision by taking a special survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6B6G5VF>.

— Ann Dee Allen, *Ranger* Editor

# RANGER

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Vol. 32, No. 2



Spring 2016

*Ranger* (ISSN 1074-0678) is a quarterly publication of the Association of National Park Rangers, an organization created to communicate for, about and with National Park Service employees of all disciplines; to promote and enhance the professions, spirit and mission of National Park Service employees; to support management and the perpetuation of the National Park Service and the National Park System; and to provide a forum for professional enrichment.

In meeting these purposes, the Association provides education and other training to develop and/or improve the knowledge and skills of park professionals and those interested in the stewardship of national parks; provides a forum for discussion of common concerns of all employees; and provides information to the public.

The membership of ANPR is comprised of individuals who are entrusted with and committed to the care, study, explanation and/or protection of those natural, cultural and recreational resources included in the National Park System, and persons who support these efforts.

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### FINAL DEADLINES

Spring issue .....	Jan. 31
Summer issue .....	April 30
Fall issue.....	July 31
Winter issue .....	Nov. 15



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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Happy Birthday National Park Service!

Erika Jostad, Denali National Park and Preserve, President ANPR

The 100-year anniversary of our agency is upon us. Many people have been involved with planning Centennial events and taking on Centennial positions in our work lives for several years. Needless to say, the Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR) is delighted to be part of the celebration.

Several years ago, in anticipation of the Centennial and to gather and share stories about Park Service personnel, ANPR launched the Oral History Project. Our intent was to safeguard the collective memory

and expertise of those who have shaped the agency during its second half-century. The Oral History Project also advances a top priority of NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis by passing on important lessons to younger generations of Park Service Stewards.

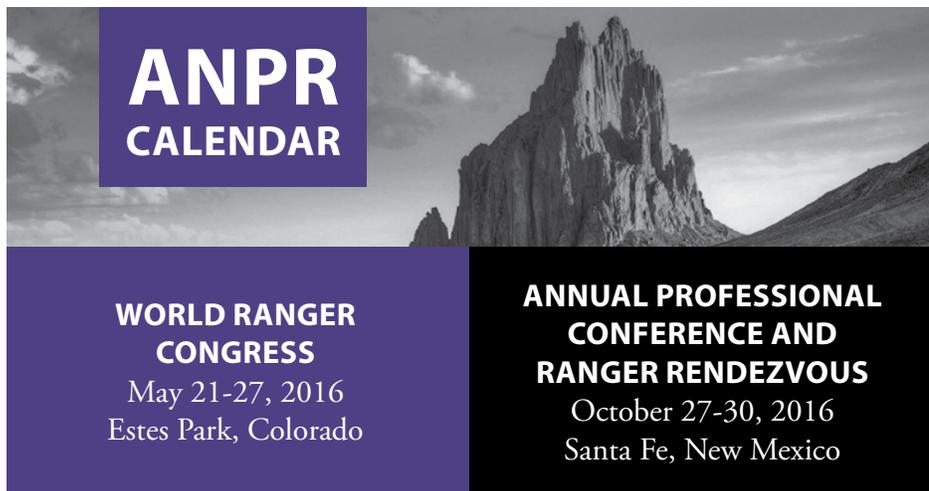
To date we have conducted and transcribed 54 Oral History interviews and have begun archiving the collection at the Harpers Ferry Center in West Virginia. We are committed to sharing these stories via publications and websites and as regular features in *Ranger* magazine. In this issue

we publish an excerpt from Lu Ann Jones's interview with Rebecca Harriet.

The year 2016 also represents the culmination of years of planning on the part of ANPR in conjunction with the International Ranger Federation as we host the 8th World Ranger Congress in Estes Park, Colorado, May 21-27. We welcome the 300 to 400 delegates, presenters and translators, who are gathering from around the world to share their passion for protected areas.

The Congress is the largest undertaking the Association has ever engaged in. It promises to be an inspiring week with deeply committed rangers of all disciplines from across the planet. We are very excited to be taking part in this wonderful event that has drawn so many longtime ANPR members back into the fold of active engagement.

On another important note, I am pleased to welcome Jan Lemons as the Association's next president. Jan is attending the World Ranger Congress as a delegate; we will also work closely together all year. She will take the reins of ANPR leadership as the Centennial year comes to a close.



**ANPR  
CALENDAR**

<b>WORLD RANGER CONGRESS</b> May 21-27, 2016 Estes Park, Colorado	<b>ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE AND RANGER RENDEZVOUS</b> October 27-30, 2016 Santa Fe, New Mexico
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## Send us your ideas and stories for *Ranger*

Please send your feature article ideas to [kendellthompson@gmail.com](mailto:kendellthompson@gmail.com). Please send letters to the editor, completed announcements, photos and captions for All

in the Family and all items for ANPR Actions & News, ANPR Reports and book review ideas to *Ranger* Editor Ann Dee Allen at [rangermag.editor@gmail.com](mailto:rangermag.editor@gmail.com).

Send fully completed content for these departments for the summer issue by April 30. Questions? Kindly email or call Ann at (414) 778-0026 Central time.



Tell us what  
you think about  
**RANGER  
MAGAZINE!**



Take our survey at:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6B6G5VF>

Survey will be open until June 15.  
The electronic survey tool only allows one survey to be submitted per respondent.



Ryan Eckert and Lisa Eckert, Bryce Canyon National Park, 2015. Photo by Jeff Eckert

# Reflections

## on the past and the future

*By Lisa Eckert, Bryce Canyon*

*I often share the story of my career in national parks in comparison with the history of our National Park Service:*

*“It all began in Yellowstone...”*

Initially I was a server in the dining room of the Old Faithful Inn during summers off from the university. Living and working in a national park expanded my curiosity about this world. The epiphany of backpacking, camping, observing and connecting with nature — I experienced sensory overload on the meaning of life!

When I became a summer NPS naturalist at Yellowstone, I marveled at the vision that explorers and conservation leaders embraced to take America’s “best idea” forward. How ironic, I thought, that national park landscapes were first considered to be wastelands.

The best idea spread to Australia (where I volunteered in parks for a couple of winters). From the establishment of Yellowstone as a national park in 1872 to the government-sanctioned protection of Royal National Park in 1879, protecting public lands started to become a global initiative.

I believe that as the national park idea evolved, a parallel evolution was occurring in society. Beginning in 1906, national

monuments could be proclaimed by presidential decree. In 1916, the slices of our protected natural and cultural heritage coalesced with the National Park Service Organic Act. And in the 1930s, existing battlefields were incorporated into the National Park System. Over the decades, our national park story expanded from large swaths of wildlife sanctuaries to a geologic monolith to the Second Manassas.

The legislation that created the National Park Service and laws to follow have come to my mind many times, and never more so than during my five ecstatic years in the 1990s at Denali National Park & Preserve. President Jimmy Carter became my hero for having proclaimed 43 million acres as national monument lands, which led to the

passage of the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

The 1970s brought parks to urban areas. In 1972, the “bookends” of national recreation areas were established – Gateway in New York followed by Golden Gate in San Francisco – and national preserves. Preserve designation allowed for a more multiple use philosophy – oil and gas extraction, or hunting and trapping. Was this the intent of the 1916 Organic Act? I wonder. What political pressures and realities were present then, and what clashes of values impact current and future decisions at the start of the next century of the National Park Service?

As many of us in the NPS prepare to retire, or have retired, I hear concerns voiced about who will take our place. As superintendent of the Horace M. Albright Training Center from 2008 to 2012, I interacted with new employees in the NPS Fundamentals courses. There I met some of the most inspirational and committed new professionals of the present and future NPS. They are critical thinkers, and like those of us who are retiring, they want to make a difference in the mission of the NPS.

I’m now superintendent of Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah. Recently, as I was ending a hike in Queen’s Garden at Bryce, I met a visitor from Hill Air Force Base near Ogden, Utah. “This is why we defend our nation,” the visitor exclaimed, arms open wide to the surrounding red rock spires.

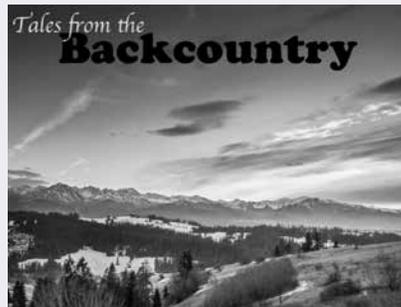
Thankfully, there are national park stewards in all walks of life, NPS visitors included. One such member of the future generation is my nephew Ryan Eckert. Last year, Ryan created a Kickstarter funding project so that he could experience and share his values of protecting wild places. An excerpt of Ryan’s book about his experience, *Tales from the Backcountry*, is included with this article. 

*Lisa Eckert’s 34-year NPS career has included being a park ranger or superintendent in 13 different national park units within all seven NPS regions and Washington D.C. An interview with Lisa about Ryan Eckert’s journey can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/127090384>. The interview was filmed by Ryan’s brother, Jared Eckert, in Lisa’s backyard within sight of Colorado National Monument.*



## parks in six months

By Ryan Eckert



### **Tales from the Backcountry**

describes my six-month adventure backpacking through the natural wonders of western America, and includes photographs that highlight the beauty I experienced along the way.

As a child, I lived in Lagos, Nigeria, before my family moved to Fort Collins, Colorado. I had not spent much time in the American West. After graduating from Colorado State University in May 2015, my “gap year” commenced with six months on the road in a 2002 Honda CR-V.

Through the summer and fall, I drove 14,517 miles (less than 500 miles on interstate highways), trekked 1,482 miles (farther than walking from Denver to San Francisco) and gained 270,000 feet in total hiking elevation. I visited 34 national parks and monuments, starting at Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve, and experienced several different NPS permitting systems. In all, I spent 163 nights outdoors and took 9,992 photographs.

In pictures and words, I have captured my experiences in *Tales from the Backcountry*. Following is an excerpt from my book:

*Edward Abbey, a great American West author, once defined the wilderness as, “A place where one enjoys the opportunity of being attacked by a wild animal.” Trekking through Glacier National Park I got a full grasp of this definition. This is, after all, grizzly country.*

*Out of the eight days on the trail I saw a total of nine people, six of them within an hour of the trailhead. I had every backcountry campground to myself and it became very clear that I was alone in the wilderness. That being said, I was not completely alone...Sure enough, I came across a grizzly..*

*I caught her glance, eyes staring right into mine. I quickly diverted my stare but in that split second I saw the wild within: pure, unbroken, and feral. I backed away slowly, waving my arms and talking calmly. Without incident she turned and left. I watched her as she moved over a hill and around the bend, out of sight. I cannot explain the emotion that surged within. I was awestruck, mixed with a feeling of surreal contentment, and yes...a certain degree of innate fear.*

*As if that wasn’t enough, I also came across a pack of wolves, which was more unexpected than the bear. I was looking for them, but these just appeared out of the woods ahead of me on the trail. They didn’t seem to notice my presence, but I knew better, being the master hunters that they are.* 

*At this writing, Ryan Eckert was on his way to Patagonia via Xela, Guatemala, where he was learning Spanish. His book and blog can be found at <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/222862862/tales-from-the-backcountry-western-america-photobo>.*

a century of

# SAR

search & rescue

rescue

in the national parks

By Kevin Moses, Middle Buffalo District



#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

This article is the first in a series of articles to appear in *Ranger* magazine about the legacy of U.S. National Park Service search and rescue personnel and events. The series will highlight some of the more significant milestones of NPS search and rescue (SAR) over the course of the last century.

For more than 100 years, visitors have been getting themselves into “tight spots” in our national parks, many of them requiring search and rescue responses from the National Park Service. And for over a hundred years, NPS rangers and other SAR personnel have been answering their calls for help “...that others may live.”

In some cases, people have been in actual tight spots. According to Horace M. Albright, second director of the NPS and author of the timeless *Oh, Ranger!*: “One day [in 1920] the “drag out” call came to headquarters in Sequoia National Park. ‘Fat man stuck in a cave, send a ranger — better send two or three rangers.’ Arriving at the cave, the rangers found a hiker of great avoirdupois who had left his discretion at home and who had tried to push his way between two great boulders into a cave.”

In the end, “Two courses lay before the rangers,” according to Albright. “They could dynamite the rocks and loosen the fat man, but that would destroy a scenic asset and it might injure the prisoner. They could allow him to fast until he reduced sufficiently to be released. The latter course was adopted. It took three days to make that “drag out.”

I’m embarrassed to admit that I suffered a similar plight not too many years ago in an Illinois state park, though not being “a hiker of great avoirdupois,” my extrication took considerably less than three days and no fasting was required.



Rescuers bring a litter to the top of Otter Cliffs at Acadia National Park in Maine. Photo by Kevin Moses

## World watched 1925 drama

Just five years after the rescue in Sequoia, another cave rescue operation entered the international spotlight. In his exhaustively researched history of NPS SAR, *Death, Daring, and Disaster*, decorated ranger Charles “Butch” Farabee relates the epic story: On January 30, 1925, Floyd Collins had managed to dislodge a boulder 54 feet underground in soon-to-be Mammoth Cave National Park’s Sand Cave, pinning himself tightly in a narrow passage. For 17 days the world watched as a dramatic rescue attempt unfolded. Tragically, by the time rescuers completed drilling a rescue shaft and reached Collins, he had

passed away. Farabee reports that journalists covering the rescue attempt labeled it as the “third biggest news story between the two world wars.”

The next year, 1926, Mammoth Cave became a national park, and the NPS turned 10 years old. That first NPS decade saw other significant events in the SAR world, among them several noteworthy rescues in western national parks including Mount Rainier, Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, and Glacier. High-profile events included the first fatality at Yosemite’s Vernal Falls (a 16-year-old girl), an emergency airplane landing on a tiny island in the middle of Crater Lake, the introduction of the first aviation resources (fixed wing) for use during SAR functions, and the first recorded fatality of a rescuer involved in an NPS SAR. In the last event, Herb Sortland froze to death during a rescue attempt on Rocky Mountain National Park’s vaunted Longs Peak.

Ranger Jack Moomaw was involved in the Rocky Mountain SAR, and in his memoir, *Recollections of A Rocky Mountain Ranger*, he describes a part of the recovery: “We lashed the body to the toboggan, and with several men pulling, and two holding back when necessary, on ropes fastened behind, we picked our way down across the snow banks and frozen moors to timberline.” The victim, Agnes Vaille, had been an avid climber and a veteran of World War I. As a gesture of respect, Moomaw draped an American flag over her body for her final trip down one of her beloved mountains.

## Mountains, rivers and volcanoes

In recounting other 1920s rescues, Moomaw reveals a few of the customs of that era, including rangers firing pistol shots to communicate their status with fellow rescuers; and, as was the case of one rescue of two persons from a moat on Longs Peak, “Fastening the rope around the waist of each one in turn, the boys helped them across and out.”

Similarly, celebrated early-day ranger Lemuel “Lon” Garrison, in his autobiography, *The Making of a Ranger*, related one Yosemite rescue: “Jake elected to take the trip over the side. I got the major belay and Ross was standby. I snubbed my belay line around a convenient white pine and away Jake went, dragging our extra rope.”

And, in one of my all-time personal favorite rangers books, *My Ranger Years*, Gordon Wallace tells a story of a rescue in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks: “Jim and I went about the business of hauling him out. We fashioned a loop in the rope, placing it around his body just below his armpits, and one of us got behind to steady him and push while the other climbed ahead pulling on the rope.”

In the following decades, scores of additional landmark events took place in the still-emerging world of NPS SAR: Ranger Charlie Browne earned the Department of Interior’s first-ever Valor Award after his heroic efforts during a 1929 crevasse rescue on Mount Rainier to save several lives at the risk of his own; Mount McKinley National Park (now Denali) suffered its first two mountaineering deaths; Lake Mead National Recreation Area experienced its first drownings and rangers’ first use of artificial air during an underwater search; NPS SAR attended to a crash of a TWA plane in Yosemite; a bizarre double body recovery was conducted from an active volcano crater at then-Hawaii National Park; experimentation with radio communication began in the parks; the first recorded use of ropes and artificial aid for technical climbing was performed in Yosemite; and the largest search on record for Rocky Mountain National Park took place involving a 4-year-old boy who was presumably swept away by the Roaring Fork River and tragically never seen again.

Stories of human drama, covering the full spectrum of emotional highs and lows, unfolded throughout the adolescent Park Service. One such account is beautifully described by Margaret Merrill, the brand-new bride of Yosemite Ranger Bill Merrill, in her charming true-life tale, *Bears In My Kitchen*. The book chronicles many of the couple’s experiences in national parks. One such misadventure began on the Merrills’ wedding day in October 1930 when the pair was stranded for five days in their high-country cabin by an early winter storm. Bill was injured and food was running out. “Could the rangers possibly make it before it was too late?” Margaret writes. For the first time I was beginning to realize the emotions of other marooned people as they helplessly wait for rangers to rescue them.”



## SAR from the air

WWII kept America busy in the first half of the next decade, and with the war came the proliferation of aircraft use. Naturally, SAR activities in national parks during the war and post-war years were highlighted by a surge in aviation-related incidents. According to Farabee, in 1940 an Army pilot crashed his B-T13 into Lake Mead; the next year, a twin-engine B-18A plummeted to earth in Olympic National Park, killing all six aboard; a B-24 dropped out of the sky in Saguaro National Park in 1943, killing nine people and starting a wildfire; later that year, a P-47 Thunderbolt thundered to terra firma in Shenandoah National Park, killing the pilot and sole occupant, and another B-24 disappeared for 17 years in a high mountain lake in Kings Canyon; and the following year, two more Army aviators died in a Yosemite crash. From 1945 to 1947, over 150 souls were lost in airplane accidents in Sequoia, Bryce Canyon, Mount Rainier, Wrangell-St. Elias, Joshua Tree, Lake Clark, Kings Canyon, Yellowstone, and Great Smoky Mountains parks.

In their authoritative compilation of aviation mishaps in the Smokies, *Mayday! Mayday!*, Jeff Wadley and Dwight McCarter elaborate on the aforementioned Great Smoky Mountains wreck, during which time a B-29 Superfortress crashed into the highest peak in the park, Clingmans

Dome: “Flying at a southeasterly heading, the plane began to hit treetops... two hundred to four hundred feet below the crest on the Tennessee side.... The fuselage hit the ground, sheared its wings, and continued a quarter of a mile into North Carolina... the plane and the forest were engulfed in flames.” Seven Army officers and five non-commissioned officers were killed in this incident alone.

Miraculously, though, one pilot cheated death in Death Valley after surviving the crash of his AT-11 in March 1945. Six crew members escaped with their lives after ditching another B-29 Superfortress into Lake Mead in 1948, several Warhawk pilots lived through their harrowing ejections over Kings Canyon, three crewmen endured superficial wounds when they crash-landed their helicopter upside down into a lake in Olympic, and one bombardier managed to bail out of a doomed B-17 over Yellowstone. One of the most jaw-dropping tales of plane crash survival, though is when one of two B-24 bomber pilots whose aircraft had collided over Joshua Tree National Park somehow climbed into and successfully deployed his parachute after being thrown from his plane and while falling through mid-air!

Additional aviation-related events in this era are recalled in Farabee’s book, especially those involving helicopters, or “autogiros,” as they were called in their early years. Two 1940s milestones included an Army

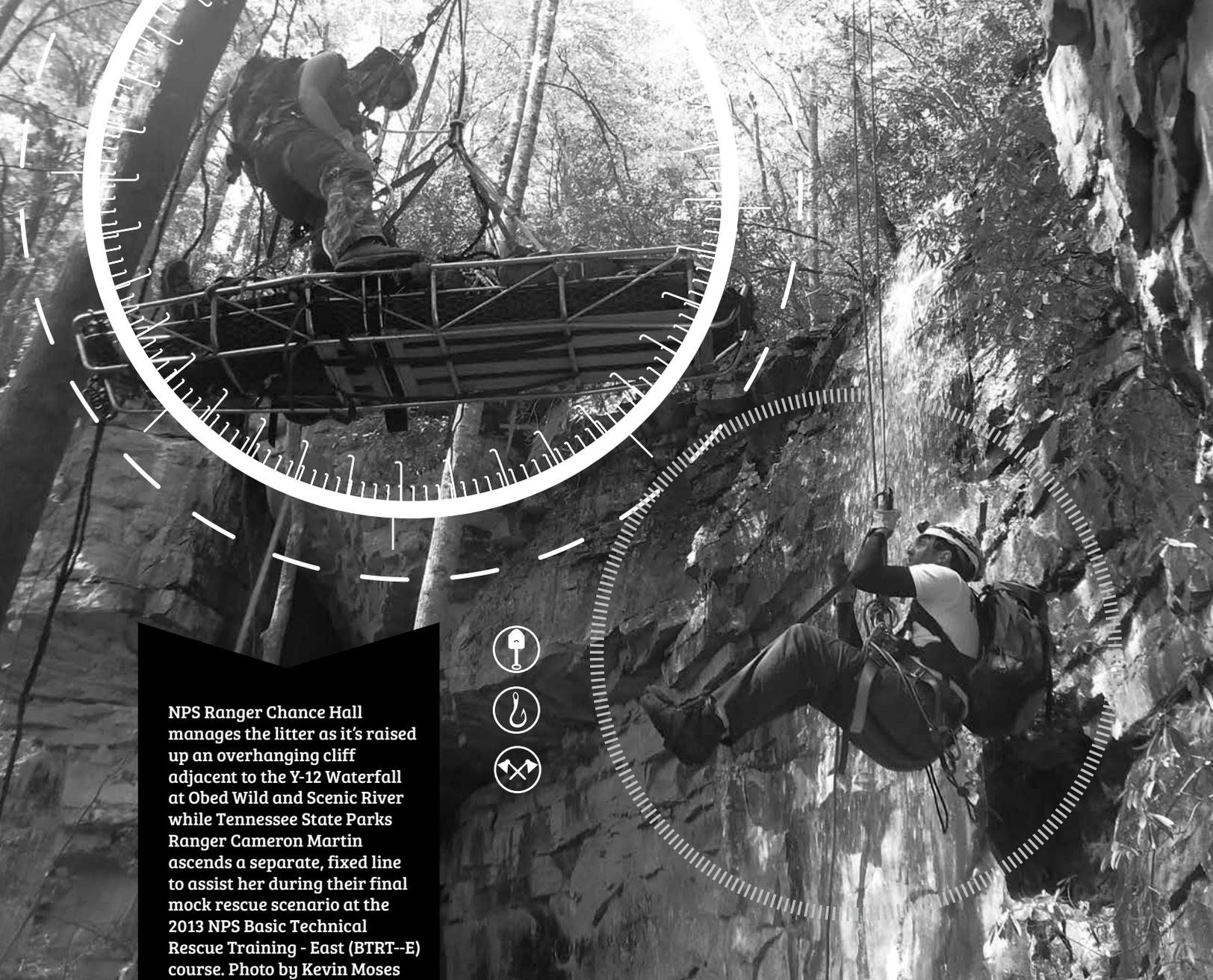
helicopter that was used in April 1949 to search for a missing Army lieutenant who had presumably fallen into a crater on an active volcano at then-Hawaii National Park, and a privately owned Hiller 360 ship that evacuated a 12-year-old boy from a high-alpine lake deep in Yosemite’s wilderness. During the latter rescue, the pilot struggled with too heavy a craft at altitude and had to jettison 100 pounds of fuel in order to clear the high peaks.

Probably the most famous (or infamous) aviation-related NPS SAR came on the heels of what some call the single most sensationalized “stunt” ever to occur in a national park: Charles George Hopkins’s 1941 parachute jump onto the top of Devils Tower. Holding numerous world records for parachuting at the time, Hopkins wanted to once again make history by landing on the tower’s one-acre-sized summit. In the end, he made history, but not quite the kind he had had in mind.

After Hopkins successfully landed on the top of the monument, his pilot dropped him a thousand-foot rope. The rope missed its target, bounced over the edge, and became stuck on a ledge beyond Hopkins’s reach. Thus began an almost week-long ordeal during which time Hopkins was stranded atop his lofty perch. After several unsuccessful attempts to descend on his own, he was finally rescued by a team of intrepid climbers made up of Jack Durrance, Paul Petzoldt, Ernie Field, Warren Gorrell, Harold Rapp, Merrill McLane, Chappell Cranmer and Henry Coulter. It took about four hours for the group to get the stuntman down.

Aviation incidents were not isolated to the 1940s. In fact, the most notable recovery to occur in NPS territory happened in June 1956 following a mid-air collision of two commercial airliners over Grand Canyon National Park. TWA Flight 2, departing Los Angeles and heading for Kansas City, was carrying 70 persons. United Flight 718, carrying 58 and headed for Chicago, was cruising at 21,000 feet over the Grand Canyon. Within minutes of entering Grand Canyon air space, the jets crashed into each other, sending both careening toward earth. No one survived. Once again, helicopters were used for recovery efforts.

The 1950s were punctuated with other aviation-related incidents, some tragic, some miraculous. Also in the ’50s,



**NPS Ranger Chance Hall manages the litter as it's raised up an overhanging cliff adjacent to the Y-12 Waterfall at Obed Wild and Scenic River while Tennessee State Parks Ranger Cameron Martin ascends a separate, fixed line to assist her during their final mock rescue scenario at the 2013 NPS Basic Technical Rescue Training - East (BTRT-E) course. Photo by Kevin Moses**

significant SAR events changed the course of history. The use of scuba equipment noticeably increased after it was used to explore Devil's Hole in Death Valley; the first use of scuba gear in a recovery operation occurred at Lake Mead in 1955.

Other advances included the first "Ranger School" for the Park Service in Yosemite, in 1957; the publication of *Mountain Search and Rescue Operations* by Grand Teton rangers in 1958; and the formation of the Mountain Rescue Association in 1959, which has since established strong ties with the NPS mountain rescue community.

Elsewhere in the NPS during the 1950s, two men swam the length of the Colorado

River through the Grand Canyon, a tiny piper cub plane landed 400 feet below the summit of Mount Rainier and required rescue, a couple miraculously *survived* being swept over a series of waterfalls in Yosemite, Ranger Elton Thayer fell while descending Mount McKinley and slid more than 1,000 feet to his death, and SAR teams earned Unit Awards for Meritorious Service at both Sequoia and Grand Teton. 

*Kevin Moses is Middle Buffalo District ranger and search and rescue coordinator for Buffalo National River in Harrison, Arkansas, and BTRT-E incident commander. He is a regular columnist for The Professional Ranger section in Ranger magazine.*

#### **AUTHOR'S NOTE:**

**I wish to express my sincerest appreciation to all the authors cited herein, and especially to Charles "Butch" Farabee, whose SAR collection, *Death, Daring, and Disaster*, was indispensable to the completion of this series. I also wish to advise that the events and milestones mentioned herein do not cover everything worth mentioning in NPS SAR's first 100 years, they only scratch the surface.**



Stephen T. Mather and Superintendent Thomas Ferris outside of Platt National Park. Chickasaw National Recreation Area Archives, 1921.

# Platt's quiet beauty went unrecognized

By Lynn Cartmell, Capulin Volcano

**A**s we celebrate the National Park Service's Centennial year, there is plenty of talk about our founding fathers and NPS's roots as an organization. Throughout their time in service to our agency, NPS founders Stephen Mather and Horace Albright fostered the addition of numerous parks to our modern system. They did not establish the national parks — Mather was only 5 years old when Yellowstone was set aside — but instead built the system to manage the parks.

Mather and Albright demonstrated incredible foresight and vision in building what we know (and love) as the National Park Service. However, these revered preservationists were, in fact, mere men who, despite their good intentions, occasionally failed.

Environmental historian Alfred Runte maintains that the term “national park” fixed a spectacular image of majestic landscapes in the minds of the American people. Yellowstone is the first and arguably the grandest of all national parks.

Subsequently, every park following Yellowstone is measured against it not only because it was the first but because it has become so iconic.

According to Runte, Platt National Park, established in 1902, broke with the Yellowstone standard as it did not have the grandeur befitting a national park. From such ideology, politicians and government officials (Mather and Albright included) historically expressed disdain for the small Midwestern refuge and its unique water resources. These attitudes ultimately impacted the management of Platt and its presentation to the American people.

## Home of wetlands and prairies

Covering less than a thousand acres, Platt (now part of Chickasaw National Recreation Area) is not considered prototypical of the greater NPS System. Located in south central Oklahoma, the park lies within a region of extensive geologic activity resulting from the uplift of the Arbuckle

Mountains. Considerable erosion of this uplift has reduced the area to gentle rolling hills interwoven by small streams, springs and creeks that support the mixed-grass prairie and riparian vegetation which have attracted North Americans for more than 7,000 years.

Native Americans, Anglo Americans, African Americans and other people traveled in droves to visit the springs and other features. Many people came to the area for medicinal reasons, particularly for the water, and others came for recreation.

While millions of people have visited Platt National Park, its advocates have struggled for more than a decade to secure funding from Congress. Successive congressional appropriations committees deemed the park a local service, while the Department of the Interior treated Platt with little regard. Year after year, it was under duress and narrowly avoided being returned to Oklahoma as a state park — even though its national park status was older than the State of Oklahoma.

## Deemed not scenic enough

Contributing heavily to notions of Platt's insignificance and unworthiness, Stephen Mather, the first NPS director, described the park as "a large open-air spot, largely used by the people of the adjoining town. In some respects it has more the character of a State park than a national park." Mather's trivialization of the importance of the mineral springs in the park was a direct reflection of his views, not only toward Platt, but about parks and monuments that failed to offer "natural scenic wonders."

Mather believed that national parks should draw visitors far beyond local populations. His tenure as director of the NPS spanned nearly 12 years and significantly influenced several other critics of Platt National Park. Mather was a highly educated businessman who surrounded himself with like-minded men. Horace Albright and Arno Cammerer, the second and third NPS directors, respectively, were among those to carry on the "Mather tradition."

More outspoken than Mather, Albright believed that Platt failed to meet the qualifications for a national park. "Platt was a travesty — a tiny mineral springs in southern Oklahoma, well below national park standards, and we had been trying to get rid of it for years," he said. Under the direction of Mather, Albright and Cammerer, the NPS attempted to expel Platt in 1920, 1924, 1927, 1928, 1930, 1932 and 1938.

## Platt was a national attraction

While criticisms of Platt were not wholly unfounded, they failed to account for several aspects of the national park's character. First and foremost, while Platt was sustained by the local population, Oklahoma was a relatively young state settled by people from across the nation desiring inexpensive land. There is ample evidence that visitors to the park came from throughout the United States. In 1923, Platt reported tourists from 31 states and Canada.

If visitation had been a defining factor in determining the value of a national park, Platt would have regularly ranked near the top. For many of its early years, Platt

exceeded all parks in attendance except Hot Springs Reservation, which did not become a national park until 1921. In 1927, Platt drew more than 250,000 visitors — double the number from the previous year — ranking it second only to Yosemite National Park. Additionally, holidays regularly attracted crowds exceeding 15,000 people.

Perhaps one of the few Park Service officials undaunted by Platt's inclusion in the NPS was George Melendez Wright, chief of the Wildlife Division. Wright understood that many of the parks held by the federal government had been set aside prior to the development of a uniform standard and, unlike Mather, believed that no one park could be defined as the pinnacle. Rather, he held that, "Human use is predicated on human need, and the term natural resource has no meaning whatsoever except as it relates to human use, either present or future."

Platt met the requirements for recreation. It only seemed ordinary (or lesser) in conjunction with Yellowstone. When placed in its own context, Platt's geology, ecology and hydrology set it apart as a unique environment. As Wright stated, "The inclusion of Platt is not a burden upon our consciences . . ."

## Enter the CCC

If Platt could not be removed from the NPS System, the next best solution was an extensive modification of the park, a re-working of the landscape to make it appear more like a national park. The creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1933 provided the funding and staffing to transform Platt into an area worthy of national attention.

New and improved features were constructed to enhance scenic value and visitor experience. The CCC enrollees erected pavilions and overhauled aging structures. They built spring enclosures, laid roads and trails, and constructed dams, lily ponds and picnic areas. Each improvement was intended to beautify park features, increase the use of the water resources and elevate Platt to a standard of excellence found in other national parks.

Early images of Platt National Park show the area consisted of open prairie broken by scattered trees along creek banks. In less than two years, CCC

enrollees planted more than 500,000 trees and shrubs, including Eastern Redcedar, a prolific and highly invasive species. In endeavoring to build a better park, the NPS and CCC artificially altered Platt, impairing the first prairie ecosystem set aside by Congress.

## Absorbed by Chickasaw

For all intents and purposes, Platt has been absorbed by Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Attempts to de-authorize it following the work of the CCC were unsuccessful due in large part to the forceful opposition raised by Oklahoma Congressman Elmer Thomas. However, in 1976 Platt was merged with the nearby Arbuckle Recreation Area, creating Chickasaw and allowing it to remain a part of the National Park System.

The former national park is currently known as the Platt Historic District and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural and landscape design. Today, little can be seen of the early prairie ecosystem that was so irrevocably altered by the CCC.

Chickasaw garners extensive visitation — more than 1.5 million people each year — much like Platt nearly a century ago. Mather, Albright and Cammerer would be disappointed to learn that Wright's notions of "human use" were correct and it would not have mattered if Platt had been de-authorised.

Travelers to the pre-CCC Platt National Park understood what early NPS officials could not grasp: That it was a diamond in the rough. Its value was not in soaring scenery but in its natural ecosystem and the attachment held by the people who returned to it year after year.

A plaque on the Roosevelt Arch in Yellowstone bears the statement, "For the benefit and enjoyment of the people." Ironically, though small in size, Platt National Park had more in common with Yellowstone than the NPS founders realized. 

*Lynn Cartmell is the lead park ranger at Capulin Volcano National Monument in Capulin, New Mexico, and a former employee of Chickasaw National Recreation Area in Oklahoma.*



A concerned group of citizens called the North End Ten challenged Massachusetts to recognize Long Wharf in Boston as a Land and Water Conservation Fund park. A third court case in the matter is under appeal. Photo by Ed Rizzotto

# Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund shores up U.S., state and local park resources

*By Ed Rizzotto*

In 1965, Federal legislation established the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) whereby a relatively small but significant segment of taxes on offshore oil and gas receipts was annually deposited in a special LWCF account. From this account, Congress could appropriate funding to federal land management agencies for federal conservation and preservation acquisitions and for the acquisition and/or development of state and local parks. This work philosophically offset the consumption of the original oil and gas resources. The Federal and State Sides, as the efforts became known, provided critical open space and historic resource access to American citizens as well as visitors to our country.

Fortunately, Congress renewed the LCWF program for three years last December, nearly doubling the 2015 budget to \$450 million for 2016, after it had expired on September 30. As the expiration date drew near and passed, environmentally minded organizations including the Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR) advocated for re-authorization, continued appropriations, greater administrative resources and improved public awareness and access to LCWF dedicated park documentation. The three-year renewal does not guarantee that another reprieve will come through in 2018, however.

The original 1965 legislation provided that \$900 million, a portion of the taxes on off shore oil and gas production, be annually set aside in a special, dedicated Treasury fund to be appropriated by Congress to the National Park Service (NPS) and other Federal Land Agencies — although Congress has never appropriated the full amount for the agencies' use.

## FEDERAL LAND PROGRAMS

The “Federal Side” program provides funding to the NPS and other agencies, such as the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service (FS), for the acquisition of fee lands and easements. The purchases involve entirely new parks (as previously approved by Congress), park expansions and often the timely and opportunistic acquisition of inholdings (when inholdings are not quickly acquired, they often pass into new private hands and are not soon

again available). The FS purchases include the Legacy program whereby the Service acquires easements from private land owners for the purposes of silvicultural management.

The recent Federal Side acquisitions have been primarily for park projects listed in the appropriating legislation. In addition, the Washington, D.C. office receives a small emergency and hardship account for limited unlisted and urgent needs nationwide and, within every park with a current annual appropriation, up to 10 percent of that appropriation can be re-programmed for urgent needs under certain conditions.

The past appropriations have been helpful but, by nature, limited and sometimes not timely to a need. In those cases, some parks have been able to identify supplemental partner/donation help.

## STATE AND LOCAL PARK DEDICATION

The State Side program involves monies appropriated to NPS for a LWCF matching grant program to states and, often in turn, local governments. The NPS provides 50 percent of proposed project cost (land acquisition and/or development) and, when states, with the agreement of the NPS, pass project funding through to local projects, the state typically includes an additional 25 percent match from state sources. The 50/50 or 75/25 windfall to state or local governments comes with a critical provision that the complete viable park (regardless of the size or segment invested) be dedicated in perpetuity to public park purposes.

The dedicated area is known as the 6f area after the section in the original federal legislation. If future necessity requires the conversion of the original dedicated park land to another purpose (for example, a major highway development for which there is no viable alternative), the state or local project manager is required to replace the park with a property of equal current market value and equal recreational usefulness (the projects are originally competitively selected to meet priority state and local needs and those needs must be replenished specifically vs. another type of park in another type of place).

The state and local parks are often significant on their own and, furthermore, often buffer or support NPS properties

and/or other federal efforts (they act as partners). The state and/or local efforts sometimes meet needs that the NPS is not able to respond to directly, i.e., they complement a potential federal demand that is not addressable with specific federal authorization or funding.

There have been well over 40,000 State Side projects, in more than 90 percent of U.S. counties to date. These efforts complement a smaller number of similar grants from the now defunct UPARR (Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery) Program made specifically to urban centers under similar conditions of dedication in perpetuity.

## CASE IN POINT

Long Wharf is a National History Landmark park on the edge of Boston Harbor (where some beaches have environmental records now exceeding some counterparts in Florida and Hawaii). Long Wharf was the site of George Washington's so-called first victory when, shortly after his assumption of command, the heights around the Harbor were fortified under the cover of darkness with Revolutionary Army artillery. When the British realized their disadvantage, they evacuated their soldiers and sailors from Long Wharf on March 17, 1776. It has long been a scenic and historic attraction.

In 2007, local neighbors, the now so-called North End Ten (NET), challenged the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) to let Long Wharf remain a public park and not convert it to a nightclub and other private development. NET members approached Massachusetts government officials, who did a cursory and faulty review and then assured various parties, including the NPS, that the area did not involve a dedicated LWCF site.

Several years later, I became aware of the legal battle and remembered that it was, in fact, a dedicated LWCF park and, with others, unearthed the original federal, state and local agreements and the area documentation, i.e., the so-called 6f boundary map and metes and bounds description.

In 2014, in a third court case, a Federal District Court judge found that, despite the lack of early recognition by Massachusetts and the NPS, Long Wharf was indeed an LWCF dedicated public park area. (The case is being appealed by the BRA, but the park's continuance seems to have gained legal momentum).

In defense of both the NPS and State, much larger staff resources to protect places like Long Wharf have been greatly reduced by budget action. In the 1980s, when the Long Wharf LWCF park development project was approved, more than 20 people worked in the dedicated NPS regional office divisions. Now there are only one or two people, despite their being responsible for a growing inventory of more than 10,000 dedicated Northeast state and local park projects. The current value of these projects nationwide probably has not been calculated but is likely to involve many billions. In the Boston Long Wharf example, an investment of well less than \$1 million is probably, by one estimate, now valued at over \$200 million.

## LOOKING AHEAD

It is important that ANPR and other partners in this effort, including the National Parks Conservation Association and the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks, continue to educate the public about the LWCF. Given that many of our members work in public parks, ANPR has some inherent strengths regarding its advocacy for the program. Supervisors of interpretive and other front line staff can provide good public information and encourage staff members to communicate key issues to the public. A number of ANPR members are aware of and are actively involved with state and local park partners near their facilities. These partners also encounter many park visitor/citizens each day and they can help spread the word at their sites. 

*ANPR life member Ed Rizzotto retired in 2011 after a nearly 46-year career, mostly with the National Park Service. He is building a house on Cape Cod.*



More information about the fund can be found at <http://www.lwcfcoalition.org>.

# World Ranger Day celebrates service, honors the fallen

By Andrew C.M. Mizsak

For the past two years, rangers from the U.S. National Park Service and their local counterparts have gathered at James A. Garfield National Historic Site in Mentor, Ohio, for World Ranger Day. This remarkable day is celebrated internationally as a way to pay tribute to rangers who “gave their last full measure of devotion,” to quote President Abraham Lincoln, and to honor the work that rangers do to protect the planet’s historical, natural and cultural treasures. The Ohio event has become the best attended World Ranger Day in the Americas.

This summer we will gather once again in Ohio, this time at Lake Erie Bluffs, part of Lake Country Metroparks, to commemorate the service of our colleagues who have died in the line of duty, as well as to bring awareness to why rangers do what they do. Rangers from all over the world are invited to attend. As this is NPS’s Centennial year, the World Ranger Day planning committee is hoping to see a strong contingent from NPS. The day is customarily celebrated on

July 31; due to that day being a Sunday this year, World Ranger Day will be held on Friday, July 29.

World Ranger Day was established in 2007 by the International Ranger Federation to honor the “Thin Green Line” of rangers who were injured or died in the line of duty. I first learned about World Ranger Day as a volunteer. In my role as executive director of the Friends of James A. Garfield National Historic Site, I worked with the leadership of the site to launch a World Ranger Day event.

We are fortunate to have the support of ranger agencies from across northeast Ohio, as well as several other safety forces and law enforcement agencies. Corporate sponsors have generously donated items for the event, including mourning bands and a wreath to honor the Unknown Ranger. The 2015 ceremony included the Honorary Consul of France to Ohio, who paid official respects to a French ranger lost in the line of duty.



Scenes from World Ranger Day at James A. Garfield National Historic Site. Photo by Jeff Ohlfs

If you are interested in attending World Ranger Day in Ohio or would like to hold a World Ranger Day event at your site, please contact me at [AndrewMizsak@gmail.com](mailto:AndrewMizsak@gmail.com) or (440) 550-9620.

Stay safe out there.

*Andrew C.M. Mizsak is a master volunteer ranger at James A. Garfield National Historic Site and Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio, and executive director of The Friends of James A. Garfield National Historic Site.*



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Margaret McBride**

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HOME: 330-835-9379

CELL: 330-472-4983

## Caretakers needed for a family owned woodland property in Vermont

This 1600 acre Green Mountain woodland property is near Rutland and Killington, and includes a rustic farmhouse, garage, woodshed, lawn to the 3 acre beaver pond and trails around the pond, and a 1.25 mile gravel driveway.

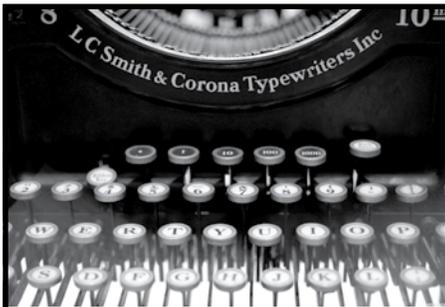
Members of the family come and go, mostly on weekends. Caretakers (single or couple)

provide a presence on the property as well as light housework between family visits and upkeep of the lawn, sides of the driveway, trails, and wood gathering. There is room for a garden if wanted. The garage is well supplied with tools including a weed whacker and wood splitter.

The house includes a wood burning stove, running hot and cold water (artesian well), electricity and back up generator,

washer and dryer, phone and internet and large front porch overlooking the pond. Caretakers have their own apartment with small bedroom and living room and bath, and the kitchen is shared with family members.

The property is opened up by the end of May - until early to mid October. The opening and closing dates are somewhat flexible - family members, some of whom live nearby, love to fill in.



# CAN YOU write?

**ANPR IS LOOKING FOR TWO EXPERIENCED VOLUNTEER WRITERS**

**to contribute quarterly Ranger magazine columns about national park resources protection and interpretation for The Professional Ranger section in 2016-17.**

Have you published work for the National Park Service and/or publications beyond NPS, can meet deadlines and provide complete, accurate, error-free copy and accompanying print-quality photos?

**If so, we'd like to hear from you!**

To inquire about this opportunity email **Ann Dee Allen** at [rangermag.editor@gmail.com](mailto:rangermag.editor@gmail.com) and/or **Erika Jostad** at [perrincreek@gmail.com](mailto:perrincreek@gmail.com) and include two PDFs of your published writing.

Please see past issues of *Ranger* for sample columns.

*Strict deadlines apply for April 30, July 31, November 15 and January 31. Ranger reserves the right to edit or decline copy for space, readability grammar and relevance.*



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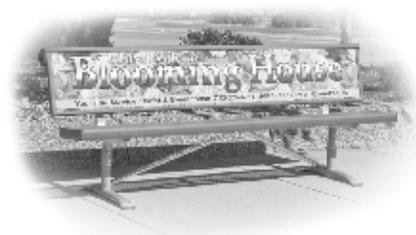
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Survey will be open until June 15. The electronic survey tool only allows one survey to be submitted per respondent.

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# ‘I’ve always had a plan’

Ranger Rebecca Harriett:  
An interview with Lu Ann Jones

**A** native of eastern North Carolina, Rebecca Harriett discovered early on that she was a “green blood.” Between 1978 and 2009, she moved through a series of National Park Service positions, from seasonal ranger to superintendent, by planning methodically and taking advantage of unanticipated opportunities. During interviews for the ANPR Oral History Project, Harriett described how she acquired a variety of skills, negotiated the challenges of dual careers, built relationships with staff and community members, and wrestled with interpretive issues. Along the way she developed a talent for resilience.

**HARRIETT:** As early as fourth or fifth grade, [my parents] would say, “What do you want for your birthday?” and I’d want to go to a historic site. I loved to go to places that I hadn’t been before. When I would go to places like Colonial [National Park], I’d see the people in the green and gray and I thought, man, they have a really cool job! They get to be outdoors, they get to do history. So I wanted to be a ranger from a very early age.

I was a park ranger groupie. I’d go on the tours, hang around them, ask them lots of questions. After everybody left, I’d go, “How did you get your job?”

Most of the ones I had talked to were

always very encouraging. I remember in one particular case, there was a ranger at the visitor center at Big Meadows in Shenandoah. I went up to him and said, “I want to be a park ranger.”

He looked at me, and he told me, “You can’t be a park ranger because you’re a girl.”

I remember thinking, I’ll show you! (laughter) You’re a ranger, and if you can do it, I know I can be a ranger. How dare you! But I wasn’t discouraged. In fact, if anything, it made me want it even more — because I didn’t think in terms of male/female. I just knew that it looked like a job that I wanted to do.

*Harriett joined the Park Service in 1978 as a seasonal ranger at Cape Lookout National Seashore in North Carolina, a place where she felt a deep sense of belonging. Nonetheless, she knew that one way to move up was to move around. Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Site in Alaska was the location of her next seasonal position. She also visited Klondike’s Seattle Unit and learned that there was a permanent park guide opening there. “This was that opening I’d been looking for,” she said. Two-and-a-half years later, Harriett returned to Cape Lookout as a backcountry ranger. While there she earned a law enforcement commission and married Rob Lamar, a fellow ranger.*

**JONES:** At some point did you begin to have a plan about what you were going to be working toward?

**HARRIETT:** I can’t remember the exact moment because the first thing was to get in the uniform as a seasonal. (laughs) Second was to get on permanent. Then it was to get as broad a skill base as I could. Every place that I went, you just learn something new. One big thing I learned is you just need to be open to those opportunities and take advantage of them

when they present themselves. Sometime at Cape Lookout I made a conscious decision that I wanted to be a chief ranger, chief of interpretation, and eventually a superintendent. In my mind that seemed to be the natural progression.

I've always had a plan. I've always had multiple plans. I had plans A, B, C, D, all the way to Z. If this doesn't work, then I go here.

*For about five years Harriett served as lead ranger and chief ranger at George Washington Carver National Monument in Missouri. Her husband worked at a park nearby. When they decided to seek jobs in the eastern United States, Harriett accepted a position as site manager at Friendship Hill National Historic Site in Pennsylvania, and her husband declined a Park Service job in order to complete graduate school. A new unit, Friendship Hill gave Harriett a chance to "build something from the ground up."*

**JONES:** What do you think your strengths were at that point?

**HARRIETT:** I felt that I was grounded in a lot of the technical aspects of the different jobs. I felt very confident about operations; I can run a park. I can provide excellent services to the visitors. I can protect the resources. I tried to always be a supportive supervisor. A lot of people had provided me with a lot of opportunities; I wanted to pay that forward to others. I always wanted to be a team player.

After I'd been at Friendship Hill four years, I thought, okay, I'm ready to make that next leap.

*Harriett's first superintendency was at Booker T. Washington National Monument in western Virginia.*

**JONES:** What were some of the management challenges that you had there?

**HARRIETT:** It was a small park. It had gone through about 16 superintendents in a very short period of time. It was a demoralized staff. They felt like they were that stepping-stone park. I don't think it was until I bought land and we built a house that they realized maybe she is going to stay longer than one year.

Interpreting slavery was a challenge. You can't talk about Booker T. Washington's childhood without talking about slavery. However, it's an uncomfortable topic, and



April 12, 1986: Wedding day for Rebecca Harriett and Rob Lamar at Cape Lookout National Seashore in North Carolina.

there was reluctance on the part of the interpretive staff to deal with slavery, especially in an area that still is fighting the Civil War. It's easier to talk about making a basket than it is to talk about being enslaved. I said, "We can still do those arts and crafts things, but you can't not mention that Booker T. Washington was born a slave and it affected his philosophy of education." There were still concerns from the staff about interpreting slavery and being controversial.

**"A lot of people had provided me with a lot of opportunities; I wanted to pay that forward to others."**

I understood where they were coming from. I was going on a home tour sponsored by the local historical association. I'll never forget a woman who was taking tickets at one of the plantation homes. She says, "You're the new superintendent over at Booker T., aren't you?"

"Yes, I am." I said, "I'm real happy to be here."

"Oh," she says, "I thought you'd be black."

"Well," I said, "this is American history."

She says, "Why do you all harp about him being a slave?"

"Well," I said, "because he was."

So that just showed me that the interpreters who were from the area were going to need some support and training to feel more confident about interpreting the topic of slavery.

Training was key. We sent staff to Williamsburg because they had a wonderful program on interpreting slavery. There are certainly folks — both black and white — that would start these tours and would leave because of the content. I would tell the interpreters, "That's okay. That's their choice. We still have a responsibility to tell the story. You just can't say, 'Booker was a slave,' and go on from that. Because it was at the very core of why he did what he did when he became an educator."

*As superintendent of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia since in 2009, Harriett has commemorated two important anniversaries: the Civil War Sesquicentennial and the Park Service Centennial. When she thinks about the Centennial theme, she sees her career as a full circle.*

**HARRIETT:** "Find Your Park." Cape Lookout, that's my national park, my first park. My husband and I met there and we got married there. When I was a seasonal there, I remember riding up the beach with two rangers in this old rickety pickup truck. I remember looking into the marsh and seeing the church steeple on Portsmouth Island. I just felt like I was home, like this is where I'm supposed to be. I thought, if I ever get married, I'm getting married in that church. Six years later it turned out that I did do that. I still go back and feel that that's where I belong.

*Rebecca Harriett is the superintendent of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in Washington, D.C.*

*Lu Ann Jones is a staff historian in the Park History Program in Washington, D.C.*

# THE PROFESSIONAL RANGER

## ADMINISTRATION

### The FY2016 Centennial budget

The National Park Service has received a healthy budget for the Centennial year! The FY2016 Omnibus Appropriations Bill was signed into law on December 18, 2015, and the NPS portion of the bill is the highest funding level ever for the Park Service, excluding supplemental appropriations.

Congress provides funding for the NPS through a number of appropriations accounts. The largest is the Operation of the National Park System (ONPS), which

funds the management, operations and maintenance of park areas and facilities and the general administration of the Park Service.

In this 2016 Appropriations Bill, the NPS received a much-needed increase of \$236.7 million over FY 2015 funding. This is an increase of more than a 9 percent over the previous year. For FY2016, the NPS received a total of \$2,851,245 billion. Of that amount, the ONPS is funded at \$2.4 billion, an increase of \$93.8 million over FY2015.

The appropriations bill included an additional \$8 million for hiring Centennial seasonal employees, \$2 million for Centennial volunteer ambassadors, and \$17.5

million each for repair/rehabilitation and cyclic maintenance projects to aid parks in repairing infrastructure to better host our Centennial visitors.

Now that parks have received their portion of the budget, park management teams can conduct Centennial planning with a known budget. It is with a sigh of budget relief that Congress acknowledges that the NPS and its park visitors deserve to celebrate the Park Service's birthday with a gift of increased funding.

Don't forget to check out Centennial events planned at a park near you!

— Michelle Torok,  
Saguaro and Tumacacori, Arizona

## PERSPECTIVE: CULTURAL RESOURCES Reversing our knowledge deficit

Years ago, I marched up to Capitol Hill in full lobbyist attire to plead for additional funding for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom (NTF) program. Managed by the National Park Service, the NTF provides technical assistance and grants that enable local and regional experts to more capably tell their part of the story of resistance to slavery through evasion and flight. After laying out my case to a legislative director in the office of a long-tenured congressman I was told that I'd won their support. "We have to make sure," I was told in earnest, "that we preserve those trains!"

*Trains?*

It is the birthright of each generation to declare that theirs is the best or worst of times. As a historian I'm exercising that right to declare that our understanding of American and world history and the influence of the past on our stormy present has never been lower. The History Channel has foregone broadcasting programs about history (why keep the name?) in favor of



An interpretive display at Harpers Ferry commemorates the African American experience.

money-makers such as "Ice Road Truckers," "Pawn Stars" and "Swamp People." An alarmingly low percentage of elementary school students are able to identify freedom of assembly as a right guaranteed by the First Amendment. According to the website [collegestats.org](http://collegestats.org), 72 percent of students surveyed failed to identify Germany as an enemy of the United States during World War II.

Much as I might like to believe that this is simply a case of good-natured Animal House, Bluto-types skipping a few history classes, it's clear the ignorance is spreading.

Look no further than the current presidential campaign. A leading candidate recently described the internment of Japanese American citizens during the Second World War as a tactic worthy of reprise to check terrorism and ensure border security. But historians and politicians alike have long regarded President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 as a mistake, a base failure of leadership driven by racial bias and paranoia.

Are those who forget the past doomed to repeat it? Possibly.

## NPS well positioned for role

The good news is that the National Park Service is uniquely poised to fix our knowledge deficit. Given the agency's role as the leading steward of American history and culture, NPS interpretive programs and educational engagement allow all who experience them (305 million of us in 2014) to think more broadly and more critically about our shared past. We must first, however, recognize that the cultural components of the National Park System are on equal footing with their natural and landscape counterparts and that NPS's practice of history, historic preservation and cultural resource management is deliberate and mandated by law.

Two-thirds of the current 409 units comprising the NPS were established to commemorate the nation's history and culture. This emphasis on cultural resources stems from a reorganization of the NPS in the 1930s and passage of the Historic Sites Act in 1935. The former helped pave the way for historic sites such as Colonial National Monument at Yorktown, the Statue of Liberty and many of the national military parks that had previously been managed by the War Department to be added to the System. The latter authorized NPS to fully engage in preservation activities, including research and the development of educational and professional programming.

## Opportunity, authority, responsibility

Every park in the system, including those great iconic landscape units, has cultural and historic components. NPS holdings run to more than 27,000 historic buildings, 3,500 historic statues and monuments and 123 million museum objects and archival documents. In truth, 100 percent of our national parks are in the history and culture business.

The NPS is also directed by law to assist other federal agencies, tribal, state and local governments and private heritage partners with cultural resource management and historic preservation work that extends beyond park boundaries. The National



*An interpretive sign at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park tells about Civil War Confederate Major General Stonewall Jackson.*

*John Brown's Fort, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Virginia, where abolitionist John Brown and a small army of men attempted to seize federal arms and ammunition to equip American slaves for a rebellion.*



Historic Landmarks Program, the National Register of Historic Places, the National Heritage Area program and the aforementioned Network to Freedom are prime examples of the vast resource management responsibilities the NPS carries. With these partnerships come technical assistance and millions of dollars in grant money and tax credits that support preservation work in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Territories.

The Park Service also plays a critical role in reshaping the way Americans are approaching, appreciating and understanding our history. At Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, interpretive rangers excel at providing visitors with an accurate and inclusive history that allows people to think and draw their own conclusions about historic events. There's a certain beauty to an interpretive program that can, in one 45-minute presentation, describe Confederate General "Stonewall" Jackson's masterful envelopment of Harpers Ferry in September 1862, then move on to explain the social, economic and political condi-

tions that helped bring W.E.B. Dubois and the Niagara Movement to the town in 1906. The full breadth of the American experience from Civil War to Civil Rights submitted for your consideration.

Our history is complicated and messy, and frequently lacks the kind of happy (shallow, predictable) ending that we've been taught to expect. NPS historians and interpretive rangers continue to find amazing ways to parse that complexity and use it to engage new audiences and repeat customers.

Want to put a serious dent in America's historical knowledge deficit? Send every fourth-grader, undergraduate and Hill staffer to a ranger-led interpretive program at a national park.

*Alan Spears is the cultural resources director for the National Parks Conservation Association. He lives and works in Washington, DC. He can be reached at [aspears@npca.org](mailto:aspears@npca.org).*



## UPDATE: Eighth World Ranger Congress, 2016

**MAY 21-27**

ESTES PARK, COLORADO

[WorldRangerCongressUSA.com](http://WorldRangerCongressUSA.com)

AFTER ALMOST FOUR YEARS OF PLANNING, THE 8TH WORLD RANGER CONGRESS (WRC) OF THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION HAS BECOME A REALITY! THE ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL PARK RANGERS WELCOMES RANGERS AND OTHER PROTECTED-AREA PROFESSIONALS AND SUPPORTERS TO ESTES PARK, COLORADO, ON THE EDGE OF THE MAGNIFICENT ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK.

# WRC Overview

Welcome to each of the more than 300 delegates — more than half from outside North America — to the YMCA of the Rockies conference center for the inspirational opening ceremony on Saturday, May 21. The ceremony is followed by music of the Rockies performed by Cowboy (and Ranger) Brad Fitch. Our intent is to provide a true sense of place and a “potlatch” of international foods shared by the delegates.

**On Sunday**, May 22, the first morning of the WRC, delegates will be out in the clear Rocky Mountain light, proudly wearing their uniforms and carrying their flags in a parade of the 50-plus nations they represent.

Yosemite National Park Ranger Shelton Johnson will deliver the first plenary talk, focusing on the WRC theme of **Connecting Parks, Rangers, and Communities**, as he relates the challenges and successes he has experienced in trying to broaden the audience for national parks. The afternoon kicks off the first business meeting of the Congress, where delegates present the interests and concerns of the ranger associations they represent, followed by the first of the week’s five concurrent sessions.

Notably, all plenary sessions and at least one concurrent session will be simultaneously translated into Spanish. The concurrent sessions, spread over four days, feature presentations and workshops by more than 70 delegates and others across a wide spectrum of subjects related to the WRC theme. This is the essence of the Congress: rangers sharing their experiences with each other.

**Monday’s** two plenary sessions focus on global issues faced by rangers all over the world. Canadians Mike Wong, of IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas, and Harvey Locke, co-founder of the Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative, will

look at the big picture in the morning session. In the afternoon, Ken Goddard, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Forensics Laboratory will speak about combating poaching through science, and Stephanie Herring of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, will talk about how climate change impacts protected areas.

**On Tuesday**, delegates will be out on one of several field trips in nearby Rocky Mountain National Park or on Colorado’s Front Range.

**Wednesday** is NPS Centennial Day! NPS Director Jon Jarvis will headline the keynote, followed by a presentation highlighting innovative Centennial programming at Rocky Mountain National Park and the cutting (and consuming) of a massive birthday cake for the NPS.

**Thursday’s** final keynote will be by naturalist, activist and author Terry Tempest Williams, whose remarks are likely to be insightful and inspirational. She will share readings from her soon to be published book *The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America’s National Parks*.

**The final day** of the Congress wraps up with a closing ceremony and a transfer of the International Ranger Federation (IRF) flag to the ranger association that will be hosting the 9th World Ranger Congress in 2019.



Left: NPS Director Jon Jarvis.



Right: National Park Ranger Shelton Johnson

Informal opportunities for fellowship across cultural divides abound at the WRC. Every evening will feature organized events, such as American cultures night, talent night, campfire stories and dances. ANPR and other North American ranger associations will staff the hospitality room each evening, and the YMCA has abundant nooks for conversations in the buildings, on the beautiful grounds and around campfire circles.

### Share in the excitement

Can't be there? The WRC will have a strong digital presence on multiple platforms. Our **Facebook** page is already live. Use Facebook to share your stories and photos from past Congresses, or ask questions of the organizing team. Stay in touch with your colleagues who come to the WRC, participate in Colorado State University's training classes or do shadow assignments in U.S. parks.

Our **Twitter** feed will be an important tool during the Congress to communicate with delegates on site, as well as to broadcast updates to ranger colleagues around the world.

To share as much as possible of the inspirational and learning opportunities from the WRC with ranger colleagues who can't be there in person, we will be posting video content on our own 8th World Ranger Congress **YouTube** channel. All of the plenary talks and as many of the other sessions as possible will be posted within hours of the live events. Prior to the WRC, look for short clips from the WRC Organizing Group to build the excitement.

### ANPR as host

ANPR was a founding member of the IRF, but prior to this year has never hosted a World Ranger Congress. Hosting a WRC is a little like hosting the ranger Olympics,

in that "countries" (IRF member organizations) make bids to host the next Congress, taking on both the opportunity to showcase their "nations" (in our case, our National Park System) but also the responsibility and the financial risk of managing the event.

ANPR's leadership put together a strong proposal in 2011, emphasizing the unique circumstances and worldwide attention that the NPS Centennial would provide, as well as the opportunity for the NPS to be a major partner. IRF leadership endorsed ANPR's bid prior to the 7th WRC in Tanzania, and the two organizations inked a memorandum of understanding in November 2012.

### Organizing WRC

Planning for the WRC got underway at ANPR's St. Louis Rendezvous in October 2013, when the nucleus of the World Ranger Congress Organizing Group (WRCOG) was formed. WRCOG has since grown to include more than 35 volunteers and an additional six people who are official liaisons with the NPS.

WRCOG members include current NPS employees, retirees and volunteers, as well as members from the **California State Park Ranger Association (CSPRA)**, **Park Ranger Association of California (PRAC)**, **George Wright Society**, and **Australia's Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Rangers Association**.

WRCOG has functioned using an Incident Command System structure, modified to fit the nature of the task of planning and implementing an international conference. Most of the work has been done via conference call, as the team is spread across the globe.

An event this complex also requires a lot of people on the ground during the

# Connect Digitally to the WRC

<http://www.worldrangercongressusa.com/>



<https://www.facebook.com/worldrangercongressusa2016>



<https://twitter.com/ANPRrangerUSA>  
@ANPRRangerUSA  
#8thWorldRangerCongress



<https://www.youtube.com/worldrangercongressusa>

## NPS Financial Contributors

Big Bend National Park

Bryce Canyon National Park

George Washington Memorial Parkway

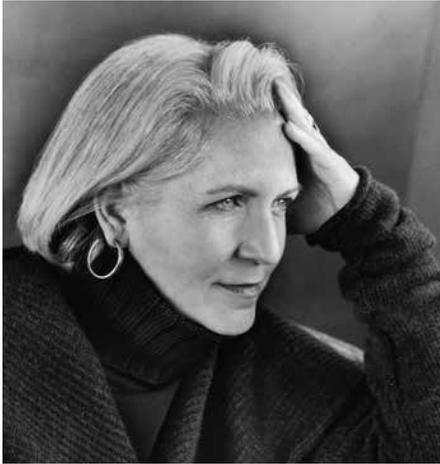
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

Intermountain Regional Office - Southwest Border Resource Protection Program

Rocky Mountain National Park

WASO International Affairs

WASO Visitor and Resource Protection



Keynote speaker naturalist, activist and author Terry Tempest Williams  
Photo by Marion Ettlinger

conference to register delegates, coordinate all of the sessions and field trips, orient speakers, communicate with the hotel, and deal with every imaginable thing that can (and will) happen. Supplementing the WRCOG team at the Congress will be many workers and volunteers, all of whom will be wearing distinctive red vests so they are easily identified.

### Our partners

The vast majority of the cost of putting on the WRC comes from the registration fees paid by the delegates. Fundraising and

partnerships, however, have been essential to keeping the cost down and adding depth and inclusiveness to the experience. First among the partners is the **U.S. National Park Service**, which has provided financial support for the Congress and scholarships, as well as substantial in-kind support, both tangible and intangible (see sidebar).

Early on, WRCOG forged a partnership with the **George Wright Society** to manage the registration and call for presentations, as the Society had a long track record of success with its biennial conferences. The other integral partner is the **Center for Protected Area Management at Colorado State University** (CSU), which has organized two customized nine-day ranger training sessions before and after the WRC (one of which will be in Spanish) for up to 45 WRC delegates. Additional partnerships have been developed with **ParkLeaders.com** and **One Percent for the Planet**.

The **National Parks Conservation Association** provided a substantial cash donation, and **Eastern National** is generously providing the Centennial-logo water bottles every participant will receive at the WRC.

Scholarships are essential for many of the overseas delegates to be able to participate in the WRC. The generosity of the **Thin Green Line Foundation** and the

**World Wildlife Fund-U.S.**, in particular, is making a huge difference. Many other individuals, parks, friends groups and organizations have opened their wallets to sponsor the costs of one or more delegates.

### Benefits to ANPR

As the World Ranger Congress is the largest and most public undertaking in ANPR's history, there are abundant residual benefits to the Association. The connections made with funders and sponsors don't end with the Congress. In fact, One Percent for the Planet specifically wants to maintain a long-term relationship with ANPR that is focused on environmental sustainability. The partnership with CSU will continue in ways we are just beginning to imagine.

The close collaboration between ANPR and the National Park Service on the WRC and the Centennial has forged beneficial relationships that will serve NPS rangers well into the future.

Most of all, the relationships we share with our colleagues in conservation from every corner of the planet will be deepened through fellowship and friendship — and they will last a lifetime.

— Bob Krumenaker,  
Apostle Islands, Wisconsin,  
World Ranger Congress Chair  
[bob.wrc8@gmail.com](mailto:bob.wrc8@gmail.com)



## DONATE TO ANPR

Support ANPR by making a tax-deductible contribution

### 2 WAYS TO DONATE

1

ONLINE:

[www.anpr.org](http://www.anpr.org)

2

BY CHECK:

ANPR | P.O. Box 984  
Davis, CA 95617

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Your generosity helps ANPR maintain the funding necessary for us to continue to produce educational materials, provide networking opportunities and pursue other important initiatives.

To pay by check, please fill out the form below and mail to ANPR.

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## NPS In-Kind Supporters

Denver Service Center  
Intermountain Regional Office  
Rocky Mountain National Park  
WASO Centennial Office  
WASO International Affairs  
WASO Interpretation,  
Education and Volunteers  
WASO Natural Resources,  
Stewardship, and Science  
WASO Visitor and  
Resource Protection

## Shadow Assignment Hosts

Arches and Canyonlands National Parks  
Big Bend National Park  
Biscayne National Park  
Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park  
Bryce Canyon National Park  
Buffalo National River  
Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area  
Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve  
Fort Davis National Historic Site  
Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument  
John Day Fossil Beds National Monument  
Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument  
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument  
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (California)  
Pinnacles National Park,  
Pacific West Region (NPS) Aviation Program  
Saguaro National Park



*Among the 264 delegates from 40 countries who came together at Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge in Arusha, Tanzania, for the 7th World Ranger Congress in 2012, were this group of four who traded ranger badges. ANPR member and delegate Jeff Ohlfs, second from right, has collected badges at every WRC. Photo courtesy of Jeff Ohlfs*

Women's Rights National Historical Park  
Yellowstone National Park  
Zion National Park

## Partner and Presenter Websites

1% For the Planet  
<http://onepercentfortheplanet.org/2015/11/world-ranger-congress>  
Cowboy Brad  
<http://www.cowboybrad.com>  
Eastern National  
<http://easternnational.org>  
George Wright Society  
[www.georgewright.org](http://www.georgewright.org)

National Parks Conservation Association  
<https://www.npca.org>

Park Leaders  
<http://parkleaders.com>

Terry Tempest Williams  
[www.coyoteclan.com](http://www.coyoteclan.com)

The Thin Green Line Foundation  
[www.thingreenline.org.au](http://www.thingreenline.org.au)

U.S. National Park Service  
[www.nps.org](http://www.nps.org)

Colorado State University Center for Protected Area Management  
<http://warnercnr.colostate.edu/world-ranger-congress-2016>

World Wildlife Fund U.S.  
[www.worldwildlife.org](http://www.worldwildlife.org)



**SANTA FE, NM**

2016

**RANGER RENDEZVOUS**

**OCTOBER 27-30**

Plan to join us at the Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR) 39th Annual Ranger Rendezvous in beautiful Santa Fe, New Mexico October 27-30. This conference for national park professionals will be held at the Hotel Santa Fe, Hacienda and Spa, the only Native American hotel in Santa Fe. The hotel is in the center of Santa Fe's trendy Railyard District, which is packed with museums, galleries, shops and restaurants. A virtual video tour and information about the hotel's ambience, guest rooms, meeting areas, restaurant and full-service spa can be found at [www.hotelsantafe.com](http://www.hotelsantafe.com).

The 2016 Rendezvous will be presented under the theme of "A Century of Service" to coincide with the Centennial of the National Park Service. This is an opportunity to reflect on the past 100 years of service as park rangers, the last 39 years of ANPR and to discuss how ANPR members can be stewards looking forward into the next century of service.

Rendezvous programs and activities are designed for attendees across all NPS divisions. Once again, ANPR will offer national and regional keynote speakers and professional development and training sessions on a wide variety of current topics, in addition to plenty of networking and social time, guided tours, field trips and a service activity — all at a value designed for NPS employees. There will also be an annual photography contest with the winning photos published in *Ranger* after the conference, lots of popular national park related items that will be raffled off, and there will be a silent auction with one-of-a-kind items as well.

## **WELCOME TO SANTA FE**

Santa Fe is one of the oldest and most historic cities in the southwestern United States. The center of a region revered for its spectacular landscape and expansive blue sky, this city of 70,000 diverse "creatives" and outdoor enthusiasts is located in the stunning Sangre de Cristo foothills. Its Spanish adobe architecture and culture date to the 17th century and continue to reflect its inhabitants, many whom have lived there for generations. It is well known throughout the world as a destination for

**COME TO RED  
ROCK COUNTRY AND  
CELEBRATE**

**A Century  
of Service**

southwestern and Native American art and design, as well as cultural sites and art museums with exhibits that can be experienced nowhere else.

One and a half hours north of Santa Fe lies the historic pueblo city of Taos, another well-known venue for unforgettable local culture, cuisine and architecture. Nearer by to the northwest are the Manhattan Project National Historic Park at Los Alamos, Valles Caldera National Preserve and Bandelier National Monument. Also within an hour's drive to the southeast is Pecos National Historic Park. Stay tuned for more information about Bandelier and Pecos related to Rendezvous. A snapshot of each follows.

**Bandelier National Monument** — Cavate cliff dwellings, petroglyphs, excavated archaeological sites, 70 miles of trails, waterfalls, wilderness and ceremonial sites are some of the highlights of this stirring and memorable park. Bandelier is on New Mexico Highway 501 and is accessible by public transit from Los Alamos. Please see <http://www.nps.gov/band/index.htm> and <https://www.flickr.com/photos/BandelierNPS>.

**Pecos National Historical Park** — A significant southwestern U.S. site for Civil War and rich regional history along the Santa Fe Trail, Pecos is the place to go to visit the Glorieta battlefield, 7,000-foot-elevation Cicuye pueblo and Forked Lightning Ranch. The destination and location of Spanish, Mexican, Indian and Anglo conquerors, missionaries, communities and armies, the historic Pecos Valley represents the confluence of numerous cultures and historic events. Pecos is accessible via Interstate Highway 25 and State Highway 63. Find out more at <http://www.nps.gov/peco/index.htm>.

## HOW TO GET THERE

Two major airlines serve Albuquerque, which is an hour's drive from Santa Fe. Santa Fe also has a municipal airport currently served by two major airlines, and the city is located along U.S. Interstate Highway 25, U.S. Route 285 and State Highway 599. Amtrak's Southwest Chief stops in nearby Lamy, with shuttle service to Santa Fe, as well as in Albuquerque and Las Vegas, New Mexico. More about this train service, which has connections in

other cities along its route, is available at <https://www.amtrak.com/southwest-chief-train>.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

We hope that you can contribute to the silent auction and raffle by collecting and setting aside new, unused items to send or bring to Santa Fe. Even if you aren't able to attend this year, we'd love to hear about what you can donate to these events to help support ANPR and Rendezvous.

Please also help us identify and contact potential donors, sponsors and exhibitors for this rewarding conference, whether or not you will be in Santa Fe. Also, freely thank these supporters whenever you have the chance (see the list of sponsors and exhibitors in every issue of *Ranger*.)

Finally, we're still looking for volunteers for specific assignments (some short term, some longer term) before and during the event. Past volunteer opportunities have included leading and helping out in communications and photography, logistics, registration, sponsorships and donations, scholarships, exhibit space, hospitality and field trips. Please contact Alison Steiner at [anprbusinessmanager@gmail.com](mailto:anprbusinessmanager@gmail.com) to learn more about volunteering opportunities and throw your hat in.



## MORE TO COME

We will keep you updated in *Ranger*, at [www.anpr.org](http://www.anpr.org) and in the ANPR e-newsletter as more plans are confirmed for Ranger Rendezvous XXXIX in 2016! Stay tuned for information about speakers, workshops, training, field trips and events. Watch for online registration in the coming weeks; you will need to register for the conference and separately for your room at the Hotel Santa Fe.

Lauren Kopplin,  
Glacier National Park,  
Montana  
[Lauren.kopplin@gmail.com](mailto:Lauren.kopplin@gmail.com)

Tim Moore  
National Mall and Memorial Parks,  
Washington, D.C.  
[Tmooreanpr@gmail.com](mailto:Tmooreanpr@gmail.com)



# RENDEZVOUS EXHIBITORS

## HELP SUPPORT ANPR



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The following exhibitors supported ANPR by participating in last year's Rendezvous. ANPR appreciates their generous contribution.

















## ANPR REPORTS

### Kudos List

These people have either given someone a gift membership to ANPR or recruited a new member. Thanks for your help and support!.

- Steve Dodd
- Karen Dreiblatt
- Rebecca Harriett
- Mark Herberger
- Berger Jostad
- Pat Kenney
- Bob Krumenaker
- Kate Sargeant
- Daniel Umstead

### Shop AmazonSmile and make \$\$ for ANPR

When you shop at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), please link first to AmazonSmile. The company will donate a portion of your purchase to ANPR. Get started here: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1494811>

### Sign up for ANPR's email list

If you don't receive email updates from ANPR, please let us know. Email ANPR's business manager at [anprbusinessmanager@gmail.com](mailto:anprbusinessmanager@gmail.com), and we'll add you to the list.



**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT RANGER MAGAZINE!**

Take our survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6B6G5VF>

**Survey will be open until June 15.**

The electronic survey tool only allows one survey to be submitted per respondent.

## All in the Family

**Kathy Clark has retired after 40 years of federal service.** Clark began her career as a seasonal ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, served with the U.S. Park Police at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NPS Pacific West Regional Office, and the NPS Intermountain Regional Office as a staff ranger in visitor and resource protection. She can be reached at [kathjeff5280@gmail.com](mailto:kathjeff5280@gmail.com).



**Gregg Fauth, most recently wilderness coordinator at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in California, retired on January 8 with more than 36 years of federal service, almost all with the NPS.** Fauth is a longtime member of ANPR and served on the board of directors in the early 2000s. His career started in Yosemite National Park and took him to several other western parks, including Yellowstone National Park, Crater Lake National Park, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and Sequoia and Kings Canyon, where he worked two tours encompassing more than 20 years. His early duties primarily involved interpretation; he also served as a law enforcement ranger, resource manager and concessions manager. At Fort Vancouver he served as the chief ranger (interpretation and resource management); as Sequoia and Kings Canyon's wilderness coordinator he co-led the recent completion of the parks' Wilderness Stewardship Plan. Fauth and his wife Jenny Matsumoto (who is still working for the NPS) will remain in the Three Rivers, California area where they will try to get in more travel and Fauth plans to work on home projects. They can be reached at [jmatsu10@gmail.com](mailto:jmatsu10@gmail.com).

**Erika Jostad, ANPR president, has been appointed chief ranger at Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska.** Jostad brings a history of leadership excellence, field experience and passion to the job. "Her background as a field ranger, experienced manager and in numerous leadership roles, including serving as president of the Association of

National Park Rangers, will serve her well as she assumes this complex job," said Denali Superintendent Don Striker. Jostad is also a longtime member of ANPR.

**John Morlock, a 34-year veteran of federal government service, retired from the NPS in January as superintendent of Fort Davis National Historic Site in Texas.** During more than six years at Fort Davis, Morlock led the installation of new exhibits in Post Hospital and Museum and a renovation of the Visitor Center and Auditorium. Morlock began his NPS career in 1980 as a river ranger at Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River in Texas and has worked as a ranger, supervisor and fire management leader at El Malpais National Monument in New Mexico, Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah, and Big Bend National Park in Texas, where he led the Southwest Texas Parks Group in fire management for five Interior sites. He also has been a member of national fire management teams and coordinated the Los Diablos Program that brings Mexican firefighters into the United States to assist on wildfires and prescribed burns, for which he earned the Department of Interior's Superior Service Award in 2008. Morlock looks forward to spending more time on his bicycle, in his boat, and on the mountain. He also plans to continue to serve land management agencies in conservation and fire management. Morlock and his wife, Adamina, live in west Texas. He invites friends and colleagues to stay in touch via email at [john\\_morlock@hotmail.com](mailto:john_morlock@hotmail.com).



**Liz Roberts, chief of administration at Joshua Tree National Park in California, has completed a quilt in honor of the NPS Centennial.** The quilt currently hangs in the superintendent's office at the park and will also be displayed at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport for a year beginning in mid-June. "I have worked for the NPS for 30 years, spend most of my vacations in national parks, and, also being a quilter, wanted to commemorate the upcoming NPS Centennial in a quilt," Roberts said. The work, which was entirely quilted by hand over the course of eight years, is a complex representation of the nation's national parks. The center piece represents the official symbol of the NPS, the Arrowhead, and also features text from the Organic Act of 1916 (which established the Park Service) embroidered on the grass. Other details include quilted tufts in the grass, breezy patterns in the sky, and the Native American heart line symbol in a white buffalo. The quilt's inner tan border is embroidered with the names of all the units designated as national parks; the outer green border lists the park unit designations.

**Tom Schaff has become the chief ranger at Guadalupe Mountains National Park in Texas.** He is the former chief ranger at Scotts Bluff National Monument in Nebraska, where he also served as the acting superintendent. Schaff has also served at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Lava Beds National Monument and Redwood National Park in California, Carlsbad

Caverns National Park in New Mexico, Mount Rainier National Park in Washington, and Virgin Islands National Park. Seasonal assignments for Schaff have included Grand Canyon, Pinnacles and Olympic National Parks in Arizona, California and Washington, respectively. He invites ANPR members who visit west Texas to join him on a hike up Guadalupe Peak. Schaff can be reached at [island\\_ranger@icloud.com](mailto:island_ranger@icloud.com).

**Kirsten Talken-Spaulling has been named superintendent of Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park in Virginia beginning in April.** She replaces Lucy Lawliss, who retired in December 2015. Talken-Spaulling comes to the position from Fort Monroe National Monument in Virginia. NPS Northeast Regional Director Mike Caldwell cited her work in leading the startup operations at Fort Monroe and her ability to work with partners and stakeholders. Talken-Spaulling began her NPS career in 1988 at Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. She has worked at NPS headquarters in Washington, D.C.; Mojave National Preserve in



California; National Mall and Memorial Parks in Washington, D.C.; Haleakala National Park in Hawaii;

Prince William Forest Park in Virginia; and National Capital Parks-East in Washington, D.C. In 2010, Talken-Spaulling began a two-year Bevinetto Congressional Fellowship training and development program in Washington, D.C. She served as a staff member of the U.S. Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee and as special assistant to the director of the NPS and then with the NPS Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs. She is a long-time runner and also enjoys long-distance motorcycling. In 2015, she visited 68 national parks in 26 states during a two-week, 11,805-mile motorcycle rally.

## Welcome to the ANPR family!

Here are the newest members of the Association of National Park Rangers (updated 2/2/16):



*New member Alan Spears*

Janet Anderson.....Jericho, VT  
 Katrina Andrews ..... Niles, MI  
 Linda Bennett ..... Greenbelt, MD  
 Tim Cole..... Jackson, WY  
 Philip Dendel..... Fort Collins, CO  
 Emma Dlutkowski ... Atlantic Mine, MI  
 Tyler Dreibratt.....Arcata, CA

Courtney and Ed Eberhardy  
 ..... East Glacier, MT  
 Alan Ellsworth..... Fort Collins, CO  
 Mark Giese..... Hilliard, OH  
 Jill Jaworski ..... Harkers Island, NC  
 Shelton Johnson ..... Mariposa, CA  
 Kristin Jostad ..... Lynnwood, WA  
 Jason Lichtblau.....Corpus Christi, TX  
 Stephen Longnecker ..... Arlington, VA  
 Rafael Magana..... Washington, DC  
 Bob Martin ..... Dunbar, PA  
 Sarah Oluich ..... Lovettsville, VA  
 Brandon Pofahl  
 ..... Yellowstone National Park, WY  
 Casimer Rosiecki..... Quincy, MA  
 Woody Smeck ..... Three Rivers, CA  
 Alan Spears..... Washington, DC  
 Carol Spears ..... The Villages, FL  
 David Weber ..... Gaithersburg, MD  
 Benjamin Yaggie..... Avon, OH

# Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek:

## An Intimate Portrait of 399, The Most Famous Bear of Greater Yellowstone.

Todd Wilkinson. Photography by Thomas D. Mangelsen. Forward by Ted Turner. Rizzoli International Publications, Inc. New York, New York.

By Rick Smith

Unlike most of the reviews I have written for *Ranger*, this is not a straightforward book review. It is, instead, a review of a work of art. The photography in this coffee-table format is absolutely riveting. And the story of 399 and her offspring is spine-tingling. While the cost of this book may stretch a reader's budget, if you care about grizzlies and their future in the American West, this is a book you have to see.

Wilkinson's narrative traces the comings and goings of grizzly 399, who was first trapped in 1996. She has produced three sets of triplets, who have produced two sets of twins and a single cub. Like many grizzlies in the Greater Yellowstone, not all of these cubs have survived. Those that made it to adulthood face the enormous prejudices that exist in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho against predators, and they also face dangers associated with the annual elk hunt just south of Grand Teton. Grizzlies flock to the Grand Teton area to feed on elk remains left by hunters, and there is always the chance of an encounter between a bear and an armed hunter. Most conservationists consider the elk hunt to be a clear and present danger to the grizzly population and consistently call for its end.

### Perils ever present

What is striking about *Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek* is its message regarding the precarious level of the bear population and the grizzlies' position on the Endangered Species List. Unlike 399, most sow grizzlies are notoriously slow reproducers. Killing just a few sows can start a precipitous slide in population dynamics. The states of Wyoming, Idaho and Montana seem intent on opening hunting of grizzlies. This seems particularly foolish, considering that grizzlies are one of the major attractions in Yellowstone and Grand Teton and are one of the biggest dollar producers in the area.

The opportunity to see grizzlies is one of the top reasons that people travel to Yellowstone and Grand Teton. NPS employees and retirees, as well, understand the priceless and intrinsic value of wildlife under our charge. Yet, for doing nothing more than wandering across an invisible park boundary line, 399, the most famous bear in the world today, could be shot by hunters. And, as *Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek* notes, there are people who vow to target and slay 399 if federal protections are removed — because they despise the federal government, environmentalists, bears and the law that has been protecting bears since 1975.

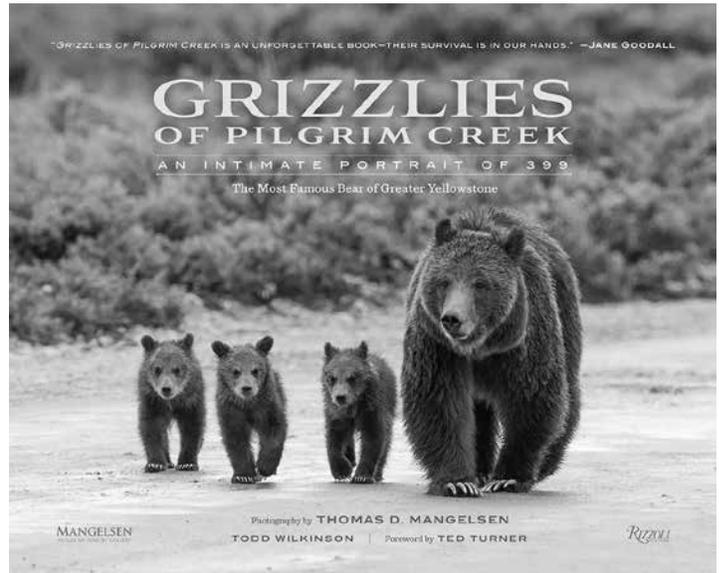
Just as the slaying of Cecil the lion in Africa brought global outrage when the charismatic cat wandered outside of Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe and was fatally wounded by a Minnesota dentist using a bow and arrow, a national park grizzly could become subject to a similar

needless tragedy — which would be sure to incite national controversy.

### Food sources an issue

Although grizzlies have proved to be remarkably adaptive to food changes, two of the main staples in their diets are already disappearing. Lake trout, introduced surreptitiously to Yellowstone Lake, have drastically reduced the number of cutthroat trout upon which the bears used to feed when the cutthroat swam up the streams that feed into Yellowstone Lake to spawn. And the lake trout spawn at depths in Yellowstone Lake that are inaccessible to the bears. Yellowstone National Park's aggressive campaign to remove lake trout from the lake has caused a rebound in the cutthroat population and may promise a brighter future for the bears. In addition, beetle infestations caused by warmer winters have almost eliminated the whitebark pine as a food source for grizzlies in Yellowstone and Grand Teton.

These kinds of changes make grizzlies more dependent on meat, a fact that often puts them on a collision course with ranchers who raise cattle and sheep. The sad fact is that bears that prey on domestic livestock are trapped and euthanized. Wilkinson raises an interesting question: Why should non-native cattle, ultimately bound for the slaughterhouse, take precedence over native grizzlies that are acting as the natural predators they are? Wilkinson writes, "What rubs many the wrong way is that exotic cattle hold primacy on public land that would otherwise be exceptional



wildlife habitat. Ranchers graze their cattle at below-market rates and they receive protection from native predators.” The National Wildlife Federation holds that cattle grazing is a land mine for grizzlies and their fellow predators, wolves.

## Breathtaking photography

I would like to turn my attention now to the photography in the book. In 11 seasons at Yellowstone, I saw at least 70 or 80 grizzlies, many of them close up. Even so, the photos of grizzlies in this book took my breath away. The images are sharp and engaging and in some photos the bears appear to be a lot closer than I would want them to be in real life. Particularly interesting are the photos in the “Family Album,” all of bear 399 or her offspring. These are thrilling photos of what has been called the most famous bear in the Greater Yellowstone area.

I guarantee that you won't tire of the photos or Wilkinson's narrative. You will come away from this book with a greater appreciation that we have thus far managed to save this magnificent animal. Its future, though, is far from assured.

*Rick Smith, an ANPR life member and former president of ANPR and the International Ranger Federation, retired from the National Park Service after a 31-year career. His last NPS position was as associate regional director of resources management in the former Southwest Region. He and his wife, Kathy, live in Tucson, Arizona.*

*Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek: An Intimate Portrait of 399* is available at [www.mangelsen.com/grizzly](http://www.mangelsen.com/grizzly).

# Life Century Club

MEMBERS

(updated 3/20/2016)

Life members who contribute \$125 to ANPR are recognized in the Second Century Club. Once you are a Second Century Club member, each additional \$250 donation will increase your life level by one century. If you are a life member, please consider raising your contribution to the next level!

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Name of ANPR member we may thank for encouraging you to join \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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two copies of each issue of Ranger sent quarterly       \$100

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Past Parks — Use four-letter acronym/years at each park, field area, cluster (YELL 98-02, GRCA 02-07) \_\_\_\_\_

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Oct. 27-30 | Sante Fe, NM | Details pg. 22



## 2015 FALL FUND CAMPAIGN DONORS

ANPR members generously donated \$7,637 during the annual Fall Fund Campaign. Total donations to ANPR in 2015 equaled \$9,852. These funds will help cover ANPR's operating costs and sustain the organization's important initiatives. **Thank you for your outstanding support!**

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