

RANGER

The Journal of the Association of National Park Rangers

Stewards for parks, visitors & each other

Vol. 35, No. 1 | Winter 2018/19

Ranger Rendezvous 41



SEE INSIDE
FOR SPECIAL
**Presidents
Day Letters**

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Ranger Rendezvous –
 an event to remember

The annual fall Ranger Rendezvous conference provides the ideal opportunity to obtain new skills and network directly with Association of National Park Rangers leaders and members, as well as influencers from Washington, D.C., NPS regions and park units.

Rendezvous benefits don't stop there, however.

The winter issue of *Ranger* magazine serves as an extension of Rendezvous for those who can and those who cannot attend the conference. The issue provides recaps, photos and even a sampling of keynote presentations from the conference. Effects of the conference also extend into the publishing year, as articles from presenters appear in future issues.

In this year's Rendezvous issue, we bring you keynote presentations from the CEO of the National Parks Conservation Association and the regional director of the National Park Service Southeast Region. Regarding the latter, we are pleased to print Bob Vogel's comprehensive remarks in four parts over consecutive issues of the magazine.

Member Ahmad Toure also expands on his conference presentation about inclusiveness. Hannah Malvin brings us up to date on another event, last year's fall LBGTTQ Outdoor Summit.

In addition, Butch Farabee has compiled a four-part search and rescue history quiz, which will also run throughout 2019. Don't look for the answers before you give all the questions a try.

Of course, no Rendezvous special issue would be complete without the gorgeous winning photos from the conference Photo Contest! *National Geographic*, watch out.

Now, the best for last.

Last fall, *Ranger* contacted the staff of former Presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter and asked each

president to send inspirational and aspirational messages to ANPR members in honor of Presidents Day.

It involved a scavenger hunt that included a former Interior secretary and delaying the issue, but we ended up receiving letters from all four past presidents in time for publication. The letters are also posted at ANPR.org.

SHARE THIS

You agree that this issue deserves to be shared widely, right? Please use personal and group informal and formal meetings, social media, and emails to share with potential ANPR members:

- Your comments about the compelling content in the magazine
- Excerpts from the past presidents' messages (for Presidents Day, of course!!)
- The membership application and ANPR.org for membership info
- What makes ANPR membership important, unique and a great value
- Next year's Ranger Rendezvous conference location and dates

Contact Chris at anprbusinessmanager@gmail.com to inquire about obtaining additional magazine copies to share. Ask Chris if you can get permission to share the magazine PDF with specific potential members as a recruitment tool.

One of the best ways to build membership now and in the future is to give a gift of membership to one or more people.

ELECTIONS

The next issue of *Ranger* will include results from the election of the ANPR president-elect and Board leaders for member services and fundraising. New board members join the Board in January. Please watch the e-newsletter for updates.

Ann Dee Allen,
Ranger editor



ON THE COVER: Photo Contest winner in the People category Ravis Henry, for Sand Jumping at Great Sand Dunes in Colorado.

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RANGER

THE JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL PARK RANGERS

Vol. 35, No. 1



Winter 2018/19

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

Jan Lemons, National Capital Regional Office, President ANPR

Greetings

rangers and rangers at heart We did it again!!

A small and mighty contingent of members from the Board and conference planning committee put together a successful Ranger Rendezvous 41 in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Eighty-eight people attended, including students, retirees, and early and mid-career employees.

The number of conference attendees gave everyone time to network – and meant there was less competition for the raffle prizes. We received positive feedback on the myriad programs offered, including hiring, cave exploration and search and rescue in Yosemite National Park.

Evening programs consisted of a highly competitive trivia night, the always entertaining movie night, an energetic and fun Civil War dance night, and a special dinner. You can view photos of the conference at ANPR.org.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER

We need your help to plan Ranger Rendezvous 42, scheduled for mid to late October in Washington state. Needed are volunteer Rendezvous committee members, a conference coordinator and a deputy coordinator.

Mount Rainier National Park has already committed to hosting training during the conference. We ask members from the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere to step up. Many hands make light work.

The abundance of National Park Service units in Washington will be a draw for conference attendees who

would like to travel in the Northwest. Units include Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, Fort Vancouver and Whitman Mission national historic sites, Klondike Gold Rush and San Juan Islands national historical parks, Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, and North Cascades and Olympic national parks.

NEW LEADERS

Three new Board members are being elected in January to focus on member services, fundraising and leadership as president-elect. We still have other volunteer opportunities available, including editorial advisor for this magazine. If you have an interest in working with our magazine editor to develop story ideas and ensure that articles are submitted on time, please let me know.

As I write this, the government is on partial shut down. I hope the shutdown is brief and everyone can get back to serving the people that we are committed to.

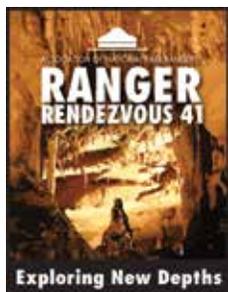
I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2019 full of adventures and good times with great people. If I can be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Ranger on!

Jan Lemons
President ANPR

Ranger Rendezvous 41 RECAP

November 7-12, 2018
Bowling Green, Kentucky
Holiday Inn University Plaza



A success!

By all accounts, Ranger Rendezvous 41 in Bowling Green, Kentucky November 8-11 was a great success. The program was outstanding, the facility was excellent, the field trips were well-received and the training sessions also well-received. Networking and

hospitality were clearly in evidence throughout the event.

As the Rendezvous manager, I would like to thank all the members of the conference management team for their very hard work in planning and managing the event. And a huge thanks to all the presenters and the

exhibitors who supported the Rendezvous and its participants.

Work is already progressing for the 2019 conference. Stay tuned for details about location and dates.

— Bill Wade

Colleen Derber and
Chris Reinhardt

Supernaugh Scholars
Reghan Tank, Katya
Irwin, Delta Higdon and
Andrew Keller





Photos: Ann Dee Allen

President's Award

Wendy Lauritzen was awarded the Rick Gale President's Award by Jan Lemons at Ranger Rendezvous. Lauritzen was selected for the award due to her unwavering support for ANPR over many years and her assistance with Ranger Rendezvous.

"I am more than overwhelmed and grateful to you all," Lauritzen wrote to Lemons and ANPR members after receiving the award. "ANPR has been the one constant I could count on throughout my career. As I prepare to retire on January 3, 2019, it is ANPR and its membership that is still with me now and in the future. ANPR is its own community of purpose, hope, aspirations, inspirations, assistance and healing. You have given me more than you will ever realize. The Rick Gale President's Award is a great honor and I have been blessed to have known the man himself. I miss him greatly."



Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park Ranger Rendezvous field trip

MATHER AWARD

NPCA honors Antonio Solorio



Each year at Ranger Rendezvous, the National Parks Conservation Association presents the Stephen T. Mather Award to a National Park Service employee who makes an exemplary effort on behalf of park resources. Award recipients demonstrate initiative and resourcefulness in promoting park protection and enhancement. They have taken direct action where others may have hesitated to reinforce good park stewardship.

This year's award was presented to Antonio Solorio, youth program manager at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in California, by Theresa Pierno of NPCA.

Solorio was born in Tijuana and grew up in East LA. His life changed when he worked for the Student Conservation Association in Yosemite National Park as a young person. He knew then the power of connecting young people to outdoor spaces, including our national parks. He went on to join the National Park Service, where he now serves.

Solorio held multiple seasonal NPS jobs before landing in his current role in 2000. Remembering his own experiences and understanding the power of connecting young people to parks, he developed Santa Monica's Youth Program.

The program ties science and fun field activities together for local students. More than 200 high school students from the Oxnard and Los Angeles areas have graduated from the program. There is no doubt they will be forever changed. Students have said the program helped them realize that having an environmentally focused career can be a real possibility for them.

Solorio is a great friend to the youth in his community, to our national parks, and to NPCA.

Challenges and opportunities IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION

The eye of Hurricane Michael taken by NOAA satellite Photo: NOAA

Emerging from the excitement of the Centennial and embarking on our second century of service, the National Park Service finds itself at a crossroads. Riding the crest of the exposure from the “Find Your Park Campaign,” national parks welcomed more than 330 million visitors last year. Along with more visitors, new parks are also being added to the system, with the National Park System now comprised of 418 sites, and counting. More visitors, more parks, more resources under our care – all of these present us with challenges and opportunities in managing our parks.

In the Southeast Region, the greatest threat faced by parks today is the effect of climate change on our natural and cultural resources. Our parks are a testament to the reality of climate change, which is challenging national parks in ways we’ve never seen before. Glaciers are retreating at an unprecedented rate, habitat is being disrupted, and of particular concern in the Southeast Region, sea level rise and increasingly destructive storms are hastening coastal erosion, threatening cultural resources and causing millions of dollars’ worth of damage to park facilities each year.

From the military fortifications of the Atlantic coast to the beaches of Cape Hatteras and Canaveral national seashores, some of the most historic and beautiful places in the United States are in our national parks of the Southeast Region. Some 25 parks in the region are on or near the coast. They are home to nesting shorebirds and sea turtles, historical forts and

lighthouses, and opportunities for recreation and respite. And despite their great diversity, national significance, and destination for tens of millions of Americans each year, they are affected by changes caused by climate change, especially sea level rise.

Managers of these parks face new challenges – challenges unimagined by builders of the forts and lighthouses within them, challenges unprecedented for the species that inhabit them, and challenges unanticipated by those who secured these places as part of the National Park System.

STORMS WREAK HAVOC

Serious storms and their impacts to our parks are becoming an annual rite of autumn, and not just along the coast. Among the parks most impacted by Hurricane Michael were Andersonville and Jimmy Carter national historic sites, parks that are nearly 200 miles from the Gulf or Atlantic Coast.

From Hurricane Matthew in 2016 to Harvey; to Nate, Irma and Maria last year, and Florence and Michael this year, severe storms are becoming annual events. These storms during the last three hurricane seasons have caused over \$500 million in damage to infrastructure and facilities at Southeast Region parks, affecting half of our sites. These storms damaged and destroyed historic structures, staff housing, visitor centers, ferry boats, levees, boardwalks, docks, trails and more.

The ecosystems and natural habitat of our parks are also seriously harmed by the storms, threatening water quality, wildlife habitat and the ability of these areas to protect communities and ecosystems from future storm surges. And as an economic

engine for local communities, the short and long-term closures of our parks impact tourism-based economies in our neighboring gateway communities.

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN

Amidst these challenges, our parks provide opportunities to learn more about climate change. They are laboratories for good science and informed management decisions, as well as educating the public about how climate change affects us by impacting places we care about.

National parks teach us how climate change worked in the past and how it affects us today. We can gain insight into ways to protect these special places in the future. And as we recover and rebuild after the storms pass, we are incorporating sustainable practices into the buildings, roads and facilities we rebuild in order to lessen the impact of future storms.

The Climate Friendly Parks program is a good example of how we apply the lessons learned and share best practices among our parks. Supporting the NPS Green Parks Plan, the program provides parks with the tools and resources to address climate change and ensure the most sustainable operations across the agency.

National parks, because of their location and unique, protected resources, are places where the effects of climate change are particularly noticeable. Today, as knowledge about climate change and its effects increase and potential impacts are better understood, the need to practice good stewardship and develop forward thinking resource management plans is more relevant than ever.

The Climate Friendly Parks program provides national parks with comprehensive support to address climate change within park boundaries and within surrounding communities. The goals of the program include:

- Measuring park-based greenhouse gas emissions
- Educating staff, partners, stakeholders and the public about climate change and ways that individuals and groups can take action to address the issues
- Assisting parks in developing strategies and specific actions to address sustainability challenges, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and anticipate the impacts of climate change on park resources

Thirteen parks in the Southeast Region are part of the Climate Friendly Parks network. From Christiansted in the Caribbean to Wright Brothers on the dunes of Cape Hatteras, these parks are part of the network of more than 120 parks from every region across the Service that have completed Climate Friendly Park Action Plans.

CORAL REEFS AT RISK

Of particular concern when it comes to climate change within our region are our coral reefs. Sixty percent of the parks that manage coral reefs within their boundaries are located in the Southeast Region. Far from merely being a kaleidoscope of color to see on a snorkeling outing, coral reefs are vital for a healthy ocean ecosystem.

They provide habitat for 25 percent of all marine animals, from thousands of fish species to sponges to marine mammals. They are our first line of defense against tropical storms, helping to protect all of our coastal communities. And, not insignificantly, coral reefs support local economies; through tourism and recreation, drawing people from all over the world to see their beautiful and diverse ecosystems.

The reefs are fragile and sensitive to changes in water quality and temperature. When pollution causes changes in water quality or temperatures exceed their natural tolerances, corals will become stressed and may die if conditions don't improve.

A major stressor of coral reefs is rising water temperatures. Coral thrives in relatively warm water, but when water temperatures rise too high, the photosynthetic algae that live in their tissue are forced to leave. Since these algae give the corals color, when they leave the coral becomes white, appearing bleached. This coral bleaching can cause the reef to die.

Acidification of the ocean is another contributor to poor health in our coral reefs. Ocean acidification caused by the increase in carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, which is then absorbed by the oceans, can affect coral health by making less calcium carbonate available in ocean waters. Without the calcium carbonate, it is more difficult for corals to form their skeletons.

Additional threats to our coral reefs come from predation from damsel fish and crown of thorn starfish, overfishing and recreational impacts from boat groundings and anchors.

The National Park Service is working to restore and maintain the exceptional biological and recreational values of our coral reef parks. We are studying and monitoring coral reefs closely to understand patterns in reef health.

Coral reef parks have regulations to prevent damage from boats and anchors. At Virgin Islands National Park, for example, we have installed a storm-mooring system in sheltered bays to give boaters a secure alternative to tying up to mangrove trees, a practice that damages not only the trees, but also the fragile coral communities that grow on them.

Certain parks also restrict fishing to maintain healthy populations of reef fish. In addition to protecting corals, parks also restore coral reefs by creating underwater nurseries for coral fragments to grow. These fragments can be placed onto reefs and will grow to form new reef structures and provide important habitat for marine life in the coral reef ecosystem.

Bob Vogel is the regional director of the National Park Service's Southeast Region. He presented these remarks at the 2019 Ranger Rendezvous conference in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

RENDEZVOUS EXHIBITORS

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EXHIBITORS



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NPCA

By Theresa Pierno, NPCA

still going
strong at
100
years young



Death Valley National Park in California

The National Parks Conservation Association is turning 100. The National Park Service just had its Centennial in 2016, and NPCA joined the Park Service in that celebration. NPS saw record numbers of people visiting the parks, and NPCA saw record numbers of people advocating for them. This is the latest in a string of examples that show how both organizations often depend on one another.

NPCA's past is intertwined with the Park Service's, starting with their founders. Stephen Mather was the first director of the NPS and he was one of NPCA's founders. Mather was a successful businessman who loved America's national parks and was personally committed to protecting them.

Mather left his career to work for the Department of Interior so he could put his values into action. He knew that for the parks to truly be successful they needed a dedicated agency to manage them.

This wouldn't be an easy feat, but he had a plan. First, he knew that a publicity campaign would help his effort. Mather hired his old friend and newspaper editor Robert Sterling Yard for the job. The federal government didn't have the budget to pay for Yard so Mather paid his salary.

With Mather's charisma, Yard's writing skills and conviction, the two proved persuasive. In 1915, they hosted the Mather Mountain Party, bringing together a dozen influencers – from elected officials to industrialists to artists – to experience the wonders of Sequoia National Park. The group then became champions for Mather's cause.

The following year they published *National Parks Portfolio*, which featured striking photography from the parks and was given to every member of Congress.

Mather and Yard won Congress over. On August 25, 1916, the Organic Act was signed, establishing the National Park Service. Mather became the agency's first

director and Yard became the chief of education. Throughout this time, Yard knew an independent organization devoted to educating people about national parks – and protecting them – was needed.

NPCA BECOMES A REALITY

In 1919, Yard's dreams were realized. He left the Park Service to create NPCA. The first donor was Stephen Mather.

Yard had always envisioned NPS and NPCA working together to defend our parks – in their own ways, each important in their own right. He said people should join NPCA because he believed it was the people, not government, who would save their own national parks.

This is his direct quote about NPCA from *The Nation's Parks*: "Unconnected with the government and absolutely independent of political or other adverse influences, it has become the fearless and

outspoken defender of the people's parks and the wildlife within them against the constant, and just now the very dangerous, assaults of commercial interests."

Those are powerful words I try to lead by, a century later.

NPCA's work started as soon as it was formed, and it began at our first national park. In 1919, the Association worked to stem the hunting of the elk population that moved beyond park boundaries during the harsh winter. One year later it defeated a proposed dam on the Yellowstone River near the outlet of Yellowstone Lake.

In Olympic National Park, it helped stop logging of the old-growth spruce forests during World War II. While the Interior secretary was on NPCA's side, the Park Service director at the time was ready to concede more than 70,000 acres for logging. This shows how complicated, and political, the issues can be.

In the 1950s NPCA put its words into action. The CEO, two members of the Board of Trustees, Chief Justice William O. Douglas and others set out to hike all 184.5 miles of the C&O Canal towpath to save it from being paved into a parkway. NPCA won that fight, too.

NPCA stopped plans to build what would have been the country's largest landfill at the doorstep of Joshua Tree National Park. The site would have been surrounded by park land on three sides – land carved out from the original national monument for mining. The Association didn't stop the landfill once. Or twice. It had to step in three times. It will stop the landfill again, and any other development ideas that get proposed for the area, if that's what's needed. Right now, NPCA is fighting a pump station slated for that very spot. The work continues!

NPCA didn't do any of this alone. As Yard predicted, it took the will of the people to save their own parks. For a century, that's just what we've all done. Together.

But NPCA hasn't just stopped the bad from happening. It has worked for the good, too. It's worked with communities, elected officials, historians, the Park Service and the Administration to help ensure new parks are created that tell the important stories of America – from Cesar Chavez to Pullman, Belmont Paul to Stonewall.



Microplastics on beach
Photo: Wikimedia Commons

MORE WORK TO BE DONE

National parks are important places for recreation and learning. We must do all we can to keep the stories alive so we can honor those who came before us, whether a generation ago or centuries ago, so we don't repeat the mistakes of our past.

Now, 100 years later, NPCA still has an important role to play for our national parks – alongside the National Park Service. Every day 1.3 million members and supporters join with NPCA to speak up for our national parks.

Yard wrote in 1920 about the "very dangerous assaults of commercial interests." That was the case then, and that's still the case today. NPCA is still holding its ground and fighting back.

The Association has had some great successes recently. A 20-year mineral withdrawal will now protect 30,000 acres north of Yellowstone National Park from new mining claims. If this hadn't happened, two large-scale mining operations would have moved in. NPCA worked with the Yellowstone Gateway Business Coalition, made up of more than 400 business owners. We are grateful we have a victory to celebrate as a result.

NPCA is also focused on the NPS budget. Between 2011 and 2017, the Park System lost 11 percent of its staff while visitation increased 19 percent. Less staff means added challenges to an already under-funded agency. Interpretation programs suffer. Scientific research and monitoring suffer. Money is used for basic operating needs at the expense of other opportunities.

Deferred maintenance is another issue NPCA is making real progress on, as the Park Service is suffering from a nearly \$12 billion backlog of maintenance needs. NPS is charged with more than 75,000 structures, second only to the Department of Defense in the amount of infrastructure it maintains.

Combine aging facilities and years of congressional underfunding with record visitation and we have serious issues for our national parks. Here are just two examples:

- Mount Rainier National Park has a trail rehabilitation backlog of \$10 million because recreation fees have to go toward other more critical projects.
- For the past three decades, Yellowstone has been working to upgrade the park's 254-mile Grand Loop and entrance roads that were built to 1940's standards. Only half of the road and entrances have been reconstructed and at least \$800 million is needed to do the rest. At the current funding pace, it will take more than 75 years to complete this work.

It's up to Congress to pay for the necessary repairs at parks. It's up to us to hold them accountable. Fortunately, a number of members of Congress on both sides of the aisle recognize that parks need dedicated money for deferred maintenance needs.

CONGRESS HOLDS THE KEY

For years NPCA has worked to educate Congress about the funding needs of our parks. It has been on the Hill countless times for meetings. It brought community members and business owners to talk about the dire situation many of our parks are in and how this affects the surrounding communities.

Congress listened! Legislation has been introduced in both the House and Senate to finally establish dedicated funding programs for deferred maintenance. In the Senate, the legislation is called the Restore Our Parks Act (S. 3172) and the nearly identical House bill is called Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act (H.R. 6510).

The Administration also supports this legislation, which would provide dedicated funding to reduce most of the high priority projects in the National Park Service's

maintenance backlog. The bill uses revenue the government receives from energy production on federal lands and waters – a total of up to \$6.5 billion over five years. NPS can finally repair park roads, visitor facilities, crumbling trails and other structures.

These bills do not compete with the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Historic Preservation Fund or programs that use this funding source.

The House bill has over 200 bipartisan co-sponsors and the Senate bill has over 30. It's fair to say that not a lot gets done in Congress these days, but there is a lot of momentum to get this bill over the finish line, either as a stand-alone bill or as part of a public lands package.

But there's so much work to be done. NPCA is fighting for parks on several fronts, and holding the Interior secretary accountable for protecting them. It is working to protect our national monuments, keeping these lands, cultural artifacts and scientific resources safe instead of opening them up to mining and other destructive activities.

It's fighting for the withdrawal of outstanding oil and gas leases near national parks and working to prevent future lease sales near parks. Since the start of 2017, DOI has offered oil and gas leases near more than 20 national parks, including Carlsbad Caverns and Great Sand Dunes, threatening them with irreparable harm.

NPCA wants DOI to reinstate the use of science in the management of national park lands. Science is vital to park management, especially as we tackle climate change and pollution.

The Association is working on these issues, and many more. At times it feels daunting. But the harder this work gets, the more important it is to hold our ground and fight. You know better than anyone that our national parks are facing some serious threats. Parks need all of us working in our own ways, now more than ever.

Theresa Pierno is the CEO of the National Parks Conservation Association based in Washington, D.C. She presented these remarks at Ranger Rendezvous in Bowling Green, Kentucky in October 2018.

2018 ANPR

PHOTO Contest



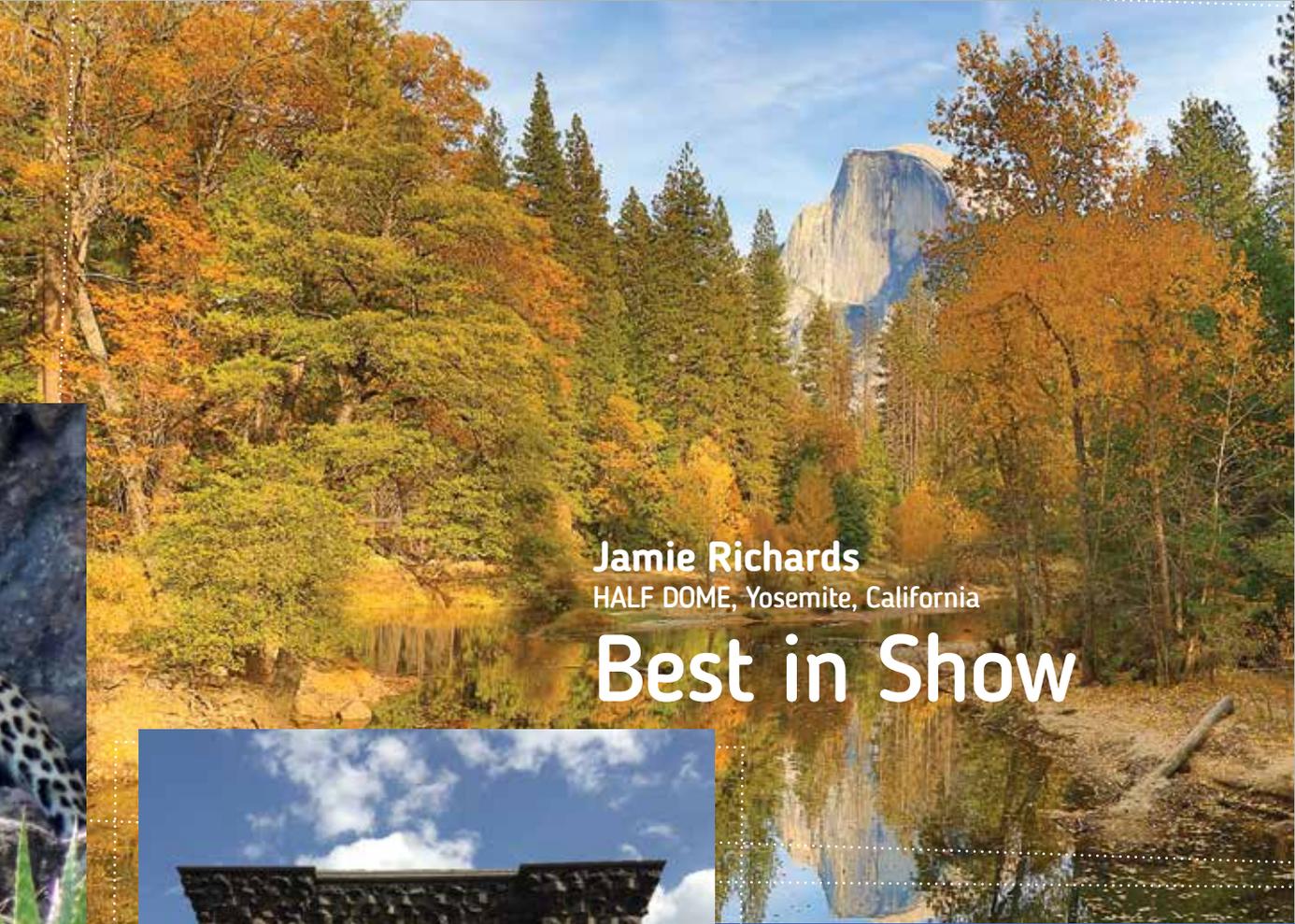
Jeff Ohlfs
LEOPARD
Serengeti, Tanzania

Wildlife



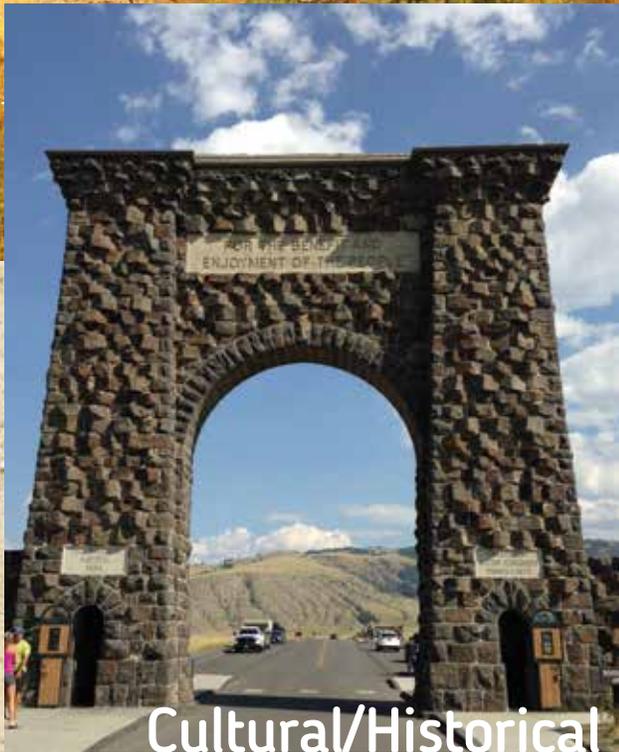
Jonathan Schechter
BRIGHT INSECTS ON COYOTE SCAT
Sleeping Bear Dunes, Michigan

It's in the details



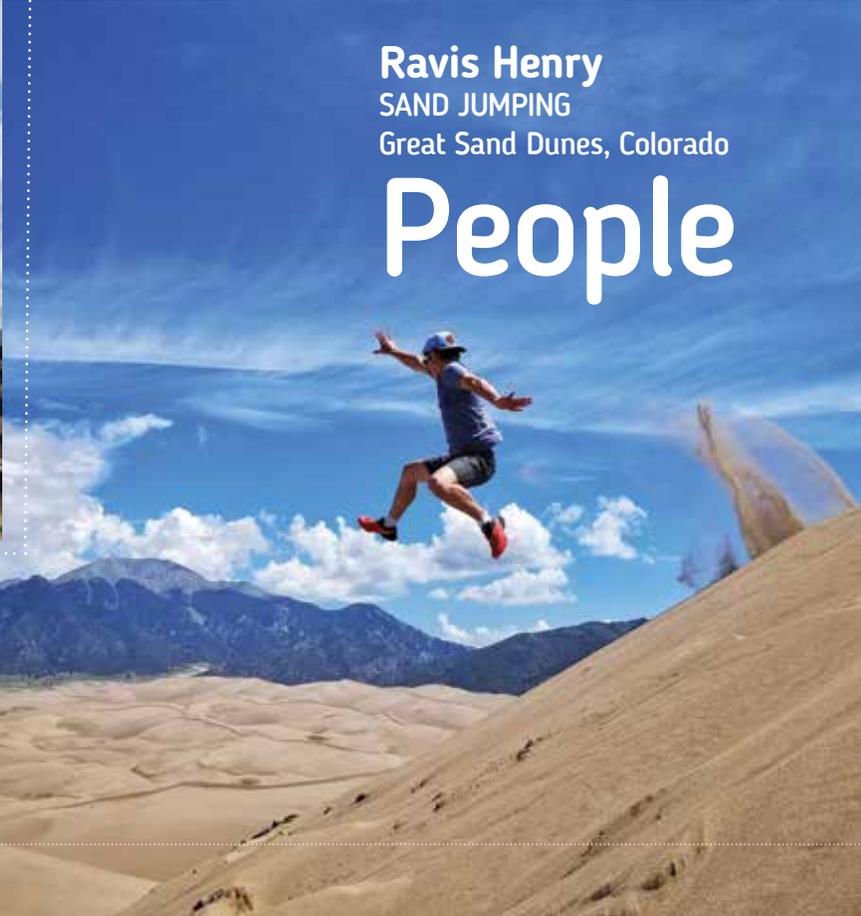
Jamie Richards
HALF DOME, Yosemite, California

Best in Show



Cultural/Historical

Liz Roberts
ROOSEVELT ARCH
Yellowstone, Montana



Ravis Henry
SAND JUMPING
Great Sand Dunes, Colorado

People

Sharing skills and experiences

by supporting Indonesia's national parks

By Mark D. Flora



Erwin Siregar of USAID LESTARI and Rio Ardi of the Orangutan Information Centre discuss wetland restoration with NPS hydrologist Peter Sharpe in Rawa Singkil Wildlife Reserve.

During my 30-year National Park Service career, it was a privilege to work with truly exceptional colleagues dedicated to preserving and protecting America's greatest places. Following retirement, my journey has continued internationally.

I now volunteer with the U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP). For those fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to work internationally, it soon becomes apparent that no matter where you are in the world a ranger is a ranger. While our homes may be separated by 11 time zones and many of the challenges vary, our hearts are in the same place – striving to protect nature the very best that we can.

Extending for more than 3,000 miles along the western rim of the Pacific Ocean's Ring of Fire, Indonesia is an archipelago consisting of more than 13,000 geologically active islands spanning both sides of the equator. The unique biogeographical history of this region, influenced by its proximity to both the African and Asian land masses, has resulted in an extremely

rich biodiversity second only to that of the Amazon region of Brazil.

To help preserve its significant resources, Indonesia has established 53 distinctive national parks and other protected areas. Unfortunately, the integrity of the resources of many of these areas has been degraded. Despite their protected status, these treasures remain under severe threat from a wide variety of adjacent land use activities. Forest loss and habitat fragmentation, land conversion to oil palm and pulp wood plantations, illegal hunting and wildlife trafficking, mining and inadequate environmental protection are prevalent.

Since 2013, the DOI-ITAP has collaborated with the Republic of Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to strengthen Indonesia's protected area management capabilities through capacity building and skill set enhancement-focused project activities. These include field and classroom-based training, on-site assessments of specific management challenges, professional development details within U.S. protected areas, and other technical assistance activities.

A cornerstone of the Indonesia Parks Program has been the development of two Sister Park/Protected Area partnerships between Tanjung Puting and Sebangau National Parks in Borneo's Central Kalimantan Province and Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia and Big Cypress National Preserve in Florida.

Projects within these sister parks have included:

- Wildlife conservation
- Sustainable tourism and visitor services management
- Species inventory and monitoring
- Hydrological monitoring
- Peatland management and wetlands restoration
- Park interpretation and environmental education

Recently, the program has expanded to also support protected areas managed by the Natural Resources Conservation Agency in Aceh, Sumatra and Papua provinces, and marine protected area planning and management activities in North Maluku, Maluku and West Papua provinces.

Photos courtesy of DOI-ITAP

TANJUNG PUTING NATIONAL PARK AND BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE

Tanjung Puting was first established as a wildlife reserve in 1936 by the Dutch colonial government for the protection of the Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) and proboscis monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*). In 1996 it was designated as a national park by the Republic of Indonesia.

The Indonesian park and Big Cypress are both protected wetlands vital to larger regional watersheds that contain critical habitat supporting a rich biodiversity. Both areas also face a complex array of external management issues. These issues include:

- Increasing developmental pressures on their peripheries
- External pressures fragmenting the habitats of critical wildlife species
- Increased local and international visitation
- The need to work cooperatively with local jurisdictions and partners in order to effectively manage their resources

DOI-ITAP technical assistance to Tanjung Puting has included in-country training workshops and assessments focusing on park education and interpretive planning, ecotourism and concessions management, and wildlife inventory and monitoring techniques. In addition, Big Cypress hosted a 10-week detail for a Tanjung Puting ranger. The ranger received hands-on experience working in visitor services and welcome center management, commercial operations management, environmental education and natural resources management.

The detail provided the ranger with the experience needed to initiate longer-term activities designed to improve visitor experience, including carrying capacity assessment and ranger-led programs, and improve commercial service management relating to boat tour operators. The ranger also received training and skills to work with other Tanjung Puting staff to improve interpretive materials, youth outreach curriculum and media relations.

SEBANGAU NATIONAL PARK AND GREAT DISMAL SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Sebangau National Park encompasses a significant part of the largest remaining

continuous area of dense peat swamp on the island of Borneo. It serves as important habitat for many globally recognized threatened and endangered species. These include three high-profile primate species: the Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*), the agile gibbon (*Hylobates albibarbis*), and the proboscis monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*).

The Sebangau peat swamp forest was managed as a production forest from 1970-1995. During the period, logging companies gained access to the forest through the construction of temporary railways. Following the expiration of the logging concessions was a period of rampant and uncontrolled illegal logging activities (1995-2004). Illegal loggers created an extensive network of shallow canals, for floating the logs into adjacent rivers. The canals were dug in swampy peat.

The unregulated logging and canals resulted in the severe disruption of the natural hydrology. The water table fell and the peat dried out, greatly increasing fire vulnerability and contributing to the degradation of the forested peat swamp environment.

Since the national park was created in 2004, a major focus of park management and NGO partners has been wetlands restoration and re-establishing natural hydrologic conditions. Sharing similar hydrological impacts and restoration needs, Sebangau was paired as a sister park with Great Dismal Swamp.

WHAT THEY GAIN

DOI-ITAP technical assistance to Sebangau has included the completion of a water resources assessment for the park in 2015 and providing park staff with specialized workshops. The workshops focus on the hydrology of tropical peat forests and peatland restoration and management.

A Sebangau resource management specialist and outreach-environmental education specialist have each completed eight-week details at Great Dismal Swamp. Skill sets honed during these details have allowed the Indonesian rangers to gain sufficient experience to serve as trainers and subject matter experts for Sebangau and to extend their expertise to other protected areas in Indonesia. The rangers recently helped lead a wetlands restoration workshop for rangers from Rawa Singkil Wildlife Reserve in Aceh.

No matter where you are in the world a ranger is a ranger.

Additional DOI-ITAP assistance to Sebangau has included ecotourism-focused training. The team provided guidance about how new infrastructure can support tourism. Examples include boats for hire, boardwalk trails, interpretive signage and construction of a pavilion for hosting group activities. Additional training focused on interpretation, environmental education and outreach activities.

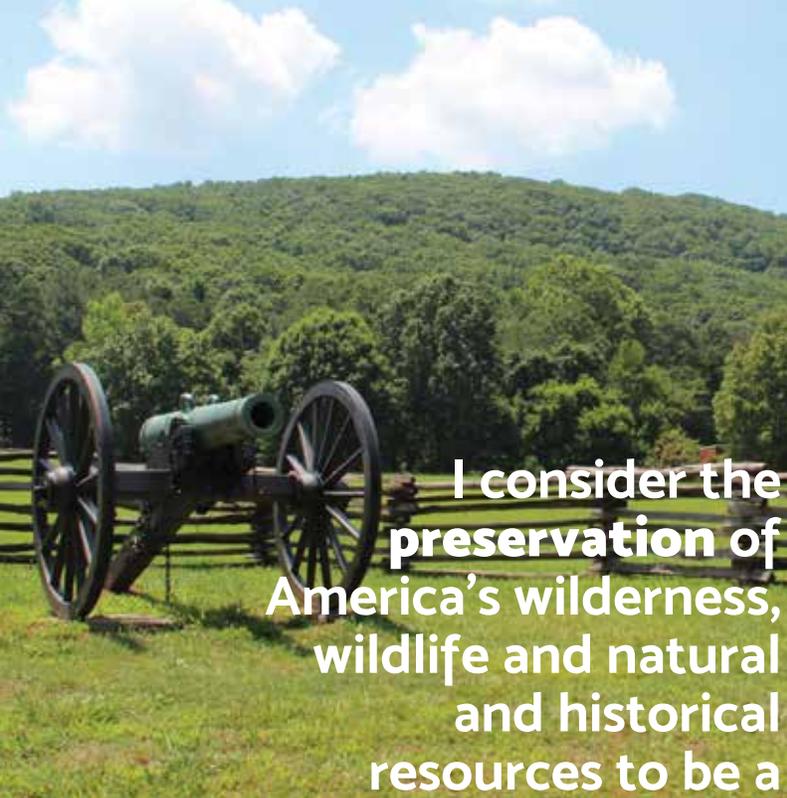
WHAT WE GAIN IN RETURN

For me, interaction with my international peers has been the highlight of my overseas experiences. During my NPS career, international assignments made me a better resource manager. Recognizing that I was a guest in another country, I gained a better appreciation for how others might approach a similar park operations or resource management issue.

Many of my international peers had far fewer resources than might be available to me. I was humbled by the observation that being a good ranger was often more dependent upon skills achieved through experience than resources. Also noted was that while much could be learned from classroom and field activities, sometimes the most important insights are gained during off hours around the campfire.

I strongly encourage anyone who is considering participating in a DOI-ITAP assignment to go for it. You will have a unique opportunity for professional development, challenging you to expand your boundaries and broaden your understanding. You will also return home with new friends and a very good feeling about the work rangers do in their home parks, worldwide. 

Mark D. Flora has been a senior technical advisor for the U.S. Department of Interior's International Technical Assistance Program and is retired from the National Park Service Water Resources Division. Visit www.doi.gov/intl/itap to learn more.



I consider the
preservation of
 America's wilderness,
 wildlife and natural
 and historical
 resources to be a

**sacred
 cause.**

Jimmy Carter



Letters to
ANPR

FROM FORMER PRESIDENTS

Jimmy E. Carter, 39th President

William J. Clinton, 42nd President

George W. Bush, 43rd President

Barack H. Obama, 44th President



IN HONOR OF PRESIDENTS DAY

2019



BARACK OBAMA

January 10, 2019

As we prepare to celebrate Presidents Day, Michelle and I wanted to express our appreciation for the extraordinary commitment demonstrated by the park rangers of the National Park Service. Like each of you reading this, Michelle and I have a deep appreciation for our country's vast beauty. From lush forests and open deserts to lakes and rivers teeming with wildlife, America is privileged to have so many natural treasures. And thanks to the steady, principled leadership of the National Park Service rangers, we can count on these treasures to be protected for future generations, just as previous generations protected them for us.

Each ranger carries on a noble and important tradition that has sustained our nation since its founding. The passion and professionalism they bring to our national parks each day makes an untold difference in the lives of people across our country. Their service is helping to protect the one planet we've got, ensuring we leave our children and grandchildren with a safer, cleaner, and more sustainable planet. And, for that, we owe each park ranger a profound debt of gratitude.

As we make our way through the winter season, may you and your loved ones have many opportunities to spend time together, exploring the beauty and wonder of nature, drawing inspiration from new experiences and comfort from traditions. Know I wish you all my very best for a wonderful year ahead.

With my gratitude for your service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barack Obama". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a distinct "O".

Like each of you reading this, Michelle and I have a deep appreciation for our country's vast beauty

Barack Obama



GEORGE W. BUSH

February 18, 2019

The National Park Service's rangers and employees work diligently to protect America's magnificent natural and historical treasures. President Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "There is nothing so American as our national parks." A source of pride, pleasure, and education for all citizens, our parks connect Americans with their lands.

Our country's cherished landscapes have played a significant role in my family. For eight years, Laura and I were privileged to live on the grounds of the President's Park in The White House. Laura and her childhood friends continue their longtime tradition of summer hikes in America's national parks. Our daughter, Jenna, became engaged to her husband, Henry Hager, in Acadia National Park. Even our beloved terriers, Barney and Miss Beazley, had a special connection with our parks after they were named Junior Park Rangers in 2007.

To help commemorate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, Laura and Jenna co-authored a children's book, *Our Great Big Backyard*, to pay tribute to our national parks and highlight the importance and fun of connecting with nature. Laura was honored to serve as co-chair of the National Park Service's Centennial with Michelle Obama.

Good stewardship of our national parks is important to me now, just as it was during my Presidency. The National Park's Legacy Project was initiated to ensure proper care for our national park system. It helped to enhance ecosystems, improve outdoor opportunities, address infrastructure needs, and establish accountability through performance goals. In anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, my Administration launched the National Parks Centennial Initiative. This initiative called upon the government, the private sector, and our citizenry to share in an effort to help repair our parks for another century of conservation, preservation, and enjoyment. We worked to enhance habitats, expand visitor services, increase educational opportunities, enable new technologies, and hire additional seasonal park rangers.

The National Park Service's rangers and employees dutifully responded, and I am grateful for their admirable efforts. Laura and I send our sincere thanks to all of the rangers, employees, and volunteers for all they do to make our national parks beautiful for all Americans to enjoy. Keep up the good work! May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

Even our beloved terriers, Barney and Miss Beazley, had a special connection to our parks were named Junior Park Rangers

George W Bush



WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

February 18, 2019

Speaking in Dickinson, North Dakota years before he became president, Theodore Roosevelt said to a crowd gathered to celebrate the Fourth of July, "We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune." The National Park Service Rangers and employees have been America's living embodiment of that call to action.

Few treasures have meant so much to so many people over the last century than our National Park System, carefully maintained and proudly explained to visitors, by America's extraordinary Rangers. From overseeing the diverse wonders of our majestic landscape to the locations of defining moments in our shared history, the National Park Rangers are the guardians of the most special places that unite us as Americans.

Having grown up in Hot Springs, Arkansas, which encompassed a National Park, I understood how important it was to both preserve and expand our protected lands and landmarks as President. My administration created or expanded 22 national monuments, adding nearly 6 million acres of protected land encompassing natural treasures like spectacular red rock canyon lands, ancient sequoias, and coral reefs. I have never forgotten the sense of awe I felt watching the sunset over the Grand Canyon on my first visit in 1971, and one of my greatest joys as president was knowing that I could help give future generations of Americans the chance to experience such moments.

As our natural resources are threatened by a changing planet, and as Park Rangers continue their too often underappreciated and dedicated service, there has never been a more important time to work together to continue creating lasting, positive impacts on our most precious landscapes and species and to recognize its best stewards. Together we must continue to pursue the sacred mission of conservation—a mission made possible by the outstanding men and women of the National Park Service who risk so much every day. As we celebrate Presidents Day across the United States, I am honored to pay tribute to the men and women who heeded President Roosevelt's call to preserve and protect our rich natural heritage. Your extraordinary stewardship is a true gift to us all.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Clinton".

I have never forgotten the sense of awe I felt watching the sunset over the Grand Canyon on my first visit

Bill Clinton



JIMMY CARTER

February 19, 2019

Few honors have given me more joy than when I was named Honorary National Park Ranger in 2016. I am proud to be associated with the employees of the National Park Service. Rosalynn and I happily reside in the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site and benefit every day from the care of Park Rangers. We know that across our country, Rangers are dedicated to preserving and conserving America's history and environment.

When I became President of the United States, I committed myself to protecting and expanding the National Park System. Over my four years I created thirty-nine new park units and expanded many others. These included urban recreation areas, additions to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and historic sites such as the one in Atlanta honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. The legislation that I consider the most significant was the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980. This doubled the size of our National Park and Wildlife Refuge System, tripled the wilderness areas, and protected twenty-five free-flowing streams.

I consider the preservation of America's wilderness, wildlife, and natural and historical resources to be a sacred cause. Our national heritage should be enjoyed by the current generation and must be conserved for future generations. I know that the National Park Service faces great challenges. Some are old fashioned challenges from people who don't want to provide financial support to maintain the Park System or who wish to exploit the public lands for personal gain. The challenge that worries me most is environmental change. Global warming brings many threats. In the last year, the impact of hurricanes and fires has endangered lives as well as our physical heritage.

For your dedication and courage, I thank the members of the National Park Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jimmy Carter".

Few honors have given me more joy than when I was named Honorary National Park Ranger in 2016

Jimmy Carter

‘People wear the uniform every work day’

Bill Halainen

interviewed by
Lu Ann Jones

Bill Halainen is perhaps best known as a writer and editor on behalf of park rangers. He edited *Ranger* magazine from 1982 to 1993, created and edited both the email and web-based versions of the *Morning Report* from 1986 to 2015, and also edited the front page of *InsideNPS* from 2002 to 2015. As a co-founder of the International Ranger Federation, Halainen edited the IRF’s original publications, too. But one of his most satisfying – and challenging – jobs was managing the National Park Service uniform program when he worked in the Ranger Activities Division in Washington from 1985 to 1994. Here’s how Halainen described the demands of the position and reflected upon the importance of the uniform when Lu Ann Jones interviewed him in 2013.

HALAINEN: Depending on the time of year, we had up to about 20-some-odd-thousand people in uniform. I used to say that there were at least 20,000 people who were willing to tell you how to run the program and had no hesitation in calling you up to tell you. It was interesting. It was like walking around with a lightning rod in a thunderstorm most of the time.

JONES: What were they complaining about?

HALAINEN: Everything, everything. I used to think about that, why is this such a hot program? Well, somebody pointed out to me – people wear the uniform every work day. It relates closely to both how they feel about the agency and how they feel about themselves. It’s something that’s there all the time, so it becomes very strongly associated with the NPS. So a lot of times feelings about something else go through that. Plus people just are very personal about clothes.

Ask me about women’s sizes. I never want to have to deal with that again – because sizing a woman is – you know, I was a guy, what do I know? That’s a whole wilderness to get into. So there is a whole array of issues, but people really got worked up about a lot of them.

The solution to some of the specific issues a particular group was concerned about was to enlist some of them to participate in a work group to come up with solutions. That’s what happened with women’s clothes issues, lifeguard issues, several others.

JONES: So what were the variables, type of fabric or cost?

HALAINEN: Yes – both. We had about 160 contract line items in the program, so that’s a lot of components. Somebody’s pointed out, if you have that many, you’re not being uni-formed anymore; you’re being vari-formed. But people wanted them because we have such an array of things that we do. I had a request for a uniform mu-mu for American Samoa. I said, “No, guys, you can work that one out yourself.” So there’s that.

There’s the cost. People thought it was too expensive, but it wasn’t. It was reasonable for what they were getting. There were always quality issues. There was also sizing issues, patterns. There were all things that came like that.

But as I say, it was always an interesting program to run. I was blessed by the fact that my predecessor went over to the contractor; revolving door a little bit, but she was absolutely brilliant, Linda Balatti, and



1918-40s

Due to the lack of official guidance, early Park Service women wore whatever the park superintendent or their own whim dictated.

NPS art: Gilbert B. Cohen, artist



1970s

The 1970 uniform regulations pertaining to women brought forth a plethora of uniforms. Not only did the female rangers now have their own distinctive dress for formal occasions, but for the first time there was a whole range of other clothing for their different functions.

so I had a contact on the other side who knew the program as well as I did.

So we were able to move on a lot of changes, meet expectations, add a lot of things to the program. It was fun. I'll tell you what, though, setting and enforcing uniform standards was really tough.

JONES: Tell me more about that, who ultimately sets that, how they enforce that.

HALAINEN: That really gets down to the decentralized agency, because you can set any kind of standard you want at the national level, but if the superintendent doesn't enforce it at the park level, it's not going to happen, because the regional director is not going to sit on the superintendent, except in rare occasions. It would happen now and then. A lot of superintendents really were indifferent to uniforms, period.

Now, I'll tell you one of the things that's really changed in the organizational culture, for better or worse, but when I came in the service, most of the senior managers were vets and they knew how to wear the uniform. They had worn it in the military. They had come out of World War II or Korea, sometimes Vietnam, and they were very particular about it, and they made sure everybody else was.

That's not the case now, and I think that really is one of the essential reasons why appearance isn't what it used to be. It is now, but selectively.

The Park Service does a really good job, though, in the place where it should do a good job, and that's in the high visitor contact areas. If you go down on

the National Mall, you'd better have rangers that look good. If you're at an event with the Old Guard, the 3rd Infantry, as we do in a lot of special events, you've got to look as good. You're not going to look as good as they are, but you need to try. If you're out there with the President of the United States, by god, you need to look good. You can't have a warped hat brim and stains on your uniform.

I think that the problems with uniform appearance present a very good example of the programs that come with agency decentralization in general. The director can stand up there and say that you will wear the uniform this way, but unless she or he enforces it, it's not going to happen.

JONES: So by standards, would it be how it's cleaned, how it's pressed, in terms of size, if it fits correctly?

HALAINEN: Do you wear a tie with a tie tack? Do you have things polished? Do you have a flat hat that has a warped brim or do you have one that's on straight and looks good. Do you have your collar insignia on and in the right place?

People say, "Well, that doesn't matter." Well, it does. Uniformity is what it's all about. When you have a bunch of rangers together and they all look different and some are dressed poorly, it tells you something about the organization. If they look, in military terms, strack, if you take a look at the Park Service Honor Guard, those guys are strack, and that tells you something about the agency, that the agency really cares.

After Halainen retired in 2007 he became a contract writer and editor for Inside NPS and the Morning Report for another eight years.

Lu Ann Jones is a staff historian for the Park History Program in Washington, DC.



1980s

The 1980s brought the women into the mainstream of the National Park Service by furnishing them all the various uniforms needed to accomplish their mission. Plus a couple of extras not authorized for men. Notably, skirts and maternity clothing.

National park life impossible to qualify

By Darby Robinson



“I REMEMBER YOU WHEN YOU WERE JUST ‘THIS’ TALL.”

If I had a nickel for every time I heard that from fellow Park Service folks, my TSP retirement plan would be at least double.

The National Park Service is an incredibly small world – in the best possible way. When you grow up in the Service, that world is even smaller.

The park brat life is also a pretty different and wild upbringing. I remember riding my bike in the Everglades past alligators and crocodiles sunning themselves in the road. Building forts on trails, and scaring the bejesus out of visitors not expecting to see a bunch of unsupervised kids descending from the woods howling.

I also loved the road trips as we packed up the car to the brim with most of our stuff every six months or so, with just enough space to Tetris me into the backseat.

My parents worked, mostly seasonally, at Everglades National Park (Flamingo district) in Florida and Crater Lake National Park in Oregon. My dad spent his entire career as a seasonal ranger, mostly in interpretation. My mom did a bit of everything, and eventually became the permanent fee manager at Crater Lake.

One thing my parents instilled in me early on was that the mission of the Park Service was special. You don't work in this industry for money or fame, but for the service itself. If you don't love it, truly love

it, you'll never survive the craziness that the NPS will throw at you.

Can't say I was unprepared.

There's a blur of conversations over frozen blender drinks on our porch in the Everglades where my parents chatted with newer seasonals who had many questions about making a life work in the Service. All the inside politics, the drama, the legendary stories passed through my ears as I focused on my Lego sets.

When it came time to consider whether I should wade into the NPS world or find a different path, I couldn't shake the feeling that I needed to at least try the Park Service. I grew up in these special places, I volunteered as a kid in these places, did numerous Junior Ranger programs in these special places. I felt some responsibility to try and serve the mission myself.

One summer working fees turned into another, and then several more working interper. I told folks who asked, "Are you going to follow in your parents' footsteps?" that it was just summer work and that while I loved the parks I had different plans and a unique path for myself. I lied to myself enough to almost convince myself that it was true. But here's the thing with working one season in the Park Service: You get something out of that experience that is impossible to quantify.

Every off season out of the parks, away from the ragtag bundle of government assign friends (aka park housing areas), there was an itch I couldn't quite scratch. I missed the park. I missed the work. And I even missed the flat hat.

I tried to pursue other passions, but that gravitational pull back to the green and

gray was irresistible. Every time I pictured my life without the Park Service, doing something else, it just felt wrong. It didn't feel like it was me. I couldn't imagine visiting parks and seeing rangers at a visitor center as part of a former life.

Each off season I would get pulled back for the next summer season.

I spent 10 seasons as a seasonal, much like my dad and mom before me. I met the beautiful (and way cooler than me) woman and self-described spreadsheet ranger who would become my wife. We quickly bonded over the fact that she too was a park brat.

After traveling from large western parks to the much crazier wilderness that is Washington, D.C., I was lucky enough to become a permanent interpreter. Having the opportunity to do this full time is truly a dream come true. It is an opportunity that my father – who was and always will be the interpretive ranger I strive to be – did not have. It is an opportunity that my mother – who has guided me and continues to be my inspiration of integrity – did not have for decades.

I am so lucky to have had such cool ranger parents, to have lived a park life, to have met amazing people along the way who worked with my folks and knew me "when I was just 'this' tall." I'm glad that every step on this winding trail has allowed me to live my dream and follow in my parents' vfsolutions issued bootsteps.

Darby Robinson is a park guide at Mount Rainier National Park in Washington. His wife, Lucy Robinson, is a budget analyst at the park.

Quiz

NPS SEARCH AND RESCUE HISTORY

By Butch Farabee

THIS ISSUE AND THE NEXT THREE ISSUES OF RANGER FEATURE A NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SEARCH AND RESCUE HISTORY QUIZ. TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE BY ANSWERING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. QUIZ ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

- 1 On November 25, 1970, a Lake Mead NRA ranger patrol plane crashed and sank to 400 feet. On board was an official of the Atomic Energy Commission. Was the plane recovered or not? If so, how?
- 2 In 1888, who was the first recipient of a valor award in Yellowstone National Park?
- 3 In 1929, NPS ranger Charlie Browne was the first non-military federal employee to receive a government valor award. Which national park was he from?
- 4 Only two people have ever received presidential appointments as permanent national park rangers, both as the result of SAR missions – one in 1929 and one in 1936. What NPS area were they from?
- 5 Two-way radio systems are vital to SAR. The first NPS system was an experiment in which national park:
(A) Yosemite (B) Mt. Rainier
(C) Yellowstone (D) Rocky Mountain
What was the year:
(A) 1924 (B) 1928 (C) 1931
- 6 The first civilian SAR and/or medical use of a helicopter in the world was in the Angeles National Forest in California in what year:
(A) 1942 (B) 1944
(C) 1946 (D) 1949
- 7 The first use of a helicopter for NPS SAR was in 1949. What was the national park:
(A) Hawaii Volcanoes (B) Sequoia
(C) Mesa Verde (D) Zion
- 8 The first NPS-wide technical SAR course was in which national park, in what year?
- 9 Which Mt. Rainier ranger was the subject of the TV show “This Is Your Life” in November 1960?
- 10 Name two NPS units where single airplane crashes resulted in at least 20 deaths.

Position open for law enforcement park ranger

Full-time, year-round position working from the police department, is armed, has authority to enforce laws on park property and provides interpretive education and services. Required: Graduate from a certified ranger or law enforcement academy and one year experience in parks, law enforcement or related field. For more information contact www.mountvernonwa.gov. \$4,588 - \$5,475 per mo. plus benefits. Apply online at www.PublicSafetyTesting.com, continuous hiring until position is filled. EOE

WELCOME TO THE ANPR FAMILY!

Here are the newest members of the Association of National Park Rangers
(updated 11/30/18)

- Kevin Alexander, *Santa Claus, IN*
- Jennifer Anderson, *Wyoming, RI*
- Joe Brand, *Walden, CO*
- Larry Brewer, *Bowling Green, KY*
- Kenneth Elkins, *Walnut Grove, MO*
- Jessica Ferracane, *Hawaii National Park, HI*
- Amber Flowers, *Glasgow, KY*
- Rick Harwell, *College Station, TX*
- Peggy Hash, *Red House, WV*
- Hugh Hawthorne, *Cincinnati, OH*
- Ravis Henry, *Chinle, AZ*
- Erin Hensley, *Oklahoma City, OK*
- Delta Higdon, *Chinle, AZ*
- Katya Irwin, *Katy, TX*
- Andrew Keller, *Fairbanks, AK*
- Seth Macey, *Paicines, CA*
- Daniel Martin, *Alexandria, VA*
- Charlotte McDaniel, *Beatrice, NE*
- Paula Munier, *Salisbury, NH*
- Kathryn Murdoch, *Saint Cloud, FL*
- Bill Nash, *Nixa, MO*
- Emily Ory, *Lafayette, LA*
- Amanda Peterson, *Estes Park, CO*
- Dick Ring, *Bethesda, MD*
- Lara Rozzell, *Joshua Tree, CA*
- Howard Selmer, *Bothell, WA*
- Harry Sibold, *Helena, MT*
- Tommy Smith, Ph.D., *Troy, IL*
- Chris Steis, *Falls Church, VA*
- Veronica Swanson, *Minneapolis, MN*
- Scott Taber, *Annapolis, MD*
- Reghan Tank, *Grand Lake, CO*
- Larry Toll, *Springfield, MO*
- Ken Weiner, *Twentynine Palms, CA*
- Morgan Wright, *Winters, CA*



INTERPRETATION

Finding reconciliation: Interpreting inclusive narratives

When I read the Ranger Rendezvous theme, Exploring New Depths, I decided to submit a proposal for a conference presentation. I wanted to share my observations about how the evolution of interpretation within the National Park Service is helping the agency to stay in line with overall museum industry trends and consumer demands in the private sector.

At Ranger Rendezvous we discussed case studies from Southeast Region events, including George Washington Memorial Parkway's American Indian Heritage Day Pow Wow and Juneteenth Commemorations, Frederick Douglass 200th Anniversary celebrations, the Grand Opening of Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center, Civil War Defenses of Washington and a work in progress at Great Falls Park.

We explored common characteristics of event designs and audience experiences. Each of these events was well attended by people from various demographic groups who engaged with NPS staff and volunteers to immerse themselves in the resource. The programs were also conducted with detailed care to present relevancy, inclusion of community leaders and stakeholders as speakers, and in some cases acknowledg-

ment and collaboration with descendant families whose ancestors have direct connections to the sites.

I am inspired by the work of these rangers and felt the need to share my observations for the good of the agency, as positive examples of how we can proceed. As a follow-up to my presentation at Rendezvous, I believe it's important to discuss these events as derivative successes of the National Park Service Centennial.

More to discuss

Let's begin with the first two sections of the NPS Centennial Call to Action: Connecting People to Parks and Advancing the Education Mission (https://www.nps.gov/calltoaction/PDF/C2A_2015.pdf).

In recent years the public history and museum studies industries have experienced increasing public demand for more diverse curatorial staff and inclusive exhibit content, including interpretive approaches to overshadowed historic narratives, community and/or visitor generated content and stories of reconciliation.

The museum industry's private sector is actively working to remedy these cultural quagmires in their spaces. Underrepresented communities are no longer willing to

tolerate these injustices, and organizations have been coming forward to hold institutions accountable for their insensitivities.

In April 2018, several neighborhood community organizations demanded a Decolonization Commission for the Brooklyn Museum (<https://decolonize-brooklynmuseum.wordpress.com>). In September 2018, there was a public backlash on Twitter over the realization that the National Museum for African-American History and Culture's hip hop exhibit curator isn't a person of color (<https://www.npr.org/2018/09/29/653013077/backlash-over-white-hip-hop-curator-at-national-museum-of-african-american-history>).

The NPS and Smithsonian Institute are the guiding lights of the United States' museum industry, so it is important that we also take heed of these cultural sentiments. It's time to prove that the Centennial accomplishments were not a gimmick or a superficial attempt to remain on trend. In reality, the NPS cannot claim to be relevant, diverse or inclusive if we are continually delivering biased interpretive products as the standard.

Build cultural competencies

I believe in the mission of the NPS to preserve and protect public lands for the enjoyment of future generations, not just the descendants of "early settlers." To that end, it is very important that agency and park management continue to support and encourage interpretive staff to build cultural competencies to holistically integrate "untold stories" into regular programming.

Parks can also continue creating opportunities and platforms for historically ignored communities to share their own stories without fear of censorship. Indigenous history, the history of slavery, women's history and other unacknowledged memories are indeed integral to an overall understanding of American History.

The Organic Act established the NPS as a protection for future generations. However, we must remember that the act was signed into legislation at a time when segregation policies were aggressively pursued by the federal government.



Juneteenth Commemoration opening remarks at Theodore Roosevelt Island Memorial

NPS photo: Steve T. Phan

This often-overlooked fact was explored in detail during the Untold Stories Project compiled by Ken Burns and his team from 2005-2015.

The America's Best Idea films aired on public television during the Centennial and are available at www.PBS.org. I share a quote (below) from the Untold Stories because it demonstrates the organizational culture of segregation at the George Washington Birthplace National Monument in southern Virginia in 1938. It was NPS custom at the time to follow the segregation laws of the state in which a site was located.

In an incident to which the quote refers, the school director of Saint Augustine's Convent in Washington, D.C. and a nun (both white citizens) brought a group of black schoolchildren to the park. Park Superintendent Philip Hough wrote to NPS Director Arno Crammer after both school officials filed complaints about their visit to Department of Interior management.

In his letter, Hough justifies his discrimination of the group:

All in all, this is the most unpleasant visitation we have had in the seven summer seasons I have been here – and all that happened was due to the fact that they were segregated for their lunch only. All I can say is that is the way it's done in Virginia. If I did wrong, I'm sorry – but then again

if I had let them in the regular picnic ground we would no doubt be having complaints from the white visitors. This matter may become a real problem. I would say off-hand that not more than 1 percent of our visitors are colored and it does not seem justifiable to maintain a special picnic ground for them, and if we did we would soon be swamped with colored people. That kind of news travels fast. I fully realize that this place is open to all people, under definite regulations. We have never drawn any line except in the matter of their eating. We do not ignore colored visitors. We answer their questions civilly and try to give them the essential information about the place – but we do not go out of our way to encourage them to come here.

— Philip Hough to Arno Crammer, 16 June 1938

The quote above highlights the culture of segregation and discrimination in the early years of the agency even if “under definite regulations” the parks were “open to all people.” Hough points out that “colored visitors” aren't ignored, but staff doesn't go out of their way to encourage their visitation.

Additionally, many of our interpretive themes and visitor centers were Mission 66 plans – meaning they were produced without consideration for Civil Rights Laws that came later during the 1960s.

A lot of the interpretive programs that I have witnessed in the past 10 years seem to follow similar sentiment, even with the presence of mixed demographic audiences.

Acknowledge history

Many parks and interpreters ignore historical data which they fear might offend or garner complaints from white visitors. I would argue that omitting indigenous history, slavery and other facts from America's timeline is highly offensive to the descendants of those respective groups, regardless of their physical attendance at a program.

As keepers of our nation's history, interpreters shape the national memory. It's time the National Park Service made a conscious

effort to reconcile these insensitivities in order for our parks to be truly welcoming of all people.

I can only hope that the observations myself and others shared during Ranger Rendezvous will help us all to find ways to create more inclusive program offerings and to establish platforms for co-creation with underrepresented communities.

I can attest to the great work being done by the innovators at Harpers Ferry Center toward these goals. The updated Interpretive Competencies, 21st Century Skills trainings, and the Common Learning Portal are all great tools for facilitating the sharing of best practices to raise the quality of interpretive opportunities we offer for all visitors.

Ahmad Toure is an interpretive ranger with the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Washington, D.C. He has been working with the National Park Service in the area for 10 years, including seven years as a ranger at Great Falls Park in Virginia. Toure specializes in community and youth engagement and concentrates on customer service and facilitating quality visitor experiences. He is a trained interpretive coach and has been a regular participant in Harpers Ferry Center's Interpretive Development Program and Peer Collaborative Workshops. He is currently a cohort in the 10-month SER Future Leaders Program.

All in the Family

Jeff Ohlfs, ANPR life member and retired chief ranger, has been appointed to the Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority by Gov. Jerry Brown.

The seven-member authority, a public agency and public corporation of the State of California, was created in 1945 as the governing body of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway and its surrounding park lands. Ohlfs was appointed in October 2018 to serve a four-year term.





As an enslaved man, Lewis Hayden knew firsthand the horrors of the peculiar institution. His first wife and child were sold away from him by a profit-seeking owner. He never saw either of them again.

Hayden remarried a woman named Harriet Bell. The couple had one child, a son. Then, in 1844, the family fled Kentucky for Canada and freedom. Eventually they returned to the United States and settled in Boston.

As free people the Haydens prospered. Lewis ran a clothing store, joined the Boston Vigilance Committee and moved his family into a house in the Beacon Hill neighborhood, where a small but powerful cluster of free African Americans lived.

Between 1850 and 1860, the Haydens' home at 66 Phillips Street became a temporary boarding house for large numbers of fugitive slaves passing through Boston. While most conductors on the Underground Railroad (UGRR) hid their association with the network, Lewis Hayden was vocal about his anti-slavery efforts, which after the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law in 1850 became violations of federal law.

When rumors began to spread around Boston that slave catchers were intent on raiding his house to capture runaways, Hayden issued a public response that stunned the authorities. Hayden declared that he would rather blow up his home than

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

surrender any fugitives he was sheltering to slave catchers. No one ever dared to challenge Hayden's threat and the house his family occupied still stands, intact, now incorporated into the Boston African American National Historic Site.

Lewis Hayden's career as a conductor on the Underground Railroad was exceptional due to the highly public nature of his work. Most of the men and women who aided fugitive slaves did so quietly and their names, tactics and exploits have been largely lost to history. In the absence of a fact-based understanding of the Underground Railroad, volumes of erroneous information took root as truth. For a time, there did not appear to be a quilt, basement or backyard shed in North America that had not been used to guide or shelter fugitives. To remedy this and to fundamentally enhance the public's understanding of the UGRR, the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program (NTF) was established by Congress in 1998.

More stories to be told

The mission of the NTF is to tell the stories of those who worked to undermine slavery through flight, evasion and armed resistance. The program is managed by the National Park Service and has more than 400 members spread across 35 states.

The NTF was established to provide its members with technical assistance from NPS preservation and interpretive experts. The NTF was also meant to dispense matching grants to help partners more capably tell their part of the Underground

Railroad story in the places where that history happened.

NTF grants have helped fund rehabilitation efforts for the John P. Parker house in Ripley, Ohio, and the Richard Eells House in Quincy, Illinois. A modest grant awarded to Fort Donelson National Battlefield in Tennessee allowed that park to create and install a display about the freedmen and women who flocked to the fort after Union General Ulysses S. Grant's victory there in February 1862. Park staff credit the freedmen's display with increasing the number of African American visitors to the battlefield.

The NTF is the only national program dedicated to the enhancement of public knowledge and understanding of one of this country's first large-scale, grassroots movements. Like so many partnership programs managed by the Park Service, the NTF is facing significant cuts to its FY2019 budget – reductions that will adversely impact the ability of the program to fulfill its congressionally authorized mandate.

The National Parks Conservation Association is advocating that Congress maintain the NTF program budget at its current level, a modest \$852,000, and restore its grantmaking line item. The critically important work begun by this program 20 years ago hasn't been completed. The need has not diminished for a federal commitment to fund the research, preservation and interpretive efforts necessary to commemorate the stories of all those who made the perilous journey from slavery to freedom.

— Alan Spears
*National Parks
Conservation Association,
Washington, D.C.*

PROTECTION

My big brother's close call

With rare exception, most of my road trips to my northeast Ohio hometown on the south shore of Lake Erie are something to which I look forward: A pleasant drive punctuated by the charming scenery of the mountains of West Virginia and western Maryland, rolling hills of southwestern Pennsylvania and inland lakes of northeast Ohio.

My most recent trip, however, was fraught with some pretty rough hours. The day before the drive I learned that my dear big brother Chris had suffered a heart attack. Thanks to God and some awesome paramedics and surgeons, he had survived and was recovering in the hospital.

Chris was 51 years old. I had trouble wrapping my mind around the notion that my knucklehead brother – the kid with whom I grew up and shared so many adventures – could have had such an episode at such a young age. It seems like yesterday we were running amuck around our back yard. It bothered me to realize that we're not kids anymore.

The miles passed with tortuous visions of my childhood friend and brother laid up in a hospital bed, tubes and wires connected everywhere. Fortunately, by the time I arrived with my family he'd been taken off the ventilator and was alert and oriented X 3 (that's the medic in me). He was in the beginning stages of what is sure to be a long road to becoming healthy.

We stayed to see Chris go home and even take a few short walks with me and our little brother Vinny. The walks kept Chris's spirits up and set the tone for him to do light to moderate exercise.

We spent a lot of time talking about eating right. My entire family acknowledged that we all need to eat healthier. This got me thinking about my own eating habits and that they are certainly not the best. In my arrogant youth, I had a mantra that I repeated often: "When you're a machine, it's all about the fuel," followed almost immediately with, "I can eat anything I want, I just have to run farther." I erroneously believed that the secret to healthy living was nothing more than a simple mathematical equation: "Calories in must either = or < calories out."



Kevin Moses with his knucklehead brothers Chris and Vinny (glasses).



Years ago, I wrote columns in this magazine titled: "Bigger, badder, smarter and faster" and "Dare you to move." Both pieces were devoted to rangers staying physically fit. They conveyed the message that keeping fit boiled down to being strong, fast, trim, flexible and agile – you know, the stuff of the PEB. The problem with this line of thinking is that, though it has helped me maintain a consistent weight for my adult life, it completely misses another vital element of taking care of ourselves: Maintaining a healthy cardiovascular system.

The best analogy for me is "crud in the plumbing pipes." Every time my kitchen sink got clogged over the years, I'd take apart the p-trap and guess what I'd find? Nasty muck that had accumulated over the years, completely hidden from outside detection until fluid trying to flow through the pipes became blocked.

This is exactly what happens to our arteries when we eat foods laden with thick, gunky, nasty muck. And the part that is most alarming is the

completely hidden from outside detection part.

My brother Chris may not be a marathoner, but from the outside he appears to be about as fit as most other Americans his age. But, as he and my family recently learned, the health of our heart, vessels and bloodstream matter at least as much as that of our lungs and muscles – maybe more.

We all have to eat better. Let my brother's close call be an eye-opener to you regarding your diet and how it will affect your wellness, fitness and lifespan. It certainly was for me and my bonehead brother. He got lucky this time, and he knows it.

Time flies by, and Chris, Vinny and I are certainly not kids anymore. We rarely run amuck around our boyhood backyard like we did 40 years ago. But my two little boys and Chris's two grandsons do, and they're counting on us to stick around for a few more decades.

— Kevin Moses
Central District Ranger
Shenandoah National Park



LGBTQ Outdoor Summit packed with opportunities

By *Hannah Malvin*



More than 160 conservation and outdoor industry professionals met for the second annual LGBTQ Outdoor Summit in San Francisco in October 2018. The summit brought people together to make connections and find opportunities to boost representation and inclusion for the LGBTQ community outdoors.

The summit is a joint effort between Pride Outside, an organization dedicated to connecting the LGBTQ community around the outdoors, and Out There Adventures, which leads trips for LGBTQ youth in Seattle. Sponsors included The Wilderness Society, North Face, Merrell, Sierra Club, National Parks Conservation Association, National Wildlife Federation, REI, Outward Bound, Patagonia, Hipcamp, Audubon Society, Keen, Vasque, NOLS, and Natural Resources Defense Council.

The summit began with a land acknowledgment from L. Frank, a Tongva-Ajachmem artist, tribal scholar and language activist. Filmmaker Miho Aida set the tone for the summit, opening up about her extraordinary life and work and sharing guiding principles for supporting equity outdoors.

We spent much of the day caucusing. Allies had a Queer 101 session to learn more about queer identity, language and issues queer people face in the outdoors. The group then split and queer people of color met to share together while queer white folks learned about allyship – forming alliances – with queer people of color. The discussions felt fresh as we drew on personal experiences and forged new ground, opening up and building community in a way that felt profound.

After dinner we heard from keynote speaker Silvia Vasquez-Lavado, the first openly gay woman to complete the seven summits. She inspired us all to find the patience, passion and perseverance to pursue our dreams. Uplifted, we gathered around the campfire to relax after a stimulating first day.

Over the next two days we were treated to three panel discussions. The first panel featured representatives from the National Park Service, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and NOAA. It was the first time the land management agencies had come together to address how to support LGBTQ visitors and employees. Amanda Dworak Rowland, NPS youth and volunteer programs coordinator in the Pacific West Region, spoke about the NPS LGBTQ Theme Study; Stonewall National Monument; the NPS LGBTQ employee resource group; community outreach efforts and other topics.

It was meaningful that all of these agencies showed up eager to learn from and connect with participants.

The second panel was moderated by Merrell CEO Sue Rechner and featured representatives from Patagonia, REI, North Face and Hipcamp. It explored possibilities for more inclusive outdoors merchandise and marketing.

A youth voices panel showcased a thoughtful cadre of young people pushing the envelope and demonstrating wisdom well beyond their years.

Session highlights included one led by NPS ranger Mike Gallant from Death Valley. His session on “blue discharges” – public outings during World War II – explored how the military inadvertently set the stage for the formation of queer communities in major port cities after the war.

Representatives from the National Wildlife Federation and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay led a session about coalition building and forming employee resource groups.

Staff from the National Parks Conservation Association spoke beautifully about the process of shepherding the Stonewall NPS designation and how to navigate the designation process.

We also learned about queer land champions throughout history, navigating toxic masculinity, LGBTQ conservation crews and more.

On our last afternoon, we took advantage of the gorgeous setting and a sunset hike, geocaching and guided meditation.

Overall, participants appreciated the chance to celebrate their queer identity and connect it with their love of the outdoors. They felt understood, connected, seen and safe. They made new friendships and tapped into the power of a rich community, found their place in a shared history, and learned and shared who they are individually and collectively.

For queer professionals who may not have other queer folks at their organization or in the outdoor field, it is sustaining and energizing to come together and find joy in community.

Keep an eye out for next year’s LGBTQ Outdoor Summit. We love to have NPS folks involved in the summit and in our work throughout the year. Note that Pride Outside is working with the International Ranger Federation to launch a new global LGBTQ park ranger network.

Hannah Malvin is senior representative for partnerships at The Wilderness Society.





Kathy Loux

Third honorary member of the Association of National Park Rangers, October 21, 1981

Wife, mother, nurse, mentor, colleague, confidant and treasured friend

We lost one of our own on September 5, 2018. Kathy Loux's husband of 34 years, national park ranger Bryan Swift, called her Mary Kathleen. Thousands of people she skillfully tended over the course of nearly 50 years knew her as Nurse Loux.

Thanking Kathy for a remarkable career should be reward enough. But she was much, much more to her co-workers, rangers, park staff and families and many others in Yellowstone, Yosemite and Denali national parks in the 1970s and 1980s. She was one of us.

She left us at age 72 due to complications of cancer and stroke. She is survived by her husband and sons Jesse and Rickie.

At the memorial service for Kathy we learned that neither she nor her two nursing friends had ever been west of Chicago before they rolled into Yellowstone in 1971 dressed in hot pants and leather fringed boots. Apparently, working in a Baltimore hospital ER had not been adrenalin enough for the nurses.

Friend Mary Ann Penttila warmly remembered Kathy as mature, bright, a confident leader and always ready for adventure. Gwen Brady recalled Kathy ministering to her three daughters' "owies." After a day of treating patients who had been gored, mauled or scalded by geyser water, Kathy babysat her girls.

Kathy moved to Yosemite in 1973 as chief nurse of the park's 18-staff, dozen-bed hospital. Rangers in the Valley – the busiest, most

demanding emergency and law enforcement field operation in the National Park Service – worked with her for 10 years.

"In my 24 years as a park ranger, Kathy was the best trauma nurse I was ever around," said Tom Griffiths. "I feel blessed. She even made my son Evan a 'Yosemite Sam' vest when he was three!"

Kathy made a point of going with rangers on EMS calls, and she made us just plain better. Newbie EMTs and soon-to-be park medics were mentored by her and the Yosemite medical staff. Today's field rangers and those they treat owe a great deal of gratitude to Kathy and the other nurses and doctors in Yosemite for getting the Park Medic program off the ground.

Above all, Kathy was a trusted member of the ranger family. Roger Rudolph, Rick Smith and Ginny Rousseau remember her as humble, mature and poised, with a great sense of humor, a reassuring smile and a twinkle in her eye. She was always there with chicken enchiladas, or organizing cheerleaders for rangers vs. climbers softball games.

She quietly attended the first four Ranger Rendezvous conferences. At the fifth Rendezvous in 1981, Kathy was awarded the ANPR's Third Honorary Membership, by unanimous declaration.

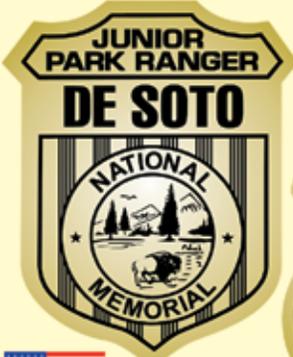
We will never forget her.

— Butch Farabee

Employee and Alumni Association dissolves

The Board of Directors of the Employee and Alumni Association of the National Park Service officially dissolved the organization on October 31, 2018 due to declining membership and interest. Remaining organization assets were donated to the National Park Service Employee and Alumni Trust Fund, a separate not-for-profit organization. The Trust Fund provides the George B. Hartzog, Jr. Education Loan Program and disaster relief program. Both programs remain active and continue to be managed by Eastern National.

Over the years, the E&AA provided valuable information to its members. The Arrowhead newsletter and annual gatherings were considered essential to member activities. In recent years, however, technology changed how people stay connected and interest in the organization faded.




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MADE IN AMERICA

Quiz

ANSWERS

1. The plane was recovered by deep-sea divers using a diving bell flown in from Florida by the U.S. Air Force. The pilot barely escaped. The bodies of two passengers were recovered by the divers, including that of the AEC commissioner. The fourth person was never found.
2. On August 9, 1888, Private John Coyle saved a woman from serious scalding from the steam of an erupting geyser. First- and Second-Class Life Saving Medals were established by Congress on June 20, 1874.
3. On July 2, 1929, temporary ranger Browne braved several days of blizzards and climbing into glacier crevasses on Mount Rainier to rescue several novice climbers and recover a body from the climbing group. Three weeks later, the Secretary of the Interior issued the Department of the Interior's first citation for heroism for the rescue and recovery.
4. In 1929, Charlie Browne was appointed by President Herbert Hoover for his rescue at Mount Rainier National Park. In 1936, Bill Butler received an appointment by President Franklin D. Roosevelt for a search and body recovery of Delmar Fadden, who died in an attempt to be the first person to climb Mount Rainier in winter.
5. In summer 1931, at the direction of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the University of Washington placed six stationary and four portable radios in Mount Rainier National Park. In 1933, Yosemite and six other national parks got several radios.
6. On August 5, 1946, a two-person Bell 47 pulled an injured radio operator from the path of the Bryant Fire.
7. On April 27, 1949, a soldier from a nearby military base became disoriented at night and fell 500 feet into Kilauea Crater at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. A two-person helicopter from the same base, with ranger Gordon Bender aboard, spotted the victim on the walls.
8. For 40 hours in September 1948, the NPS and Mount Rainier hosted approximately 30 men in this country's first mountain rescue training. The training included representatives from several agencies. Most of the instructors were park rangers.
9. Called "Mr. Rescue" by his peers, Bill Butler was assistant chief ranger at Mount Rainier when he retired. The hour-long reality documentary series ran from 1948 to 1952 on the radio and 1952 to 1962 on television. Butler was the only NPS person to be featured on the show.
10. In 1956, 128 died, and in 1986, 25 people died in Grand Canyon National Park. In 1946, 32 people died in Mount Rainier. In 1963, 43 died in Everglades National Park.

Kudos List

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

- Ann Dee Allen
- Bill Wade
- Chris Reinhardt
- Emily Ory
- Jamie Richards
- Jan Lemons
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Fictional ranger bridges international, political divides

Killing Godiva's Horse

J.M. Mitchell. *Prairie Plum Press.*

By Rick Smith

Former National Park Service employee Jerry Mitchell has written an intriguing story about ranger Jack Chastain, who was caught in the intersection – as many of us have been – between resources protection and politics.

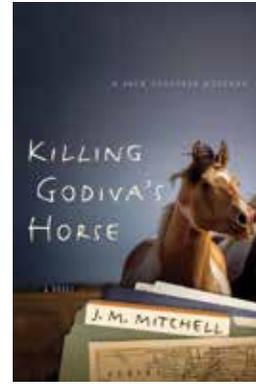
His novel is framed by two metaphors. The first is a conversation between a congressman with presidential ambitions and his most trusted aide. The congressman asks the aide to recall the story of Lady Godiva and her horse. “You are the horse,” he tells the aide, “while I am Godiva. That’s because I, like Godiva, am taking the risks.”

The other metaphor Chastain learns while on detail to Kenya. The senior ranger who is his guide tells him: “While both Kenya and the U.S. have stop lights, they

mean different things. In Kenya, people sometimes stop at a red light and sometimes they don’t. In the U.S., drivers almost universally stop. That’s because in the U.S., you believe in the rule of law. We are still struggling to get there.”

The book is full of interesting characters. There is Moony Manson, a Cliven Bundy type who refuses to pay his grazing fees to the BLM and spouts anti-Fed statements whenever and wherever he has a platform. Lizzy, a river guide, is a former stock trader whose substantial holdings are frozen in a bankruptcy case. Alex Trasker, the congressman’s aide, is a true conservative who is somehow persuaded by Chastain to go on a river trip and is horrified when his cell phone is drowned in the first rapids they encounter.

There are a few things that make this book unique. The twin settings of Kenya



and New Mexico, where Chastain is stationed, give the story an interesting taste. The Congressional hearing near the end of the story is full of surprises. Chastain

disobeys his superintendent and the director. His punishment? He is sent back to Kenya where he can continue to mentor a young poacher who wants to be a research scientist.

This is a fun book to read. Mitchell develops his characters fully so the reader can understand their motivations and anxieties. The plot is believable because it mirrors much of what is happening today. I’m glad I read it.

Rick Smith is an ANPR life member and former president of ANPR and the International Ranger Federation. He is retired from a 31-year career with the National Park Service.

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Mark Your Calendars

9th World Ranger Congress | Sauraha, Nepal | Nov. 11-17

The 9th World Ranger Congress will be held in the village of Sauraha, on the border of Chitwan National Park in Nepal, November 11-17, 2019. Please visit www.internationalrangers.org for information or contact Jeff Ohlfs at deserttraveler2@roadrunner.com if you'd like to know the benefits of attending a Congress.

SAVE THE DATE
**Ranger
Rendezvous 42**
Washington State
October 2019