

RANGER

The Journal of the Association of National Park Rangers

Stewards for parks, visitors & each other

Vol. 35, No. 2 | Spring 2019

Government Shutdown



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Moving forward from the shutdown

More than two months later, the word “shutdown” can still cause a shudder. Needless to say, the longest government shutdown in history was challenging – but not insurmountable.

Millions of Americans sought out news and information about how the shutdown was affecting park operations, natural resources and people. Association of National Park Rangers members lived it every day as park employees and advocates.

No doubt ANPR members have had many personal and professional conversations about their experiences and what they can do in the event of a shutdown.

Thankfully, most aspects of national park life were back on track as *Ranger* magazine went to press.

We have tried to bring readers a sense of the shutdown in the first few pages of this issue, for the ANPR historical record.

Also, once again we bring you an outstanding Professional Ranger section, thanks to our tireless columnists Brian Forist, Kevin Moses and Alan Spears. Please thank these individuals for their continuing work on your behalf.

We also offer feature stories on a sense of place, fitness and how misinformation can affect park history – as in PT Lathrop’s article about the wolves of Isle Royale National Park in the “U.P.” region of northern Michigan. (Readers get extra credit for identifying the U.P. – a place near and dear to those of us in the Great Lakes.)

All of our *Ranger* contributors and I hope you find several compelling articles in this issue worthy of discussion among colleagues and friends.

Ann Dee Allen,
Ranger editor

Meet ANPR’s president-elect

Paul Anderson is a National Park Service retiree who served 18 years as a law enforcement ranger, subdistrict and district ranger in Rocky Mountain, Big Bend, Grand Canyon, Shenandoah, Yosemite and Delaware Water Gap. He also served as assistant superintendent of Shenandoah National Park, deputy regional director for the Alaska Region, and superintendent of Denali National Park.

During his tenure, Anderson focused his efforts on strategic planning, leadership and development, and search and rescue. He served as president of the National Association for Search and Rescue for four years, leading the development of the SARTECH training and certification program.

Anderson has co-authored four textbooks on search and rescue management, and continues to teach

search management courses to NPS staff and others in Alaska, Arizona and Washington state.

He has been a member of the Association of National Park Rangers since 1978 and is a Life Member.

Also elected were Jeanette Meleen (Fundraising) and Reghan Tank (Membership Services). Meleen is the administrative support assistant at William Howard Taft National Historical Site in Cincinnati. Tank has worked in volunteer coordination, interpretation and environmental education and was a Supernaugh Memorial Scholarship recipient in 2018.



ON THE COVER: Chiricahua National Park in Arizona. Photo by Marin Karraker

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RANGER

THE JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL PARK RANGERS

Vol. 35, No. 2



Spring 2019

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

The shutdown has ended and a second shutdown has been averted. Many timekeeper angels worked hard to ensure that everyone got their backpay as soon as possible. The Association of National Park Rangers and I would like to send a big thank you to the timekeepers who worked diligently to get it done and get it right.

ANPR now turns its attention to the future.

We are in the midst of planning for the 42nd Ranger Rendezvous. When the Board conducted a member survey in 2016, we heard loud and clear that you wanted to return to the Pacific Northwest for a future Rendezvous. Your Ranger Rendezvous coordinating team is delivering.

This year we are holding Ranger Rendezvous in scenic Everett, Washington. Three majestic national parks are in the area: Olympic, Mount Rainier and North Cascades. Other significant NPS sites include the national historical units Ebey's Landing, Klondike Gold Rush and San Juan Islands.

We hope to bring in conference speakers from nearby parks and offer SAR/EMS training, retirement training and a host of other educational and networking opportunities.

What can you do to help ensure that Ranger Rendezvous, the Association's biggest annual event, is a success? We are looking for members to serve on the coordinating committee and help with logistics, field trips, t-shirts, speaker coordination, promotion, raffles, and a host of other duties.

If you are interested in assisting – whether you can attend or not – let me know. We have small jobs and bigger jobs. Also let me know if you have ideas for great speakers and presentations. Anyone can donate raffle items or funding toward a Supernaugh Scholarship recipient.

In other news, our business manager is working on a new website. We are also discussing ideas to grow the membership ranks. Please help by gifting a membership. Your donations of time and/or funds are greatly appreciated to keep the Association vibrant.

I hope to see as many of you as possible October 16-20 at the Delta Hotels in Everett.

Let me know if I can be of assistance to you!

Ranger on!!

Ranger Jan

**PLEASE SUPPORT
SUPERNAUGH SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM**

The Bill Supernaugh Memorial Scholarship Fund allows people who are new to ANPR to attend their first Ranger Rendezvous. Supernaugh Scholars receive a one-year ANPR membership and basic Rendezvous registration, lodging and partial transportation reimbursement.

To support this worthy cause, please visit www.anpr.org or contact Chris Reinhardt at anprbusinessmanager@gmail.com.

Shutdown.gov

Shutdown

From December 21, 2018 to January 25, 2019, the U.S. Congress failed to pass a budget for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1, 2018 or a temporary continuing resolution to keep the government open until the appropriations bills that make up the federal budget could be passed and signed into law.

- The impasse resulted from the inability of President Donald Trump and lawmakers to reach agreement on the president's demand for a fully funded wall along the southern border of the United States.
- The 35-day partial government shutdown beginning December 22 was the longest in U.S. history.
- 800,000 federal employees were affected by the shutdown. Individual employees were either furloughed and not allowed to work or were required to work without pay.
- Services at National Park Service units were severely reduced or suspended. At most parks, visitor's centers, campgrounds, restrooms and other facilities were closed.
- Some parks sustained damage from unauthorized or illegal activities. Park friends groups and volunteers helped to reduce the negative impacts.

Statement of gratitude

The Association of National Park Rangers would like to extend its gratitude to all park rangers for their valiant efforts throughout the shutdown while facing personal financial uncertainty.

Apart from the highly publicized resource and infrastructure damage, it's regrettable that many important trainings were forced to be canceled over the 35 days as well. Some of these will be impossible to reschedule and will have a direct impact on rangers' ability to respond to emergency situations in the coming summer season.

With the shutdown occurring during the time that many parks hire their summer seasonal positions, we recognize the burden placed on hiring managers service-wide to fill the National Park Service's front line rangers who most directly engage with the public.

Finally, as rangers returned to their parks, our timekeepers had the unenviable task of quickly and accurately entering the information to allow for the rapid processing of back payments.

ANPR expresses its strong desire that Congress and the President work diligently to ensure future shutdowns do not occur. This is for the benefit of the public, the National Park Service, and most importantly its rangers.

NATIONAL PARKS
CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION STATEMENT:

<https://www.npca.org/articles/2095-position-on-shutdown-impacts-to-national-parks>

ANPR compiled a list of resources for furloughed employees and posted it at www.anpr.org/shutdown.

Flickr photo and post by a
visitor to Kings Canyon National Park

**“We are HOPING gov’t shutdown
to end sooner than later..”**

OWN
perspective

Shut down but not out:

Reflections on the 2018-2019 government shutdown

We all knew what we were signing up for when we decided to get paid in sunsets, but none of us expected a day when the sun wouldn't rise. From December 22 until January 25, parks operated in twilight as rangers across the United States reported for duty without pay or stayed home furloughed.

Now that the government has reopened, it's time to take stock of what the shutdown might have taught us about ourselves and reminded us about our fellow citizens.

The current administration's decision to shut national parks down without keeping visitors out turned out to be a destructive, dangerous, and, ultimately, costly choice. The Association of National Park Rangers opposed this decision and believes the public would have been better served by limiting access to national park areas during the recent lapse in appropriations.

Over the shutdown's 35 days, rangers reported experiencing many different emotions. Some described the experience as unsettling, others as isolating, and still others as demoralizing. These feelings are evidence of our perceptions of ourselves and the places we protect. They also highlight what is probably the defining aspect of our agency's culture.

Our former assistant director and colleague, Bill Everhart, once joked that there was “not much variation in the subject of discussion at Park Service gatherings: shop, shop, shop.” Everhart was right about our investment in our work, and his observation points to why the shutdown affected so many of us so deeply.

The shutdown did more than interrupt park operations, it shut us off from parts of ourselves.

As some rangers struggled with an overwhelming workload, others watched helplessly as events unfolded around them in which they were told not to intervene. All of them wanted to prevent the historical and natural resource damage parks sustained, the disappointment and disgust visitors experienced

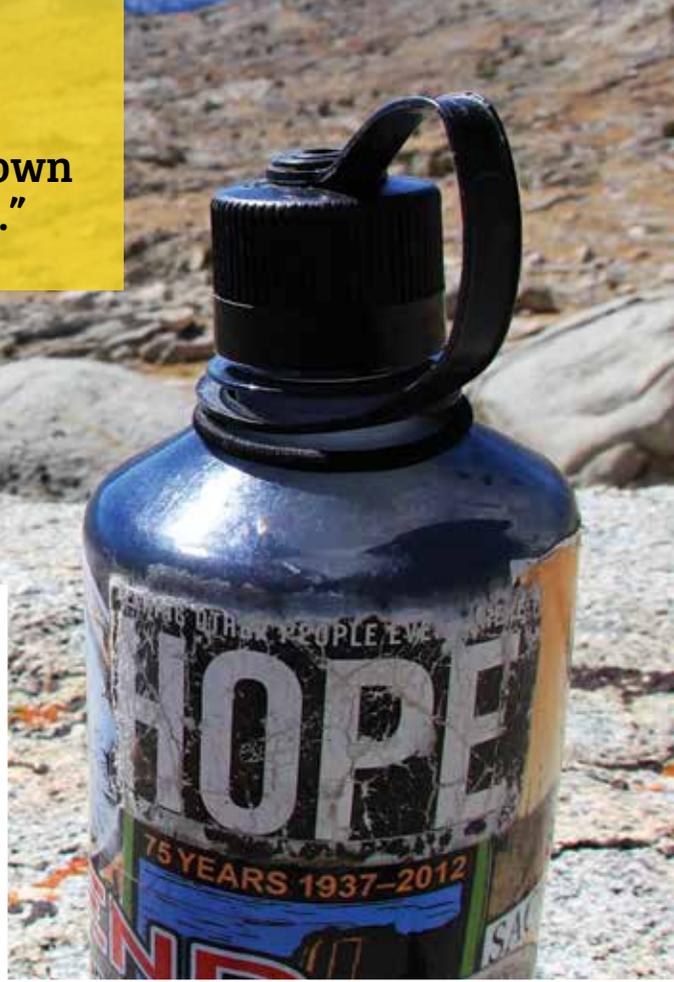
in park facilities, and the injuries and deaths that occurred during the shutdown.

All we wanted to do is what we believe in most — work to preserve and provide access to some of the most beautiful, historic and monumental places on earth. Being prevented from accomplishing that mission was more than disappointing, it was a denial of self.

If the shutdown proved one thing, it's that the American people love their national parks, and they trust rangers to take care of them. The vast majority of news stories that appeared in print, online and on the air emphasized that the damage parks suffered was unnecessary, preventable, and possibly permanent. They also highlighted that the public still believes park rangers are essential to making sure their parks remain safe and well-managed.

Your high-quality work as rangers and National Park Service employees makes our organization credible and significant. Your dedication sets us apart from other government agencies, and your personal investment in the national parks helps remind our fellow Americans that we might have been shut down, but we are far from out of the fight.

Association of National Park Rangers' Board of Directors





“SIGN SAYS IT ALL!”

Yosemite National Park visitor’s post



ANPR ON FACEBOOK

December 27, 2018

A NPR is concerned with the ongoing government shutdown as it is harmful for visitors and for America’s national parks. Visitors who planned holiday vacations aren’t able to use NPS campgrounds or restrooms and aren’t able to see the national treasures in park museums or visitor centers. In parks where some areas are still open, law enforcement rangers (on duty without pay) are stretched thin protecting animals, scenic landscapes and historical landmarks.

Besides the possibly permanent damage caused to parks, the shutdown also leaves hardworking rangers who would usually be maintaining park facilities, welcoming people in visitor centers and researching park ecosystems, laid off for the holidays.

So that national park rangers can provide visitors access and protect parks’ natural and cultural resources, the Association of National Park Rangers encourages Congress and the President to fully fund government operations and send park rangers back to work as soon as possible.

— ANPR President Jan Lemons

Joshua Tree National Park to temporarily close for cleanup and repair

January 8, 2019

Joshua Tree National Park will temporarily close effective 8 a.m. on Thursday, January 10, to allow park staff to address sanitation, safety and resource protection issues in the park that have arisen during the lapse in appropriations. Park officials plan to restore accessibility to the park in addition to limited basic services in the coming days.

Park officials are identifying the additional staff and resources needed to address immediate maintenance and sanitation issues and will utilize funds from the park fees to address those issues per the recently updated National Park Service contingency plan during a lapse in appropriations.

While the vast majority of those who visit Joshua Tree National Park do so in a responsible manner, there have been incidents of new roads being created by motorists and the destruction of Joshua trees in recent days that have precipitated the closure. Law enforcement rangers will continue to patrol the park and enforce the closure until park staff complete the necessary cleanup and park protection measures.

The communities near Joshua Tree National Park have provided significant assistance and support to the park, and park officials hope to restore visitor access to the park as quickly as possible to mitigate any negative impact to the local economy.

– Posted at www.nps.gov/jotr

ANPR MEMBERS comment on shutdown

“Shutdowns are detrimental to the NPS units and the NPS mission. If the government is shut down parks should not be open. There is not sufficient staff to protect visitors and resources.”

- “During the media blitz on this latest partial shutdown showing the trash and resource vandalism in the parks, maybe the public doesn’t care as much as we’d hoped. Can the parks survive without armed LEOs standing guard over each graffiti rock and saguaro?”
- “As a ‘non-essential’ employee, I’m bored, angry, and depressed all at the same time. I need my work - my mission to serve our mission - and I need my paycheck. I hurt for my peers who are ‘essential’ and are working for no pay.”
- “Unfortunately, these situations take place... have in the past and will likely happen in the future. Although there was a lot of stress and frustration within our staff, the event hopefully caused everyone to re-evaluate their financial situation, priorities, etc.”
- “It’s frustrating to be locked out of my workplace. It took a week to get ready to shut down, it will take a week to get back up to speed, and we will have lost all the time we could have dedicated to doing our jobs in between.”

Sometimes you just gotta say it with

LEGOs®

ANPR members use National Park Service

LEGO® vignettes Facebook page to commiserate during the shutdown

Saguaros on the move?



Alien shenanigans in Carlsbad Caverns?



Will ranger Dave cut his furlough beard?



Bring in the dogs

What better way to help reduce the stress of working in Washington, D.C., than to pet a dog?

By Colleen Derber, Rocky Mountain

According to the Harvard Medical School report “Get Healthy, Get a Dog: The Health Benefits of Canine Companionship,” dogs are good for our physical, mental and emotional health.

Dogs can **keep us active** through exercise that helps **boost our heart health, reduce stress and prevent depression**. Petting a dog can **lower blood pressure and make us calmer, provide comfort, and help us connect to others and feel less isolated** by being part of a community of dog lovers. Dogs can improve the lives of older adults and can help make kids more active, secure and responsible.

Like other similar programs, Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry raises and trains golden retrievers that are dispatched in times of disaster and crisis to provide comfort to those affected, including first responders.

Two programs at the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. have helped bring the positive effects of being with dogs into the workplace.

The Fairfax, Virginia chapter of Pets on Wheels has visited the Main Interior Building at the invitation of HR Director Ray Limon. The volunteer program connects pets with senior living residents. During a visit in 2016, about 125 staff were able to learn about Pets on Wheels and meet some of its professionally trained therapy dogs.

In 2017, then Interior Secretary Zinke allowed employees to bring their preapproved dogs to work on two days to test a Doggy Days program. The program received such positive reviews that Doggy Days were held monthly in 2018.

Doggy Days pets must be up to date on vaccinations, veterinarian care and other prerequisites, and demonstrate good behavior. They



Employees walk their dogs in a DOI hallway on Doggy Day.

Photo by Tami Helleman

must be cleared by security in advance and are checked in upon arrival. Employees with allergies and those not interested in having dogs in the building have the option to telework or to take leave on Doggy Days.

I loved Doggy Days when I worked in Washington. Although I wasn't able to bring my dogs Tommy and Joey to work for commuting reasons, I certainly got my dog fix in. I walked the halls with my pet-loving colleagues to visit dogs in different offices. At times I watched my supervisor's sweet dog, Panda, and took him for a walk outside.

Those of us who love dogs and aren't able to have them with us every day are grateful to be around dogs at work. Hopefully, other parks and offices will offer these opportunities for their employees.

We all could use a little more peace and puppy love during the work day.

Colleen Derber is an administrative assistant in the maintenance division at Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado.



Ideas for evoking sense-of-place connections

By Erica Wheeler

Last year I participated in my first ANPR Ranger Rendezvous. One thing that struck me was that, whenever I asked National Park Service employees where they'd worked, a dozen or so place names would roll off their tongues. I thought, for people who are best known for their connections to places, they sure do move around a lot!

Like myself, you've probably come up with tools and practices over the years that help you gain a feeling of rootedness, no matter where you are. I'm going to provide a few core tools I use and share with interpreters. I hope they remind you of the importance of feeling your own connection to a place, or give you fresh ideas to connect with people and place.

Personal sense of place

Wendell Berry, the Kentucky poet, author and farmer, wrote, "If you don't know where you are, you don't know who you are." At one time, our ancestors' survival, identity and well-being were deeply tied to and dependent on the natural and historical knowledge of place.

Today many of us live far from where we were born. We may not even know where our ancestors are from. Many people do not realize how important having a sense of place can be in their lives. In a world where change is happening more rapidly than ever, slowing down to make sense of a place can help us make sense of our lives and the forces that shape them.

A lack of connection can be a pervasive source of stress and unease. It can feel like a deep yearning for something we can't quite articulate.

During interpretive trainings I often ask, "What does it feel like to have a sense of place?" Participants say: connected, home, tuned-in, belonging, aware. And when I ask, "What does it feel like to not have a sense of place?" They answer: rootless, disconnected, lonely, lost.

Stories and place

Our national parks are perfect places to learn and discover where we are, who we are, and how to gain a sense of place. Everyone has stories of place and belonging that are waiting to be remembered, evoked

and revealed. Our connections, knowledge and stories all help us to gain a sense of place.

Here are three simple yet powerful tools – three sources of engagement – I use to connect to places. They can be applied to personal or professional life and used anywhere – in a small urban park, battlefield or vast, wild expanse.

1. Engage the senses:

What does this place feel like?
What do I see, hear, smell, or taste?

2. Engage the mind:

What happened here?
Why is this here?

3. Engage the heart:

What does this remind me of?
What does this mean to me?

Visitors' sense of place

Terry Tempest Williams wrote, "Our parks are breathing space in a world that is holding its breath." When we add place-making opportunities and offer tools for reflection, we help people tap into the power of place.

Photo courtesy of Erica Wheeler

My work is grounded in the philosophy that finding personal stories of connection to place leads to caring, which leads to stewardship.

One way to help others develop a sense of place is by offering opportunities for them to slow down and integrate their knowledge, emotions and experiences.

Training helps interpreters give visitors the best experiences possible. It's based on ideas for balancing information and experiences and incorporating reflection, integration and sharing.

You can add place-making experiences to interpretive programs by exploring the following:

1. Initiate a sensory activity. Encourage dialogue based on what people experience through their senses. Provide an activity that allows visitors to "become" something they see, hear or smell.
2. Share a story about a natural or cultural resource and ask visitors to find evidence of the story. Invite them to become sleuths. Offer clues that can lead to a greater understanding of place. Every place has layers of stories and historical signs that can be seen, imagined or conjured, linking the past to the present.
3. Leave room for visitors to relate their park experiences to their lives. Ask what the park's story reminds them about. Inviting this type of reflection and sharing during or after the program can be a powerful way to activate a sense-of-place connection.

Encourage staff to "go deep" to find what is unique and sometimes overlooked at a park site. The intention is to uncover the inherent strengths and gifts of each person. It's important to bring to life site features, big and small, and find ways to share the layers of time and story a place holds. Explore challenges and opportunities for fostering sense-of-place connections.

Take the time to rethink what your park unit offers through a sense-of-place lens. It will help you make the shift from giver of information to facilitator of experiences, and from doing interpretation for visitors to interpretation with visitors.

In a world where it is easy to disconnect and tune out, tapping into the power of place can be just what people need to recharge. Infusing the best NPS traditions with fresh, empowering, site-specific ideas, creates opportunities to keep staff and visitors engaged.

For parks to thrive long into the future, we need to increase the ways we inspire caring for more visitors. If our national treasures are seen for their ecological, historical, recreational and social value, and as sources for personal wellness and meaning, they will be valued for what they truly are: sacred places that can help restore us in body, mind and soul.

Erica Wheeler is a visitor experience specialist, speaker and interpretive trainer. She has provided Sense of Place and the Art of Interpretation training at more than 30 NPS sites since 2013. Wheeler is also an award-winning songwriter with songs rooted in a sense of place. She was a keynote speaker at the ANPR Rendezvous in Bowling Green, Kentucky in 2018. Learn more at www.senseofplaceconsulting.com

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Challenges and opportunities

IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION

Invasive species present major challenges for national park managers in the Southeast Region. Non-native organisms that cause harm to the environment, economy or human health have serious impacts on native ecosystems. They disrupt ecological processes, threaten ecosystem integrity, degrade cultural resources and potentially interfere with visitor experiences in parks. Additionally, they exacerbate the effects of other threats like climate change and fragmentation from land use change.

The most famous – or rather infamous, I suppose – invasive species in the National Park System, if not the country, may be the Burmese python at Everglades National Park in Florida. The Burmese python is the best-known and most problematic of snakes from around the world that have shown up in the Everglades over the last decade.

Intentionally or accidentally introduced from the pet trade during the 1980s, the snakes went largely unobserved in the park

until the mid-1990s. There are now tens of thousands or more Burmese pythons in and around Everglades National Park.

Burmese pythons consume birds, mammals and even alligators, and are believed to be responsible for a dramatic decline in small mammals in the park. Marsh rabbits have been eliminated within park boundaries since the introduction of the pythons. Overall, observations of mid-sized mammals such as raccoons, bobcats and others have declined by 80 percent to 90 percent within the park.

At present, there are no existing controls or methods effective enough to eradicate or meaningfully manage the invasive python population.

Hurdles to removing these invasives include the difficulty of traveling through the Everglades, and the biology and behavior of Burmese pythons. Research is needed in order to make and test new control tools. Currently, the most effective python removal tool is the use of trained and experienced personnel to visually search for

pythons, which has resulted in the removal of well over 1,500 of them from the park.

STUDIES, PLAN IN PROGRESS

We are working closely with many partners to develop effective control tools to overcome these obstacles. Everglades National Park is also providing financial and in-kind support to researchers to improve python removal methods. These studies include testing new methods such as the use of pheromones to attract pythons and improve detection, and evaluating the pythons' diet and reproduction to detect and control them.

The park is also working closely with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and many others to develop an interagency python management plan to help coordinate and direct resources toward the most meaningful python control efforts.

Though not nearly as prolific as the Burmese python, south Florida parks are also under attack from the invasive lionfish and Argentine black-and-white tegu, a large invasive lizard that has the potential to become a significant predator of the American alligator, American crocodile, sea turtle and bird eggs.

Each of these situations requires strategic approaches, cooperation and collaboration with park partners and neighboring communities. These invasive species affect areas within national parks, but they also travel to and from adjacent properties such as private, state, federal and tribal lands. NPS continues to look for ways to be of assistance on both national and local levels with regard to invasive species introduction and control.

Invasive species have been recognized by executive order as a major factor contributing to ecosystem change. Consequently, every federal land management agency works on invasive species issues.

INVASIVE PLANTS

Invasive plants are likewise a threat to parks. Management of invasive species helps to protect native ecosystems and ecological processes, preserve cultural resources, improve visitor experiences and protect habitat for native animals. It is also an important strategy in climate change adaptation. By reducing existing invasive plants, parks enhance the ability of native species to adjust to ongoing climate induced changes. Given the broad use of invasive plant management across parks, this management activity is a major adaptation tool for park managers.

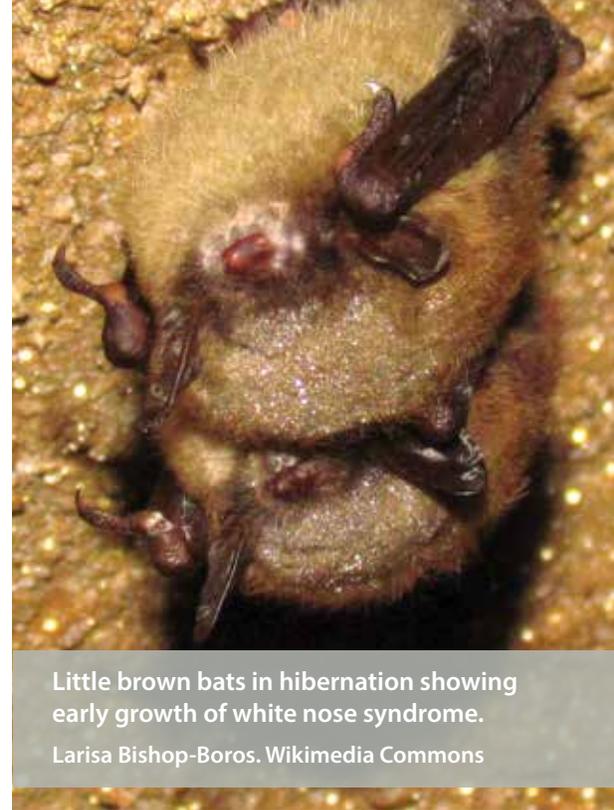
Parks rely on Exotic Plant Management Teams to assist in addressing invasive species management activities. Five of the 17 teams assist Southeast Region parks in preventing the introduction of invasive species, identifying and removing new infestations, reducing the impact of existing infestations and restoring native plant communities.

One of the success stories in the Southeast Region has been the establishment of native warm-season grasses at Cowpens National Battlefield and Kings Mountain National Military Park in South Carolina. Seeding of these sites began in 2017 with the long-term goals of wildlife and pollinator enhancement, reduced need for mowing, reduced carbon footprint, and reduction of invasive plants.

BATS AT RISK

Though not a species per se, an exotic fungus introduced from Europe is wreaking havoc on bat populations throughout the country, and is of particular concern at Mammoth Cave and Great Smoky Mountains national parks in Kentucky and North Carolina. White-nose syndrome is a fungal disease killing bats in North America. What was first noticed in New York in 2006 has now spread to more than half of the United States and five Canadian provinces within a decade, leaving millions of dead bats in its path.

White-nose syndrome causes high death rates and fast population declines in the species affected by it, and scientists predict some regional extinction of bat species. These include the once



Little brown bats in hibernation showing early growth of white nose syndrome.

Larisa Bishop-Boros. Wikimedia Commons

numerous little brown bat and federally listed Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat.

Bats are an important component of the ecosystem, and their loss could have a devastating effect on many different areas. Some plants depend partly or wholly on bats to pollinate their flowers or spread their seeds. Some bats help control pests by eating insects. Others are indicator species, meaning that changes to these bat populations can indicate changes in aspects of biodiversity.

The National Park Service is contributing to white-nose syndrome surveillance methods by providing researchers access to affected caves in national parks and conducting acoustic and visual monitoring. Park biologists are taking steps to better understand bats, their habitats and their health. And parks have instituted decontamination measures for visitors entering caves to minimize the possibility of spreading the virus to uninfected hibernation sites. In the case of Great Smoky, all 16 caves were closed to the public.

Engaging in sound science and working with the larger scientific community, the National Park Service is contributing to what will hopefully be the successful eradication of this devastating fungal disease in the future.

Bob Vogel is the regional director of the National Park Service's Southeast Region. He presented these remarks at the ANPR Ranger Rendezvous in Bowling Green, Kentucky in 2018

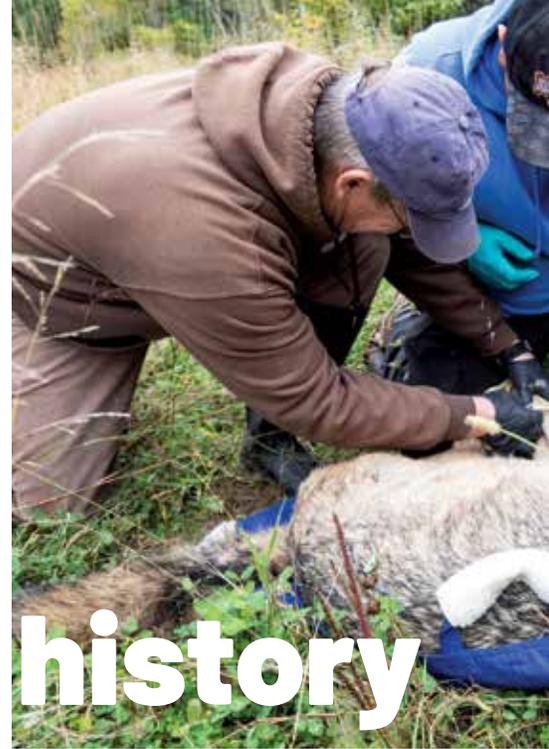
Argentine black and white tegu (*Salvator merianae*) juvenile.
Wikimedia Commons



the wolves of Isle Royale:

By PT Lathrop, Arches

An unnatural history



In his 2004 book, *Culture, Technology, and the Creation of America's National Parks*, Richard Grusin argues that national parks are not protected remnants of primitive nature. Rather, they are modern technologies where our culture can produce and display our working definitions of “natural.”

I read Grusin's work a decade ago in college. While researching the history of wolves and other wildlife in Isle Royale National Park in Michigan, I returned to his assertion that national parks are technologies – machines that produce, rather than preserve, what we want to be “natural.”

On June 4, 2018, the National Park Service signed the record of decision announcing its plans to relocate 20 to 30 wolves from the mainland around Lake Superior to the island park. The action is well underway. This past fall, with assistance from seven other government and tribal agencies, NPS successfully transferred four wolves to their new island home.

The action is the right one. It should bring sustainability to numerous species and habitats. Nonetheless, it reminds us that parks are reflections of what humans deem “nature” should look, feel and sound like.

KMSP news in the Twin Cities introduced its wolf-return story with these words: “Isle Royale's wildlife landscape will now be altered through the hand of man.”

The reporter's angle stemmed from the image NPS and park leaders worked hard to create. In truth, the island has long been a construct of human influence – a living sculpture.

STORIED PAST

Before it became a national park in 1940, the island was used, and sometimes abused, for a variety of extractive purposes, from prehistorical mining to industrial logging. Isle Royale's archives house photos of logging operations in Siskiwit Bay. The left-over slash piles, exposed in the drought year of 1936, ignited from human causes. The Greenstone fire then burned 20 percent of the island, in places so intensely the heat permanently altered the soil chemistry.

The island's wild mammal population is part of a complex history of human decision and indecision. Moose and wolves, the current symbols of the park, are newcomers. Modern ecology would have easily labeled both moose and wolves as invasive species when they arrived in 1908 and 1950.

The combined archeological, historical and ethnographic records of Isle Royale go back at least 3,500 years. The records prove the existence of caribou, lynx, marten, beaver and squirrel.

Moose and wolves are absent from records before the 20th century. In that same century, “the hand of man” eliminated through hunting and trapping the last remaining lynx, coyote and caribou. To date, no substantive attempts have been made to reestablish any of these native populations.

Wolves arrive

By the 1950s, humans had eliminated all wolves from the lower 48 states, except for the most remote woods of the northern Great Lakes. In early winter 1950, two wolves made the 14-mile journey across ice to an island that prohibited all hunting.

But these two individuals did not fill the gene pool alone. Shortly thereafter, the Detroit Zoo, seeing the island as a possible wolf refuge, released four formerly captive wolves on Isle Royale. One was returned to the zoo; another was killed. The remaining two helped establish the first generations of Isle Royale wolves.

In the early 1980s, a traveler's pet brought parvovirus to the island. Within two years, the wolf population dropped from 50 to 14 individuals because of the disease and a dive in the moose population.

The wolf population continued its slow decline. In 2014, a female wolf used an ice bridge to leave the island and was found

NPS photos





Wildlife managers from the USDA and Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa process a female wolf.

shot to death on the mainland. By 2018, only two non-breeding wolves remained on Isle Royale.

Also in 2018, after years of monitoring, compliance and public dialog, the NPS announced its plans to add dozens of wolves to Isle Royale. A major influence in this decision is the fact that climate change may soon stop the periodic ice bridges from forming. The ice bridges are the wolves' only hope for reestablishing themselves.

HUMAN IMPRINT

The context of anthropogenic climate change is an appropriate backdrop for this saga. Intentionally or unintentionally, consciously or unconsciously, rightly or wrongly, individual policy-makers or the hive-mind of our culture has been turning Isle Royale into what humans want it to be for thousands of years.

When people wanted to mine it, they mined it. When they wanted to log it, they logged it. When they wanted to fish and overfish it, they took their fill. When they wanted to re-create, they built lodges and trails. When they wanted to hunt and trap, they wiped out the caribou, lynx and coyote.

As humans, "we" chose to allow wolves to colonize the island and even added some zoo wolves for good measure. While far from definitive, it is now an accepted hypothesis that moose did not swim to the island but were introduced by humans for sport purposes. (A theory which makes more sense than a half-dozen moose, after thousands of years of absence, suddenly swimming at least 14 miles together.)

And when we wanted to learn, we started studying. Isle Royale is home to the "longest running study of predator-prey relationships" on the planet. The research, now in its 61st year, monitors wolf and moose populations and dynamics with other ecosystem components.

However, considering the heavy human hand that has directed this opera from the beginning, I ask, are we studying wolves and ecosystems or are we merely observing the consequences of our decisions? Is ecology natural history or unnatural history? Or are they one in the same?

None of this is to discard or undervalue the work of researchers or policy-makers. They are the modern agents and artists with the responsibility of crafting Isle Royale into what we want it to be.

PT Lathrop is a supervisory park ranger at Arches National Park in Utah and a park and public land advocate and writer. He notes that he conducted extensive research for this article but was unable to secure an interview with NPS or park leaders about the topic.



A relocated wolf with a radio collar emerges from a crate.

A wary female wolf assesses her experience.



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NPS IN THE FAMILY

Life cycles IN THE NATIONAL PARKS

By
Marin
Karraker

Life from start to finish happens in the special places that make up the National Park Service.

I'm not just talking about the flora and fauna. Birth, learning, play, love, loss, death – it's all happening in our most beautiful and historic sites.

In the early 1960s, a young lead naturalist met a young seasonal naturalist in Everglades National Park. They shared a passion for nature, discovery and adventure, and so love blossomed in the Florida swamplands.

Dave and Mary ("Jeff") married in Jeff's hometown of Denver and set out in their VW van for a national park honeymoon that included a stay on the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. They never could have guessed how central the Canyon would become to the Karraker family story.

After the Everglades and a brief stint at Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico, my parents moved to the Canyon, where Dad was an instructor at Albright Training Center. Mom prepared for the birth of their first child – me! Although there was a hospital on the South Rim at the time, the doctor decided to take a vacation in August 1964 and my parents found themselves racing the 1.5 hours of windy road to Flagstaff, Arizona for my birth.

My sister Nancy doesn't let me forget that the doctor did NOT go on vacation in March 1966, so her birth certificate shows Grand Canyon, Arizona as her birthplace. Lucky!

I remind her that a skunk under the hospital decided to celebrate my sister's birth by stinking up the place with his spray that day. Not so lucky!

CROSS-COUNTRY LIFE

Our parents moved on to Olympic National Park in Washington. In March 1968, our brother David was born. Our tribe was complete and as a family we went on to live in four more locations by the time each kid had graduated from high school.

In Vienna, Virginia (while Dad worked for WASO), we grew morning glories on the side of the house and screamed when a snapping turtle wandered into the neighborhood.

At Yosemite National Park in California, we learned how to ski at Badger Pass, square danced on summer nights, and then spooked bears in the cemetery on our way home from square dancing.

In Harpers Ferry National Park, West Virginia, we chased fireflies on the grounds of Mather Training Center and went to school with kids who were not park brats.

Back at Grand Canyon again, we traveled to far-flung communities to play basketball as Grand Canyon High School Phantoms, explored the woods instead of the canyon, and looked forward to college.

The Canyon continued to serve as home base for the Karraker kids. I returned after college and (surprise!) began my own NPS career. My dad was the superintendent at Albright and when I could, I'd sit in on Ranger Skills sessions and join him and the students to play volleyball at the middle school gym.

Dave Karraker unexpectedly died of a heart attack during one of those games in 1992. The students who played that night (fortunately I did not) tried to save him but could not. I am forever grateful for their efforts. Dad is buried at the cemetery next to the Shrine of Ages.

NEW BEGINNINGS

Late in February 1995, my husband Jim Traub took a day off and was in Sedona to get some work done on his plane. My mom came over from New Mexico that same day to deliver a crib. And on that dark and stormy evening, she raced me to Flagstaff where my daughter Hannah came into this world three weeks ahead of schedule. Déjà vu!

At the age of three weeks, Hannah was strapped in her car seat and we moved to Olympic. Over her first 18 years, Hannah lived in five locations and finished high school in Boise, Idaho while her dad worked at the National Interagency Fire Center. She's currently in law school with no plans for a career in the Park Service. I myself had similar ideas once upon a time.

As I inch closer to the sunset of my career, I think of the place I still call home, the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, and know I cannot return to live there in retirement. I worried for my mom after she returned to work as a park ranger and later as a superintendent. Where would she retire, having never put down permanent roots in all those years?

Fortunately, she found her home in Durango, Colorado.

I don't know where my final years will take me but I do know that at the end of it all, I'll be buried with my dad at the

Canyon. So, I will get to return home after all.

Life from start to finish in the national parks.

Marin Karraker is the chief of administration for the Southeast Arizona Group. A second-generation park ranger, she aspires to be a second-generation superintendent.





PROTECTION

Photo by Kevin Moses

Community outreach: Staying connected to neighbors

Half a dozen first-graders are huddled together under my fire shelter, trying not to make a sound. They're hiding, but not from an approaching wildfire. They're hiding from me.

Try as they might, they are anything but quiet. Instead, they're giggling uncontrollably. We are in the midst of an impromptu hide and seek game that has hijacked my school presentation.

Eventually, I coax them out from under the shelter and to a table displaying hats, helmets and other "cover" rangers find themselves using on any given day.

The program is called "The Many Hats of Rangering," and it is a classic and an instant hit with kids and teachers alike. Each student chooses a hat and asks how rangers use it on the job.

I also bring a ton of equipment.

Handcuffs and blood pressure cuffs are favorites. By program's end, everyone has a vivid picture of the exciting, challenging and rewarding work that so many of us see as our calling. Just like that, the National Park Service and your park are viewed as part of the community. It is powerful stuff, yet so simple.

Here are other simple outreach ideas I've witnessed over the years. They all lead to stronger community-park relationships.

1. **Speaking engagements:** Speeches at ceremonies, presentations at scouts meeting, or anything in between. Be sure to get approval when on duty and in uniform.
2. **Demonstrations:** Tech rescue in a gym or fire station, or other demonstrations.

3. **Community fairs and festivals:** Life jacket stations, printed materials and conversation, or fingerprinting demos.
4. **Hunter and boater safety education:** Instructor certification required, but easy to obtain.
5. **Interpretive programs:** "Leave No Trace," "Project Learning Tree," "The Wilderness Box," "Hug A Tree" or "Day by the River."
6. **Parades.** Patrol vehicles and firetrucks with flashing lights.
7. **Career recruitment booths**
8. **Shop with a hero:** Hosted by a police or sheriff's department during the holidays.
9. **Cross training:** Law enforcement, EMS, firefighting, tech rescue, wildlife protection and others.
10. **Fitness challenges:** Friendly tug-o'-war and other games between NPS rangers and neighboring police or fire departments.
11. **Climb or paddle with a ranger:** Obed "Coffee and Climb with A Ranger" program.
12. **Merit badge counseling:** Shooting, ecology, land navigation, wilderness survival, and even search and rescue.

Like "The Many Hats of Rangering," these presentations do not reside solely in the Interpretation discipline (though interpreters enjoy delivering them). They lend themselves perfectly to protection rangers and the endless cache of gear in our rigs. The above list is by no means exhaustive, either. There are dozens of other ways to touch base with neighboring communities and interweave their messages with those of our parks.

It takes initiative and a willingness to step up, reach out, and go the extra mile, but it's worth it. In the process, you'll garner appreciation from the citizens we serve and plant a seed of aspiration in the heart and mind of a child.

Look sharp, though, you might end up in the newspaper.

— Kevin Moses
Central District Ranger
Shenandoah National Park

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Time for a cultural resource challenge



In 2016, the National Park Service issued a report on the need for implementing a cultural resource challenge. The agency identified four priorities a challenge would tackle:

- Ensure that NPS regional offices hired and retained trained historians and preservation specialists to assist parks and partners with cultural resource management
- Ensure that all national parks had up to date and complete inventories of the cultural and historic resources in their charge along with condition assessments for those objects, structures and artifacts
- Increase the funding for the Historic Preservation Fund to annual levels closer to its authorized appropriation of \$150 million per year
- Initiate a dedicated effort to improve the condition of cultural resources in national parks.

The estimated price tag for completing this work was \$200 million.

Over the last two years talk of implementing a cultural resource challenge has quieted down. The priority for now and over the next few years may simply be to ensure that we have a national park system. Yet, when considering the very important role the National Park Service plays in protecting and interpreting our shared American experience making sure the agency has the resources (people, time, money and policies) it needs to preserve everything from historic structures to cannons to oral history collections, the idea of a cultural resource challenge must not be allowed to fade quietly into the background.

LONG HISTORY

The National Park Service didn't stumble into the history and culture business by accident. The NPS Organic Act of 1916 places the preservation of historic and cultural resources on equal footing with that of their natural resource counterparts. Various laws, including the Reorganization Act of 1933, the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, have codified NPS's role as a leading steward of the nation's history and culture.

The 123 million museum objects and artifacts owned by the Park Service is a collection bested only by that of the Smithsonian. The agency also owns and maintains more than 27,000 historic and pre-historic structures. And it is NPS historians and rangers who are often providing the public with their first understanding of the interconnectedness and complex nature of American history.



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Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania.
Photo by Alan Spears

So, it is distressing to learn that in a 2011 assessment of 80 national parks by NPCA's Center for the State of the Parks, it was determined that 90 percent of the cultural resources at those units were in "fair" to "poor" condition. Equally alarming is the fact that in some NPS regions as many as 10 national parks share the services and expertise of a single historian or preservation specialist. And as tight budgets require park managers to cut staff and lapse positions, all too frequently the historians, archivists and preservation specialists are the first to go – a mighty blow to an agency with such a heavy responsibility for historic preservation.

THINK INCLUSION

We are deep into the 21st century and still pushing back against the idea that national parks are exclusively large landscapes choc full of dynamic mega-fauna, mountains and streams. Such a misconception would be funny were it not for the hold it appears to have on some members of Congress, the administration, the public and more than a few folks inside NPS. Many of those who set budgets and make policy believe that the elk, bison, wolves, rivers, mountains and streams in our national parks all deserve to be managed at the highest level and with the most modern and effective best practices.

While there is nothing wrong with that thinking, it complicates matters if the protection of our natural resources is done at the exclusion of the care and feeding of the remaining two-thirds of the national park system. We need to help decision-makers and constituents understand that cannons, structures and archival materials need love too. A cultural resource challenge could help not only to improve the condition of historic and cultural resources in our national parks but also raise public awareness of and understanding and appreciation for the critical role the National Park Service plays in protecting and interpreting our national patrimony.

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

Kudos List

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

Shane McNair | Rick Mossman | Jeanette Meleen

Quiz

NPS SEARCH AND RESCUE HISTORY

By Butch Farabee

THIS YEAR'S RANGER FEATURES A FOUR-PART NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SEARCH AND RESCUE HISTORY QUIZ. TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE BY ANSWERING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. QUIZ ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22.

- 1 The Medal of Freedom, the civilian federal award somewhat similar to the Congressional Medal of Honor, was given to a National Park Service employee for a search and rescue mission in 1944. Name the honoree and the park.
- 2 The highest NPS rescue and aircraft landing site is on Mount McKinley in Alaska. At about what altitude is the site?
- 3 Name the World War II U.S. military unit(s) from which most of the NPS and U.S. mountain rescue expertise evolved.
- 4 The first documented use of air-supplied diving apparatus within an NPS area was in 1934 in:
(A) Channel Islands (B) Colonial
(C) Everglades (D) Isle Royale
- 5 True or false: SCUBA was first used for an NPS SAR at Montezuma Well.
- 6 SCUBA was first used in an NPS area in 1953 in
(A) Acadia (B) Death Valley
(C) Lake Mead (D) Montezuma Well
- 7 While on patrol, two of three rangers fell through the ice in Grand Teton in 1960 and died. True or false: Two received DOI Valor Awards and Carnegie Hero Awards.
- 8 The first NPS SAR was recorded in which national park?
- 9 A B-47 bomber and a KC-135 tanker collided over Yellowstone on May 3, 1963. For the first time, _____ were deployed in an NPS area.
- 10 The U.S. record for SAR diving is 315 feet deep, set in 1963. Was it in
(A) Buffalo River (B) Carlsbad Caverns
(C) Death Valley (D) Mammoth Cave



Glenn Reynolds and Michael Matthes were featured as outstanding NPS rangers in *Backpacker* magazine in 2015.

INTERPRETATION

Why can't exemplary interpreters be excellent communicators, too?

The online version of Merriam-Webster's Dictionary states that to interpret is, "to explain or tell the meaning of: present in understandable terms."

Might park rangers explain well and present poorly?

Recently, I visited a national park site and participated in several ranger-guided tours. There were more than 100 visitors on each tour. As a park ranger and professor who teaches about outdoor recreation and parks, including "Interpretation," I stayed close to the rangers, hanging on every word and action, anxious to glean any possible lessons from their examples.

The information delivered on the tours was presented through what I saw as a very contemporary lens and that pleased me. The points I found particularly compelling had to do with the history of slavery at the site that was "interpreted" in the context of the contributions made by area residents of African descent. Rather than being relegated to the shadows as had been the case in the past, this history and contemporary influence was front and center.

Past presentation of indigenous culture, including the topic of the former display of human remains, was presented in the context of honoring Native People's engagement with the site and the legal framework of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

The park's past, and present, were interpreted through a lens that I was happy to see. Hidden stories were told. History was not stuck in the past. The rangers presented contemporary interpretations of critical concerns from which visitors could create their own sense of significance or meaning.

If they were included in the process, that is.

The tours I was party to seemed available only to some of the visitors participating. They were quite ineffective. If the goal was to relay information to the public, only a few of us in earshot of the rangers could hear what was said. By the time the entire group had gathered at a planned stop, it was nearly time to proceed to the next stop.

The tours were entirely presentational. Visitor interests were not considered. Questions from visitors were not encouraged.

While the quality of the information presented may have been admirable, it was not available to all. In essence, I observed good interpretation and bad communication.

Engage, discuss, ask

More than a decade ago, Doug Knapp and Gregory Benton from Indiana University published a study of the effectiveness of interpretation in five national park units. They found that while interpreters hoped to convey meaning and build connections between visitors and park sites, in almost all cases studied, the interpreters did not attempt to engage in dialogue with the visitors.

Similarly, in my study of informal interpretation, I found that interpreters most often engaged in one-way communication while also offering interpretations of park stories that were contemporary and well-reasoned. Rangers were seen by visitors as knowledgeable, but in most cases they talked at rather than with the visitors.

While the NPS movement toward Visitor-Centered Experience is not new, it appears that we are still operating with an old approach. That approach may exhibit unique and valuable interpretations of park stories but little effort at effective communication.

Based on my recent experience, and a familiarity with the research, I believe that it is time for rangers to be both interpreters of park stories and effective communicators as well.

— Brian Forist
Indiana University, Bloomington



FOR MORE INFORMATION, READ:

Forist, B. (Ph.D.) (2018).
"Effectiveness of informal two-way interpretation in national parks."

Indiana University School of Public Health-Bloomington

Knapp, D. & Benton, G. M. (2004).

"Elements to successful interpretation: A multiple case study of five national parks."

Journal of Interpretation Research.

"21st century interpretation: The shift."

<https://mylearning.nps.gov/library-resources/21st-c-shift-practice/>



World Ranger Congress 2019: Connecting rangers from around the world

NOVEMBER 12-16 | CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK | NEPAL

The International Ranger Federation (IRF) World Ranger Congress (WRC) provides a unique opportunity for rangers from all over the world to gather together and collaborate on issues affecting rangers globally. This year, the 9th World Ranger Congress is set to take place in Nepal, where rangers can share knowledge, create partnerships and build capacity through a cross-pollination of ideas, techniques and best practice conservation/management initiatives that have been tried and tested in conservation areas across the globe.

The conference in Chitwan National Park will be held from November 12-16. The International Ranger Federation is expecting a relatively large turnout due to the first-ever World Ranger Congress in Asia.

The organizing committee has planned six training sessions at Chitwan and Bardia national parks. The training sessions will run from seven to 10 days, with a maximum of 25 participants attending each training event.

Participants will be able to observe and learn from some of the best practices employed at two of the best-managed parks in Asia. The Congress welcomes rangers to get involved and share topics with colleagues and counterparts in a workshop/training format, 12-minute talk or presentation of a poster on a topic. The deadline for proposals is April 15.

The Congress will also be a landmark event to support rangers in Asia

As a founding member of the International Ranger Federation (IRF),

ANPR supports the mission of IRF as an advocate and resource for rangers and their member associations. If you have any questions, please contact ANPR IRF representative Rebecca Harriett at rlharriett@gmail.com.

For complete information about the Congress, visit www.rangercongress.org. Potential sponsors can fill out the sponsorship form on the website.

Location, transportation, accommodations

Sauraha, Nepal and Chitwan National Park are about five hours west of Kathmandu's international airport. WRC will provide four shuttles between Kathmandu and Sauraha on November 11 and 17. Attendees can choose to fly to Bharatput, which is 45 minutes from Sauraha; attendees must arrange for individual transportation.

Several options for accommodations within walking distance to the conference site are listed at www.rangercongress.org. They range from \$30 to \$300 a night.

Registration is open

Your registration fee covers local transport to and from Chitwan National Park, attendance to all events, welcome and closing dinners, lunches, jungle safari, coffee breaks, welcome kit and water. Each individual must register separately. Registration is \$250 U.S. Visit www.rangercongress.org to register and learn about potential support to attend. Americans can get visas on arrival in Nepal with U.S. passports and proper identification. The registration deadline is August 31.

WELCOME TO THE ANPR family

Here are the newest members of the Association of National Park Rangers

(updated 2/3/19)

- Ian Campbell, *Tyner, NC*
- Carrie Dlutkowski, *Atlantic Mine, MI*
- Shane McNair, *Clovis, CA*
- Nicholas Money, *Homestead, FL*
- Rick Mossman, *Mount Vernon, WA*
- Zack Peabody, *San Diego, CA*
- Angela Richard, *Olpe, KS*
- Lara Rozzell, *Joshua Tree, CA*
- Steven Saeuberlich, *Custer, SD*
- Mary Sullivan, *Glasgow, KY*

WRC 2019 THEMES

- 1. Welfare:** The conditions in which rangers' work impacts the welfare of these brave men and women.
- 2. Female rangers:** The importance of women in the ranger workforce.
- 3. Capacity:** Well-trained, motivated and properly equipped rangers are vital to the protection of biodiversity and precious sites.
- 4. Communities:** Even with the best trained and equipped rangers, their work cannot be delivered without the support of communities.
- 5. Indigenous rangers:** Capturing the knowledge of indigenous communities in the ranger workforce.
- 6. Technology:** There are several technology solutions available to support rangers in their day-to-day work.

TRAININGS

- Community Engagement
- Effective Ecotourism*
- Human-Wildlife Conflict Management*
- Protected Areas
- Use of Technology in Wildlife Crime Preventions*
- Zero Poaching

* Supported by the Association of National Park Rangers

Ice Age Trail thousand-miler awed by varied, glacial terrain

By Ann Dee Allen

Wisconsin travel writer Melanie Radzicki McManus is the only known person to thru-hike the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in her home state both west to east and east to west. The nearly 1,200-mile trail, established in 1980, traces the edge of the great Wisconsin Glacier.

In 2013, McManus set the women's record for the fastest known trail thru-hike of 36 days. Her book, *Thousand Miler: Adventures Hiking the Ice Age Trail*, was published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press in 2017 and is available online. In it, McManus describes her record hike in 2013.

At the time, a total of 22 people had registered with the Ice Age Trail Alliance as "thousand-miler" thru-hikers since the tracking program was started in late 2002. On any given day, the trail is more often frequented by trail section day-hikers.

McManus made the hike again in 2015, in the opposite direction. In the epilogue of her book, she writes: "I think about the trail all the time. I spread the gospel to all who will listen, and I hike its enticing paths whenever I can."

Ice Age Trail timepieces

ICEAGETRAIL.ORG



- Glacial soil, gravel and boulders deposited during the late Wisconsin Glaciation 10,000 to 25,000 years ago
- Areas covered by continental glaciations 25,000 to 2,500,000 years ago
- Dolomite 410 million to 440 million years old
- Sandstone outcrops 460 million to 550 million years old
- Basalt bluffs 1.1 billion years old
- Quartzite 1.6 billion years old
- Rock outcrops 1.8 billion years old

For more information, visit:

- thethousandmiler.com
- iceagetrail.org
- nps.gov/iatr

FOLLOWING IS AN INTERVIEW WITH THE AUTHOR.

RANGER: What inspired you to become a thousand-miler?

MCMANUS: Since 2009, I had been hiking and writing about Spain's *Vía de La Plata* (Camino), one of the five main pilgrimage routes to Santiago de Compostela. I thought it was a magical path, and so fun to follow yellow arrows through the Spanish countryside.

I was dumbfounded to learn, in 2012, that something called the Ice Age Trail was in my own backyard. Once I learned that there was an 1,100-mile hiking trail right in my home state, I knew I had to thru-hike it.

RANGER: What did you do to prepare for your first thru-hike, when you were intent on setting the women's record?

MCMANUS: I spent about nine months planning. I decided I wanted to set the women's fastpacking record, because only three women had thru-hiked the trail at that point and none of the three had tried to set a speed record.

Based on my experience on the Camino, I was confident I could log about 30 miles per day. So, I set up an itinerary based on that mileage and figured out where I could stay every night – in a motel, B&B, friend's house, etc.

I recruited volunteers to crew for me, which means to get me on/off the trail every day and meet me where the trail crossed a road to offer me water, snacks, bandages and other things. I bought lots of energy bars, recovery drink mixes and similar supplies.

I stockpiled my old running shoes so that by the time I started, I had several new pairs of running shoes and about five old pairs I could get at least a day or two out of. I also assembled an extensive medical kit.

RANGER: What do you consider to be unique aspects of the trail?

MCMANUS: The Ice Age Trail is a fantastic trail because it offers you a little bit of everything. There is plenty of wilderness, namely in the trail's northern tier, and beautiful forested land. You cross prairies and farmland, ford two rivers and walk two miles along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

The trail is only two-thirds completed, so you have about 450 miles of road walking to do, but the bulk of that is along quiet, country roads that are quite scenic. And because the trail traces the terminal moraine of the last glaciation, it rolls through some cities and towns, too, which is a nice break.

RANGER: What were the highlights?

MCMANUS: The highlight was getting to know my home state on such an intimate basis. You see so many gorgeous sights you'd never dream were there. The other highlight was experiencing a nature high – the feeling of utter relaxation and peace that comes from taking a break from our hectic world and spending day after day in nature.

RANGER: What were the notable challenges?

MCMANUS: On my 2013 thru-hike, I contracted cellulitis on the bottoms of both feet. I was on antibiotics for most of the hike, and my feet hurt with every step almost every single day. It was also very hot and humid nearly the entire time, and that is my least-favorite kind of weather.



Wisconsin is considered to have some of the finest glacial remains in the entire world.

NPS in Wisconsin



VISIT WWW.NPS.GOV/WISCONSIN

RANGER: Were you reminded of being a Wisconsinite on the trail?

MCMANUS: Crossing farmland and passing by farms on some of the connecting road routes reminded me of where I was. I also saw lots of Green Bay Packers decorations when I entered the various towns.

RANGER: Why do you think it's important for the National Park Service to oversee trail governance?

MCMANUS: Our national scenic trails are a wonderful asset to our country. They protect and showcase some of the most precious and beautiful pieces of land in the U.S. It's a natural for the National Park Service to be involved. It's also important for the federal government to have a presence, and a stake in these trails.

RANGER: Why do governments, friends groups, trail users, communities and private property owners need to work together to support these places?

MCMANUS: There is little government money, especially today, for trails. If people want to be able to hike (or bike, bird-watch, snowshoe) in beautiful areas, they have to be willing to donate money and volunteer to maintain the trails.

Communities and states derive a lot of economic benefits from trail users as well – we hikers buy a lot of stuff! – so they need to step up, too. If we all pitch in, we can continue growing and maintaining our network of trails. We must protect and set aside our most special tracts of land now, before it's too late.

RANGER: What do you wish for the future for the trail?

MCMANUS: I'd love to see the Ice Age Trail completed in my lifetime. That probably won't happen, but it would be cool. My other hope is that the Ice Age Trail becomes as precious to Wisconsinites as our cheese curds and the Packers!

RANGER: What else is important for our readers to know?

MCMANUS: The Ice Age Trail is unique among our national scenic trails in that it showcases geologic features. Wisconsin is considered to have some of the finest glacial remains in the entire world, and you can easily see them while you're on the trail. They're quite impressive and give you a real sense of how massive the glaciers were.

Ann Dee Allen has been editor of Ranger magazine since 2015. She is from Wisconsin and is a section hiker on the Ice Age Trail and a member of the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

- \$980,201,163 in rehabilitation projects stimulated by tax incentives (since 1995)
- \$80,451,603 in Land & Water Conservation Fund dollars appropriated for projects (since 1965)
- \$48,100,000 economic benefit from national park tourism
- 594,637 visitors to national parks
- 15,540 hours donated by volunteers
- 81 community conservation and recreation projects (since 1987)
- 826,877 objects in national park museum collections
- 4,389 federal acres transferred for local parks and recreation (since 1948)
- 2,421 National Register of Historic Places listings
- 785 places recorded by heritage documentation programs
- 277 archeological sites in national parks
- 43 national historic landmarks
- 18 national natural landmarks
- 2 national parks
- 2 national trails
- 2 wild & scenic rivers

Quiz ANSWERS

- 1 On September 18, 1944, an Army C-47 with 19 men crashed into Mount Deception in Mount McKinley National Park. Mostly against his will, Superintendent Grant Pearson guided 44 men for four weeks in a fruitless search for bodies. None was ever found.
- 2 During a rescue of a woman from the Denali-76 Women's Expedition, "Buddy" Woods landed at 20,300 feet. He delivered mountaineer Ray Genet to downclimb to the woman. He then carried her back up 800 feet to the landing spot, 20 feet below the summit.
- 3 The 87th Infantry Mountain Regiment was a precursor to the Tenth Mountain Division, formed late in 1941. Several dozen park rangers were soon members of this elite mountaineering warfare unit. They trained in Mount Rainier, among other places.

- 4 In fall 1934, the first underwater archeological work in the United States began at Colonial National Historical Park, with a hardhat diver. A significant number of artifacts were recovered from numerous British war ships of Cornwallis's Fleet sunk in the York River in October 1781.
- 5 On November 5, 1954, a pickup truck spun out of control, plunging into Olympic National Park's Lake Crescent, coming to rest 15 feet down. Two local divers from Port Angeles retrieved the truck and the drowned driver the next morning.
- 6 In spring 1953, several researchers from the La Jolla, California, Scripps Institution of Oceanography dove in Devils Hole, an unattached part of Death Valley National Park, using SCUBA. They were there to study the Devils Hole Pupfish. In the group was future NPS dive mentor Jim Stewart.
- 7 On March 9, 1960, three experienced rangers were cross-country skiing to a backcountry ranger cabin. Stan Spurgeon, 48, successfully crossed the Snake River. Gale Wilcox, 48, also made it across. John Fonda, 28, fell through thin ice. Wilcox, a non-swimmer, immediately went back for Fonda and fell through. A dramatic rescue effort ensued by Spurgeon. Fonda ultimately drowned. Wilcox died of hypothermia.

- 8 According to "A Remarkable Story" in Bozeman's September 7, 1882, *Avant Courier*, Walter Watson and three friends were examining a geyser when "to secure a piece of the beautiful colored work on the interior for each member of the party" Watson fell in. Miraculously, he survived and was "blown out."
- 9 The spike-like refueling boom of the KC-135 tanker gutted the cockpit of the B-47, killing three of the four crewmen. The lone survivor ejected, landing unscathed in the backcountry of Yellowstone National Park. Two Air Force parajumpers jumped in two days later to assist the downed airman and determine the status of the other men.
- 10 On June 20, 1963, three intrepid but inexperienced teenage divers from Las Vegas ventured into Devils Hole. Only one survived. Recovery teams converged on the "bottomless" sinkhole, including a team from Washington, D.C. that arrived in Air Force 2. A diver from Newport Beach, California reached 315 feet. No trace of the boys has ever been found.

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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. Visit internationalrangers.org for information or contact Rebecca Harriett at rlharriett@gmail.com if you'd like to know the benefits of attending a Congress.



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