We are living history right now

In summer 2018, when I first considered a collection of *Ranger* articles about crises that impact the national parks, the headlines were dominated by eruptions at Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park and wildfires roaring across the western U.S.

At the time, the idea was to reach out to people with firsthand knowledge about important events from the past and present, and ask them to contribute an article for rangers and other National Park Service professionals. It wasn’t until the articles for this issue came together that the connecting theme of “living history” presented itself. It was much more appropriate for the content than something akin to “crises and concerns in the parks.”

As each article arrived from an author, I found it uplifting and impactful. These were not stories about things gone wrong. They were stories about truly experiencing what it is to witness or be a part of history, to honor what has past, and to work toward a promising future.

Everything that happens in our parks is living history – the drama of major natural and man-made events; our cultural heritage; our enduring natural resources (enduring as long as they are protected and preserved); knowledge shared between park professionals across the planet; and the countless things that must be done during and after an incident or disaster.

Stories about preservation and restoration are just as important to living history as events that leave us awestruck or stunned. Infrastructure needs, climate change and Giant Sequoias may not cause us to instantly react to news about them, but they are the stuff of high drama, too.

As ANPR President Jan Lemons and Hawai’i Volcanoes Public Information Specialist Jessica Ferracane remind us, there may be a time when you are called on to either be a part of an incident command team or live active history during a unique situation. It’s our hope that you acquire more knowledge to help prepare for such an occurrence by reading what our authors have to say.

Last, it’s not easy to condense important stories and impactful photos into limited space. Somehow, our contributors and graphic designer manage to do so. We all hope you enjoy the results.

Ann Dee Allen,
*Ranger* editor
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
Jan Lemons, National Capital Regional Office, President ANPR

Greetings
rangers and rangers at heart

One way to enhance your career and see a different side of the National Park Service is to join an incident management team. These teams are activated all over the country for everything from natural disasters to special events.

It can be rewarding to serve on an incident management team, and you get to work with a great group of people.

Incident management teams require many different types of skills. Whether you work in administration, law enforcement, maintenance, public information or resource management, positions may be available.

To join a team you first need to obtain permission from your supervisor. Formal training may be required. Training funds may be available.

For more information, please send an email to me at jlemons@anpr.org. I can connect you with the right individuals in your region.

The Association of National Park Rangers is also looking for members to help volunteer at Ranger Rendezvous, serve as leaders on the Board of Directors, and write articles and take photos for Ranger magazine. Please contact creinhardt@anpr.org or aallen@anpr.org to learn about these opportunities.

I hope to see you at Ranger Rendezvous 42 in scenic Everett, Washington. We have lots of great training planned, as well as highly educational conference sessions and fun activities.

If I can be of assistance to you, please contact me.

Thanks for your time and commitment to ANPR!

Ranger Jan

ANPR President Jan Lemons worked in the Joint Information Center for this year’s Fourth of July Celebration in Washington, D.C.
During National Park Week 2018, park visitation was at its peak in Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park. So was the lava within Kilauea volcano’s summit crater, Halema‘uma‘u. Thousands of people a day watched the world’s largest lava lake rise and fall and sometimes spill onto the crater floor from the overlook at Jaggar Museum.

In the volcano’s East Rift Zone, Pu‘u ‘O‘o Crater continued to erupt, as it had been since 1983, often sending lava pouring into the ocean and pooling across the coastal plain, to the delight of intrepid hikers.

By April 30, the floor of Pu‘u O‘o had collapsed, clouds of pink ash were exploding out of the crater, and the lava had suddenly drained away. Something ominous was going on.

The next day, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) issued a notice that potential eruptive activity was imminent in the lower East Rift Zone of Puna, outside the park. In the park, the summit lava lake began to drop within Halema‘uma‘u Crater.

By May 3, the first of the eastern fissure eruptions opened up in Leilani Estates subdivision, forcing the community to evacuate. Then, the earthquakes started. First there was a 5.7-magnitude earthquake.

On May 4, a 6.9-magnitude earthquake hit.

I was in my car, which started to shake. The back was lifted up and pushed into the adjacent empty parking space. I left the car and ran out to the edge of Kilauea, where I watched small avalanches of rock from around the caldera rim plummet hundreds of feet to the crater floor.

I wasn’t surprised when park management decided to evacuate and temporarily close the park that afternoon. I quickly issued a news release to get the word out – the first of dozens over the next four months.

We are accustomed to periodic earthquakes, but 6.9 was the biggest in more than 40 years. Between April and August 2018, we were rattled by 60,000 earthquakes on Kilauea.
Large cracks began to appear on the section of Highway 11 that runs through the park – a major thoroughfare that connects communities to Hilo, our largest neighboring town. There were numerous temporary lane closures as the State Department of Transportation scrambled to keep the road passable.

On May 11, Superintendent Cindy Orlando closed most of the park indefinitely. Kilauea and areas adjacent to the volcano were closed entirely for everyone’s safety. Only the Kahuku Unit about an hour south of the main entrance remained open for visitation, but even that far away it was periodically impacted by volcanic ash and poor air quality.

At the summit, the lava dropped about 1,000 feet below the crater rim, the earthquakes continued, triggered by the collapsing crater, and plumes of volcanic ash and rock spewed out of the summit. One reached 30,000 feet – as high as a jetliner flies.

We thought Kilauea summit might erupt as violently it had in 1924. Scientists predicted the receding lava would hit the water table deep below the summit and cause an explosive pyroclastic surge at the summit, which would coat everything downwind with thick, volcanic ash. Media from around the world began to arrive.

From a cultural perspective, Pele, the Hawaiian volcano goddess, was on the move and her home at Halema’uma’u was changing. Some Hawai’ians believe lava is the physical embodiment of Pele, and it seemed things were literally falling apart without her lava holding up the summit of Kilauea.

Leadership shifted to the incident command system to manage the park closure. I was assigned as the PIO – public information officer – for the entire four months. I had never worked incident command before, and experienced incident PIOs were brought in to assist me. But they’d never worked volcanic eruptions before, so it was a learning experience for all of us.

Incident command changed several times. As I understand it, no one had been on ICS for such a long period before. We had five incident commanders, including our chief ranger, John Broward. The first of several NPS critical incident stress management specialists arrived in May to help us manage our stress loads.

It was unsettling to be in the park’s emergency operations center, not far from Halema’uma’u. The shaking and collapse events continued nonstop for months. It felt like being shoved by a giant, after which everything rattled for a few long seconds.

The earthquakes destroyed the hundred-year-old water lines and volcanic ash got into the drinking water system, so the park brought in water and portable toilets.

Outside the park, what was happening to our Puna community was heartbreaking. Hundreds of homes were destroyed by lava, fissures ripped open people’s backyards with torrents of unstoppable molten rock, and despair and tensions were high.

By June 3, lava reached Kapoho Bay and covered an entire community and a beloved coastal recreation area. The park’s Chain of Craters Road – which had been covered by lava numerous times since 1986 – was bulldozed to restore an emergency evacuation route for the Puna community.

At the summit of Kilauea, the former Halema’uma’u parking lot and part of Crater Rim Drive fell into the crater as the summit collapsed, along with an overlook.
that had been closed for a decade due to volcanic gas in the area. Other roads in the park were also badly fractured by the intense seismic activity.

The park is usually the number one visitor attraction in Hawai‘i, but tourism dropped off dramatically and numerous small businesses folded because of the park closure and the media hype. Mainland media outlets made it seem like the eruption was impacting the whole state, instead of a small section of Hawai‘i Island.

There was some anger in the community toward park management due to the closure. We held community meetings to explain why it was necessary and share photos of the damage unfolding in the park. That helped increase understanding and improve relations.

Our new chief of interpretation, Ben Hayes, decided to bring the park to the people. We relocated interpretive rangers to interact with visitors throughout downtown Hilo and at the Hilo Airport. Other members of our staff assisted other national parks in Hawai‘i, teleworked or maintained fence lines away from the eruption site.

Throughout the closure, we were diligent about communicating to all of our stakeholders about the events impacting the park. Social media was a very effective way to inform people about what was happening, and share pictures of the events and the damage.

In other places where there are volcanic eruptions, most people run away from the volcano. In Hawai‘i, most people run toward an eruption to watch it. But this wasn’t that. This was a very violent, ongoing eruption that was not safe to be around.

Our first priority is to keep people safe, so the closure was a necessary thing. No one on staff wanted it to happen but we all supported it. And the park’s native Hawai‘ian elders, or kupuna, supported it. Give Pe‘le her space, they advised.

“Ohana” – family – is how we feel about our staff, colleagues and partners. Keeping people informed was challenging. We held regular staff and partners meetings in Hilo. Most staff didn’t have access to email, so we developed a special web page to let everyone know about the meetings.

Fortunately, no park staff lost their homes or jobs. But the devastating Kilauea eruption of 2018 is still impacting our community.

The staff at the USGS Hawai‘ian Volcano Observatory had to deal with two separate, devastating eruptions concurrently while also evacuating their facility at the summit of Kilauea. The observatory was located on the rim of Kilauea overlooking Halema‘uma‘u Crater, adjacent to Jaggar Museum.

USGS staff moved everything, including giant computer servers and research operations, to Hilo, almost an hour away. It’s hard to fathom the stress they went through and continue to experience. They did a stellar job of keeping the community and media informed.

By August 4, volcanic activity had quieted, sulfur dioxide emissions had dropped and lava flow had diminished.

As if 60,000 earthquakes, frequent explosions of volcanic ash, and the fractured collapse of Halema‘uma‘u Crater weren’t enough, three hurricanes and a large human-caused wildfire on the rugged slopes of Mauna Loa volcano also threatened Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park in 2018.

The fire started on private land adjacent to the park and burned for nearly two weeks in early August. It claimed almost 4,000 acres of native forest and shrub land that rare Hawai‘ian animals like the ‘i‘wi, the hoary bat, Hawai‘ian hawk, nēnē and others rely on for survival.

**Facts about Volcanic Events of 2018**

- Lava flowed at up to 3,530 cubic feet per second.
- Over 55,000 tons of sulfur dioxide were emitted each day.
- Lava erupted at 2,200 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Lava covered 13.7 square miles of land outside the park.
- 30 miles of roads were covered by lava.
- 716 dwellings were destroyed by lava.
- There were 62 separate collapse events.
- The summit collapsed a total of 1,640 feet.

From August 22 to 24, Hurricane Lane caused us to close Kahuku. Fortunately, its heavy rainfall helped put out the fire.

On September 9 and 10, Hurricane Olivia prompted tropical storm watches and warnings in Hawai‘i.

Although the eruption was winding down, new damage continued in the park as a result of the summit collapse and seismicity. In September, six large boulders became dislodged and caused serious damage to the popular Kilauea Iki Trail.

As we prepared to make repairs and reopen, NPS engineers and Federal Highway Administration officials arrived to assess the damage and help make determinations about repairs and readiness to reopen certain areas.

We reopened the park on National Public Lands Day, September 22.

Everyone was ecstatic. There were no entrance fees and the lines of traffic grew long, but it was a perfect, beautiful day.

I held a short press conference in front of the visitor center, and provided updates on our progress via Twitter for the rest of the day. Although we had advised the public that there would be no running water, our facilities management team repaired the water lines and we had water on opening day.
We were able to open most of our backcountry trails and campsites by October 11, and continue to reopen parts of the park that were closed due to damage. About 90 percent of the park was open by mid-July this summer.

Our news releases have turned from announcements about the eruptions, closures, hurricanes, fire and earthquakes to happier news about the openings of visitor-accessible sites, and our regular, ongoing events that share the culture, biology and geology of this dramatic, ever-changing World Heritage Site.

This year on May 24, we announced that a new NPS report showed that 1.1 million people visited Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park in 2018 – a nearly 45 percent decrease in visitation from 2017, due to the 134-day closure. But visitation at Kāhuku Unit, which had remained open, increased 181 percent in 2018 from the prior year.

In the park, Halema‘uma‘u is now quadruple the size it was before the eruptions started. It is very different to see. You can still see the chunk of Crater Rim Drive that fell into the crater. While there is no active lava, we have new interpretation opportunities and new sights, including the road and earthquake fractures, which make visiting the park and learning about what happened in 2018 truly fascinating.

Our wildlife adapted. Native plants and animals are, after all, accustomed to the volcanic environment. We are seeing the nēnē, the world’s rarest geese, everywhere. White-tailed tropicbirds that nest in the crater walls are still flying around the crater. The ‘apapane, our native honeycreepers, have returned to the rainforest canopy at the summit and their songs fill the air.

The spirit of Kīlauea is alive and well.

The lava is all underground now, but the volcano remains active, as does our other volcano, Mauna Loa. Who knows what’s going to happen next.

Jessica Ferracane has been a public affairs specialist at Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park since 2011.
Now is your chance to join the Association of National Park Rangers for our annual conference, Ranger Rendezvous 42, scheduled for October 16 to 22 in Everett, Washington.

Please come to learn, network, and also volunteer if you can. There is something for everyone at Ranger Rendezvous. Registration is open, and conference details are being updated at anpr.org regularly.

Don't hesitate to contact me about volunteering, the conference, the venue, registration, social events, the photo contest, and questions.

Please register for Ranger Rendezvous today. We hope to see a big turnout this year!

- **GETTING THERE**
  SeaTac Airport is located 45 miles south of Everett. With a single connection on public transit, you can get from the airport to the hotel for a mere $8. We highly recommend it.

- **WHERE TO STAY**
  A block of rooms has been reserved at the Delta Hotels by Marriott at a rate of $119 night for two people. Look for the link on the Ranger Rendezvous web page. You must reserve rooms on your own, in addition to registering for the conference and arranging for your own transportation.

- **PARTICIPATE**
  We also need items for the silent auction and raffle fund-raisers, and photos for the annual ANPR photography contest.

- **PLACES TO SEE**
  Everett is within easy reach of Mt. Rainier, Olympic and North Cascades national parks, and is a great jumping-off spot for Klondike Gold Rush – Seattle Unit, San Juan Island National Historic Park and Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve.

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**PHOTO Contest**

**Submit Your Best Photos to the Annual ANPR Photo Contest!**

**6 Categories**

1. People in the Parks
2. Landscapes
3. Wildlife
4. Historical & Cultural Resources
5. It’s in the Details (close-ups, abstract design)
6. NEW Soar to New Horizons

**Guidelines**

- Contestants must be ANPR members at the time of entry.
- All photos must be taken within a national park unit (anywhere in the world).
- Photographers must ask any individuals who are identifiable in a photo for permission to take the photo.
- Contestants may enter only one photo per category.
- Photos should be submitted in print, unframed, on 8x10 paper.

**How to Enter**

- Write your name, location of the photo and contest category on the back of each photo.
- At the conference, bring your photos to the registration desk upon arrival.
- If you are not attending the conference, you are still eligible to win!
- Send your photo entries in a flat envelope to 189 E. River Road, Emigrant MT 59027

Rendezvous attendees vote on their favorite photos. Winners are selected for each category and a Best of Show photo takes the top spot. All winners will receive recognition at Rendezvous and photos will be published in the 2019-20 winter issue of Ranger magazine.

Winners will need to immediately send a digital copy of their winning photos – in the largest file size – to aallen@anpr.org with the category, photo description or title, location, and the full names of any clearly identifiable individuals pictured.
The agenda for Ranger Rendezvous 42 is shaping up nicely. Presenting on the morning of Thursday, October 1, will be keynote speaker John Ruple, research professor of law at the University of Utah and a fellow at the Wallace Stegner Center for Land Resources and the Environment, where he works on public lands and water resource management.

Ruple is well versed on a variety of land management topics, be it legal analysis of the transfer of public lands movement, the dismantling of Bears Ears National Monument, or tribal sovereignty to energy development on public lands.

He completed his undergraduate work at Western Washington University and his master’s degree in resource development at Michigan State University with “Treaty Implied Rights to Habitat Protection: Impacts on the Elwha River.” His current research focuses on national monument designation and management, state efforts to control federal public lands, water resource allocation, and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Prior to joining the Stegner Center, Ruple was a fellow with the University of Utah’s Institute for Clean and Secure Energy, where he researched land and water issues involving energy development in Utah’s Uinta Basin. He also was a policy analyst in Gov. Jon Huntsman’s Public Lands Office, an environmental attorney in private practice, and a National Environmental Policy Act contractor specializing in permitting for projects on National Forest System lands. He also has worked as a seasonal employee for both the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

Ruple is widely published. A complete list of works can be found at www.law.utah.edu/profile/john-ruple/. Recent works include:

- “The Trump Administration and Lessons Not Learned from Prior National Monument Modifications”
- “The Transfer of Public Lands Movement: The Battle to Take ‘Back’ Lands that Were Never Theirs”
- “National Monuments and National Conservation Areas: A Comparison in Light of the Bears Ears Proposal”

We hope you can join us at Ranger Rendezvous for what promises to be an outstanding keynote presentation.

Please watch the Ranger Rendezvous section at anpr.org for information about the conference program as it becomes confirmed.

A NPR is poised to present Story Circles Narrative Training during Ranger Rendezvous 42. Story Circles is the art of narrative communication. It was designed by scientist, filmmaker and author Randy Olson to improve the translation of technical scientific language and promote visitor understanding, and has application for all communicators.

Story Circles teaches research scientists and communicators about narrative intuition and structure. It can be used for grant proposals, research papers, oral presentations, crisis communications, interpretation and other communications efforts.

We are planning to provide the training in two parts. Twenty-five or more ANPR participants will need to commit to completing both parts in order for the training to be confirmed. In addition, ANPR must secure funding to cover the costs of hosting the complete training prior to the Rendezvous program.

The first part of the training will be the one-day introductory Demo Day program, scheduled for Friday, October 18.

The second part of the training will focus on interactive Story Circles of five Demo Day graduates each. It will consist of 10 one-hour sessions spread over three months. Story Circles members will meet in person or via teleconferencing, dates to be determined.

Olson recognized that better communication is needed for people to understand the value of scientific findings, including climate change, after receiving his PhD in marine biology. More than 1,000 scientists and communicators from universities and government agencies, including the National Park Service, have participated in his ABT (And, But, Therefore) training. He also developed the emergency preparedness campaign “Attack of the Zombies” for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Some members of ANPR may have participated in field training exercises related to the zombie exercises.

Olson is also the creator of the films

- “Sizzle: A Global Warming Comedy”
- “Flock of Dodos: The Evolution-Intelligent Design Circus”
- “Dude, Where’s My Climate Movement?”

For additional information, please visit HTTPS://GRIST.ORG/ARTICLE/OLSON OR HTTP://STORYCIRCLESTRAINING.COM.

If you are interested in taking Story Circles Training, contact ANPR business manager Chris Reinhardt at creinhardt@anpr.org as soon as possible.
Rick Cook’s quote in the spring 1989 issue of Ranger came less than a year after the notorious 1988 fires in Yellowstone National Park were extinguished by snow. The massive fire-fighting effort had lasted all summer.

I, too, was in Yellowstone in summer 1988. I was planning a study of historical fires in the Yellowstone landscape with my colleague, Bill Romme. Little did we know how the fires that year would shape our research long into the future.

Now, after 30-plus years, we have indeed learned a lot. Following are some of those lessons and a view of what lies ahead.

**LESSONS FROM THE 1988 FIRES**

The size and severity of the 1988 Yellowstone fires surprised scientists and managers alike. Summer 1988 was (and still is) the driest summer on record since Yellowstone was established in 1872. Fuel moisture in 1,000-hour fuels dropped below 7 percent, wind speeds often exceeded 60 mph, and fire behavior was extreme.

Fires were spotting up to two miles ahead of the main fire front and often continued burning at night. Ultimately, about 1.2 million acres were affected in Greater Yellowstone. News reports declared that our nation’s first national park was destroyed – but that was far from the truth.

**In frequent, high-severity fires were the norm in Greater Yellowstone for millennia.**

Wildfires have shaped the forests of Greater Yellowstone for thousands of years, and native species are well adapted to such fires. Tree ring records and charcoal deposits in lake sediments revealed that severe fires have burned at 100- to 300-year intervals for the past 10,000 years. Journal entries from early expeditions describe miles of recently burned forests.

Fires burned during dry periods, but most summers – including during much of the 20th century – were too cool and wet to support fire. Big fire years in subalpine and boreal conifer forests are driven by climate, and fires burn through forests of all ages and structures.

**PAST FIRE SUPPRESSION HAD NO DETECTABLE INFLUENCE ON THE 1988 FIRES.**

Variation in fire regimes (the frequency, size and severity of fires over a long period of time) remains widely misunderstood. In dry conifer forests, such as ponderosa pine forests in the southwest, frequent, low-severity fire was historically the norm. In some of these forests, decades of fire suppression led to an unnatural buildup of fuels. This set the stage for high-severity crown fires, to which the system was not adapted.
This is not the case in Yellowstone. The period when fire suppression was potentially effective was brief, from about 1945 until 1972, when the natural fire policy was implemented. Lodgepole pine and spruce-fir forests are naturally dense, and fuels change very slowly in the harsh climate. Weather conditions during that time also were not conducive to fire.

a. THE 1988 FIRES CREATED A DIVERSE LANDSCAPE.

Rather than a moonscape, the fires created a patchwork quilt. Burned areas varied in size and shape, and green islands of live trees punctuated swaths of burned trees. Half of the most severely burned forest was within 160 feet of live trees, and these edges provide a long-term seed source.

b. THE FORESTS REBOUNDED RAPIDLY, WITHOUT INTERVENTION.

Among the biggest surprises after the 1988 fires was the speed of recovery. Serotinous cones of lodgepole pine opened with the heat of the fire, and a new generation of tree seedlings blanketed the burned forest floor the next summer.

Aspen seedlings (not re-sprouts) established in burned lodgepole pine forests up to nine miles away from the nearest mature aspen. Grasses and wildflowers re-sprouted from roots that survived because the soils were not deeply burned. Non-native species did not increase.

The forest lost little of its essential nutrients, and most wood remained in the ecosystem as standing dead trees. Effects on rivers and lakes were relatively minor. Wildlife returned to the forests soon after the flames died down, taking advantage of the nutritious early plant growth.

The 1988 fires killed trees but did not destroy the forest.

Resilience was the bottom line.

The capacity of natural ecosystems to respond to the 1988 fires was awesome to behold. And we were able to discover many mechanisms of resilience precisely because these fires burned in national parks, where processes were allowed to play out naturally. The 1988 fires were not an ecological catastrophe, but they were a harbinger of things to come.

WHAT LIES AHEAD?

Climate change is real, and a warmer climate means more fire.

Yellowstone is already getting warmer. A recent analysis found a 4.5-degree Fahrenheit increase in average temperature between 1982 and 2015. Warmer temperatures mean earlier snowmelt, drier fuels and a longer fire season.

Greater Yellowstone is likely to see more large fires in the decades ahead because fire size increases exponentially as fuels dry. Years without fire, common historically, will become rare. These trends present myriad challenges ranging from visitor safety to stewardship of natural and cultural resources.

Scientists are now striving to understand when, where and how changes are likely to unfold and what this means for natural and cultural resources within the parks.

Fire activity is already increasing, and forests will change.

As fires occur more often, young forests will become dominant across the landscape. Some species will increase in abundance while others decline. However, there is no guarantee that the resilience we so carefully documented after the 1988 fires will be sustained in coming years. We are heading into uncharted territory.

Forest resilience to future fire is not guaranteed.

Historically, Yellowstone’s forests had enough time to recover before they burned again. The carbon released to the atmosphere by fire was recovered within 100 years by fast-growing young trees, and the supply of seeds needed to regenerate a new forest had time to build up.

Current models suggest that the interval between fires could drop to 30 years or less by the mid to late 21st century. Such short fire intervals would disrupt the fire-recovery cycle and threaten the processes that fostered forest resilience. And even if seeds are available, tree regeneration can fail under warmer, drier conditions. Like young plants in our gardens, tree seedlings are more vulnerable to drying than established plants.
THE 2016 MAPLE AND BERRY FIRES OFFER GLIMPSES OF THE FUTURE.

The 2016 fire season in Greater Yellowstone provided an opportunity to learn what could happen as fire regimes shift. The Maple and Berry fires re-burned about 45,000 acres of young forests that had regenerated after the 1988 fires and the 2000 Glade Fire.

Fire intervals were only 16 and 28 years, well shorter than the historical norm. Burn severity was so high in some places that we called it “crown fire plus,” because nearly all aboveground biomass – young trees that were alive plus the dead and down trees killed by the previous fire – was combusted. A lot of carbon was released to the atmosphere in the re-burns, and early tree regeneration is sparse.

We will continue to track these young forests over time, but one message is clear: future landscapes will be different from those of the past.

The 1988 fires are now a valuable benchmark.

The remarkable resilience of Yellowstone to the 1988 fires has become a benchmark against which recovery from recent and future fires in a warmer world can be measured. This also underscores the key role of national parks as living laboratories. Intact ecosystems are likely to surprise us again.

National parks are scientific treasures.

National parks are national treasures not only because they preserve unique elements of the American landscape, but also because they remain among the best places for understanding how ecosystems will respond to the environmental change. Much was learned from the 1988 fires because there was little intervention with natural processes. Much remains to be learned as ecosystems reorganize and adapt to a warmer world with more fire.

Our parks will change, but they will also retain the beauty that inspires us.

Monica G. Turner, PhD, is the Eugene P. Odum Professor of Ecology and a Vilas Research Professor in the department of integrative biology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. A native New Yorker, she received her bachelor’s degree in biology from Fordham University. She decided to become an ecologist after working as a 19-year-old seasonal ranger-naturalist at Old Faithful in Yellowstone National Park through the Student Conservation Association. As a PhD student in ecology at the University of Georgia, Turner conducted research in Virgin Islands National Park, Cumberland Island National Seashore, and with the US Man and the Biosphere Program at NPS headquarters. She has studied disturbances, forests and climate in Yellowstone for more than 30 years.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Fires in the West may be changing the future of forests, a video featuring Dr. Turner produced by the University of Wisconsin-Madison https://youtu.be/dD8VLS5F2Xo
- “Ecological implications of fires in Yellowstone: Moving into uncharted territory” By Dr. William H. Romme and Dr. Monica G. Turner
- “Ecological effects of the 88 Yellowstone fires: A story of surprise, constancy and change” “Climate change and novel disturbance regimes in national park landscapes” By Monica G. Turner

Kudos List

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

(updated 6/30/19)

Ann Dee Allen
Brian Carlstrom
Mary Collins
Marin Karraker
Mark Maciha
Jeanette Meleen
Bryanna Plog
ParkRangerEDU.org

Welcome to the ANPR family

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

(updated 6/30/19)

Clyde Anderson, Atlanta, GA
Peter Bidigare, Oklahoma City, OK
Corin Brustle, West Lawn, PA
John Buchkoski, Oklahoma City, OK
Selene Daniel, Atlanta, GA
Amanda Dudley, St. George, UT
Debbie England, Littleton, CO
Hailey Franks, Oklahoma City, OK
Athena Gonzalez, Oklahoma City, OK
Ryan Guthrie, Oklahoma City, OK
Ian Harvey, Oklahoma City, OK
Jennifer Hood, Killingworth, CT
John Noel, Shepherdstown, WV
Walter Plantitzer, Oklahoma City, OK
Jen Seron, New York, NY
Andrea Smith, Tacoma, WA
Matt Whitney, Oklahoma City, OK
Kaylene Wright, Willcox, AZ
The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, home to more than 500 mature Giant Sequoia trees, is the largest of the three sequoia groves in Yosemite National Park. The grove has inspired naturalists, artists, presidents and visitors from across the world since 1864.

Many visitors come to Yosemite to experience a connection with something greater than themselves. Standing at the base of a Giant Sequoia like the 209-foot tall Grizzly Giant, which has a circumference of 92 feet, can be a humbling and transformative experience.

The mature Giant Sequoias are some of the oldest and largest living organisms on earth. Most of them are more than 2,000 years old and are larger than 30 feet in diameter.

The Mariposa Grove and Yosemite Valley are highly significant in the National Park System story. They were among the first federally protected areas granted to the State of California for “public use, resort and recreation” on June 30, 1864, when President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant Act into law.

GROVE NEEDED GREATER PROTECTION

More than 100 years of heavy visitation and human use left a mark on the Mariposa Grove. Parking lot pavement was damaging the roots of these giant sentinels of the forest. Diesel engines from concession tram tours were disturbing the natural quiet of the forest. Yet, despite the heavy visitation, the Mariposa Grove was not accessible to all park visitors.

Yosemite National Park, Yosemite Conservancy and other park partners recognized that a major restoration project was needed to restore the natural hydrology of the grove, improve the overall visitor experience, and help protect the Giant Sequoias for generations.

In 2012, the NPS and Yosemite Conservancy launched a $40 million restoration project. Half of the cost was funded by the Park Service. The other half was matched by donors to Yosemite Conservancy.

The project was designed to remove a parking lot near the Lower Grove, remove a tram road and gift shop, restore the natural hydrology throughout the grove, and build elevated, accessible boardwalks so that all visitors could enjoy and connect with the Giant Sequoias. The improved visitor facilities would enhance the overall appreciation of the majesty of the Mariposa Grove upon arrival, while helping to protect the trees in the grove.

EXTENSIVE, THREE-YEAR PROJECT

The grove was closed for construction and restoration from summer 2015 to June 14, 2018. A new 300-vehicle parking area, gift shop Depot, and shuttle arrival plaza were constructed near the South Entrance of the park.

Today, visitors to the grove drive to the South Entrance parking area, board a free shuttle operated by Yosemite Hospitality and ride two miles to the Lower Grove. There they find a new boardwalk that winds through the Lower Grove past interpretive panels and important trees in the grove, including the Fallen Monarch, Bachelor, Three Graces, Grizzly Giant and California Tunnel Tree.

Considering that nearly 5 million visitors visit Yosemite a year, this project will help protect the Giant Sequoias of the Mariposa Grove. It is hoped that they will live another 1,000 years or more — as long as their natural life span will allow.

Jamie M. Richards is public affairs officer at Yosemite National Park in California.
It is dawn, and I have just woken up, realizing that I am truly in the backcountry on the island of Borneo, something I would not have thought possible just a year ago.

My National Park Service career has allowed me to live the phrase, “No matter where you are in the world, a ranger is a ranger.” Along with my former colleagues Lisa Andrews and Christine Clark from Big Cypress National Preserve, I have spent quality time in Tanjung Puting National Park, Indonesia.

Tanjung Puting is in South Central Kalimantan province on the Island of Borneo. The 1.025-million-acre park stretches from the inland forest south to the Java Sea. It has the highest concentration of primate species within a single park anywhere in the world.

In addition to being one of only two places on the planet where wild orangutans are found, Tanjung Puting is home to a number of other rare and imperiled species. They include Clouded leopards, Malaysian sun bears and the Storm’s stork, the rarest of all stork species.

This area is similar to southwest Florida’s natural areas, and has many of the same political and environmental challenges. It was a natural fit for a sister park arrangement with Big Cypress.

Start of a partnership

Official sister park discussions began in 2015. Representatives from Indonesia’s Ministry of Environment and Forestry, the U.S Agency for International Development, the Department of Interior’s International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP), Tanjung Puting and Big Cypress were involved in the discussions. Visits were made to both parks that year.

The discussions focused on sustaining visitor services provided by Tanjung Puting and commercial organizations, outreach and environmental education, and endangered species conservation in the Indonesian park. The 2015 visit to Tanjung Puting included development of a management foundation document for tourism, interpretation and visitor center development at the park.

In 2016, National Park Service representatives went to Borneo to sign the agreement and start sharing NPS expertise and technical assistance with Tanjung Puting professionals. They hit the ground running, leading a two-day workshop with park staff to establish a commercial services strategy for future visitation and resource protection.

Under the arrangement, Big Cypress and Tanjung Puting teams would visit each other’s parks two more times before the end of 2019.
In July 2018, Lisa, Christine and I arrived as a team and soon found ourselves deep in the interior. It was a return trip for Christine, who had attended the agreement signing ceremony. During our visit, we:

• Observed boat tour operations and guided visits to orangutan viewing sites
• Discussed environmental education opportunities for the local community
• Evaluated information signs at points of concentrated use
• Assessed sea turtle conservation efforts
• Reviewed commercial services training results
• Visited gateway villages to assess the potential for more local involvement in visitor engagement

All the while, we were met with the rewards of experiencing a new and beautiful place and culture. We were greeted with beaming smiles and enjoyed food I can’t even describe, often in the most unlikely places and spectacular settings.

**Tanjung Puting**

Getting to and around the vast park requires transportation by air, ground and water. In the town of Kumai we boarded speedboats to travel up the Sekonyer River so we could observe the commercial boating operations and guided tours to orangutan viewing areas.

A typical visitor excursion into the park’s backcountry is via brightly colored houseboats, or “klotoks.” The boats provide leisurely paced transport to remote docks where boardwalks and nature trails lead to wildlife viewing areas. Small groups of visitors spend up to a week on board enjoying the park and the hospitality.

Our interests included observing the concentration of klotoks at each docking area, the volume of visitors discharged into the orangutan viewing areas at a given time, and the potential for visitation along other parts of the river.

Tanjung Puting has experienced a marked increase in visitation over the past decade. Park management is interested in improving the experience for those who have come so far to learn about the orangutans and observe them in the wild. Everything is done with an eye to reducing impacts from increased, concentrated visitor use.

Among our objectives was to improve signage at the docks and along the trails that would inform visitors about where they were, what they might encounter, precautions they should take, and how they could assist in orangutan protection and conservation. The tale is one told at other national parks. Park leaders and staff are concerned about imperiled species, loss of habitat, threats to park resources from outside the park, visitor engagement, improving infrastructure to accommodate increasing demand, being innovative with limited funds, and seeking assistance from partners.

We also visited the Tanjung Puting hawksbill sea turtle nursery on the southern end of central Kalimantan. Park leaders have determined that if they do not protect the rather small turtle nesting beach, every nest could fall victim to predation or poaching.

After turtle nesting events, rangers dig up the turtle eggs and replicate the nest at their hatchery. Following incubation and hatching, the young turtles are released in the hope that they will survive to become breeding adults.

Our observations at the nursery and nesting beach resulted in recommendations to improve beach access and monitoring techniques, as well as public education and community involvement in sea turtle conservation.

**Big Cypress**

During our visit to Tanjung Puting, we recommended that park rangers attend the International Sea Turtle Society Conference in Charleston, South Carolina in February 2019. The Indonesian rangers not only attended the conference, they also visited Charleston area NPS units and spent three weeks at Big Cypress National Preserve.

At the preserve, they:

• Participated in commercial services training
• Developed a grade school outreach environmental education curriculum
• Assisted Big Cypress rangers in conducting swamp walk interpretive programs
• Met with other agency partners about sea turtle conservation
• Continued their informational sign project

Together, rangers from both parks worked on a film about Tanjung Puting, which can be viewed at https://youtu.be/UDQTDP0t9so.

**Benefits for all**

It’s fair to ask, what’s in it for Big Cypress and the NPS? As the sister park agreement states, the arrangement allows for the exchange of knowledge for both parks, provides inspiration and motivation for all involved, furthers training and capacity building, and serves global conservation.

If your park has an opportunity to participate in a sister arrangement, I encourage it enthusiastically. Our team found the DOI-ITAP assignment very fulfilling. We learned how just a few individuals can help protect and conserve national park resources in places around the world.

**Ron Clark** is a senior advisor for the U.S. Department of Interior’s International Technical Assistance Program. He recently retired as natural and cultural resource management chief from Big Cypress National Preserve. Lisa Andrews is the education outreach specialist for Big Cypress. Christine Clark is the management assistant there. Visit www.doi.gov/intl/itap to learn more.
One of our greatest challenges across the National Park System is the never-ending battle of needed facilities repairs – repairs that always exceed allocations in the federal budget. More than $11 billion in repairs or maintenance on roads, buildings, utility systems and other structures and facilities across the system have been postponed for more than a year due to budget constraints (the challenge of “a perpetuity mission on an annual appropriation,” as former NPS Director Jon Jarvis explained it).

Collectively known as “deferred maintenance,” this backlog of projects in our parks limits access, impairs visitor experiences, and negatively impacts recreational opportunities. Addressing deferred maintenance is a critical focus area of our core mission to preserve parks and provide world-class visitor experiences.

Our roads, trails, restrooms, water treatment systems and visitor centers are aging. They are exceeding capacities they were not designed to support. For fiscal year 2018, the deferred figure for the system was $11.9 billion, up 3 percent from the year before. Of that total, just over $1.9 billion is from parks in the Southeast Region.

Without a dedicated funding source, the backlog will continue to grow.

RESTORE OUR PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS ACT

There may be some help on the horizon. The bipartisan Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act would direct dedicated annual federal funding to address deferred maintenance for the National Park Service, as well as Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Education. Funds would come from direct revenue from onshore, offshore and renewable energy operations, up to $1.3 billion per year for five years.

Eighty percent of the funds would go to NPS deferred maintenance, so there is the potential for as much as $5.2 billion in revenue to address our backlogged maintenance in coming years. Other similar bills with slightly differing details have also been working their way through the Hill.

While the outcome of these bills is still undetermined, those who follow the legislative process indicate there is a chance that one of them could pass, providing an enormous boon to our efforts to reduce our deferred maintenance lists.

All of these challenges (as well as the opportunities) have a cumulative effect on what is arguably our most precious resource – our employees.

Perhaps at no other time in recent memory has our workforce been under more scrutiny. The dedication to service and value of government employees has come under attack in recent years. Our parks and agency are often used as a political football by those on both sides of the aisle.

We are embarking on a department-wide reorganization that proposes to reduce the total number of regions supporting several Department of Interior bureaus from 49 distinct regions to 12 unified regions, adjust regional boundaries, and relocate some headquarters offices within the department. While the intent of the reorganization will be to modernize the department, reduce redundancies and maximize efficiencies, this process will involve a certain amount of change that will have to be managed effectively.

NEW NPS DIRECTOR

We look forward to the confirmation of the next director of the National Park Service. David Vela was nominated late in the previous Congress and we anticipate his nomination in the 116th Congress. It has been almost two years since we had a permanent director in place, and filling that position will certainly provide some stability in the leadership of the agency.
As a career NPS employee, Vela brings over a quarter of a century of experience in parks and park management, from field positions to associate regional director in WASO. Those of us in the Southeast are well aware that he also served as regional director for four years.

Through all of the external noise, our mission remains unchanged: to serve as a guiding light through these uneasy times.

“The service thus established shall... conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

For more than 100 years, this mandate has guided what we do, and it will do so for the next 100 years and beyond. The passion of our employees in carrying out this mission is undeniable, as is that of our cadre of volunteers, partners and stakeholders.

When I have the opportunity to be in the field, to talk to our rangers, our scientists, our cooperators, our volunteers, I am inspired by that passion and it reminds me that the National Park Service has strong roots in place to weather any passing storm. And we also continue to have a great foundation of good will among the American people.

Our nation’s national parks define America. And America needs its national parks now more than ever. We offer places of rejuvenation and serenity, sites for respite during troubled times. Our parks remind us from where we have come as a nation and, if we listen to the lessons contained in them, they can help us chart a course for the future.

I offer my thanks for your past, present and future service to our nation and its national parks. Our challenges are many, but in the hands of our dedicated rangers, we are turning those challenges into opportunities and improving our parks and the visitor experience along the way.

In the words of Stephen Mather, “We have the spirit of fighters, not as a destructive force, but as a power of good. With this spirit each of us is an integral part of the preservation of the magnificent heritage we have been given.”

Keep up the good fight. Our national parks deserve nothing less.

Bob Vogel is the regional director of the National Park Service’s Southeast Region. He presented an earlier version of these remarks at the 2018 Ranger Rendezvous conference in Bowling Green, Kentucky. The text has been updated in order to reflect current factual information.

**ANPR and CSPRA commemorate World Ranger Day at Yosemite National Park**

*By Jamie Richards, ANPR, and Mike Lynch, CSPRA*

On July 31, rangers and leaders from the Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR), California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA), California State Parks and National Park Service joined together to commemorate World Ranger Day in Yosemite Valley.

A ceremony was held in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center to honor NPS employees and rangers from around the world who lost their lives in the line of duty. Approximately 100 people, including staff from Yosemite National Park and park visitors, attended. Attendees also took a short pilgrimage to the Yosemite Valley Cemetery and paid their respects at the grave of Galen Clark, California’s first state park ranger.

The ceremony was one of hundreds of similar ceremonies that have been held around the world on July 31 each year since World Ranger Day was established in 2007 to celebrate and honor the men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting our sacred cultural and wild spaces.

July 31 is also the day we honor the founding of the International Ranger Federation (IRF). ANPR and CSPRA are proud member organizations of the IRF. We look forward to sending delegates from both organizations to the upcoming 9th World Ranger Congress, being held near Chitwan National Park in Nepal November 12-16.
Reflections from Flight 93 National Memorial

Some things stay with you for the rest of your life.

An experience I had at Flight 93 National Memorial is such a thing.

In observance of the 17th anniversary of 9/11, I spent four days last year on a security detail at the breathtaking memorial. Spanning a thousand acres, the memorial chronicles the tragic and heroic events that unfolded in the sky above a Pennsylvania field on September 11, 2001. Forty passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93 – heroes, every one – gave their lives that morning.

Heading into this detail, I knew it was going to be emotionally heavy. I severely underestimated just how heavy.

Interactions with the public and personnel working the event reminded me of a duty to the mission of this particular assignment: We were there to commemorate a duty to the mission of this particular assignment. Working the event reminded me of the final significant piece of this already stunning memorial. The new Tower of Voices allows visitors to spend quiet time reflecting on their own thoughts and hear the “voices” of the 40 heroes through the hauntingly beautiful tones of 40 massive wind chimes.

With this mission came a sense of patriotic togetherness, and I was honored to be a small part of it. Speaking with these people was in itself a somber experience, carrying undertones of loss, sadness and the sincere reverence of a grateful nation, but at least I could talk to them.

Then there were the family members. Everywhere I turned, there was family of the 40 heroes of Flight 93, the VIPs of this occasion. I thought I was ready to meet them, but I discovered there, on that hallowed ground – that sacred battlefield – I was not. Doing so, especially on that day, stood me still.

I was overcome by a wave of emotion. The best I could do was ask who their loved one was that had been on the plane. After that, I couldn’t even speak. A strong force had gripped my throat and the words couldn’t form.

What could I possibly say to these beautiful people anyway? Instead, I choked up, shed tears and simply listened to them. A couple of them I embraced.

Interacting with these honored souls was deeply moving, beyond anything for which I could have prepared. And though the magnitude of it all was almost more than I could bear, I am thankful and richer for the experience. Almost a year later, I’m still in a state of blurred awe over all that I witnessed over those four days.

One of those experiences was listening to the U.S. Air Force Singing Sergeants as they sang the perfectly fitting words of “One Voice” at the dedication ceremony for the Tower of Voices. I shall never forget the power of that ceremony.

**KINDNESS, RESPECT AND HONOR**

Everything about the ceremony, and the memorial itself, was meticulously and flawlessly planned out, even down to the detail of that song’s lyrics. They are spot-on. Hearing them moved me to tears, even as I tried to hold a salute to the family members as they passed by my post.

All of it – the Tower, the wind chimes, the Visitor Center and Flight Path Walkway, the Allée with its 40 Groves of 40 Trees, the Memorial Plaza and Wall of Names, the Ceremonial Gate – it’s all so wrought with symbolism. So beautiful, and so perfect.

I express my genuine appreciation to everyone involved in the building of this exquisite monument to uncommon valor and for showing such kindness, respect and honor to the 40 heroes of that flight, as well as their gracious families. Serving at Flight 93 National Memorial on 9/11 was one of my life’s most sincere honors. It forged memories that will remain in my heart forever.

What I will remember most, though, are the connections with so many family members. I especially got to know two of them. One was the mother of Deora Bodley, the youngest passenger of Flight 93. Deora was similar age to my two daughters now. The other was the sister of Richard Guadagno, a fellow Department of Interior employee, a USFWS project manager and whose refuge officer shield miraculously survived the crash and is on display at the memorial’s Visitor Center.

As I write this, the 18th observation of 9/11 is coming up soon. I hope rangers from other parks can serve at Flight 93 so they may be moved by the power of this very special place in the same way I’ve been. Doing so will serve as a testament that, though some may have already forgotten, others never will.

Instead, we shall continue telling the stories of these 40 courageous heroes and we shall always “Remember 9/11, Strength and Honor!”

With so much respect,

Kevin Moses
South District Ranger
Shenandoah National Park
The 2018 article “Disproportionate Magnitude of Climate Change in United States National Parks” raises concern about climate change at national park sites. The authors noted that, “between 1895 and 2010, mean annual temperature of the national park area increased at double the rate of the U.S. as a whole.” Research into interpretation may help to consider meaningful ways to communicate about climate change with park visitors.

Indiana University researchers conducted a small study of climate change-related interpretation at Shenandoah National Park in Virginia and Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts. In this qualitative study, 14 visitors participating in three different interpretive programs were interviewed three to six months after their visit. While not definitive by any means, it can provide valuable insights for interpreters.

At Shenandoah, the focus was on the endemic Shenandoah salamander, found only on some of the park’s highest mountaintops. Due to its very specific habitat requirements, this animal is at risk from increasing temperatures. Some visitors participated in a patio talk dedicated to the salamander along the Skyline Drive. Others participated in a discovery hike covering many topics, including a short treatise on the salamander in the animal’s mountaintop habitat.

Interestingly, visitors participating in the hike were able to provide greater detail regarding the life, habitat and plight of the Shenandoah salamander than those who participated in the dedicated talk.

The lesson researchers draw from this is that location matters. They attribute the detail of visitor recall to the more authentic location than dedicated content in a place the salamander is not found.

At Cape Cod, visitors participated in a snorkeling program in one of the park’s many freshwater kettle ponds that are mere feet above sea level. Of great concern is the intrusion of saltwater into the ponds that occurs with only the slightest sea level rise.

In this program, visitors were oriented to the snorkeling gear and associated safety considerations, and heard a talk on the geological formation of the ponds and the concerns presented by climate change. They then spent an hour or more in the pond with rangers.

Visitors who were interviewed were unable to provide any detailed descriptions of the climate change message. However, each visitor spoke effusively about their experience. One even summed it up by saying, “we loved it... it felt so wonderful and so magical to be experiencing it, that it felt like something you wanted to protect.”

The lesson researchers see here is that sometimes the experience itself can take precedence over specific content – and that can be a good thing.

While a changing climate is of grave concern to park ecosystems and park managers, thoughtful communication and interpretive program planning may help to illuminate the issues in authentic and meaningful ways.

—— Brian Forist
Indiana University
QUIZ

NPS SEARCH AND RESCUE HISTORY
By Butch Farabee

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE BY ANSWERING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. QUIZ ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22.

1. In 1907, an incident occurred in Yosemite National Park that resulted in the first Carnegie Hero Award to be granted in an NPS unit. What was the victim of this SAR doing?

2. On June 14, 1914, Lassen Peak erupted. Was anyone killed?

3. In 1951, the first DOI Unit Award was granted for valor in:
   (A) Everglades (B) Sequoia
   (C) Crater Lake (D) Shenandoah
   (E) Big Bend

4. On September 23, 1957, the first NPS Ranger School opened. The school, soon nicknamed Kowski Kollege, was started in:
   (A) Mount Rainier  (B) Rocky Mountain
   (C) Grand Canyon  (D) None of the parks named

5. In 1968, several rangers attended the first formal, advanced emergency medical training in the NPS. The training encompassed 110 hours. Name the park the rangers represented.

6. In 1970, helicopters from five western military bases began flying highway-related medivacs, premature infant shuttles and related remote-area SARs. The service, called MAST, was formalized by Congress in 1973. Provide the full title for MAST.

7. Provide the full title for ICSAR.

8. On November 28, 1972, 23 rangers graduated from the first NPS-wide EMT class. Vietnam War Navy corpsmen taught the 100-hour training. Name the military base where the training was held.

9. In 1976, 145 people died in a flash flood that was the greatest natural calamity to occur in Colorado. Rangers from Rocky Mountain National Park took the initial lead in responding to the disaster. Name the canyon where the flood occurred.

10. On October 1, 1941, Charles Hopkins made his 2,348th parachute jump as a publicity stunt into our nation’s first national monument. What happened?
The founding members of the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section – Spooner Oldham on keyboards, Barry Beckett on keyboards, Roger Hawkins on drums, David Hood on bass guitar and Jimmy Johnson on guitar – were all amateur musicians who had partially cut their teeth playing in bands in and around Florence.

Hall, a white man who had a deep appreciation for African American rhythm and blues, had the uncanny ability to bring together black and white artists and musicians at FAME and create chart-topping hits. Etta James’ “Tell Mama,” Wilson Pickett’s “Mustang Sally,” and Percy Sledge’s “When a Man Loves a Woman” were all recorded at FAME with the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section backing the lead artists.

Hall and the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section became sought after by rhythm and blues, country and pop artists who wanted the Muscle Shoals sound to infuse their music and boost their chances of producing a top hit.

The Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section, also known by fans as the Swampers, would split from FAME studios to form their own recording studio in 1969, where they continued to turn out hits. In 1974, in accordance with their growing fame, the band Lynyrd Skynyrd referenced the Swampers in their song “Sweet Home Alabama.” In 1995, the Swampers were inducted into the Alabama Music Hall of Fame.

From the history of its indigenous peoples to modern art; from Civil War to civil rights; from the songs of the enslaved to alternative country; the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area protects and promotes the people, places and music that inspired and shaped northwest Alabama and transformed the world.

― Alan Spears
Cultural Resources Director, National Park Conservation Association
aspears@npca.org

The Alabama Music Hall of Fame in Tuscumbia, Alabama.
Courtesy of the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area.

The Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area, one of 55 congressionally designated NHAs, promotes and interprets the resources and stories associated with Rick Hall, FAME and the Swampers. The North Alabama heritage area also tells the story of Florence’s favorite sons W.C. Handy, a famed producer, composer and the “father of the blues,” and Sam Phillips, founder of Sun Records and the man credited with “discovering” Elvis Presley.

The Alabama Music Hall of Fame is located in Tuscumbia, Alabama, just across the Tennessee River from Florence.

Of greater significance, the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area helps to weave together the disparate threads of Alabama’s complicated racial legacy. Front and center is the story of how, during a time of division and racial strife, a white producer and white musicians joined together with black artists to produce some of the most potent and popular music the world has ever heard.
Bertha Pillsbury, 17, was swimming in the Merced River and got in over her head. Harry Masser, 17, earned Carnegie Hero Award #429 for saving her. J. Parks Jones, 17, earned award #430 for assisting in the rescue.

According to the Mariposa Gazette of June 20, 1914, Lance Graham was killed when a “shower of huge rocks” rained down on him while he was climbing the peak. A second individual sustained a skull fracture and other serious injuries.

A rescue team of 11 Sequoia National Park staff and a local physician went to the aid of two fishermen who had fallen and become trapped in the Kaweah River. The SAR took two days to complete. One fisherman died the first night. Two days after the rescue, Sequoia hosted its first Mountain Rescue School.

The NPS training academy was started with 25 rangers in a converted attic in Yosemite National Park. Frank Kowski, the former director of NPS training, developed the academy. In September 1963, the 12-week school moved to its own facilities at Grand Canyon National Park.

Rangers at Mount Rainier National Park received advanced emergency medical training from anesthesiologist Tom Hornbein, a professor at the University of Washington School of Medicine and a preeminent mountaineer.

MAST stands for Military Aid to Safety and Traffic. The five western military bases were Carson, Lewis, Luke, Mountain Home and Sam Houston. With the advent of private medivacs, MAST is not as active as it once was.

Created in 1973, the Interagency Committee for Search and Rescue was originally overseen by the U.S. Coast Guard. Initial signatories were the Departments of Interior, Transportation, Commerce, and Defense; FEMA; the FCC; and NASA.

Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Rangers spent two intense weeks there under the tutelage of U.S. Navy corpsmen recently returned from deployment in Vietnam.

A freak rainstorm dropped 11 inches of rain in the mountains around Big Thompson Canyon. Nearly 2,000 people were trapped and 400 homes destroyed. President Ford declared the site a disaster area. A Department of the Interior Valor Award was granted for all individuals from Rocky Mountain National Park who participated.

Pulling his rip cord just 200 feet above the top of Devils Tower, Hopkins landed safely. He had planned to slide down a 1,000-foot rope that would be dropped to him, but the rope did not land on the top of the landform. A team of six, including two rangers, climbed to him.

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

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- Paul Anderson
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- Vaughn Baker
- Gary Warsheski

### 7th Century Club
- Dennis Burnett & Ginny Rousseau
- Butch Farabee
- Gary Hartley

### 8th Century Club
- Scot Pfeninger

### 9th Century Club
- Rick Eisman
- Dick Martin
- John Townsend

### 10th Century Club
- Deanne Adams & Tony Sisto
- Stacy Allen

### 11th Century Club
- Edward Rizzotto

### 15th Century Club
- Don Chase

### 20th Century Club
- Bill Wade

### 23rd Century Club
- Wendy Lauritzen
Type of Membership (check one)

- **ACTIVE MEMBERS**
  - current & former NPS employees or volunteers
  - Seasonal/Intern/Volunteer
    - Individual $45
    - Joint $85
  - Permanent or Retiree
    - Individual $75
    - Joint $145

- **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**
  - not an NPS employee or representative of another organization
  - Sustaining $70
  - Full-time Student $45

- **LIBRARY / ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP**
  - two copies of each issue of Ranger sent quarterly
    - Gift Membership $35
    - Digital Gift Membership $20

- **LIFE MEMBERS**
  - (lump sum payment)
  - ACTIVE (all NPS employees/retirees)
    - Individual $750
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  - ASSOCIATE (other than NPS employees)
    - Individual $750
    - Joint $1,500

OR life payments made be made in three installments over a three-year period.
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Gift Membership $35
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It costs ANPR $45 a year to service a membership. If you are able to add an additional donation, please consider doing so. Thank you!

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:**

**4-LETTER CODE OF PARK / OFFICE WHERE YOU WORK**

- ___ ___ ___ ___

(Retiree=RET, Former NPS Employee=XNPS, Student/Educator=EDUC, Park Supporter=PART)

**PLEASE MARK YOUR JOB DISCIPLINE:**
- Protection
- Interpretation
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- Resources
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- Concessions
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**RETURN MEMBERSHIP FORM AND CHECK PAYABLE TO ANPR TO:**

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**SPECIAL SUPPORTERS**

Contact the president or fundraising board member for details on special donations. Check the website at https://www.anpr.org/donate.php

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: Association of National Park Rangers**

- New Member(s)
- Renewing Member(s)

Name of ANPR member we may thank for encouraging you to join ______________________________ __________________________________

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ANPR will use e-mail as an occasional – but critical – communication tool. We will not share your information with any other organization.

It is our policy not to conduct ANPR business via NPS e-mail or phone.

**Send news to:**
Ann Dee Allen
aallen@anpr.org

**Share your news with others!**

*Ranger* will publish your job or family news in the All in the Family section.

Name: __________________________

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

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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. 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.

Ranger Rendezvous 42
Everett, Washington | Oct. 16-20

Ranger Rendezvous 42 is heading to Everett, Washington this fall! Located just 30 minutes north of Seattle, Everett’s public transit options are second to none. Your help and support for this event are both needed and greatly appreciated. If you can assist in any way, contact Chris Reinhardt at creinhardt@anpr.org.