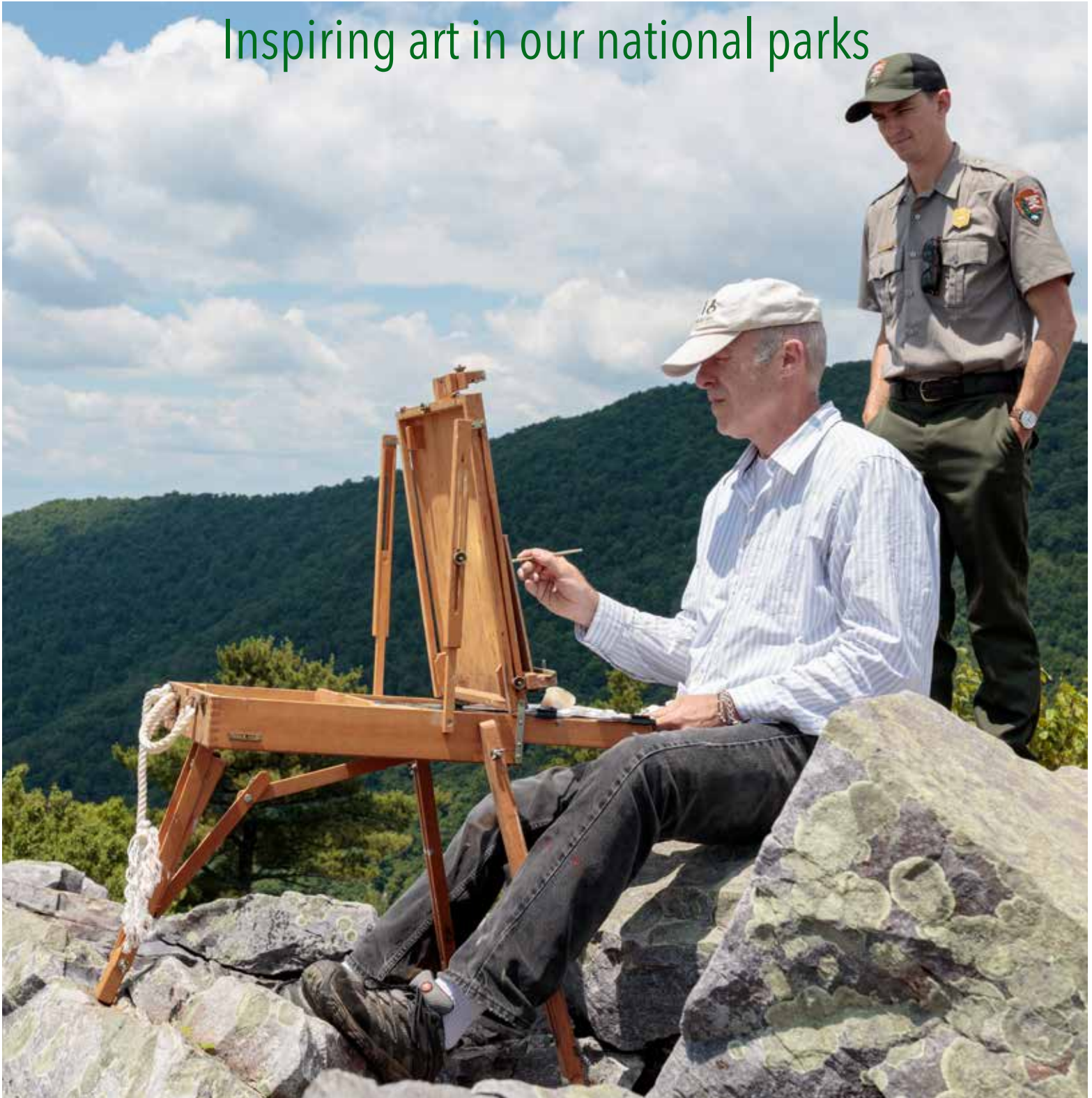


The Journal of the Association of National Park Rangers

# RANGER

Stewards for parks, visitors & each other

Inspiring art in our national parks



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Summer  
2022

## It's no wonder art flourishes in nature

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**On the cover:** Shenandoah National Park Ranger Brett Raeburn observes as artist-in-residence Kevin H. Adams painted along the Skyline Drive during the summer of 2017. At right is a sample of Adams' work. NPS / Mary O'Neill & N. Lewis

WHEN I FIRST MOVED TO ALASKA AS A STARRY-EYED 20-SOMETHING journalist, my dreams included two things: lots of outdoors time and stories filled with adventures.

I had only been in the state a month when I stumbled across an outdoor writer's workshop across Kachemak Bay, on state park and wilderness land that will literally take your breath away. I immediately signed up, took a water taxi across the bay, and cemented those two dreams in place.

One of our first assignments was to find a quiet place, alone, and write for an hour, uninterrupted, anything that came to mind. I can still smell the briny tidepool saltwater and feel the sharp cut of the little barnacles on the rocks I walked across to find my peaceful spot overlooking Kachemak Bay. Every one of my senses was on high alert and an hour quickly became two, then three, before I finally stopped writing and returned to our bunkhouse.

I couldn't tell you what I wrote now, but the scene is as fresh in my mind as if it happened yesterday. That feeling of accomplishing something special remains. Being in places of extreme natural beauty inspires this sort of creativity.

So, it is no wonder that the presence of art, and the show of artistic expression, in our national parks is such a fitting relationship. How we view our national parks, and how we interact with them, is an intensely personal experience. Where one may want to feel the physical challenge of summiting a peak, and another may want the swell of relaxation at a casual campsite, others may be inspired to explore their creative side. This is the beauty of our national parks and monuments: they can bring out the best of us simply by existing.

This month's issue of *Ranger* magazine peeks at some of the more artsy sides of our national parks. There is no shortage of programs to explore – we'd love to hear about yours! From Yosemite's Shakespeare in the Park to the long-established art of reenactment, to the popular artist-in-residence program (which, incidentally, has resulted in some world-class pieces of art, all inspired by our public lands), these programs give us alternative ways to view and appreciate our public lands. We hope you enjoy this foray into art and the parks.

Also worth noting, be sure to check out pages 12-15 with details for this year's Ranger Rendezvous 45. We are so excited to be in person again after two years of COVID restrictions. This year's theme of "Into the Sun" is fitting as the conference will be held in sunny Tucson and help us all come out from under the shadow of a pandemic that has changed life as we know it. Ranger Rendezvous

45 promises to be the best yet, with lots to celebrate. Read on to get more details and be sure to check our website often, as programs are still being added and will be updated frequently.

We hope to see you in Tucson, and wish you all a sunny, successful summer.

— Melissa DeVaughn  
Ranger magazine editor





# RANGER

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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 30  
Winter issue ..... Nov. 15



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# National parks as inspiration for artists

## President's message

— Paul R. Anderson

WELCOME TO THE SUMMER 2022 ISSUE OF *RANGER* magazine! I hope you are all well, and excited about the summer season before us. I am looking forward to a long road trip from Arizona to Alaska this summer, visiting national and state parks along the way. Perhaps I will be able to visit yours, and see first hand how things are going in the field. I know that you are dealing with a difficult hiring season, vacant positions due to hiring issues, inadequate available housing for staff, and ever-growing visitation. All of these issues make your job more difficult.

I just spent the last few weeks visiting with the top leadership of the NPS via Zoom. Your ANPR board has developed and adopted positions on hiring, housing and training, and I urge you to view them on our ANPR website. I discussed each of these issues with the associate directors for Education, Interpretation and Volunteers; Visitor and Resource Protection; and Planning, Facilities and Lands; the Deputy Director for Operations; and NPS Director Chuck Sams. I am very impressed with this leadership group. They have a good handle on these important issues, and are working diligently to address them in the most professional, responsible fashion. While it will take some time to see the results of their efforts, I believe that in the next few months and years we will have made significant progress toward mitigating the housing shortage, streamlining and improving the hiring process and making sure that secondary assessments are truly job-related, and that the results are transparent to those taking the assessments. I also believe we will see a strategic approach to training for all staff, with established, documented training requirements for positions at each level of the organization. There will be support and assistance in acquiring the needed training to perform in your current position, and to prepare you for your next position. It was clear to me that your leaders care about you and are working to improve the workplace on your behalf.

This issue of *Ranger* highlights art in the parks and its impact on creating and maintaining our constituency's connection to their national parks. As superintendent at Denali National Park and Preserve in the 2000s, I had the privilege to work with the Artist in Residence program there. With help from artist and educator, Kes Woodward, the University of Alaska, and the Alaska arts community, Denali was able to promote and support top-quality artists from Alaska and around the United States who visited the park for two weeks and used that experience to create paintings, photographs, sculptures, poetry, music and other media, which Denali staff then used to interpret the park to our visitors. It was an inspiring experience for all of us who were deeply involved in the program, and we received many compliments from partners and visitors about the positive impact the art had on their understanding of the park, and their support for its long-term preservation. Perhaps one of these articles will inspire you to explore the Artist in Residence program for your park, or to expand your existing program to include more artistic media.

Don't forget that Ranger Rendezvous 45 is happening in Tucson, Ariz., Oct. 26-30, 2022, with training opportunities Oct. 24-26, and lots of great workshops to enhance your knowledge and skill in doing your job back at your home park. We will have some great speakers, and we will hear directly from the top leadership of the NPS. You will have the opportunity to meet new folks, share your experience and expertise, and rub shoulders with professionals from across the NPS! Ranger Rendezvous is always fun and enlightening, and this Rendezvous, the first in-person Rendezvous since COVID-19 began, will be one of the very best, according to our organizing committee. I hope I will see you there!

Stay safe and stay healthy. Take good care of each other, and have a wonderful and successful summer season. Thank you for what you do for America!

— Paul R. Anderson  
ANPR President



# Through the eyes of an artist

By Jay Elhard

**LOVE WATCHING PEOPLE WATCH ART THAT COMES FROM DIRECT EXPERIENCES OF NATIONAL PARKS.**

It's a tradition that dates to the 19th Century, when paintings by artists from the Hudson River School openly promoted tourism to majestic natural landscapes that would become Acadia, Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, and a host of other national parks. Since 1984, at least 50 sites have started residency opportunities for accomplished creative people in a remarkable variety of program formats.

When I first took on Denali's artist-in-residence program as a collateral duty in 2012, four years after I accepted a permanent position at the park, it was an opportunity that fell to me through staff attrition, something I figured at first might be just temporary. I'm happy it wasn't. It's led instead to some of the most rewarding experiences of my government service.

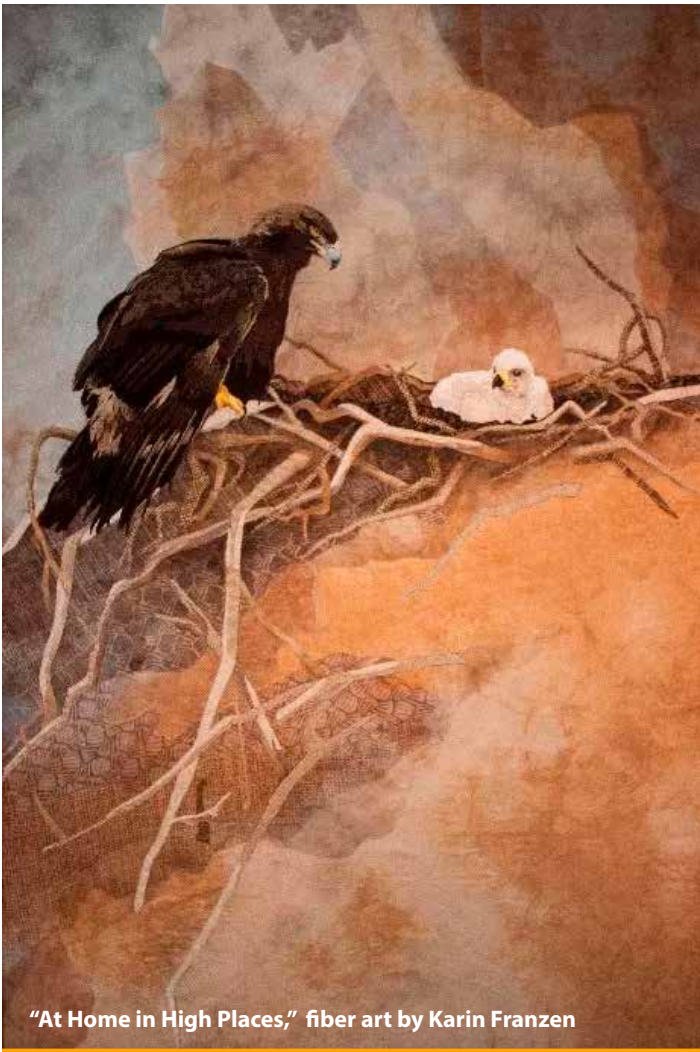
Denali's program by then had amassed an impressive array of artwork, and we had the good sense not to keep all of it bottled up in storage as visitor centers closed each winter. Twice a year, just before and after Alaska's dominant season, I made long road trips to install fresh displays inside federal buildings across Anchorage, Talkeetna, and Fairbanks.

I'll risk disappointing some readers by revealing how little formal strategic planning went into some of my curatorial choices for those displays. After several years in wide rotation, it often came down to how recently a piece already



Playwright Andrea Lepcio and actor Austin O'Goffa exchange notes between performances in July 2019 of "What Do We See? What Do We Do?" a site-based play along the Compass Harbor Trail that makes use of the life and home of park founder George Dorr to explore issues surrounding climate change. Photo by Joseph Philipson / Friends of Acadia





**"At Home in High Places," fiber art by Karin Franzen**

**'In those moments, while he and the eagle remained fixed firmly in front of me, I also sensed that they took off alone together for a time, somewhere far away.'**

— Jay Elhard, on watching an Athabaskan elder take in and appreciate Denali artist in resident Karin Franzen's "At Home in High Places" fiber art piece

appeared at that same venue, and the limited space I had available to pack art, display cases, and tools inside a government vehicle on the morning of my departures. I promise it wasn't at all careless or random, though. Leading up to these trips, it often felt as if I was juggling seating arrangements for an imaginary dinner party, playing out hunches about how my prospective guests, once left to themselves, might interact, provoke, and complement one another in front of company.

Almost always, I arrived and set to work during a site's regular operating hours, while visitors, staff, and security guards passing through the space were free to stop, comment, and ask me questions. Once, at the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitor Center in Fairbanks, I waited while an elderly Athabaskan gentleman approached and communed fully with Karin Franzen's "At Home in High Places," a large and dramatic fabric art portrait of a golden eagle. In those moments, while he and the eagle remained fixed firmly in front of me, I also sensed that they took off alone together for a time, somewhere far away. So that's what it means to say it takes a keen observer to bring art to life.

Big museums have made a science of watching the behavior of visitors as they browse and pause to look at art. A predictable portion of us seem more intent on posting a selfie in the presence of a masterpiece than deciphering up close why some people may say it's special. Parks that have capacity to display and talk to visitors about art should study and wholly appropriate activities that museums use to teach visitors to see art for themselves, and not just recite back

why it might be considered important.

Five years ago, I moved clear across the continent to Acadia National Park in Maine, and about a year later, I was deemed ready enough to run its artist-in-residence program. In the 30-year history of Acadia's program, there have only been two other (very highly esteemed) managers before me. It's a smaller operation, with only a couple of display spaces for art in the park so far. But the residencies have been getting a lot more active and lively lately, and that's by design. In addition to accomplished photographers, painters, and poets, we've recently watched dancers whirling in forests and shorelines, and a local playwright leading young actors in a dialogue about climate change along the Compass Harbor Trail. In the next few months, we're welcoming Acadia's first jazz composer, food writer, art therapist, and stand-up comic.

What thrills me is that these highly creative people still seem to get it right away. It barely takes explaining. Like those Hudson River School painters long ago, they seem to understand they're coming here to see and show this park to visitors in new and interesting ways. The changing forms of expression we're getting from them definitely reflect our challenging times. Take my word, exciting possibilities lie ahead for this program.

*Jay Elhard began managing the Denali National Park and Preserve Artist in Residence Program in 2012. He now is Interpretive Media Specialist and Artist-in-Residence program manager Acadia National Park in Maine.*



# Shakespeare in Yosemite



Shakespeare in Yosemite returned live to Yosemite National Park's Curry Village this April, after a two-year hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. University of California Merced began the Shakespeare in Yosemite in 2017. UC Merced photo

## Program brings together beauty of art and nature

**I**T HAS BEEN SAID THAT NATIONAL PARKS ARE AMERICA'S BEST idea. If so, the tradition of performing Shakespeare in the park for free might just be America's second-best idea. There has always been a strong connection between our national parks and the arts. Both ideas meet in Shakespeare in Yosemite, which is proud to be the only Shakespeare company based in a national park. William Shakespeare, who grew up in the British countryside, writes eloquently about nature, and open-air theatre provides an opportunity for outdoor immersion. Shakespeare in Yosemite – performed at the Curry Village Amphitheater and in the shadow of Half Dome – invites audiences to reflect on their relationship to the natural world and our collective responsibility to protect it, in line with the goals of the National Park Service.

In 2017, Drs. Katherine Brokaw and Paul Prescott of University of California, Merced, founded the Shakespeare in Yosemite company to offer free, site-specific adaptations of Shakespeare's plays every April as part of Yosemite's Earth Day and National Park Week celebrations. They adapt the plays to be about Yosemite, and these productions star UC Merced students, professional actors, community performers, and park rangers. Since 2016, UC Merced has

been working closely with the Yosemite National Park Public Affairs Office to bring this incredible program to park visitors, UC Merced students, and Yosemite community members.

Shakespeare in Yosemite productions have been performed live in the park in April in 2017, 2018, 2019, and again in 2022. Audience members included people who come to the park especially for these unique performances, as well as those who just stumbled upon the venue while hiking. Over the two-day production, about 1,000 spectators enjoyed these live performances.

Shakespeare in Yosemite's 2017 inaugural production included a mash-up of wilderness-themed Shakespeare scenes and some of John Muir's best writing. This show starred Lee Stetson, who has been portraying Muir for the Yosemite Conservancy since the early 1980s, and park ranger Shelton Johnson. In 2018, Shakespeare in Yosemite began showcasing full-length adapted Shakespearean plays highlighting Shakespeare's comedies, which often feature characters going to the woods and being transformed – exactly the experience many have with the national parks. All shows are 90 minutes long, include live music, and are adapted to be accessible and understandable to all ages. One need not be a Shakespeare fan to enjoy them!

In 2018, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was adapted to emphasize issues of littering and overconsumption, with fairies who had been renamed after Yosemite flora and fauna outfitted in wings made of trash. These ancient fairies occasionally used South Sierra Miwok words, under advice and with the blessing of local tribe representative Tony Cabezut, who told the cast that one of the best



ways to honor his indigenous community was to speak its endangered language. The “Rude Mechanicals” in that production were renamed to have professions related to the park and played primarily by women and people of color, highlighting the crucial role women and BIPOC people play in protecting the environment. One actor wasn’t entirely acting: Jessica Rivas, a graduate of UC Merced’s Yosemite Leadership Program ([ylp.ucmerced.edu](http://ylp.ucmerced.edu)) and Yosemite ranger, played “Snout the Wilderness Ranger” (today Rivas works for the NPS regional office in San Francisco). In all Shakespeare in Yosemite shows, casts are at least 50 percent female and racially diverse: inclusivity breeds excellence in both the theatre and in the preservation of the natural world.

The 2019 production of “As You Like It” highlighted the ecological importance of trees, reminding people that forests aren’t just good for social and spiritual renewal – as Shakespeare writes – but also are ecologically essential to our very survival. Scientific research about forest fires and Sierra Nevada ecosystems hung on trees around the performance venues, alongside the poetry that one of the play’s characters famously hangs on trees for his beloved.

The 2020 show was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognizing that COVID-19 was continuing to impact live theater, in 2021 the cast and crew of Shakespeare in Yosemite rolled out their first feature length film, “Imogen in the Wild,” safely shot in Yosemite and Merced. The entire film as well as individual scenes and songs are available for free on YouTube ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMisTBZWgyI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMisTBZWgyI)). It stars L.A.-based professional Shakespeare actor Lisa Wolpe and a few more professionals including Stetson, six Yosemite park rangers, and several UC Merced students and community actors. A team of 30-some UC Merced students also worked behind the scenes composing original music, film editing, and designing. The film focused on land abuse and environmental justice and is based on Shakespeare’s play “Cymbeline.”

Shakespeare in Yosemite is one of 10 theatres from around the world taking part in the global Cymbeline in the Anthropocene ([www.cymbeline-anthropocene.com](http://www.cymbeline-anthropocene.com)) project funded by the Canadian government. In 2022, live Shakespeare in Yosemite performances returned to Yosemite Valley April 22-24 with an adaptation of “Love’s Labor’s Lost.” Starring UC Merced students, community members, professional actors, and park ranger Marion Roubal, this play is set in 1969 and 1970 in honor of the first Earth Day. This show reworks Shakespeare’s comedy to imagine two bands on a song-writing retreat who fall in love. This play also examines the power of the youth movement of the 1960s, the impacts of the many environmental laws passed by President Nixon, and the



Yosemite park ranger Marion Roubal performs during this year’s Shakespeare in Yosemite production of an adaptation of “Love’s Labor’s Lost.” UC Merced photo

importance of protecting our wild spaces. The film version of this full-length production will be released on Shakespeare in Yosemite’s YouTube Channel early summer 2022.

As a model of ecological theatre, Shakespeare in Yosemite has attracted worldwide attention. Team members recently presented at the online Globe 4 Globe: Shakespeare and the Climate Emergency conference hosted by Shakespeare Globe Theatre (London, UK) and co-sponsored, thanks to Shakespeare in Yosemite, by UC Merced. Founders Brokaw and Prescott launched the EarthShakes Alliance (<https://earthshakes.ucmerced.edu/>) at this conference, which is working to connect theatres around the world who are interested in putting ecological concerns at the heart of their work.

Shakespeare in Yosemite sees Shakespeare as a renewable cultural resource. Unlike fossil fuels or animal species, Shakespearean texts are inexhaustible and invulnerable: We can adapt them infinitely to talk about the particular issues facing our local habitats and our world and do so in a way that is accessible and inclusive, and that furthers the mission of the National Park Service.

*Article written by Jamie Richards, Yosemite National Park, and Drs. Katherine Brokaw and Paul Prescott of University of California, Merced. Jamie Richards began working as a public affairs specialist at Yosemite in 2016. She is now a public affairs specialist at Rocky Mountain National Park.*



Snout the Wilderness Ranger (played by Jessica Rivas) and Puck (played by Lisa Wolpe, actor and founder of the Los Angeles Women’s Shakespeare Company) share the stage in the 2018 production of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” UC Merced photo



Visitors in 2021 join in to create the “champagne” photograph at Golden Spike National Historical Park. Reenactment cast members and park staff are scattered throughout the crowd. NPS photo



# A lost art

Are reenactors becoming an endangered species?



As reenactment volunteers depart, more roles are being filled by park staff. Courtney Cochley

Written by Lucas Hugie ▲

O

**ON MAY 10, 1969,**  
**28,000 PEOPLE** filled the valley of Promontory Summit, Utah.

The crowd anxiously awaits that moment of miracles for a collection of dapper-dressed reenactors to recreate a moment in American history from 100 years in the past, the completion of the first transcontinental railroad.

The 15 men represent tycoons of American industry, masters of railroad engineering, and those with lofty political ambitions. The Central Pacific Railroad's Jupiter and the Union Pacific Railroad's No. 119 locomotives flank the cast on both sides. The crowd grows silent as they wait for these men to recreate the historic moment when a golden spike united the country by rail. In this remote, sagebrush-covered, and austere landscape, the reenactment, a theatrical product of local love and park service research, transports visitors back to a distant celebration.

Since that day, a staple of Golden Spike National Historical Park has been the reenactment of the 1869 ceremony at the last spike site. While the two replica steam locomotives provide an epic backdrop to our interpretive programs, the reenactment takes the char-



The cast of the 2018 golden spike ceremony recreate the historic champagne photograph. NPS photo

acters from old photographs and gives them life. Our park's friends group, The Golden Spike Association, not only helped create the park but have also sustained the reenactment for over 50 years with a volunteer cast and a wardrobe collection that could dress a small 1860s town in the finest of haberdashery. Dress coats, hats, hoop skirts, parasols, and even the occasional monocle give authenticity to the park's most popular and iconic event.

Over the last 53 years cast members have changed as they have passed on, moved away, or moved on to another volunteer opportunity. The show has also moved from a daily event in the summer to just Saturdays and some holidays from May to Labor Day. But during my five years here at the park, I have noticed a trend that I suspect is an agencywide issue. Costumed volunteer reenactors are a quickly fading demographic in the agency and sustaining that element of the interpretation experience is becoming increasingly difficult.

When I began working at GOSP in 2017, the minimalist cast of 11 roles were filled mostly by volunteers from the friends group. The park provided two to three staff members, in costume, to help fill the critical roles and assist in setting up equipment for the program. An additional two or three visitors would be "railroaded" into the reenactment for minor roles. These last-minute volunteers would be given a script, dress coat, hat, and an accompanying prop before performing in front of a crowd of 300 excited visitors. But over the last five years, many of these longtime cast members have passed on or become unable to make the 30-plus-mile drive to the park to be part of the reenactment. As a result, interpretive, fee collection, and maintenance staff now fill the key roles in the reenactment and even more of the cast is made up of "railroaded" visitors. While the visitors love the chance to be part of the moment, the quickly cobbled together cast is not nearly as engaging as well-dressed, well-rehearsed reenactors that visitors have come to expect.

Numerous ideas about how to staff the reenactment have been floated over the years. Engaging with local theater groups, college students in theater courses, high school students, and more active recruitment at events that share historical costuming have all been considered. These all offer a few merits but many more issues that prevent them from being implemented. The remote location, short 20-minute program, and the time commitment of every Saturday throughout the summer are the top barriers to recruiting reliable reenactors. Unless someone has a strong passion for the reenactment, we are simply asking too much of a commitment. But I think an underlying issue is that nationwide we have fewer and fewer people interested in any sort of living history reenactment.

The classic example of declining interest in reenacting is Gettysburg National Mili-



tary Park. In 1998, the 135th anniversary of the battle, over 30,000 reenactors played war in the Pennsylvania countryside. Years later, on the 150th anniversary, a far more recognizable marque year, only 11,000 reenactors volunteered for the event. The median age of these reenactors has also increased over the years.

So where does this leave the historic sites, historical parks, military parks, and battlefields when it comes to reenactors? Our park has adapted its program to be more informal which has done wonders for visitor engagement with the resource. A common issue with our park is the historical omission of the contribution of the 10,000 Chinese workers employed by the Central Pacific Railroad. This entire ethnic group was snubbed not only in the 1869 ceremony but also in 1969. Thankfully for the 150th anniversary in 2019, the story of Chinese labor had a robust presence at the ceremony. Using more visitors in the reenactment also has allowed people from much more diverse backgrounds to take part.

Last summer, while dressed in my top hat and red dress jacket, I had an Asian woman playing the role of Fredrick Augustus Tritle, who presented the silver spike during the 1869 ceremony. After the reenactment she disclosed that she was visiting the park because she had ancestors who had been employed building the railroad. For

her, participating in the reenactment had a strong emotional connection to her past.

Our park has had to adjust from seeing the reenactment as a strict historical program to something more informal yet accessible to the visitor. The results have been positive for visitor engagement and have allowed us to take a moment in American history that lacked diversity and inclusion and turn it into a positive space for people to celebrate history. The paradigm shift has been challenging for longtime volunteers and staff, but the future of the reenactment is going to require more "railroaded" cast members.

*Lucas Hugie is an interpretive ranger at Golden Spike National Historical Park in Utah, where he has been delivering park programs for five years.*

**“After the reenactment she disclosed that she was visiting the park because she had ancestors who had been employed building the railroad. For her, participating in the reenactment had a strong emotional connection to her past.”**

# OUR NATIONAL PARKS IN THE OVAL OFFICE



*Written by Doug Crispin*

**YOU'RE THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD. YOU CAN** decorate your home and office any way you want. If you were president of the United States, what national park art would you display in your office?

This question came to mind after reading a May 5, 2021, article in the *New York Times* titled "The Art of the Oval Office Tells a Story, Here's How to See It."

The NYT lists all the sculptures and paintings displayed in the White House's Oval Office since President Kennedy. For example, a bronze bust of Cesar Chavez is now proudly displayed in President Biden's Oval Office. This sculpture came directly from Cesar Chavez National Monument in California.

Sculptures and portrait paintings of former U.S. presidents, founding fathers and other important Americans seem to dominate the inventory of modern Oval Office art. The National Park Service preserves the homes and related sites of many of these individuals, creating obvious Oval Office/NPS connections.

But what about our grand national park landscapes? In modern presidential history, only two national park landscape paintings have graced the walls of the Oval Office.

Students of national park history know the story of President Gerald Ford. He is the only former NPS seasonal ranger (Yellowstone, 1936) to live and work in the White House. All you current seasonal GS-5 rangers out there, you too could one day occupy the White House!

Just three days after taking office in 1974, President Ford hung a small Albert Bierstadt oil painting of Old Faithful geyser in his office. This became the first national park landscape painting in presidential history to hang in the Oval Office.

President Carter had the painting removed. For

the next 12 years, the Oval Office was void of national park landscape paintings. This was about to change with the election of George H.W. Bush.

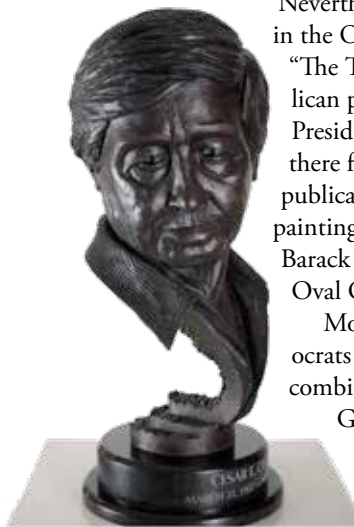
President Bush took a liking to an 1895 Thomas Moran painting of the Grand Tetons displayed elsewhere in the White House. He had it moved into his Oval Office.

National Park purists will note that this oil painting of the "The Three Tetons" was painted from the Idaho side of the range. Yes, the mountains today are protected in Grand Teton National Park, but the foreground in Moran's painting is not within today's park boundary. If only Moran had visited and painted the mountains from the more spectacular and dramatic Wyoming side!



Thomas Hill's "Bridal Veil Falls" with President Theodore Roosevelt "photoshopped" into the view. Roosevelt signed a bill receding Yosemite Valley to Yosemite National Park in 1906. Image by The White House Historical Association White House Collection





Cesar Chavez bust in President Biden's Oval Office, on loan by the NPS.

Nevertheless, Moran's Grand Teton Range painting had quite a run in the Oval Office. A total of three U.S. presidents displayed Moran's "The Three Teton" painting over the years. Even though a Republican president first hung Moran's painting on the wall, Democratic President Bill Clinton liked it and kept it there for his time in the White House. Republican George Bush took the Grand Teton painting down, but Democratic President Barack Obama returned the painting to his Oval Office.

Moran's painting, selected by both Democrats and Republicans alike, hung for a combined 22 years in the Oval Office. Sorry, Grand Canyon National Park. Take that, Zion. Acadia. And Mount Rainier. Thus, Grand Teton National Park, represented by this Moran painting, may be the only national park to have symbolically bridged our nasty Washington D.C. partisan divide.

I must, however, give an honorable mention shout out to a special landscape painting of Yosemite Valley. In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt completed the mother of all national park presidential road trips. Traveling more than 14,000 miles (mostly by rail), Roosevelt shunned the Yellowstone National Park lodges. Instead he slept in a tent for two weeks while visiting. Then he visited the Grand Canyon, which he would declare a National Monument five years later.

In May, Roosevelt rendezvoused with John Muir for a private three-night, four-day camping trip in Yosemite National Park. How would you like to have listened in on the campfire discussions of these American conservation titans?

When Roosevelt was ready to leave Yosemite, he stopped in to visit the Wawona art studio of noted landscape artist Thomas Hill. Roosevelt took a liking to an 1895 Hill painting of Bridal Veil Falls. Hill gifted the painting to the president.

Author Chris Epting ("Teddy Roosevelt in California: The Whistlestop Tour That Changed America," 2015) made a remarkable discovery. Apparently the president didn't walk out of the studio with the painting that day in 1903. Instead, Epting claims Hill later added a painted image of Roosevelt into the foreground holding a fishing rod. Hill then shipped the edited canvas to the White House, where it remains today.

In American history, this might just be a version of the first national park image "photo-shopped" to add a U.S. president!

National Park visitors and park staff alike derive much solace and inspiration from national park views. It is good to know that some U.S. presidents felt that same way by displaying national park landscapes in the their White House Oval office.

*Doug Crispin is a seasonal ranger at the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park.*



This 2015 Facebook Post from Grand Teton National Park brought attention to the presence of national park art in the Oval Office after White House photographer Pete Souza shot this photo of President Obama straightening the Thomas Moran painting of "The Three Teton" in his Oval Office. Pete Souza / Official White House photographer

**‘Apparently the president didn’t walk out of the studio with the painting that day in 1903. Instead, Epting claims Hill later added a painted image of Roosevelt into the foreground holding a fishing rod. Hill then shipped the edited canvas to the White House, where it remains today.’**

# At Long Last

**After two-year pandemic delay, in-person Ranger Rendezvous is revived in Tucson this October** *Written by Jonathan Shafer & Jamie Richards*



**T**HE WORLD HAS CHANGED A LOT IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, and ANPR thinks it's time we got together to talk about it. COVID-19 case counts are falling, rangers are welcoming American and international visitors back to parks, and, most important, the Ranger Rendezvous management team is preparing to welcome you to Tucson!

Mark your calendars for Ranger Rendezvous 45 at the Westward Look Wyndham Grand Resort and Spa from Monday, Oct. 24, through Sunday, Oct. 30, 2022.

Since we're going to be in the desert Southwest, you'd better believe we're leaning "Into the Sun" as our theme. We have some great training sessions, speakers, and field trips lined up, because it's time to shine in a way we haven't since 2020.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Beginning Thursday, Oct. 27, there will be inspiring keynote speakers, engaging panel discussions, and informative breakout sessions focused on a wide range of park issues. Learn about HR and hiring updates, natural resource management, fire, what's new with the International Ranger Federation and much more!

A few of the keynote speakers include:

- Charles F. "Chuck" Sams III, Director, National Park Service has been invited to share his vision and goals for the NPS and how he wants to work with ANPR moving forward.
- U.S. Representative Raul Grijalva (D, Ariz.-3), Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee and the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, also has been invited to speak about his career in public service and his vision for the present and future of national parks.
- Alan Spears, senior director of Cultural Resources for the National Parks Conservation Association has been invited to share the latest updates from NPCA.

The breakout presentations planned thus far include:

- Trans-boundary Conservation with Mexico
- Supervision and Leadership
- Travels with Freeman Tilden
- NPS Competencies Framework for Global Tiger Recovery
- Get Your Kicks on Route 66

## PRO TIP:

*Remind your supervisor that attending Ranger Rendezvous will benefit your professional development. Explain how training sessions, panels, and keynote addresses help you accomplish goals in your IDP and EPAP.*

## EDUCATIONAL TRAINING

Rendezvous opens Monday through Wednesday, Oct. 24-26, with three days of training. Sessions scheduled so far include:

- **Incident Response-Incident Commander Training:** This 12-hour-class is designed for anyone interested in becoming a qualified Incident Commander as part of an ICS team responding to a major incident. \$40; Sign up while registering for Ranger Rendezvous.
- **Mental Health Wellness and Resiliency:** National Park Service jobs can be stressful. This four-hour class will address mental health in the workplace and provide tips for building resiliency. Free. Register online.
- **Certified Interpretive Guide Certification:** This 32-hour class, taught by the National Association for Interpretation, will teach participants the fundamentals of interpretation and leading interpretive walks and talks.. *Please note this class starts a day earlier, on Oct. 23, and registration is separate, at [www.interpnet.com](http://www.interpnet.com).*
- **Interpretive Planning:** Learn the value of long-range, strategic interpretive planning, and start developing a strategic interpretive plan for your site. Taught by the Interpretive Planner at Harpers Ferry Center. Free. Register online.

## FIELD TRIPS AND PERSONAL ACTIVITIES

Field Trips or other personal activities are scheduled for Friday, Oct. 28, giving visitors a chance to experience the National Park Sites and other natural spaces in and around Tucson:

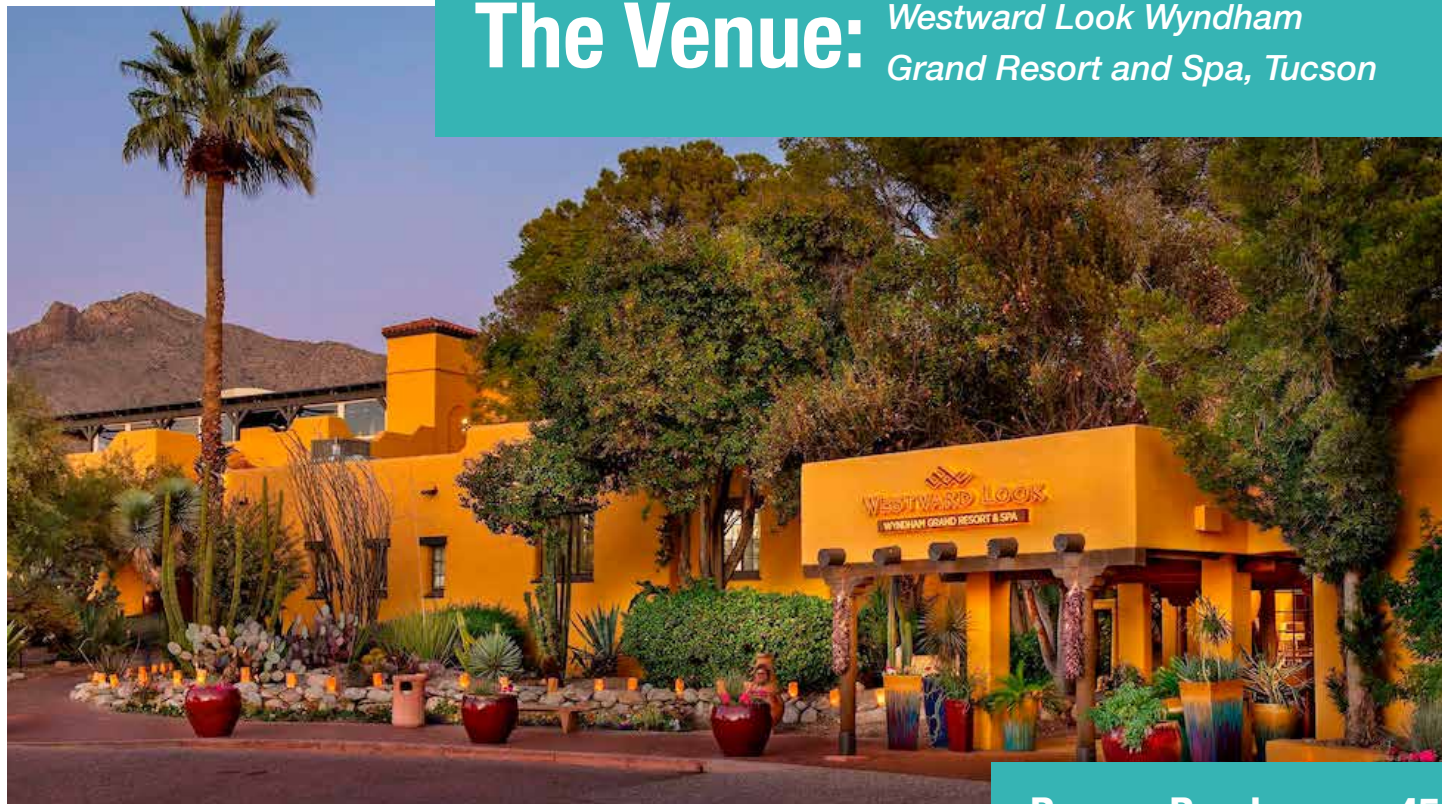
- Participate in informative field trips to Saguaro National Park, the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, Tumacacori National Monument, and other local parks or conservation areas.
- Play at one of Tucson's many picturesque golf courses.
- Explore the area on your own. There are several NPS sites within a day's trip from the Tucson area.

## AWARDS CEREMONY

Rick Tate will be the keynote speaker during the popular Awards Ceremony, set for Saturday, Oct. 29. Tate will speak about "Common Sense and Context," sharing stories that illustrate how techniques and fads are no match for the utility of these two qualities. Tate has delivered keynote addresses, workshops and consulting projects for clients around the world, challenging people's mindsets and developing new ways of thinking. He is an internationally recognized expert on service quality, leadership development and organizational excellence, and a faculty member for the Institute of Management Studies. Tate holds graduate degrees from the University of San Francisco and California American University, and has served as a faculty member at many institutions of higher education.



# The Venue: *Westward Look Wyndham Grand Resort and Spa, Tucson*



## **EVENING ACTIVITIES AND NETWORKING**

We are bringing back some longtime favorite evening activities, including NPS Trivia Night, a cultural event night, and of course the Hospitality Suite, and the ongoing raffle and auction.

For those who've been to past Rendezvous, it goes without saying that the professional opportunities for engagement only start with training and keynote sessions. Getting in a room with rangers from across the country is where you'll *really* learn about the crush of visitation from Acadia to Zion, the challenges of maintaining infrastructure from Denali to the Everglades, and the opportunities for telling new stories at Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home and Camp Nelson national monuments.

Make your plans to join us as we head out from the darkened shadow of COVID and back into the sun of Ranger Rendezvous 45!

## **ANPR to select 2022 Supernaugh Scholars**

Since 2007, Bill Supernaugh Memorial Scholarships have allowed early-career employees, NPS volunteers, students, and those new to ANPR to experience the annual Ranger Rendezvous and learn about ANPR. Bill Supernaugh was an ANPR life member, an avid supporter of the Association, and an NPS employee for more than 40 years. Scholarships are funded by the generous support of ANPR members.

Any ANPR member who has not attended a Rendezvous is eligible to apply. Applications are being accepted from June 15 through Aug. 1, 2022. Scholarship recipients will be announced by Sept. 1, 2022. If selected, applicants will be expected to attend the entire duration of Ranger Rendezvous, arriving Wednesday, Oct. 26, and not departing until Monday, Oct. 31; and to be assigned to various tasks/functions to support the Ranger Rendezvous.

If selected, benefits include complimentary event registration, five nights in a double-occupancy room at the event property, \$300 in reimbursable travel expenses, and a one-year membership to ANPR.

The link to the application form is open June 15-Aug. 1.

Go to: <https://forms.gle/akpTXFMNCse2SRa9> to apply.

## **Ranger Rendezvous 45 Registration information**

**HOW:** Visit [anpr.org/rendezvous/45/registration-info.php](https://anpr.org/rendezvous/45/registration-info.php) to register online.

**WHEN:** Oct. 24-30, 2022

**WHERE:** Westward Look Wyndham Grand Resort and Spa, Tucson, Ariz.

**HOW MUCH:** Ranging from \$45 for one-day student attendance to \$150 for the entire event (if registering by Sept. 11, 2022). Join ANPR to receive a member discount.

**LODGING INFORMATION:** Single/double room rate is \$106 plus tax. Information about the resort is available at [www.westwardlook.com/](http://www.westwardlook.com/) and reservations can be made at:

[book.passkey.com/event/50187388/owner/16398007/home](https://book.passkey.com/event/50187388/owner/16398007/home)

# Ranger Rendezvous 45 program schedule



A view along Cactus Forest Drive in  
Saguaro National Park. / NPS photo

*\* Ranger Rendezvous planning is still underway. The preliminary schedule below will be updated and available online closer to the event.*

## Monday, October 24

1-5 p.m.: Training: Initial Response Incident  
Commander

## Tuesday, October 25

8 a.m.-5 p.m.: Training: Initial Response Incident  
Commander

*Additional trainings are pending, and also  
planned, for Oct. 25.*

## Wednesday, October 26

8 a.m.-5 p.m.: Board of Directors meeting (open  
to all members)

8 a.m.-Noon: Training: Wilderness Stewardship

8 a.m.-Noon: Training: Interpretive Planning

1-5 p.m.: Training: Mental Health, Wellness and  
Resiliency

6-7:30 p.m.: President's reception and poster  
session

7:30 p.m.-?: Trivia night, hospitality room open

## Thursday, October 27

6:30-7:30 a.m.: Breakfast with board of directors  
for first-time RR attendees

7:45-8:15 a.m.: Announcements

8:15-10 a.m.: Welcome addresses by ANPR  
president, area superintendents and regional  
director

10-10:30 a.m.: Beverage break

10:30-11:15 a.m.: Keynote

11:15 a.m.-Noon: General session: State of the  
Association and BOD reports

Noon-1:15 p.m.: Lunch

1:15-2:10 p.m.: Breakout sessions

2:20-3:15 p.m.: Breakout sessions

3:15-3:45 p.m.: Beverage break

3:45-4 p.m.: Raffle

4-4:45 p.m.: General session

4:45-5:30 p.m.: General session

7:30-9 p.m.: Cultural activity

7 p.m.-?: Hospitality room open

## Friday, October 28

7:45-8:15 a.m.: Announcements and raffle

8:15-9 a.m.: General session

9 a.m.-?: Field trips, golf tourney, personal time

6-7:30 p.m.: Reception with exhibitors

8-9:30 p.m.: Movie night?

7:30 p.m.-?: Hospitality room open

## Saturday, October 29

7:45-8:15 a.m.: Announcements and raffle

8:15-9 a.m.: General session

9-10 a.m.: General session

10-10:30 a.m.: Beverage break and raffle

10:30-11 a.m.: General session

11 a.m.-Noon: General session

Noon-1:15 p.m.: Lunch

1:15-2:10 p.m.: Breakout sessions

2:20-3:15 p.m.: Breakout sessions

3:15-3:45 p.m.: Beverage break and raffle

3:45-5:15 p.m.: Membership meeting

5:30-7 p.m.: Awards event with keynote & Super  
Raffle drawing

7-8 p.m.: Awards reception

8-9:30 p.m.: Celebration/entertainment

9:30 p.m.-?: Hospitality room open

## Sunday, October 30

7:45-8:15 a.m.: Announcements and raffle

8:15-9 a.m.: General session

9-10 a.m.: Membership meeting

10-10:30 a.m.: Beverage break and raffle

10:30-11:15 a.m.: General session

11:15 a.m.-Noon: General session

Noon-1:15 p.m.: Lunch

1:15-2:10 p.m.: Breakout sessions

2:20-3:15 p.m.: Breakout sessions

3:15-3:45 p.m.: Beverage break and raffle

3:45-4:30 p.m.: General session – keynote

4:30-4:45 p.m.: Closing session

6:30 p.m.-?: Hospitality room open

Exhibits will be open during breaks and lunches  
from Saturday morning through Sunday lunch



# ANPR Super Raffle support

Encouraged by the success of last year's "resurrected" super raffle, ANPR is doing it again. This fun online raffle kicked off June 1: Check it out for a chance to score some great prizes and to help support ANPR's mission.

## HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

Scan the QR code below or type in [rafflecreator.com/pages/38397/anpr-super-raffle](https://rafflecreator.com/pages/38397/anpr-super-raffle)



There you will find the list of prizes, which is changing daily as donations are received and more prizes are added. Once at the link, you can donate for tickets – donate for tickets for yourself or for someone else (in your name so that you get credit for the donation). Forward the link to others you know who might be interested in supporting ANPR

and encourage them to go online and donate for tickets.

Already ANPR has rounded up some spectacular prizes:

### GRAND PRIZE: \$2,000 "ROLL-YOUR-OWN" TRIP

You decide where, when, with whom and how long. You can still donate additional money to the \$2,000 ANPR is already contributing to make it a trip of a lifetime.

Cliff Chetwin won the 2021 Super Raffle "roll-your-own" trip.

"After playing the Super Raffle ever since it began and getting used to my usual level of luck (none) with any kind of gambling, imagine my surprise when Judy and I walked into the mini-rendezvous last fall and the first thing we heard from Bill Wade was 'Congratulations, you won!'" Chetwin wrote. "Going back a long way with Bill, I was initially more suspicious than surprised, but he finally convinced me that we indeed had won. Perhaps timing is in fact everything since we were planning a 2022 trip to Antarctica for our 50th wedding anniversary, so it was a great year to win the Super Raffle and help defray the cost of what certainly will be the trip of a lifetime."

### GRAND PRIZE: \$3,300, 8-DAY, 7-NIGHT GRAND CANYON RAFT TRIP

Offered by Grand Canyon Expeditions for any available space for its 2023 river season, April-September. The all-inclusive trip includes transportation from Las Vegas, through 280 miles of the Grand Canyon, and back to Las Vegas at trip's end. All meals,



One Super Raffle prize is a weeklong stay in this cabin on the Yellowstone River, just outside of Yellowstone National Park. The prize is valued at \$1,200.

Liz Roberts photo

beverages, camping equipment and floating commentary along the way is included.

### GRAND PRIZE: \$2,200, BALD EAGLE WOOD CARVING

Wildlife sculpture of a one-quarter-scale lifelike bald eagle by noted woodcarver Rob Arnberger. The sculpture is mounted on a granite-looking wooden rock on a rustic mesquite base, and painted in acrylic paint. Arnberger is an NPS retiree and ANPR member known for carving birds, wildlife, old west, and ranger caricatures.

Other prizes include:

- A two-day raft trip for two through Cataract Canyon in Canyonlands National Park. Value is \$1,700.
- A one-week stay in a cabin on the Yellowstone River just outside Yellowstone National Park. Value is \$1,200.
- A harbor cruise in the San Diego Harbor.
- A number of National Park Service-related books, autographed by the authors.

And remember, ANPR will be adding additional prizes as they are received, so check back regularly and donate for additional tickets as prizes are added.

As a bonus, there will be a prize for the person who donates for the most tickets, and a prize for the persons who donated for each of the three grand prizes.

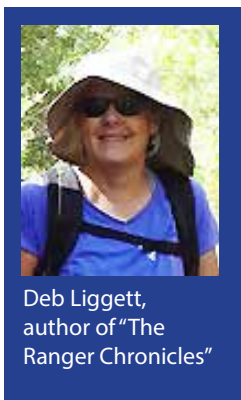
The raffle will close at noon, Arizona time, on Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022, and the drawing will be later that evening during the awards ceremony at the Ranger Rendezvous in Tucson. You do not need to be present to be a winner – but of course, why not come to enjoy the fun in person!

# Inspired to write:

## How one ranger chronicled her career in newly released book

*Editor's note: Natural spaces such as our national parks can inspire any manner of creativity, high among them writing. Putting into words the things we see, feel and experience in a national park is a way to store, enjoy and reminisce on these memories over and over.*

*It also can be a way to inspire others to get out and experience for themselves our national parks. We asked retired ranger Deb Liggett to share an excerpt from her new book, "Pilgrim, Paddler, Poet: The Ranger Chronicles."*



Deb Liggett,  
author of "The  
Ranger Chronicles"

**T**HE WRITER HENRY MILLER WROTE, "ONE'S DESTINATION IS never a place, but rather a new way of looking at things." For me, this quote encapsulates the focus of my writing. I am interested in evoking different landscapes, and how those panoramas and places inform and shape us. In my essays, I hope to illustrate for others the idea of national parks through my personal experiences – and perhaps others will find a new way of looking at things, or simply a new way of being in the world.

Dry Tortugas National Park is 70 miles west of Key West, Fla., and has been part of the national park system since 1935. When my husband, Jay, and I were stationed there in the mid-'80s, it was still Fort Jefferson National Monument. We were two of eight permanent employees living in the historic fort on Garden Key. The irascible and legendary Capt. Cliff Green piloted our lifeline to the mainland with weekly supply trips on the 65-foot *M/V Activa*.

### EXCERPTED FROM THE ESSAY, "THE GOOD CAPTAIN," BY DEB LIGGETT

We hadn't been in the Tortugas long when we were down fishing off the dock after work. The *Activa* was tied up, and Cliff was sitting on the bench shooting the bull as he messed with our hook and bait. The water was alabaster smooth. There was no breeze. A few mosquitoes chewed my ankles.

I had waded and fished rivers (and felt superior to the people who fished from a boring dock on a lake) while growing up. I soon learned that a dock in the middle of the ocean led to an underwater wonderland with a multitude of fish to snag. Snapper. Rays. Sharks. Grouper.

Without warning, my line began to sing as it unreeled at speed. Something had taken my hook and with no hesitation ran for the harbor. I pulled the tip of my rod up and put my hand on the

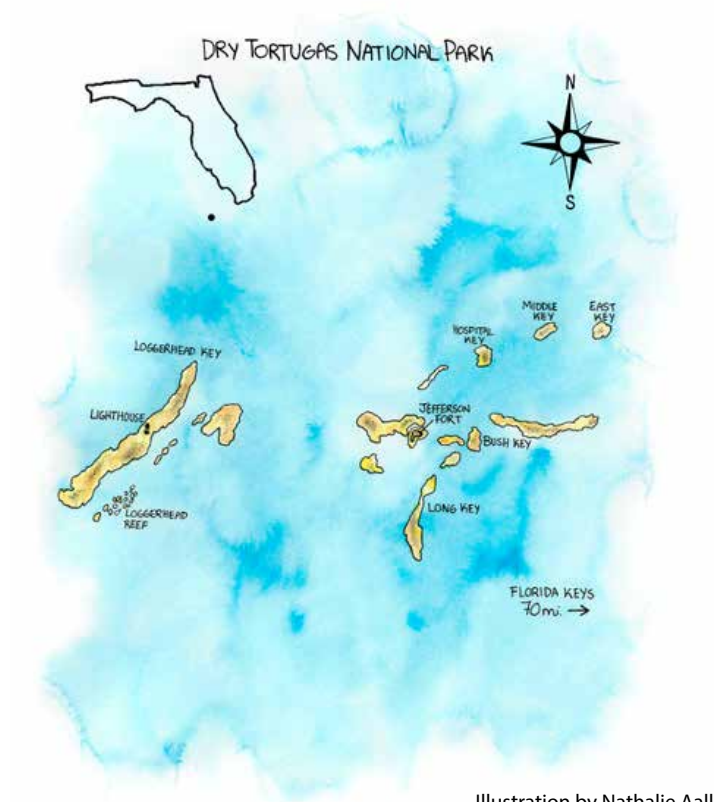


Illustration by Nathalie Aall

reel to slow the outgoing line. A huge silver fish jumped straight up in the air, head to tail, shimmering vertically above the water. Cliff yelled. "Tarpon!"

The first tarpon I had seen and it was attached to my line! Cliff coached me to plant the butt of the rod in my midriff, raise the tip, reel like crazy, and repeat. Then he spied a dinghy on the beach, hustled over, and borrowed it from some baffled sailor. He brought the inflatable boat around to the low dock and helped me step in while I held the rod high.

Like a silver submarine, the fish towed us back and forth across the harbor. Cliff navigated between boats and anchor lines. I sawed and reeled, sawed and reeled, and brought the gargantuan fish in ever closer. Twice more the fish launched straight out of the water, dancing on its tail. Each time, it took my breath away. It glittered. My arms began to tire. The fish tired, and when it rested, I rested. We maneuvered it within feet of the boat.

Five feet long. Silver, almost translucent scales. Cliff talked quietly and steadily.

"Easy does it. Not too hard. Easy. Easy." The tarpon shied away from the boat and was then nosed back by the hook and line. I reached out to grab the steel leader, and in one great surge and leap, the tarpon spit the hook and was away. All we saw was the swift swish of a departing tail fin.

Cliff said, "He probably weighed a hundred pounds," and assured me it counted as a "legal catch" (meaning that he never touched my rod and that the fish was close enough to hook with a gaff), but I had no desire for record books.

I never caught another tarpon. I never wanted to catch another tarpon. I felt like Santiago in *The Old Man and the Sea*.





## Welcome to the ANPR family

Here are the newest members of the  
Association of National Park Rangers (updated 6/1/2022)

Braxton Rivera  
Aaron Weiner  
Dustin Mortensen  
Stephen Tyler  
Ryan Hawes  
Mark Colgan  
Ann Bliss  
Bill Cannon  
Gary Wuchner  
Adam Kobus  
Daniel Lien  
Rebecca Jacobs  
Jeanne Simonelli  
Andrew Hower  
Luke Ryan  
William Ryerson

Provincetown, MA  
Boulder, CO  
Rio Rancho, NM  
Rochester, NY  
Bonney Lake, WA  
Arlington, VA  
Livingston, TX  
Richland, WA  
Yosemite NP, CA  
Crown Point, IN  
Little Rock, AR  
Huron, SD  
Bisbee, AZ  
Bluemont, VA  
Stone Mountain, GA  
Aurora, CO

Jan Kirwan  
Elizabeth Jackson  
David Trickett  
Daniel Jacobs  
Christopher Poncia  
Kathy Dodd  
Scott Gediman  
Kathryn Blackwell  
Tina Rothman  
Jerry Freilich  
Tori Fairbanks  
Ronald Hamlin  
Michael Ruiz  
Geoffrey Mcrae Smith  
Erin Degutis  
Joanne Ensley

Tampa, FL  
Carlsbad, NM  
Denver, CO  
Port Angeles, WA  
Rock Hill, SC  
Columbia Falls, MT  
Yosemite NP, CA  
Hurricane, UT  
Makawao, HI  
Bend, OR  
Layton, UT  
Athens, GA  
San Diego, CA  
Negaunee, MI  
Herndon, VA



## 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 6/1/2022)

Rebecca Harriett  
Rick Mossman



## Donor Recognition list

(Updated 6/1/2022)

### Liberty Bell Up to \$25

Heather Boothe  
Rebecca Jacobs

To make a tax-deductible  
donation to ANPR, visit [www.  
www.anpr.org/donate/index.  
php](http://www.anpr.org/donate/index.php). Many thanks from ANPR.

### Denali Peak \$1,000 and higher

Yosemite Conservancy  
Paul Anderson  
Bill Wade  
Rebecca Harriett

### Half Dome \$500-749

Sean Smith

### Cliff Palace \$250-499

Craig and Dayna McClure  
Dick Martin  
Wendy Lauritzen  
Lee West  
Patricia Buccello  
Rick Erisman  
John Case  
Jon Lewis  
David Buccello  
Scott Pfeninger

### Devil's Tower \$100-249

Jon and Sue Lewis  
Pat Quinn  
Liz and Clair Roberts  
Warren & Betty Hill  
Phil Young  
Ed Rizzotto  
Rick Mossman

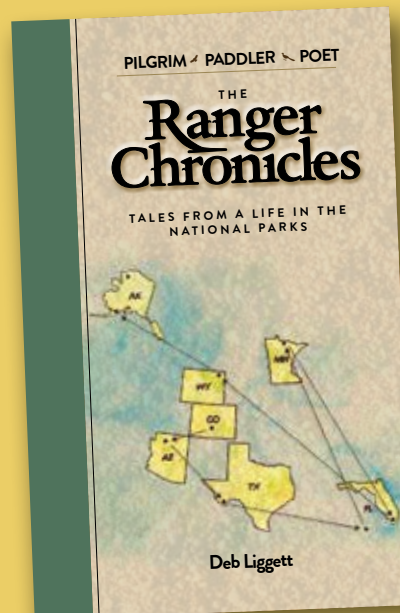
Dennis Burnett &  
Ginny Rousseau  
Colleen Derber  
Deny Galvin  
Suzanne Johannsen  
Rick and Cindy Jones  
Mike Lynch  
Einar Olsen  
Edwin L. Rothfuss  
Helen Scully  
Rick Smith  
Michael J Tollefson  
Nancy Ward  
Gary Wuchner

### Appalachian Trail \$50-99

Lauren Kopplin  
Lyndel Meikle  
Sara Sprinkle  
Randy Turner

### Little Rock Central High School \$25-49

Jan Kirwan  
Anthony Luongo  
Regan Hedrick  
Tam Hofman



### Pilgrim, Paddler, Poet: The Ranger Chronicles

is part  
first-person memoir, part  
celebration of the natural  
world, part insider  
journalism. NPS veteran  
Deb Liggett's book is a  
must-read for rangers,  
wannabe rangers,  
armchair travelers and  
lovers of the nation's  
parklands.

ISBN: 978-0-578-82119-1  
Available on Amazon and  
at Western National Parks  
Association website:  
[store.wnps.org](http://store.wnps.org)



**The Ranger Chronicles**  
Tales from a life in the national parks.

# Help mark World Ranger Day, July 31

EVERY YEAR SINCE 2006, WORLD RANGER DAY HAS BEEN CELEBRATED worldwide on July 31. The purpose of the day is to recognize the important work that rangers and other park personnel do, and to honor those who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

The International Ranger Federation (IRF), a worldwide nonprofit that supports the work of rangers and allied park personnel around the world, created World Ranger Day (WRD). ANPR is one of three IRF charter members

(since 1992), along with ranger associations in Scotland and England. IRF and ANPR hopes to increase the recognition of World Ranger Day in the U.S. during this, and subsequent years. Parks often have special programs or activities to commemorate WRD, and we hope that you, as a reader of *Ranger* magazine, can help.

The IRF's website ([www.internationalrangers.org/events](http://www.internationalrangers.org/events)) has a toolkit of images, videos and covers to help celebrate the day. Every year thousands of rangers and their supporters add the "I [or We] Stand with the World's Rangers" to their social media profile pictures. In early July, IRF will post the 2022 Ranger Role of Honor, listing protected-area workers who were killed in the line of duty since the last WRD was observed.

Is your park or organization able to sponsor an event on World Ranger Day this July? ANPR will list events on its website and social media. If you would like to share what you are planning to do, contact ANPR's international liaison Meg Weesner at [mweesner@anpr.org](mailto:mweesner@anpr.org).

— By Meg Weesner, ANPR's International Liaison



## Branching out

If you, or someone you know, has moved within the NPS or on to new adventures, let us know so we can share the good news! Email [mdevaughn@anpr.org](mailto:mdevaughn@anpr.org).

Congratulation to **Kathy Brazelton** (REDW/FLFO/CURE/TICA/GRSA/ROMO), who retires after 35 years spent with the National Park Service. Brazelton said her biggest love was interpretation, although "I've seen it all and (almost) done it all!" she said. Brazelton started at Redwood National Park as a grad school VIP then on to Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, FLETC, Curecanti NRA, Timpanogos Cave National Monument (as chief ranger), Great Sand Dunes (chief of Interp), and finally to Rocky Mountain National Park as district naturalist/park ranger.

"I've never had to do admin, but I've done interpretation, resource management/research, law enforcement/VRP, and I've cleaned many a toilet," she said. "I have loved it all. I felt privileged each morning as I put on my green pants and flat hat. I have been honored to serve our precious national parks! Thanks to all ANPR members who have walked beside me on this path and advised/guided/inspired me on my way."



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## RECOLLECTIONS

# The nomadic life of growing up in the NPS

## Despite challenges of change, kids of NPS staff enjoyed new adventures

By Leslie Spurlin

**L**IKE THE MILITARY, UNDER WHICH OUR EARLIEST NATIONAL PARKS were first managed, the National Park Service took on several characteristics of Army life, including frequent moves. Moving often was just a way of life, an accepted fact faced by those families who were fortunate enough to live in America's wonderlands. As children of NPS employees, my sister, Cyndee, and I grew up knowing we would move every two to four years, and for the most part, we embraced the nomadic lifestyle. For many of us "park brats" it meant an adventure, a new place with new friends. No matter where we went, we always knew someone, or of someone.

"If you were in the park service you always had ready-made friends wherever you went," said Karla Gilbert, whose father Karl was a NPS employee. "Somebody always knew somebody you knew." Gilbert's family moved 32 times, lived in 27 houses (some more than once), and worked in 13 parks. Gilbert said she attended 11 different schools.

While I often left behind good friends, I also made many new ones. My family may have been a little different in that our parents, Dwight and Mickey Hamilton, often included us in the decision-making whenever Dad was offered a position. I recall one such time sitting at the kitchen table when two transfers were turned down because there were no adequate schools nearby. When we moved to Grand Junction, Colo., Dad as the first permanent naturalist at Colorado National Monument, Cyndee was enrolled in first grade in nearby Fruita, as park housing was in the process of being built, and our parents didn't want her to have to change schools. Ultimately, however, we transferred to Dinosaur National Monument (nearly 100 miles away), and instead of attending a school a few blocks away there, my sister rode to park headquarters every day with Dad, only to ride the tiny bus back down to Fruita.

Usually, we moved in the summers so as not to disrupt our school year, but one move necessitated moving mid-semester. Since it was her senior year, Cyndee stayed behind to finish the term with another park family, but I moved with our folks to the Grand Canyon before the end of my seventh-grade semester. How embarrassed I felt, walking into Katherine Wilcox's English class, everyone else seated, and being directed to a desk with all eyes upon me! It was the only time I ever transferred to another school mid-year. In the



end, however, it all worked out fine, and I'm in touch with many of those same classmates today.

Mom told me that many park families sent their children to boarding schools such as Wasatch Academy in Mount Pleasant, Utah, if there was no other alternative.

Diane Chakerian, daughter of John and Barbara Henneberger, said that the hardest move for her was from Hawaii Volcanoes to the San Francisco Bay Area in seventh grade. It was a culture shock to have gone from a rural setting to California in the 1960s. Her sister, Sally Mervin, however, relished the change.

"I consider my childhood to be a great treasure I carry within and that gives me strength as an adult," Mervin said. "All the different experiences, different friendships, deep experiences in nature, an outdoor life. It all gives me a strength and an awareness of the beauty of life that helps carry me through the tough stuff."

Looking back, Mervin said she credits her small school experience with leading her to a career in teaching. It reflected being part of a tight-knit community where people were known and counted.

During my own childhood, the National Park Service felt like one, big family. Except for one trip to Disneyland, nearly every vacation we took as a family was to a national park where we knew someone, where we always got the "inside tour." And often, we were stationed in the same park as others we had already lived with in another. These were the extended families who helped raise me.

By the time my sister married, and her husband also went into the National Park Service, times were changing, and families did not move as often. My niece attended the same school until she graduated in a class of four, which in her case meant a personalized education. But perhaps the biggest change came when employees were often no longer residing in the parks, rather buying homes nearby instead. This was good for one's financial plan, but ultimately weakened the sense of community.

To this day, I keep track of friends and those of my late parents, and I have attended several NPS reunions, including one at Mount Rainier, my first home. Another, which Cyndee and I organized in Dinosaur in 2009, brought together people who had not seen each other in more than 50 years, yet it was as if we had never left. Together, we held shared memories and a history unique to a special time and place.

Dwight Hamilton was working at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, when this picture was taken at Christmas, 1964, with wife Mickey and daughters Leslie and Cyndee. The Hamiltons moved eight times within the NPS during the kids' school years. Courtesy Leslie Spurlin

## PROTECTION

# A valiant heart

## A protection ranger taken too soon

*Preface: On Aug. 9, 2002, U.S. park ranger Kristopher William Eggle was killed in the line of duty while responding to a report of armed murder suspects having just crossed into the United States from Mexico at a point along the border that lies within Arizona's Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. While communicating via radio with a U.S. Customs helicopter flying above the scene and trying to locate the suspects, Kris was hit by rifle fire from one of the suspects, which severed both of his femoral arteries. Though backup was at his side quickly, he bled to death a short time later. Kevin Moses wrote this tribute to him a month after this tragedy unfolded and gave a copy of it to his family. With their permission, Ranger is reprinting the article to honor Kris's legacy 20 years later. He died protecting his teammates, visitors, and park resources, wearing the green and gray uniform of the National Park Service. We must continue to tell his story, and we must never forget his and his family's sacrifice.*

**F**ROM THE MOMENT I MET KRIS EGGLE, I KNEW HE WAS THE kind of fellow I'd be honored to call a friend. And the beautiful thing is that I *could* call him a friend. Right then and there, at that moment. Not because I had earned the right, but simply by virtue of having met him. That's the way he operated: He never met a stranger, just new friends. I knew right away that he'd had a good upbringing by good people. He told me he was from Michigan. I told him I'm from Ohio. We ribbed each other and laughed about Buckeye/Wolverine rivalry. But at the same time, we sensed in each other a common, gritty, confident pride in the Midwest-Great Lakes legacy that we shared.

By looking at him, I could tell he placed a high premium on physical fitness, a trait I respect in anyone, but especially rangers. We talked about our love of running trails, and even planned to run a few in the mornings. I wish now that we had. Somewhere along the course of that week, we discovered another common thread: We had both been active in Scouting as young lads. He was embarrassed to answer "Yes" when I asked him if he had made it to Eagle Scout. I was embarrassed that I had even bothered to ask.

It wasn't long before we realized, too, that we shared something higher: a common faith. Here was a fellow who uncompromisingly attributed every blessing he'd ever known to the grace of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I remember admiring his unyielding confidence in his faith. During lunch breaks, we sat near the edge of naked rimrock and praised God together for creating the magnificent splendor surrounding us. We didn't know it at the time, but our kindred spirits were beginning to bond.

In addition to all of this, we also shared a distilled and unshakable idealism regarding rangers in the National Park Service. We had both only been rangers for a few years, and many a seasoned ranger had admonished us that we, too, would grow weary of the bureaucracy. Though we knew the NPS had its faults, we both agreed that we were blessed to be working as rangers to protect places that so well displayed some of God's greatest work. We made a pact, so to speak, to always point out the good in things regarding our work. We laughed at the thought of some day being "old-time

rangers" who would encourage the new generation and remind them how fortunate they were just to be rangers.

We held a common opinion that NPS rangers should strive for excellence in any discipline that helps us protect visitors and resources. We believed the definition of an outstanding ranger was someone who could operate at a high level of proficiency in resource stewardship, law enforcement, emergency medical care, firefighting, and search and rescue. We understood this was challenging, but Kris did not recoil from a challenge. No, he accepted it as an opportunity to set high standards and achieve great accomplishments. I remember thinking if I could hand pick a "dream team" of rangers, Kris would be one of my first choices. Blessed are those few who have actually worked by his side.

Another thing I noticed right away about Kris was his almost unceasing smile. The day I met him was the first day of the weeklong NPS Basic Technical Rescue Training-West course and it was hot, real hot. The Utah sun pierced down upon us from a flawless, blue sky and reflected back at us off the hardpan of the red desert underfoot. It was a typical spring day in Canyonlands, and it seemed we couldn't use enough sunscreen or drink enough water to ward off the heat. It was hot. Uncomfortably hot. Miserably hot. And yet, Kris kept smiling. He was always smiling. It's nice to remember him that way.

His smile was a fitting window to his incurably cheerful attitude and positive outlook on life. He was gifted with the ability to see the bright side of things, and he was ever mindful of how blessed we all are. Over the course of that week, I had been struggling with a previous decision I had made, and Kris, true to his nature, helped me immeasurably. I had accepted a transfer to the Great Smoky Mountains, and though I very much looked forward to living and working in such an exquisite setting, I was plagued with trepidation at the thought of leaving my beloved Colorado.

I had lengthy conversations with my new pal about leaving a land and a life that I cherished so dearly for an uncertain future. Kris, having worked at the Smokies some years before, and having tasted their particular brand of intoxicating magic, comforted me. He said, "You're doing the right thing, Kevin. Sure, you will miss Colorado and the Great Sand Dunes.

"But," he was quick to add, "you will also come to love the Great Smoky Mountains."

I shall never forget the mysterious peace his words brought to me. Anyone else, I would have doubted. But Kris was different. His



Kris Eggle kitted out for NPS special ops training, early 2000s. Even full cammies couldn't hide that contagious smile. Courtesy Eggle family



advice transcended my worry and summoned within me a profound trust. There was something about his quiet confidence – his soulful spirit – that made me believe everything would be OK. My internal battle over the decision floated off my shoulders and disappeared into the stillness of the desert. I remember being so thankful for his assurance and thinking how refreshing it was to discover such wisdom in someone so young. Now, years later, I know just how wise he was.

I'd like to think that I was able to bring a bit of peace to Kris, as well. I thought it was the least I could do in return for the friendship he had showed me. At the time, Kris was working as a seasonal protection ranger at Canyonlands National Park, and he very much wanted to secure a permanent ranger position. He had fallen in love with the work, and he believed in a ranger's purpose. But, landing that coveted permanent status was no easy task, and he knew this.

I knew it, too – all too well. At the time, I had held my permanent job less than two years, and looking back, it seemed like it was one heck of a long, uphill journey to get there. I told Kris that if I could get a permanent job, anyone could, especially him. He laughed, but still didn't seem convinced. I told him to continue pressing onward and he'd get that job, because he was precisely the kind of person who the NPS needed more of. I knew talent when I saw it, and Kris oozed talent. The technical proficiency he had demonstrated all week at the cliff, his dedication to excellence, his comprehensive understanding of the NPS mission and a ranger's role in making it happen, and his unfailing capacity to just be a good person all pointed to certain success. He was...rare.

The week I spent with Kris was the third week of April 1999. While the rest of the world listened in disbelief to the initial reports

of the terrible Columbine High School shootings, we went about our business training at the crags, completely unaware of the tragedy that had unfolded. But the next morning much of our group's talk centered around the news of the horrific incident. Kris and I talked about it quite a bit.

Being law enforcement officers, we felt compassion not only for the victims and their families, but also for those officers who responded to that call for help. How valiant those officers were as they confronted that horrible scene. We understood it was their job, and we knew it could be ours as well on any given day. But still, we agreed they were valiant. I think we both secretly wondered to ourselves, "When my call comes, will I be valiant?"

It wasn't long after our parting before Kris sent me an excited email: "Kevin, I got it! I finally got my permanent status! I took a transfer to another beautiful desert park, this time in Arizona. Maybe you've heard of it. ...it's called Organ Pipe Cactus."

Over the course of that unforgettable week, out there in the great vastness of the southeast Utah canyon country, standing at the brink and staring into the face of a yawning, 600-foot void, my Lord and Savior enriched my life with a blessing I still cannot quite describe. For just a short while, I shared time with Kristopher William Eggle, and we became friends. Our kindred spirits had irrevocably bonded and, until now, I hardly realized it had happened.

Some will say one cannot come to know a person in the space of one short week. But this much I know about Kris Eggle:

He was valiant.

—Kevin Moses

*Central District Ranger  
Shenandoah National Park*



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IN PRINT

# Vela chronicles varied, high-ranking NPS career

By Rick Smith

**D**AVID VELA WASN'T ALWAYS AN NPS RANGER. HE WORKED for a Congressman and then for the Attorney General's Child Support Enforcement Office as the director of field operations in Austin. He worked there until his boss retired: The boss then asked, "Is there anyone I can call to help you find a job?"

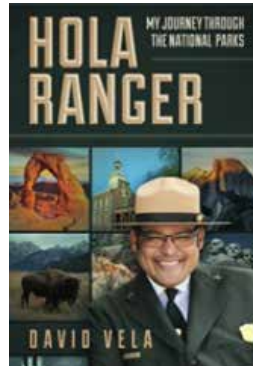
Vela's reply: "Bob Stanton." Good choice because Vela was soon back in the gray and green as the superintendent of Palo Alto Battlefield, then Texas State Coordinator for the NPS, then superintendent of Lyndon Baines Johnson National Historical Park — the early superintendents of this park had the great good fortune of knowing Mrs. Johnson, and Vela, in "Hola Ranger: My Journey Through the National Parks," describes a close relationship with her.

It must have been hard, but moving often was part of the career. Vela and the family packed up and moved to Washington, D.C., where he was in charge of monuments and memorials. He was selected as an SES candidate, and four years later, was named the Southeast Regional Director. Perhaps, it is worth quoting the first memo he sent as the new regional director:

*Prior to and upon my arrival, we will embark upon a course that will produce the following outcomes—treat each other with respect, and all whom we come in contact with dignity and respect. We will hold all people and processes accountable, and we will celebrate our successes. Safety will be incorporated in everything we do and is not an option. We will value and celebrate diversity—in our hirings, business practices and civic engagement. We will make ourselves relevant to all visitors and communities.*

From there, Vela's next assignment was in WASO as the new associate director for Workforce Relevancy and Inclusion. He stayed there long enough for almost everyone's dream job to come open: superintendent of Grand Teton National Park. Vela's description of his time in the Tetons resonates, with bears, tragic climbing accidents, living in a house with magnificent views of the mountains, and working hard to resolve some longstanding problems within the park.

And then came the phone call. While on a trip to California, he



"Hola, Ranger: My Journey Through the National Parks," by David Vela

received a call from then Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, asking how long it would take him to get back to Washington, D.C. Seated in Zinke's office, the Secretary's first question was, "How do we fix the National Park Service?" It was then that Vela realized that this was an interview for the job as National Park Director. He must have had the right answers because on Aug. 31, 2018, the official White House release read: "President Donald J. Trump Announces Intent to Nominate and Appoint Personnel to Key Administrative Posts — Raymond David Vela to be Director of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior."

After his confirmation hearing, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources approved Vela's nomination and sent it forward to the full Senate for confirmation. Unfortunately, the Senate adjourned before approving his nomination.

President Trump never nominated him a second time to the new Congress. Since he no longer had a job in the Tetons, the Department determined that he would be named Deputy Director for Operations while Dan Smith continued as Deputy Director Acting with the Authority of the Director. He held that title until Smith left the Service. Vela then assumed the title that Smith had held, a job he remained in until submitting his resignation to Secretary Bernhardt.

This is Vela's book and he gets to write whatever he chooses. I was hoping for some insight into what it was like to serve during the Trump Administration. Nonetheless, the book is interesting and offers insight into how someone other than a white employee looks at the National Park Service.

*Rick Smith worked in six parks, two regional offices and WASO, and ended his career as the Acting Superintendent of Yellowstone.*



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## CULTURAL RESOURCES

# The failure of Reconstruction?

The true blame lies in inept federal government

**O**N FEB. 1, 1871, A GROUP OF nightriders (white men wearing hoods to disguise their identities) broke into the South Carolina home of a black man named Amzi Rainey. They beat him and threatened his life. Rainey's offense was two-fold; he had voted in a recent election – a right guaranteed him by the 14th Amendment – and he had cast his ballot for a Republican.

The Reconstruction Era (liberally dated) ran from 1860 to 1880. National Park Service historians Robert Sutton and John Latschar have described that time as “a period of extraordinarily creative and meaningful policy making, which gave rise to the nation's first federal civil rights laws, as well as three new constitutional amendments; the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth.” And it was a time when many black people, especially formerly enslaved African Americans, felt equality and justice were at long last in their grasp.

As blacks gained franchise, however, their opponents engaged in ever more violent tactics to prevent them from exercising their new powers. Democrats, increasingly the party of former Confederate military and political leaders, were opposed to civil rights, while Republicans generally supported some measure of equality for African Americans living in the South. South Carolina, like most other southern states, had become a battleground with the kind of violence visited upon Amzi Rainey all too common by the 1870s.

A political compromise led to the withdrawal of federal troops from southern states in the late 1870s. That ended the government's ability to enforce Reconstruction laws and abandoned pro-civil rights allies, black and white, to the whims of white supremacist terror. In a final *coup de grace*, supporters of the Lost Cause began to rewrite the history of Reconstruction. They effectively re-branded the era as a failure that sought to impose radical reforms on an unready black population to the detriment of traditional Southern culture and white people everywhere (cue “Birth of a Nation”). To this day, inept politicians and scholars cite Reconstruction as a shining example of progressive overreach.

The truth is that Reconstruction was not a failure. It was a bold plan to bring equality and full citizenship to formerly enslaved black people in the southern states that also benefited African Americans everywhere. President Abraham Lincoln started crafting his policy of southern reconstruction as early as 1863, and his plan included steps to secure and elevate political, social, and economic rights for black people.



The Freedmen's Bureau during Reconstruction. Art by A.R. Waud, Harper's Weekly, July 25, 1868. / Image from Library of Congress

Lincoln shared his thinking on April 11, 1865, during an impromptu address from the balcony of the White House to a crowd assembled below. John Wilkes Booth was on hand for the president's remarks that day and when he heard Lincoln mention black political enfranchisement the actor declared to a friend “That means nigger citizenship...”

Booth, who would fatally shoot the president three days later, was correct. Reconstruction did mean citizenship for African Americans. The right to vote (it was male suffrage exclusively), to serve on juries, and to seek and hold political office sparked a wave of black political, social, and economic empowerment that would have been impossible to imagine just a decade before. The Reconstruction Era saw the election of one governor, P.B.S. Pinchback of Louisiana, two U.S. senators – Hiram Revels and Blanche K. Bruce (both from Mississippi) – and 14 members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Prior to the 41st Congress (1869-1871), no African Americans had ever been elected to either the House or the Senate.

In South Carolina, the Reconstruction Era constitution drafted by a multi-racial government in 1868 expanded voting rights for all races and enhanced women's rights by creating the state's first divorce law. The 1868 constitution also called for universal education for all races and created the state's first public schools. The document was not revised until 1895, and even then, its most progressive elements were retained.

Reconstruction was not a failure. The inability of the federal government to support its pledge of justice and equality for its black citizens was. The National Park Service should continue to examine this critical period for the purpose of righting the story, commemorating the legacies of those who helped achieve that fleeting progress, and enabling the public to understand the wretched cost we pay when we fail to live up to the better angels of our nature.

— Alan Spears

National Parks Conservation Association



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