# RANGER

The Journal of the Association of National Park Rangers

Stewards for parks, visitors & each other

Vol. 29, No. 4 | Fall 2013

A Public Harvest – Feast and Famine in the National Parks

### *Share your views!*

Do you have a comment on a particular topic featured in this issue? Or about anything related to national parks? Send your views to *fordedit@aol.com* or to the address on the back cover.

### More reminiscing about housing

Reading Leslie Spurlin's article, "NPS housing – A look back" (Summer 2013) brought back memories of my own. My first assignment was in Canyonlands, Needles District, 1974-79. Each district had two to four permanent employees, a large handful of long-term seasonals who returned year after year and often volunteered for the park in the off-season, and a few Student Conservation Association workers who rotated through every 12 weeks or so. Communication with headquarters was via the park's two-way radio system and occasionally (mostly at night) by radio telephone. One channel served southeastern Utah and a small part of Colorado. One AM radio station came in about an hour after dark.

Prior to my arrival, I was told that housing consisted of trailers that "were left over from the Johnstown flood." I didn't look up that reference until much later, but the trailers were old: drafty and air conditioned when the wind blew and especially in the winter; sand drifts in the corners of every window; and some doors that once locked but keys had been lost years before. Deer mice and bushy-tailed woodrats were more common inside than out.

The complex of seven trailers, a maintenance shed, office trailer and "visitor center" trailer were powered by generators. You could tell which generator was running by the way equipment reacted. On the Onan generator, electric clocks gained as much as 25 minutes a day and all electric motors ran fast; when on the Allis Chalmers generator clocks lost as much as 10 minutes a day but there wasn't any perceptible difference in electric motors. On the Cat generator, when one of the community washers or dryers or the air compressor in the maintenance shop turned on, there would be a brown-out for about a minute. They would often go out at the most troublesome times.

The community tradition was to gather for a volleyball game after dinner, usually about 7 p.m. when it started to cool off, and everyone was off duty except the campfire program ranger. With lights on the court we would usually play until 10:30. One evening the generator went out as we were in the midst of a particularly robust game. We continued playing. The evening ranger, someone with less experience, came back to his trailer. He quickly ran over to the court and excitedly reported that the generator was out. We laughed. Everyone was outside, so what was the urgency to get power back on?

The game went until full dark. Then four of us went down to the generator shed to power up one of the alternates. This time, none would start. After more than an hour of trying everything we could think of, someone put the measuring stick into the gravity-fed diesel tank. It was dry. We found that there was plenty of diesel in the underground tank, but the pump was . . . electric! About 1 o'clock in the morning we figured out a way to remove the electric pump and fit the incorrectly sized hand-crank pump into the tank. We extracted about 10 gallons after an additional 45 minutes of hard labor (the hand pump kept sucking air and losing its prime). About 3 a.m. we finally succeeded in priming and starting the most reliable generator, and keeping it running long enough to get a prime on the electric pump. We had to run the generator and electric pump faster than normal to get ahead of the drawdown in the above-ground tank.

Oily and smelling of diesel, we agreed that a search and rescue of the same duration was preferable. But we never again delayed generator maintenance in the evening.

Ken Mabery, Scottsbluff, Nebraska

— More correspondence on page 22 —

**Preregister online at www.anpr.org. Program details are posted there, with a summary on page 21. See you Oct. 27 – 31 in St. Louis.**

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The Journal of the Association of National Park Rangers

Vol. 29, No. 4 Fall 2013


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

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

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

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## President's Message

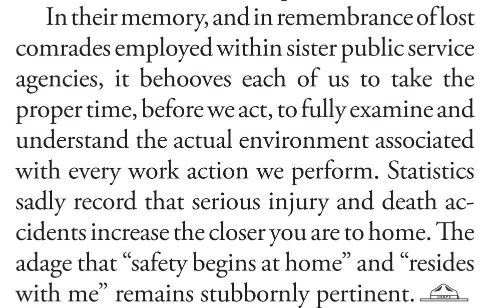
Another World Ranger Day has passed, beckoning each of us to personally reflect on the relevant, professional work that conservation employees perform daily to protect natural and cultural resources.

It is public service work often performed under extreme environmental and in troubling geopolitical conditions.

Since July 2012, at least 81 rangers, game rangers, forest guards, wardens and facility management employees have lost their lives in the line of duty. The numbers may be tragically higher because often some line-of-duty deaths fail to be adequately investigated and reported. Thus, each July 31 is also a time to remember the lives and service of public stewards lost in the act of performing global conservation. In doing so, we rededicate ourselves toward sustaining the safe and productive professional performance of that mission.

With the tragic wildland fire deaths in July of 19 members of the Granite Mountain Hotshots in Arizona, linked alongside the recent publication of the serious accident reports documenting the deaths of National Park Service ranger Nick Hall at Mount Rainier and maintenance worker Dana Bruce on the Blue Ridge Parkway last year, employees across the NPS and sister land management agencies are taking time to better understand and appreciate the diverse work environments in which these most recent deaths occurred. The need to further promote continued implementation of effective operational leadership — by "designating leadership" — to be the professional responsibility of every NPS employee. This is accomplished through effective training, sustained behaviors and measurable performance.

In their memory, and in remembrance of lost comrades employed within sister public service agencies, it behooves each of us to take the proper time, before we act, to fully examine and understand the actual environment associated with every work action we perform. Statistics sadly record that serious injury and death accidents increase the closer you are to home. The adage that "safety begins at home" and "resides with me" remains stubbornly pertinent.



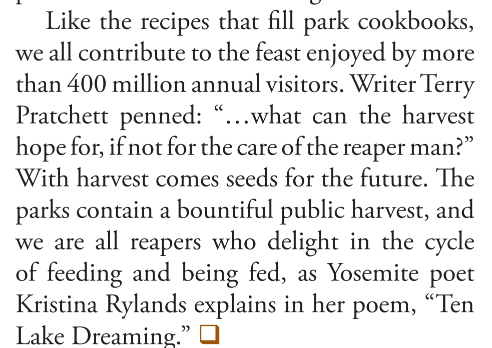
## IN THIS ISSUE

Fall is a time for reaping. This is when we take stock, close our budgets, and enjoy fruit sown in spring and grown in summer — if there actually is fruit for the taking. In this issue of *Ranger* we look at the public harvest that is our national parks. We sip Texas tea and march to war on battlefield pancakes. We slip into the hot Ahwahnee kitchen and we learn to share through a tale of hard times when there was no fruit. We even rescue a salamander along the way.

Every park has a harvest tale. Yosemite chef Percy Whatley speaks about his recipe for heeding Director Jarvis' call for healthy food in parks. At Big Thicket the crop is deep underground, and Stephanie Burgess tells of the balance needed in the search for oil in "Black Harvest." Some harvests lie behind the scenes, and in "A Natural Heist," Clay Jordan takes us into the Appalachian woods in pursuit of poachers.

Spanning the multiple units at Jean Lafitte, Kristy Wallisch examines the tasty nexus between foodways and history in "Talking with a Mouthful." When there is no harvest at all, Bill Warder explains, in his dark story "Famine at the Table," how sharing that bitter table with partners makes it easier to digest.

Like the recipes that fill park cookbooks, we all contribute to the feast enjoyed by more than 400 million annual visitors. Writer Terry Pratchett penned: "…what can the harvest hope for, if not for the care of the reaper man?" With harvest comes seeds for the future. The parks contain a bountiful public harvest, and we are all reapers who delight in the cycle of feeding and being fed, as Yosemite poet Kristina Rylands explains in her poem, "Ten Lake Dreaming." ❑



— Kendell Thompson, *Ranger* editorial adviser

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**Ranger Stephanie Coley at Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial's historical farm,** *photo by Paula Alexander*

# Keep it simple, make it good

## *An interview with Chef Percy Whatley*

When First Lady Michelle Obama hosted prominent chefs from across the country at her Chefs Move to Schools program, Percy Whatley was part of the elite group. He's chief chef of Yosemite's Ahwahnee Hotel and Delaware North Corporation's western region corporate chef.

National parks have long played a prominent role in American health initiatives. National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis has announced that future concession contracts will require healthier food ingredients and menu options. Following the director's lead, the NPS got specific in Action Item No. 8: Eat Well and Prosper in the servicewide A Call to Action plan.

*Ranger* editorial adviser **Kendell Thompson** caught up with Whatley on his day off — at Tuolumne Meadows Campground — and talked to him about being a leader in the healthy cuisine movement within national parks.

***Ranger:*** Have you always wanted to cook? How did you become a chef in a national park?

**Whatley:** I grew up on 10 acres in southern New Mexico where I had to cut hay and gather pecans. Cooking was not really a part of my life then, but we ate simple foods made with good, locally grown ingredients. I have always been drawn to the outdoors. I hunted, fished, backpacked and explored the higher mountains in the Gila Wilderness. We went camping in nearby national parks like Mesa Verde, but I had very few national park experiences prior to arriving to Yosemite as a green, 20-year-old in 1989.

***Ranger:*** When you arrived in Yosemite, what did you think you would do with your life?

**Whatley:** I had no idea! After a one-year college try, I didn't want to do school anymore at that age. I knew I needed to, but I also needed a break. Yosemite called and offered a position for the summer, and by chance it happened to be in food and beverage as a fast food cook. I was used to hard, outdoor work and the heat and smells of the hamburger stand felt natural to me.

***Ranger:*** You have worked your way through many aspects of food service at Yosemite and have seen a wide variety of visitor types. Who do you think you are serving in a national park?

**Whatley:** We serve one of the broadest spectrums of customers any food and beverage company can have. Visitors come from all corners of the globe and bring with them all kinds of lifestyles and food expectations. But the basic expectations are the same: tasty and fresh food is all anyone is asking for.

***Ranger:*** Is there anything fundamentally different between patrons dining at the Ahwahnee and hikers ordering burgers at Curry Village?

**Whatley:** No. Visitors are not fundamentally different, just financially diverse.

***Ranger:*** Do you think Yosemite provides a good testing ground for development of new food service ideas in national parks across the country?

**Whatley:** It has that potential, but we face some basic challenges. We have found that we are more successful in providing the standard and recognizable choices that most people are used to in their own neighborhoods and towns. There are also hurdles related to working in historic structures and within regulatory systems that make promoting successful ideas to other parks in other areas of the country difficult. National park buildings often can't easily be modified. What works here may not work in some other historic structure. And there are alignment issues between our need to profitably meet visitor's expectations and the regulatory boundaries of concessions management requirements. While we usually see eye to eye on how to best meet visitors' needs, we sometimes have to agree to disagree. In the end, we have to work within park service constraints.

***Ranger:*** How have your views on menu and food choices for park visitors evolved?

**Whatley:** As the food world has evolved, so has Yosemite's food operations. Most people want fresh food choices that they understand and recognize. We will always sell a lot of hamburgers, but next to it on the menu is a hummus and vegetable wrap that sells very well too. The choices have broadened to include "healthy" food choices. Hummus was a fairly unknown food preparation when I arrived in Yosemite. I didn't even know what it was back then!

***Ranger:*** Yosemite has been a cradle for several internationally recognized movements. Philosophers, artists, politicians and businessmen have all developed landmark ideas after intimate involvement with the park. Does becoming a world class chef at Yosemite give you any special insight into this profession?

**Whatley:** In the past I have been humbled by putting out menus to promote a specific agenda that failed. Visitors vote with dollars and provide instant feedback. Having the career that I have in Yosemite has brought a local, seasonal and sustainable focus to the foods I prepare

and serve. I have been blessed to have the San Joaquin Valley so close, with long growing seasons and a diverse ingredient base. It has taught me as much as I have influenced the foods here. One thing about preparing menus in Yosemite versus some other park, perhaps on the East Coast, is the lesson of seasonality. If you serve a Caesar salad in Maine in the winter, you have to ask: where is that romaine coming from? I am carrying the torch for my mentor, certified master chef Roland Henin. He really brought the concepts of "fresh, local and sustainable" to the Yosemite kitchen. Little things make the greatest impacts. I try my best to not take that for granted throughout my day to day.

***Ranger:*** You preside over a premier kitchen in a premier national park. While at Yosemite you have won international cooking competitions and received awards such as the Western Regional Chef of the Year Award from the American Culinary Federation. What kind of leadership responsibility does this position confer to you?

**Whatley:** Having influence on the food options that people enjoy in the DNC operations (Yosemite, Sequoia and Olympic) has humbled me over the years. Knowing that we can assist in the enjoyment of the parks and be an integral part of the parks experience has a lot of influence on me. It is an important part of what I do.

***Ranger:*** You were chosen to work with First Lady Michelle Obama's Chefs Move to Schools program. Has involvement in this program made you change any of your views or menus?

**Whatley:** Delaware North gathered all their regional chefs and we flew from all over the country to D.C. on a last-minute flight to participate in the grand launch on the White House Lawn. It was such an honor to be there!

It has certainly influenced my overall outlook on providing healthier options for the younger people who visit the parks. It is good to see sales figures rise on these menu options over the last couple of years. People are recognizing that we must eat well to live well. And it has influenced me at home too. I have since adopted the El Portal school as a chef. Most of the kids bring their lunch, so I talk to them about food choices and food history. I recently spent an hour with them discussing the history of French cooking.

***Ranger:*** How do your roles as the executive chef for the Ahwahnee and the DNC western regional chef relate to the NPS mission?

**Whatley:** The food philosophies of the DNC parks and resorts subsidiary and the expectation of the NPS mission are very parallel. We prepare foods that are to be enjoyed within the park, and we provide an experience in this amazing setting, without being obtrusive to the overall surroundings of the park. My role is to work within the parameters of the agreements between NPS and DNC. My advantage is that I absolutely love national parks. It keeps me inspired constantly.

***Ranger:*** Director Jon Jarvis has made A Call to Action a major thrust for NPS management. Are you familiar with A Call to Action, 2nd Century Vision: Connecting People to Parks, No. 8, Eat Well and Prosper? It states: "Encourage park visitors to make healthy lifestyle choices and position parks to support local economies by ensuring that all current and future concession contracts require multiple healthy, sustainably produced, and reasonably priced food options at national park food service concessions."

**Whatley:** Yes, we are very familiar with it, and I think we have even grabbed Jon Jarvis' bull by the horns. However, the "why" of our menu is based on sales, not NPS policy. I am not a mad scientist crafting wild new foods for the benefit of visitors. If I don't provide them with what they want, I am failing. They are going to eat the burgers. So my job is to make the healthiest burger I can so that they are making good, but familiar choices. I want them to recognize it, then from there, go out and enjoy the park.

***Ranger:***What do you see as trends for food concessions management in national parks?

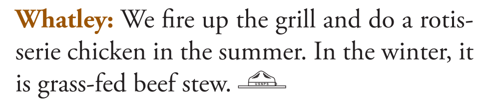
**Whatley:** The trends follow what is also seen outside the parks: a broad variety of food choices, including healthier options, using sustainable and seasonal products with a focus on locally inspired cuisines. Guests in the parks still want fairly quick service so they can get out and enjoy the park. I think Delaware North Companies is doing a great job throughout our operations in national parks.

***Ranger:*** You live and work within one of the most beautiful places in America. But like many others who work in national parks, the demands of millions of, in your case hungry visitors, can be hugely stressful. At the end of the day, do you recreate in the park?

**Whatley:** Yes! It is the best place to play. After work, I go and jump in the river to cool off during the summer. My kids love the impromptu river swim!

***Ranger:*** When you finally get to put your feet up, what do you fix yourself for dinner?

**Whatley:** We fire up the grill and do a rotisserie chicken in the summer. In the winter, it is grass-fed beef stew.



## Ten Lake Dreaming

**By Kristina Rylands**

It's funny how this is all relative—<br>one lake to the next to the next to the next<br>a chain<br>outlets spill to inlets, feed each other<br>as trout slurp the surface<br>for a moth<br>a barbless fly or<br>my big toe draped<br>above the grassy bottom lake lawn.

Wind ripples the water, shivers shadows<br>on the floor.

Clark's nutcrackers, raucous cawing<br>looking for spring caches of red fir seeds<br>left lost to germinate into tree clusters<br>red bark roots like arms reaching into<br>the earth<br>they do what they can to survive<br>not the warm-rock summer<br>but winter's mad crush.

It's coming<br>It's coming<br>the mountains call up<br>from the bottom of the earth<br>through the center of granite<br>like a heartbeat<br>speeding up<br>a hum felt through the ground<br>as if lightning could strike up<br>out of these rocks<br>and catch<br>the sky<br>on fire.

*Kristina Rylands has worked 20 years in Yosemite, first as an environmental educator with the Yosemite Institute and 13 years with the NPS as a writer/editor and park planner. Two years ago she returned to her education roots, becoming the director of NatureBridge (formerly Yosemite Institute). Her poetry has appeared in many journals and most recently in the anthology, Yosemite Poets: A Gathering of This Place.*

# Black Harvest

**By Stephanie Burgess, Big Thicket**

Red-blooded Americans worth their boots have images of cowboys, armadillos and even football at the mention of Texas. But the one thing that always comes to mind is oil. And for good reason. The Great State of Texas entered the oil business in 1901 when prospectors hit a gusher in Beaumont that spewed oil for nine days before it could be controlled. Texans have been in the oil business ever since.

Most people, however, don't associate our national parks with the oil industry. Oil and gas exploration can be a messy business, and that doesn't seem to fit with the serene and protected concept of parks like Grand Canyon, Yellowstone or Big Bend. But Big Thicket National Preserve (and a handful of other NPS units) is a rare exemption within the ranks of the National Park System. For better or for worse, Big Thicket and the oil industry have coexisted since the preserve's creation in 1974.

When Congress passed Big Thicket's enabling legislation on Oct. 11, 1974, they formed a new type of National Park System unit. The national preserve was created to protect sensitive or unique resources while still allowing for consumptive uses. In the case of Big Thicket, these consumptive uses are hunting, fishing, and mineral, oil and gas extraction. To some it may seem like these objectives are in conflict. How can you protect a sensitive natural resource while still allowing for oil and gas exploration? The answer lies in regulation, communication, and above all, mitigation.

Following the creation of national preserves, the NPS wrote regulations to specifically address nonfederal oil and gas operations within its units. The regulations address everything from proof of leasing to waste disposal. Many operators find the requirements to be expensive and cumbersome. It often takes a reminder that Big Thicket is a national park, and should be treated as such, for them to understand the necessity of the requirements. These regulations, however, can't cover every aspect of potential operations, and there tends to be quite a bit of site-specific mitigation required for each proposal.

The most frequent kind of oil and gas activity proposed at Big Thicket is oil and gas extraction using slant, or directional, drilling. Because of Big Thicket's odd shape (the preserve consists of nine larger land units connected by six riparian corridor units), oil and gas entities often propose to access their minerals by starting their drill on nearby private lands and boring under the preserve. These operations may not impact the preserve's more tangible surface features, but their impact to night skies, natural sounds and air quality must still be analyzed. Over years of coordination with these operators, we have developed a number of measures that oil and gas operators can incorporate on neighboring lands to mitigate their impact to Big Thicket's resources. These mitigation measures go above and beyond Texas state regulations and include measures such as using a lined wellpad and creating a sound buffer between noisy compressors and the preserve.

Operators also seek undiscovered mineral reserves by deploying recording equipment, detonating buried explosives in a calculated manner and mapping the resulting vibrations. This technique, called a three-dimensional seismic survey, has the potential to cause extensive environmental impacts if no mitigations are required. With careful mitigation and advanced technology, the impacts to natural and cultural resources can be lessened significantly. In a recent example, a survey that covered 17,411 acres of wetlands within Big Thicket resulted in only 6.6 acres of temporary wetland impact as a result of intense mitigation measures. Avoiding much of the on-ground deployment typically used for 3-D surveys, this effort used helicopters for more than 90 percent of the operations and included strict environmental monitoring.

Mitigation is a powerful tool, but we can't change the past. Although the NPS has the authority to regulate new oil and gas operations, the oil booms at the turn of the century and again in the early 1970s have left more than 200 abandoned sites within the boundary of Big Thicket. These locations range in condition. Some show no sign of previous oil and gas use; others have extensive debris and soil contamination. The operators for these sites are no longer liable for their restoration or have gone out of business. It is now up to the NPS to audit these places, prioritize their reclamation, and request funding to complete any outstanding mitigation measures.

Visitors have mixed reactions to oil and gas activity at Big Thicket. Some will never see oil and gas being harvested from within the preserve; their only knowledge of the industry may be what they glean from a small exhibit in the visitor center. Others may drive past oil and gas operations just outside the park and not realize that they are accessing minerals from beneath the preserve. Locals are often happy to see oil and gas activity, as it is a part of their heritage and their current career. However, there are also visitors who encounter oil and gas extraction and find that it negatively impacts their enjoyment of the resource.

For the park staff and an NPS oil and gas manager, there are no "good guys" or "bad guys." Rather, there is the congressionally mandated mission of the preserve, the need to balance what may appear to some as an unconventional consumptive use — a black harvest — with preserving a chance to hear the call of the black-bellied whistling duck. Mitigation is required, but education is key.

At Big Thicket the black harvest may gush from the ground, but it also includes the sounds of a wetland summer night.

*Stephanie Burgess is manager of the oil and gas program at Big Thicket National Preserve. When she is not working in the preserve, she enjoys playing in Beaumont's co-ed soccer league and trying to make everything on Pinterest.*

**Seized Jordan's salamanders,** *NPS photo*

# A Natural Heist

## The fight to stop poaching of our natural heritage

**By Clay Jordan, Great Smoky Mountains**

Say the word poacher and many people imagine a rough-looking guy with a long rifle taking aim at a large deer or elk with an impressive rack. This is accurate.

On our public lands of the Southern Appalachians, of which the Great Smoky Mountains, Blue Ridge Parkway and Shenandoah comprise more than 400 miles of the mountain chain's rocky backbone, trophy hunting draws more than a few people who commit wildlife crimes on park lands. Motivated by a desire to brag, these are thieves, not sportsmen, who want to be seen in their local newspaper with a buck or a bear bigger than any their neighbors may have bagged.

The drive for a trophy is strong, and if you are willing to cheat to get it, it's possible to find a magnificent animal in a national park where, through their legal protection, some have grown large and bold.

Yet, to characterize all poaching this way would be an oversimplification of the threat illegal harvesting poses to the natural park resources we are mandated to protect. It's not the woodsman from the neighboring hollow who poses the real threat, but rather the businessman from the city. To a tradesman not bound by regulation and personal conservation values, there is much money to be made from products that abound in our parks. As with any profitable venture, money creates the incentive to find the most effective means to go after the commodity you seek. The drive to maximize their haul — and any shortfalls in our ability to curb it — translate to resource degradation.

The list is long of natural plant and animal species of our Southern Appalachian parks that poachers seek for personal financial gain. Most are in a few commercial markets: natural medicinal products, nature-based collectibles and the horticultural industry.

Traditional Asian medicine has been practiced for millennia and now drives a robust international trade — both legal and not — in plant and animal parts. That trade is profoundly felt in our Appalachian parks and other national park sites. Over the centuries, deforestation and overharvesting of dried bear gallbladders, for example, have nearly extirpated the Asian black bear population. The gallbladders are used to treat a number of ailments, and continued demand for this product puts pressure on the American black bear. One successful covert criminal investigation tracked gallbladders from black bears poached from within or near Shenandoah all the way to South Korea. Others were tracked to Chinatowns in numerous American cities. Although the active ingredient found in bear gall bladders has been synthesized in the laboratory, gaining cultural acceptance of this substitute has been largely unsuccessful. The synthetic drug lacks the mystic-like power that many believe comes from a wild black bear. The same is true for wild ginseng.

A trip down the aisle of your local pharmacy will reveal a plethora of botanical products containing ginseng root. This is not the ginseng root being stripped from the mountainsides of Shenandoah, Mammoth Cave or the Smokies. It is an inexpensive, readily available product cultivated on farms. Farm-raised ginseng has uniformly smooth, bulbous-shaped roots that lack the distinctive and irregular gnarly shapes characteristic of wild ginseng, which commands a much higher price in the Asian medicinal trade.

On a trip to San Francisco's Chinatown, I observed wild ginseng sorted in barrels. These roots, with their wrinkled appendages that took on an almost humanoid form, sold for far higher prices than their less shapely counterparts. The market price is driven by cultural beliefs that define the potency of the product.

The business model for marketing bear parts used for medicinals, skins and jewelry, and the scheme for trade in Appalachian medicinal plants such as ginseng, goldenseal, black cohosh and bloodroot is the same. It begins with local mountain men doing the picking or shooting in the woods. Some work alone. Others operate in organized hunting groups and use trained bear dogs equipped with radio tracking collars. They sell to storefront dealers or individual black market buyers, depending on the specific products and the laws that govern their trade. From there the products find their way into complex worldwide trade networks. This is no mom-and-pop operation, but big business.

The best example of a sophisticated business trade model impacting national parks may be the theft of a leafy groundcover. Galax (*galax urceolata*) is found in its greatest density along the crest of the Blue Ridge in North Carolina, largely on parkway lands and other protected areas. Its shiny, leathery leaves make them popular in floral arrangements, particularly in Western Europe. Tradesmen lacking scruples use migrant workers to stuff galax leaves into large duffel bags. Before the leaves have a chance to wilt, they are hauled in refrigerated trucks and flown from western North Carolina to Amsterdam and other ports around the globe, then distributed to retail florists. Systematic efficiency breeds profit, and

such efficient harvesting can quickly denude a mountainside of galax before rangers make the discovery. The numbers are staggering. Blue Ridge rangers have seized up to 18,000 leaves from a single incident and 60,000 leaves in a month. This is but a drop in the bucket. Undisturbed galax populations are now hard to find on NPS lands.

A more domestic but equally scarring threat to southern park resources also comes from the horticultural industry. Forest moss is collected in sheets from logs, rocks and the forest floor, and used to line flower pots, among other decorative applications. Not much is currently known about the impacts to forest ecosystems from this form of theft, but researchers are finding that harvest sites may take a disconcerting 20 years to recover.

Nearly all resources targeted by poachers can be found outside park boundaries and often may even be legally harvested. What draws thieves into parks is simple economics: the denser the product in any given area (like natural areas that have been harvested less), the more money they can make for their effort. As commercially desirable plants, wildlife, minerals, artifacts and more become scarcer outside park boundaries, pressure increases on those same resources within parks.

Most of these threats to park resources are not new in national parks, and rangers have been battling poachers for decades. What is relatively new is the threat posed by collectors of those things found in nature that are rare, beautiful or unusual. In this age of the Internet, a history buff in Athens can now, with just a few clicks of a mouse, collect Civil War uniform buttons. Just as easily, he can purchase an eastern newt for about the price of a movie ticket. While many species of plants or animals being sold are cultivated or raised in captivity, economic incentives exist for collecting from the wild.

In 2009 a ranger stopped a vehicle for speeding in the Smokies only to discover that the operator had more than three dozen live salamanders collected from the park. A search warrant served on his residence in Seattle revealed plenty more of them. He had flown across the country to add Jordan's salamanders (*plethodon jordani*) to his commercial inventory, a species endemic to Great Smoky Mountains National Park that is found nowhere else on the planet. A few salamanders were recovered on this occasion, but it is troubling to speculate how many more we may be losing each year to meet the demand of enthusiasts worldwide.

There is good news. Understanding a problem is the first step to fixing it, and we are learning more every season. Rangers are coming to understand how these criminal enterprises operate. We are not going to be effective in mitigating these threats by simply patrolling for bad guys or staking out a robotic decoy. As an agency positioning itself to address 21st-century resource threats stemming from illegal activity, we are learning to apply new strategies in our protection programs.

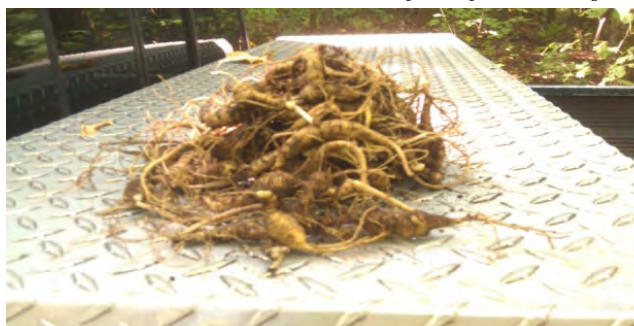
We know that enforcement assets can't operate in isolation, and we must make science-based decisions to prioritize our efforts, with special focus on resources at risk. Our approach needs to include rolling up our sleeves in tandem with our colleagues and applying interdisciplinary tools to mitigate resource threats.

Ultimately, success in our protection programs will be marked by our ability to work with outside conservation agencies and rulemakers to protect resources in decline across their range, not just within painted lines. The challenges we face are as much cultural — both bureaucratic and human — as they are operational. The plants and animals that are our shared heritage blur the lines of our parks, and so must we in our efforts to save them.

Where there is challenge, there also lies opportunity to make a difference, even if it comes one salamander case at a time.

*Clay Jordan is the chief ranger at Great Smoky Mountains. Past positions have included chief ranger at Gulf Islands and deputy chief ranger at Shenandoah.*

**Seized ginseng roots,** *NPS photo*



# Talking with a Mouthful

## Jean Lafitte has six sites in a state famous for its food.

**By Kristy Wallisch, Jean Lafitte**

The hallmark of a really good cook is to take ordinary ingredients — even leftovers — and make them into something extraordinary. When a cook takes leftover rice, a pile of potatoes, or "everything from the pig but the whistle" and turns it into dish that makes visitors smile, you know you've got something special.

When you manage this kind of culinary magic in food-centric Louisiana, you've got the foodways demonstrators of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve.

Because Jean Lafitte has six sites in a state famous for its food and a park mission of preserving significant examples of local natural and cultural resources, foodways demonstrations are the perfect icing on the interpretive cake. Chalmette Battlefield, site of the 1815 Battle of New Orleans, focuses on the campfire cooking that kept troops fed during the War of 1812. The French Quarter Visitor Center in New Orleans highlights the melting pot of cultures that underlay a distinctive local cuisine.

The Prairie Acadian Cultural Center in Eunice shows off the French influences imported by exiled Acadians from Nova Scotia. They incorporate local ingredients and the contributions of other ethnic groups to create Cajun cooking that is now world-renowned.

"It's the smell," said park ranger Claudia Wood at PACC. "When visitors walk into a Saturday afternoon foodways demonstration, those wonderful cooking smells create a special atmosphere and visitors can't help but smile. Most of our visitors are familiar with jambalaya and gumbo, so one of the favorite demonstrations is a dish they may not know about: boudin."

Pronounced *boo-DAN*, Wood explained that it is sausage — but not just any old sausage. "Thrifty Cajun cooks didn't waste anything, so when they butchered a hog, the goal was to use everything," she said. "You take pork, rice, onions and seasoning and put it in a casing

**Frieda Arwe and others make delectable potato pancakes.** *NPS photo*

made from the hog's intestines. Cook it up as is for the perfect Cajun 'fast food' or use it as the basis for dishes from stuffed cabbage and peppers to omelettes."

It's no exaggeration to say that residents of Louisiana's Cajun country and the PACC staff love their boudin. In 2011 the PACC hosted a well-attended traveling exhibit on boudin from the Southern Foodways Alliance; the oral histories from that exhibit and an interactive map are now available to boudin lovers everywhere at *www.southernboudintrail.com*.

"We feature a foodways demonstration almost every Saturday," said Wood, "but it's worth all the work. What could be better? We share local culture, we promote the park mission, and we make a demonstration food that the visitors love. We love making our visitors happy from that first smile when they smell the food cooking to that tasty memory they take home."

It's the smell at Chalmette Battlefield too, reported park ranger Patricia Corral. "One of the goals of the battlefield's living history program is to show visitors what life was like for the troops who fought at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815, so we do campfire cooking," she said. "Between the wood smoke and the stews and the other dishes, we take advantage of those powerful sensory memories that smells create."

Corral added, "Of course, we make basic campfire dishes like stews, but we also try to show off foods that are special to this area and this period of history. The battlefield runs a living history program for local high school students called Recognizing Our Roots, and last year we expanded it to include Choctaw students from three states to represent the Choctaw Indians who fought with the Americans at the battle. They brought in a whole new culinary influence that's been fun to try."

Two of Corral's favorite demonstration dishes are calas and grape dumplings, treats that show off Louisiana's cultural mix. Calas — fried rice fritters usually made from leftover rice — may have arrived in New Orleans with enslaved Africans and soon became a breakfast favorite peddled by vendors in the French Quarter. Area Indians made grape dumplings from wild grapes, incorporating European ingredients like baking powder.

Dedicated foodies probably think they know the story of New Orleans food, but park ranger Jim Van Dorin of Jean Lafitte's French Quarter Visitor Center can still surprise visitors. "Most visitors know about the French, Spanish, African and maybe Italian influences," he said, "but lots of visitors are surprised to hear that Germans were once among the most numerous and influential ethnic groups in New Orleans."

German immigrants started arriving in Louisiana in the 1720s when the area's French governors recruited them to farm the rich delta soils.

"A lot of folks think they're descended from French immigrants because their name is Blanc or La Branche," Van Dorin said. "They do a little research and find out they're German because the French immigration officials changed their family's name from Weiss or Zweig."

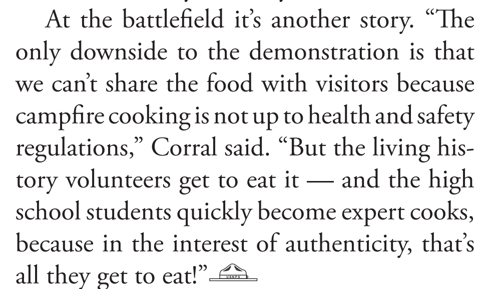
Although demonstrations happen throughout the year, the Christmas season is a favorite time for German cooking. Van Dorin explained, "Since German holiday traditions brought us Christmas trees, candles and many carols, it's a good fit. Our German foodways demonstrators usually make potato pancakes. Take a potato, grate it, mix in some minced onions, fry it, and you've got a good, filling dish. Mix in some seasonings or top it with sour cream or applesauce, and you've got something that visitors will remember. And we always hand out recipes so visitors can take home more than a memory."

Two of the most controversial elements in any culinary adventure are who pays and who eats. Since food is such a critical part of Louisiana culture, funds to buy ingredients and pay demonstrators come from the park's interpretive division budget, with occasional support from the Eastern National Parks and Monuments Association.

Who eats varies from site to site. At the PACC and the French Quarter Visitor Center, demonstrations are done in commercial-grade kitchens under strict health department guidelines so visitors can enjoy samples. If rangers with food safety certifications are not available to oversee demonstrations, demonstrators can cook but no sampling is allowed.

"That's when we have some sad visitors," Van Dorin said. "But most of the time we can share samples, and demonstrators make sure to cook plenty of whatever they're making so we don't turn anyone away."

At the battlefield it's another story. "The only downside to the demonstration is that we can't share the food with visitors because campfire cooking is not up to health and safety regulations," Corral said. "But the living history volunteers get to eat it — and the high school students quickly become expert cooks, because in the interest of authenticity, that's all they get to eat!"



*Kristy Wallisch is a park ranger at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. Her favorite Louisiana food is seafood gumbo, which by popular demand she and her husband always make for their out-of-town guests.*

### Potato Pancakes (Kartoffelphannkuchen)

From *Welcome to German Cooking* by Irmgard Landry, reprinted with permission from the German American Cultural Center, Gretna, Louisiana

5 pounds potatoes
1 large onion
3 whole eggs
1 heaping tablespoon of flour
1 pinch of thyme
1 pinch of marjoram
salt to taste
shortening as needed

Grate potatoes very finely; grate in onion. Mix in eggs, flour and seasonings. Add salt right before frying pancakes.

Put one heavy tablespoon of shortening into 12-inch skillet and fry three pancakes at a time. Two tablespoons of batter make one potato pancake.

Kartoffelpfannkuchen are usually eaten as a meal in itself with canned/stewed fruit or lettuce.

# Famine at the Table

More than 70% of the people sent to Virginia from 1607-24 perished. Famine was rampant, but did cannibalism contribute to this tragedy? Jamestown National Historic Site and Preservation Virginia are working together to accurately solve and interpret the mysteries of 'the starving time.'

**By Bill Warder**
**Jamestown National Historic Site**

Jamestown, Virginia, is the first permanent English settlement in North America. Established in 1607, it's an idyllic site on the north bank of the James River about 60 miles west of the Atlantic Ocean. As you walk the peaceful grounds and view the surrounding landscape and river, you may find yourself thinking what one of the original settlers thought when he first viewed this area: "(the) fair meadows and goodly tall trees, with such fresh waters running through the woods as I was almost ravished at the first sight thereof."

Surely a region this lush, this fertile, this abundant in wildlife was a paradise for those first settlers. Hadn't they been told as much in England, where literature and stories circulated throughout cities, towns and villages describing the Garden of Eden that awaited them in Virginia? Yet, this tranquil vision of a place and time long past has been disrupted by a recent discovery by Jamestown National Historic Site's partner, Preservation Virginia's Jamestown Rediscovery Archaeological Project. Excavating the cellar of one of the earliest buildings located inside the original 1607 James Fort site, archaeologists uncovered the partial remains of a person who in all probability arrived as a settler to the colony in 1609. Dr. William Kelso, director of archaeology for the project, and his colleagues upon further examination of this shattered human skull began to wonder if its battered condition was the result of mortal wounds suffered by this settler during combat, or was this person murdered, or was it possible this was the first tangible evidence found at Jamestown of a settler being cannibalized during "the starving time"?

For those visitors who experience Jamestown today and attend a ranger-guided walking tour, many are surprised to learn that, of the estimated 7,000 people sent to Virginia from 1607 to 1624, approximately 5,000 perished, with 40 percent of them dying within a few weeks or months of their arrival. Recounting these statistics on an interpretive tour can sound impersonal. Sadly, desperation and death are common tales throughout history, but the story of starving time and cannibalism where only 60 of the 300 or more colonists at James Fort survived is not something many visitors expect to encounter during their visit. One way to tell this story is through the haunting voice of survivors.

In a private letter to his nephew, Algernon Percy, the future 10th Earl of Northumberland, George Percy, president of the colony from the fall of 1609 to the spring of 1610, recalled the following experiences:

"Now all of us at James Town beginning to feel that sharp prick of hunger, which no man truly describe but he which hath tasted the bitterness thereof. A world of miseries ensued, as the sequel will express unto you, insomuch that some, to satisfy their hunger, have robbed the store, for the which I caused them to be executed. Then having fed upon horses and other beasts as long as they lasted, we were glad to make shift with vermin, as dogs, cats, rats, and mice. All was fish that came to net to satisfy cruel hunger, as to eat boots, shoes, or any other leather some could come by. And those being spent and devoured, some were enforced to search the woods and to feed upon serpents and snakes and to dig the earth for wild and unknown roots, where many of our men were cut off and slain by the savages. And now famine beginning to look ghastly and pale in every face that nothing was spared to maintain life and to do those things

▲ **These Sidney King paintings depict the starving time. Top left, "Burial of the Dead at Jamestown during Winter 1609-1610"; right, "Starving Time,1609-1610."** *Courtesy of the National Park Service, Colonial National Historical Park, Jamestown Collection*

which seem incredible, as to dig up dead corpse out of graves and to eat them, and some have licked up the blood which hath fallen from their weak fellows. And amongst the rest, this was most lamentable that one of our Colline (colony?) murdered his wife, ripped the child out of her womb and threw it into the river, and after chopped the mother to pieces and salted her for his food. The same not being discovered before he had eaten part thereof, for the which cruel and unhuman fact I adjudged him to be executed, the acknowledgment of the deed being enforced from him by torture, having hung by the thumbs with weights at his feet a quarter of an hour, before he would confess the same. … Many of our men this starving time did run away unto the savages, whom we never heard of after."

Corroborating evidence of these and other starving time tragedies were chronicled in a 1624 document by early planters in the colony, some of whom may have been survivors of the catastrophe. Captain John Smith, who departed the colony prior to "the starving time," recorded in his 1624 book, *The General Historie of Virginia, New-England and the Summer Isles*, that cannibalism occurred at Jamestown. It was based on reports of Jamestown colonists in the wake of the disaster.

Nevertheless, accounts by new Virginia governors, Sir Thomas Gates, succeeded by Lord De La Warr, and Admiral of Virginia, Sir George Somers, all three present at Jamestown in the spring of 1610, either failed to mention cannibalism or, in the case of Sir Thomas Gates, protested that the murdered woman was not killed by her husband to be cannibalized but to save him from having to share food with his wife, as a search of his house ensuing the homicide revealed "a good quantity of meal, oatmeal, beans and peas."

Although it is generally agreed that famine and death stalked the inhabitants of James Fort, these differing primary accounts stirred a debate among some academicians as to whether cannibalism actually happened during "the starving time."

Throughout my 23-year career at Jamestown, starving time cannibalism has always been accepted as fact by the interpretive rangers, although few rangers incorporate that grisly detail in their descriptions of "the starving time" and no tour had or has "the starving time" and cannibalism as its central theme. If asked about cannibalism, interpreters answered visitors' questions by citing the primary sources. But now, the discovery of the mutilated human skull provides the first palpable evidence that cannibalism was a reality during Jamestown's starving time, confirming the accounts of Percy, Smith and the early planters.

Dr. Douglas Owsley, forensic anthropologist and division head for physical anthropology at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, was consulted by Jamestown Rediscovery to conduct a forensic study of the skull, mandible and a partial right tibia bone thought to be of the same person. The findings of Owsley and his team of bone specialists were conclusive: this was a young English woman, approximately 14 years of age when she perished, whose remains exhibited numerous chop and cut marks from various sharp metal instruments — incontrovertible proof of survival cannibalism committed by one or more of her fellow colonists.

Kelso's team had detected Jane's remains (the name given her out of respect) mixed among tens of thousands of discarded items and animal bones buried in an abandoned cellar within the fort. These objects were deposited there in June 1610 in order to "cleanse the town" subsequent to "the starving time." Jane's somber saga is available online at *www.historicjamestowne.org/jane/jane.php*.

National and international news coverage about Jane, cannibalism and "the starving time" has brought inquisitive visitors to Jamestown. It has renewed the question of how the NPS interpretive staff should handle this new development. The decision was made to continue including aspects of "the starving time" in park tours and answer visitors' questions about Jane. However, the grisly specifics are left to the tours and publications presented by Preservation Virgina archaeologists as subject-matter experts to tell Jane's story, particularly the scientific aspects they recently uncovered.

Jane has contributed immensely to our knowledge about "the starving time," allowing us to gain insight into her short life and premature death, and that of her fellow colonists. Everyone associated with Jamestown realizes Jane's story is compelling and heartbreaking. Yet her tragic circumstances allow visitors to more readily personalize her and her fellow colonists' daily struggle to survive horrific conditions while being isolated inside James Fort during the winter of 1609 to 1610.

**Top, archaeologist Mary Anna Richardson works in the field. Second image, forensically reconstructed face of Jane.** *Images courtesy of Preservation Virginia (Historic Jamestowne)*

Ultimately, Jane represents a distinct challenge for interpreters: how do we impart to our visitors Jamestown's past as accurately as is possible, even its tragedies, while maintaining the dignity of those who lived and died here? Those early colonists struggled and died in isolation. Fortunately for Jamestown National Historic Site, we have partners like Preservation Virginia to help us work through our own difficult issues.

*Bill Warder is an interpretive park ranger at Jamestown, part of Colonial National Historical Park, having served at Jamestown since 1991, and a 2002 graduate of Dr. Kelso's Jamestown Rediscovery Archaeology Field School.*

# Staying green while growing gray

**Rose Chilcoat through the years**

## Great Old Broads for Wilderness: You have to admit, it's a catchy and provocative name that raises eyebrows and produces smiles.

**By Chris Shaver**

There are many ways to stay connected to the land and support the conservation mission after hanging up your hat, just as there are ways to enhance that connection while still employed.

Some donate their spare change or time to their favorite conservation or friend's organization, some enjoy sharing their love of the great outdoors with their children and grandchildren, and some relish offering their experience to develop solutions to complex resource protection problems.

Some former or retired NPS employees have found an organization that lets them do all of the above, while having a good time. The Great Old Broads for Wilderness has become a natural and comfortable group for those who are growing gray but want to stay actively green. And, you have to admit, it's a catchy and provocative name that raises eyebrows and produces smiles whenever the affiliation is mentioned.

Rose Chilcoat, now the associate director for Great Old Broads, spent her formative years working at Mesa Verde, Bryce Canyon, Rocky Mountain, Coulee Dam and the Alaska Regional Office. After leaving the NPS to raise her family in Durango, she jumped at the chance to work for Broads when they moved their national headquarters there.

"Bringing my agency knowledge to public land management issues as an advocate, and working with smart, feisty, experienced women, has been an inordinately satisfying way to continue my passion for conserving wild public lands," says Rose.

The Great Old Broads, which welcomes Bro's and "Broads-in-Training" from younger generations, is a national organization with more than 4,500 members. It was founded in 1989 by a group of women who took issue with Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch's assertion that wilderness areas should not be established because the population is aging and "the old people won't be able to access it."

Oh, *really*?!

Well, these spunky women decided that the voice of the elders needed to be heard in the debate. While most of the early members were still very capable of "accessing" wild lands using their own two feet, they advocated for protecting the intrinsic value of wild lands and their value to future generations, as well as the role of wilderness in protecting natural systems and the plant and animal species that depend upon them.

Today, Great Old Broads voices are heard in debates about new wilderness areas, their bodies are active in monitoring and restoring natural wild lands damaged by grazing and off-road travel, and their hearts and minds reach out to children by sharing their passion and knowledge through educational activities.

Much of the work of the Great Old Broads is done through local chapters around the country, called "Broadbands." Chris Shaver, who devoted 23 years to stomping out air pollution, noise pollution and light pollution in parks across the country before retiring from the NPS Air Resources Division, helped organize the Mile High Broadband in Denver and Boulder.

"I spent most of my professional career working in the regulatory arena, trying to reign in polluters. Even when successful, it took decades to resolve legal challenges and install equipment," Chris said. "I knew that when I retired, I wanted to spend time more

attached to the lands I love and doing things that brought about quicker results. The Great Old Broads is a perfect fit."

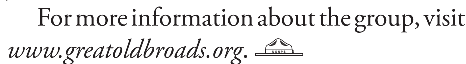
Several NPS family members are active in the Mile High Broadband. Suzy Stutzman, a longtime Broads member, retired this year as lead planner/wilderness coordinator for the NPS Intermountain Region after a lifetime with the agency. New Broad Janet Wise oversaw natural resource programs for the Intermountain Region before she retired.

Sheila Lewis raised her family in eight parks while her husband, Cecil (now deceased) rose through the NPS ranks.

"I spent most of my life close to the land, and I don't intend to lose that connection," Sheila said. "I like to hike. I enjoy the service projects and getting my hands dirty. I'm very comfortable with the Broads. We're kindred spirits."

The Great Old Broads are an anomaly in the environmental activist area. Their elder status and the grace, wisdom and humor they bring to conversations about land conservation attract the public's interest and attention in ways that other groups cannot. And that's just the way they like it.

For more information about the group, visit *www.greatoldbroads.org*.



*Since retiring from the NPS in 2010, Chris Shaver has been hanging out with a bunch of Great Old Broads when she isn't wandering the world in search of adventure and attracting civil unrest. In her spare time, she serves as the president of the Nature Fund for National Parks, a new nonprofit supporting science and natural resource management projects in parks. She lives in the Denver area.*

**Sheila Lewis always brings her "kid" along, son Wayne.**

# A Joyful Thing

## *A conversation with author Lynda V. Mapes*

**By Peter Stekel**

Lynda Mapes, author of *Elwah: A River Reborn*, which documents the removal of two dams within Olympic National Park, began her career in journalism in 1982 with the Spokane Spokesman-Review. She covered the Washington State Legislature and statewide political news.

Her first article about the Elwah River appeared in 1996, and she continued her coverage after moving to the Seattle Times in 1998. The Elwah Valley is the first place the 1981 Oberlin College graduate ever went camping after arriving in the Pacific Northwest. "It's a place I've long visited and long loved. It's incredibly beautiful," she said.

Removing the Elwah River Dam and the Glines Canyon Dam in Olympic have been front and center in the Pacific Northwest since 1992 when Congress passed the Elwah River and Fisheries Restoration Act. "It wasn't until three or four years ago that it finally became clear it actually would happen," Mapes recalled. "The Seattle Times has to own this story. As the newspaper that was cheerleading for the Elwah Dam when it was built in 1910, we needed to be the newspaper that looked at the recovery effort as it occurred 100 years later."

The Times quickly committed to Mapes' vision, not only to cover breaking news in the paper and online, but to build a special project that eventually led to Mapes, photographer Steve Ringman and online producer Genevieve Alvarez winning the American Association for the Advancement of Science 2012 award for online journalism.

"I knew there would never be enough space in the paper for a story as big as the Elwah," said Mapes, so she began saving bits and pieces of narrative, characters and scenes for a book. She saw the Elwah story as having everything: people, history, animals, an astounding future and dramatic past, along with questions still unanswered. For Mapes, "It's the ultimate Northwest story."

So many things stood in the way for so long that advocates of dam removal had doubts it would ever occur. "The Elwah-Klallam Tribe never wanted that dam to happen, of course," she said. "Nobody cared about them, back then. And certainly didn't think about their treaty rights, although they had them."

Primary amongst those rights was the tribe's right to fish for salmon along the Elwah River. The lower dam on the Elwah had been built illegally in 1910, and nothing seemed workable for restoring the river until 1988 when Glines Canyon Dam in Olympic, uppermost of the two dams on the river, came up for relicensing (see sidebar, page 13). This was when the tribe, through their attorney, decided they would not discuss mitigation but would talk about "taking dams down," and especially, "taking these dams down."

Times had changed since the dams were built. The law and regulatory environment had changed too. "Not only was the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission required to look at aspects of power generation from dams but other values too," Mapes said.

Dr. Thomas O'Keefe from the American Whitewater, a national nonprofit group that advocates for rivers and watersheds, explained: "Hydroelectricity is a very important source of energy for our region. It's low carbon and has a lot of benefits. But the law requires that we take those values into consideration relative to other values river systems have." Chief among these values were recreation, wildlife and fish.

Negative inertia still had to be overcome. There was also the sense in the Olympic gateway community of Port Angeles that these dams were "perfectly good dams." Residents, businesses, civic leaders and local politicians wanted to know why the dams should be removed and the river unplugged. Some saw Elwah and Glines Canyon dams as historic and meaningful engineering projects built by their forebears. There was the view that the dams represented "hard-won progress."

As Mapes tells the story, "At the beginning

of this fight you could fit all the people who thought Elwah River dam removal made sense into a Volkswagen bug!" These were a group of people whom Mapes refers, tongue-in-cheek, as "a small rag-tag group of true believers," made up of "Indians, birdwatchers and tree-huggers." Dam removal on this scale had never been done, much less thought of. Even environmentalists thought the idea was "crazy."

As environmental groups looked at dam removal more closely they slowly came on board the project, recognizing it as an good idea. Four groups stand out for their participation: Friends of the Earth, Olympic Park Association, Sierra Club and Audubon Society. They noted that not only was the lower dam illegally built, the upper dam penetrated the heart of Olympic. "They realized they had a case," Mapes said.

The reservoir formed by Glines Canyon Dam was not originally within the park but was engulfed by Olympic when the park was expanded. "I always wondered when I was researching this," Mapes said, "how did anybody miss that when they did that boundary re-draw?" Did they not see a conflict? After all, hunting was allowed in Grand Teton, mining in Joshua Tree and Death Valley, and grazing in Kings Canyon. There's even O'Shaughnessy Dam on the Tuolumne River in Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy Valley, completed in 1923. Why would Glines Canyon Dam matter?

**Glines Canyon Dam, Olympic National Park,** *photo by Peter Stekel*

Mapes said the difference between then and now: "Values change." She sees the Elwah River as an example of how progress is redefined. "There was a certain kind of progress we needed out there in the early 1900s because there was virtually no ability to have an industrial base. Thomas Aldwell, builder of the lower dam, came along and figured out that with cheap power you could crank up a (lumber) mill industry, which supported the town of Port Angeles for the next 50-70 years."

Dam removal on the Elwah River is an important and critical event because "it shows that it's possible," Mapes said. "You can look at the status quo, whatever it is, and you can assess it and decide, what really makes sense?"

Still, Mapes knows that "because it made sense on the Elwah doesn't mean it's going to make sense at Grand Coulee. Each one of these (dam removals) is a cost-benefit calculation. But it shows that if you do that calculation, you can realize you have more options than you may have thought."

Since the Elwah River was first dammed, concepts of wealth have changed. The natural environment is now seen to have more value than it did 100 years ago. Power from the dam removal on the Elwah was easily replaced by power from the Bonneville grid. "We're able to keep the jobs in Port Angeles that the Elwah supported and bring the river back," Mapes said. She sees this as "the best of all worlds."

Reaction to dam removal, especially in Port Angeles, has been mixed. There is still a cadre of people who feel it was unnecessary. They might wonder why we need salmon when you can buy them in the store. People miss the swans that swam on the reservoir's surfaces. They miss boating there too. That feeling isn't going to change. "There's nothing you can tell them that's going to change their mind," Mapes said.

American Whitewater's O'Keefe understands how removing the Elwah's dams created the perception that recreational opportunities would be lost. True, reservoir-based recreation would be gone but entirely new river-based recreation would be created. "It may come down to a value judgement as to what your feelings are about reservoir-based or river-based recreation," O'Keefe said. "But be honest. The opportunities aren't going to disappear. They're going to change."

Mapes said, "There's a cadre of people in Port Angeles who are proud of what they've done and are curious to see where it's all headed."

Removing Elwah and Glines Canyon dams is a cause célèbre throughout the United States. "The Elwah represents that (environmentalism) doesn't all have to be about loss or ecosystems being broken. It can also be about recovery."

What makes the Elwah story so significant when it comes to habitat restoration and recovery is the scale. "This is a gigantic watershed all the way from the mountains to the sea, three-fourths of it already permanently protected and never wrecked," Mapes said. "Take out the dams and you're going to have a naturally functioning ecosystem that is the largest restoration of its type ever in the world." That's not hyperbole. "With one action we will get over 70 miles of habitat back."

What of the future? Time is telling us that Elwah dam removal will not be an isolated event, Mapes said. A third dam in Washington, Condit on the White Salmon River, was taken down in 2011. "These infrastructure projects are time-limited. They fall apart, they cost more and more to maintain, and their benefits are ultimately not what they once were." When that equation starts to tip, things change.

This doesn't mean we should stop being grateful for these projects, stop making use of them, and let them deteriorate due to lack of funding or maintenance. "I don't think we're ever going to see the big dams on the main stem of the Columbia River come out. They're too valuable. They create electricity for the entire western grid," Mapes said. But she doesn't see Glines Canyon, Elwah and Condit as the last dams removed. "More and more of them are going to get old and fall apart and not be worth fixing or relicensing."

Olympic has seen huge benefits from dam removal on the Elwah River. Park visitor numbers are up. Money has been flowing to the park for follow-up research to track restoration efforts. There's nothing but an upside for the park in terms of being a national leader in

stewardship and interpretation.

"This is being watched around the world by all kinds of scientists, students, authors," Mapes said. "It's a chance for them (Olympic) to do what they do best in terms of interpreting the natural world for the public." They have "an incredible opportunity to build scientific literacy of people whose attention is glued on this place."

The story Lynda Mapes tells is not all externalities. There is an internal story, too, because she has remained neither unmoved nor unchanged through her long association with the Elwah River. "For me, it's a hopeful story. For someone who writes about the natural world, so often it's writing about a place that has been ruined, or lost or about to be. This is not that story. This is the story of transformation. It really can happen — politically, ecologically and even personally. It can awaken in you a kind of generosity and a spirit of hope. What a gift!"

As Mapes takes the Elwah story to the public during book readings, she is finding "there is a real hunger for hopeful stories and stories about renewal that are true stories. It has been a joyful thing to be involved with."

In recognition of her work, Mapes was awarded a one-year science writing fellowship at MIT for the 2013-14 academic year.

*An occasional contributor to Ranger, Peter Stekel is the author of Final Flight: The Mystery of a WWII Plane Crash and the Frozen Airmen in the High Sierra.*

**– Peter Stekel's review of *Elwah: A River Reborn* on the next page –**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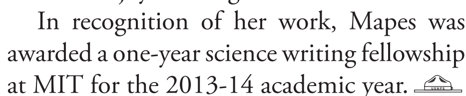


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## FERC Relicensing

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has jurisdiction over interstate electricity sales, wholesale electric rates, hydroelectric licensing, natural gas pricing and oil pipeline rates.

FERC also issues licenses to construct, operate and maintain a nonfederal hydroelectric project that occupies federal public lands or federal reservations located on navigable streams, that use surplus water or water power from a federal government dam, or were constructed after Aug. 26, 1935, on a non-navigable stream that affects the interests of interstate or foreign commerce (including providing power to an interstate power grid).

Dr. Thomas O'Keefe with American Whitewater, a national nonprofit river stewardship organization, said: "As public resources, rivers can't be owned by private industries. A developer may obtain a license from FERC, however, to dam the river for the purpose of hydropower generation."

A FERC license is granted for 30-50 years. The license stipulates how the dams are operated, what minimum water flow levels are required, and what forms of fish passage must be installed. In some cases FERC also stipulates how watershed lands are managed.

O'Keefe added, "As of April 2000, there were 1,005 licenses, and 597 exemptions were overseen by FERC. In the past, FERC's primary goal was promoting hydro dams for a river's power generation potential, often without regard for the dam's environmental impacts. Beginning in 1993, relicensing received greater scrutiny from the public. Since then, 160 licenses affecting 237 dams on 105 rivers have expired, representing over 10 percent of all FERC-licensed dams. Over the next 15 years there will be another 650 dams with expiring licenses."

Because rivers are a public resource, members of organizations such as American Whitewater say it's important during relicensing for all interested parties to have a say in how a dam and a river will be managed for the duration of a FERC license. Relicensing offers once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for local organizations to have an impact on the protection and restoration of rivers adversely affected by hydropower development.

"Changes to project operations can benefit the environment, public recreational opportunities and local economies," says O'Keefe. "Effective hydropower relicensing needs local input, especially among groups that have intimate knowledge of the affected river and watershed. Hydropower relicensing is a clear and effective way to establish a legacy of healthy rivers for future generations."

## We need fresh photos; please share your images

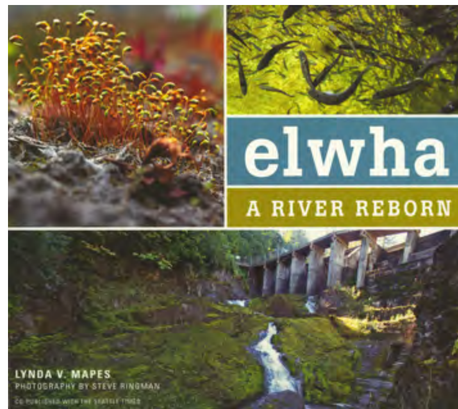
Acadia, NPS photo

It's always nice to rotate photos on ANPR's website: *www.anpr.org*. Besides national park scenics, we're interested in photos of you at your park site. Some of the images, particularly profile pictures, are needed for the cover of ANPR's publication, "Live the Adventure: Join the National Park Service." These should be high-resolution images to allow for print publication.

Email *fordedit@aol.com*. Horizontal format works best for the webpage slideshow, but verticals are fine for other uses.

## In Print

**Elwah: A River Reborn,** Lynda V. Mapes, photography by Steve Ringman. The Mountaineers Books and The Seattle Times, 2013. ISBN 978-1-59485-734-8, 176 pages, 10-by-9-inch format, 125 color photos plus historic images, illustrations and one map. $29.95, paperback




**Reviewed by Peter Stekel**

Throughout 2013 Olympic National Park celebrates its 75th anniversary. A World Heritage Site and International Biosphere Reserve, Olympic was created on June 29, 1938, while Franklin D. Roosevelt was president. The geographically isolated park contains some of our country's greatest ecological variety in its protected 922,651 acres of glacier-capped mountains, wild Pacific coast and old-growth, temperate rain forest.

Until 2011, Olympic was also home to Glines Canyon Dam and its reservoir, Lake Mills, on the Elwah River. Downstream of Glines and outside the park and surrounding national forest is Elwah Dam and Lake Aldwell. How these dams came to be built — and then removed — is the subject of a new book, *Elwah: A River Reborn*, by Seattle Times reporter Lynda V. Mapes.

As the author describes, long before there were dams or a national park on the Olympic Peninsula the region was home to the Klallam tribe. Their villages and camps occupied both sides of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and along the Elwah River from its mouth at the Strait to its headwaters deep within the Olympic Mountains. Like other tribes in the region, salmon was a primary food resource for the Klallam.

One year after construction began on Elwah Dam in 1910, all traces of salmon disappeared upstream of the dam site. Power generation at Elwah Dam began in 1914, and in 1927, Glines Canyon Dam became operational. When Olympic was eventually expanded by nearly 300,000 acres, Glines Canyon Dam became a part of the park.

Beginning in 1986, the Klallam tribe and environmental organizations began petitioning for the two dams' removal to enable restoration of the salmon runs. Within seven years the petition for dam removal garnered Department of the Interior and presidential approval. Nevertheless, opposition to the project delayed removal until 2004 when the city of Port Angeles, the National Park Service and the Lower Elwah Klallam Tribe signed a agreement supporting the removal. Wrangling over funding delayed initiating any actual work for another seven years. As if waiting for the event for over 100 years, in 2012 the first Chinook salmon returned to the Elwah River above the former dam sites.

Documenting this remarkable story, Mapes interviewed engineers, historians, park visitors, biologists, ecologists, limnologists, Elwah and Glines Canyon Dam operators, native plant enthusiasts, Klallam tribal members, policy makers, community activists and local area residents. She spoke to supporters of dam removal, and opponents and detractors.

Within the 176 pages of *Elwah: A River Reborn* are 125 color photos by Steve Ringman. The images are stunning. They both complement the text, giving visual definition to the author's words, but also exist as a completely separate work — creating a rare amalgam of educational resource, travelogue and coffee table book.

*Elwah: A River Reborn* is actually three books in one. Readers will naturally gravitate first to leafing through the book to appreciate Steve Ringman's photographs. Next, go back and read the extensive and elucidating photo captions. With, at last, a deep appreciation and comprehension of the story, delve into the third book by reading the text as Lynda Mapes details the history of the Elwah River and its long hard fight to be free.

If dam removal seems like a step backward in the progress of civilization, consider what Mapes has to say on the subject: "Values change." Nothing demonstrates that better than the Elwah River and its dams. Since the first dam on the river was completed and electrical generation began in 1914, concepts of wealth have also changed. The natural environment is now seen to have more value than it did 100 years ago. Power from the Bonneville grid has easily replaced power generated by the Elwah and Glines Canyon dams. "We're able to keep the jobs in Port Angeles that the Elwah supported and bring the river back," Mapes said. She termed it "the best of all worlds."

These are points reinforced by Thomas O'Keefe, a Ph.D. aquatic ecologist who works as Pacific Northwest stewardship director for American Whitewater, a nonprofit national river advocacy group. "All dams have a finite life span. That life span extends beyond the life span of a generation. People think of dams as permanent features on a landscape because they've been there since before they were born and can persist after their life."

The biggest issue that eventually condemned dams on the Elwah River turned out not to be environmental but a question of economics. Dam removal ultimately came down to a business decision. Though Glines Canyon and Elwah dams were producing power, they were not producing a lot of power. As American Whitewater's O'Keefe says, "Advocates for dam removal were able to demonstrate that the lumber mill (the primary beneficiary of the Elwah's power) could implement efficient improvements at their facility that would make up for the power lost by dam removal."

In *Elwah: A River Reborn*, Mapes amply demonstrates that all political or economic stories about our environment or natural places don't have to document what we've lost — or might lose in the future. The story about Elwah River and its dams is the story of an environmental success. Not only future generations but people of today are now able to see a watershed within one of our largest western national parks running free and unfettered. As Mapes writes, such things occur not because of agencies or political processes but because the "public makes it happen." ❑

A spectacular opportunity now exists for park visitors to see river restoration in person and in real time. The NPS has done an excellent job of interpreting the Elwah River's new story to park visitors. Not only the general public but park rangers the world over owe it to themselves to visit Olympic to see the Elwah River project in action. ❑

*Peter Stekel is author of Final Flight: The Mystery of a WWII Plane Crash and the Frozen Airmen in the High Sierra, and a periodic contributor to Ranger. He lives in Seattle.*

Are you interested in reviewing a book for *Ranger*? Contact editor Teresa Ford to suggest a book title. *fordedit@aol.com*

**The Republic of Nature: An Environmental History of the United States**, Mark Fiege. University of Washington Press, 2012. ISBN 978-0-295-99167-2, 584 pages. $34.95, hardcover

#### Reviewed by Ken Mabery

The "War and Peace" of conservation history! That was my first reaction on receiving this book. Not quite. It is only 584 pages and the last 154 pages are endnotes and references.

An associate professor of history at Colorado State University, Mark Fiege spent close to 15 years almost totally immersed in this project. Quite honestly, to do this book justice one could write an independent review for each chapter.

William Cronon's foreword states: "This is surely among the most important works of environmental history published . . . No one who cares about the American past can afford to ignore what Fiege has to say."

This high praise is based on two primary factors. Fiege's research is comprehensive; things that I would never have considered as part of our conservation history (such as the Salem witch trials) are presented here and made relevant. Second, Fiege is adept in presenting a fresh and simple premise, that the events from our past can't be separated from the environment in which they occurred.

You get a taste of Fiege's writing style just from chapter titles like "Satan in the Land," "Nature's Nobleman," Atomic Sublime" and "It's a Gas." From these you can surmise that the book is not a chronological history. Fiege chose to concentrate on nine topics (chapters), making the case that these set America on its conservation trajectory, and challenging the reader to apply his methods to subjects that he had to leave out of the book, least it become multiple "War and Peace" volumes.

The first paragraph of each chapter is so compelling that you often feel like you are reading a novel, except for the superscript reference numbers for endnotes. Well-documented stories come alive: "The farewells were quick. The mistress said goodbye; the master cursed him one last time. Patsey clung to him, tears streaming down his face." (from "King Cotton" chapter)

This is no ordinary historian's treatise. Do not read this book for another reinterpretation of conservation writers like Thoreau, Olmstead, Carson, Roosevelt, Muir, Leopold or Mills (the latter is not even mentioned). Rather, find the fresh interpretation of events that shaped conservation in America.

For readers of *Ranger*, it is perhaps appropriate to focus for a moment on Fiege's treatment of the National Park Service. Our agency is mentioned at the end of the chapter titled "The Nature of Gettysburg," citing superficial preservation treatment of the battlefield. But, again it is not Fiege's intent to chronicle this nation's attempts at conservation (Department of the Interior, USGS, BLM and Forest Service aren't even mentioned), rather the events that have shaped today's thinking.

He writes: "Almost from the moment the armies withdrew from Gettysburg, Americans sought to commemorate what had happened there. This was the final and perhaps most enduring product of the battle …"

If you follow current debates on preservation of Manhattan Project sites, the world politics of fossil fuels and today's energy needs, or a multicultural look into the roots of conservation in America, read this book.

Philip DeLoria, University of Michigan review says that ". . . this book is better than excellent. It is truly brilliant . . ."

Even if you are not given to hyperbole, this book does make you think in different ways, and it is a good, engaging read. ❑

*Ken Mabery is the superintendent of Scotts Bluff National Monument.*

**To Conserve Unimpaired: The Evolution of the National Park Idea,** Robert B. Keiter. Island Press, 2013. ISBN 1-59726-660-4, 270 pages. $35, paperback

#### Reviewed by Rick Smith

Robert Keiter is the Wallace Stegner professor of law, university distinguished professor and founding director of the Wallace Stegner Center for Land, Resources and the Environment at the University of Utah Law School. He is a prolific author on public lands issues and a frequent writer of articles dealing with the National Park System.

In *To Conserve Unimpaired*, Keiter views the evolution of the national park idea through the prisms of wilderness areas, tourist destinations, classrooms (reminding us of professor Robin Winks), recreational sites, and native and tribal homelands. In each of these issues, Keiter takes us from the origins of our nation's park system, beginning in 1872, and traces the controversies that guided the evolution of the idea until the present.

Here are conclusions he draws from this fascinating scholarly study, incorporating contemporary values and knowledge, "if we wish to pass on these magnificent places to future generation in an unimpaired condition…":

- Science must be incorporated into park resource management policy.
- Effective wildlife management entails maintaining biodiversity at all levels.
- Park wildlife needs and ecological processes transcend park boundaries and require an ecosystem perspective.
- Native Americans have valid treaty-based claims and cultural concerns that must be addressed through more sensitive management.
- More expansive public education efforts are essential to promote popular engagement in nature conservation.
- Nature conservation must be brought closer to where people live and introduced into the urban setting and minority communities.

Looking at this list, it is clear that Keiter has chosen to concentrate his examination on our system's natural parks. Those readers wanting an examination of the evolution of our cultural or historical areas will have to look elsewhere. But there is much here to attract those readers of *Ranger* who are interested in issues such as snowmobiles in Yellowstone, the re-engineering of the Everglades water supply system, the Devil's Tower sacred site "climbing moratorium," tribal and park cooperation on the south unit of Badlands, the rise of science to prominence in park decision-making, the explosion of tourism and recreation following World War II, and the passage of seminal environmental laws (NEPA, the Endangered Species Act, the Wilderness Act) and their effects on park management.

You shouldn't approach this book as a Sunday afternoon read. There are 59 pages of endnotes with legal citations and references to public documents, books, magazine articles and private conversations.

This is a tightly written, well-documented study of 141 years of the evolution of the national park idea. The range of topics that

Keiter covers is amazing. He seems to know a lot about almost every controversy in which the NPS has been involved during those years.

I highly recommend this book to those readers who seek to deepen their understanding of why the National Park System is where it is. While I would not characterize it as an easy read, it certainly is a worthwhile one. ❑

*Rick Smith, a life member and former president of ANPR and the International Ranger Federation, retired from the National Park Service after a 31-year career. His last position was as associate regional director of resources management in the former Southwest Region. He then served as acting superintendent of Yellowstone. He lives in New Mexico and Arizona.*

## **Over the Edge: Death in Grand Canyon**, Michael P. Ghiglieri and Thomas M. Myers. Puma Press, 2012 (2nd edition). ISBN 0984785809, 586 pages. $24.95, paperback

**Reviewed by Maria Abonnel**

I offer two book reviews for *Over the Edge: Death in Grand Canyon*:

1. Safety porn, plus.

2. I'd seen this title repeatedly among the books written by National Park Service employees and featured in the Coalition of NPS Retirees bookstore. Each time I'd dismissed it because of its lurid title and cover illustrations. Don't judge a book by its cover, we're all indoctrinated; yet I did. The paperback's front cover sports a collage of a contemporary scenic photo of the Grand Canyon with rainbow; an historic Kolb photo of a clothed skeletal remains of a man who seems to have died while crawling across the rocks; the all-caps, blazing, fiery-fonted subtitle "Death in Grand Canyon" with an artist's rendering of two planes in midair about to collide with both one another and the blazing word "Death." I feared that the text inside might offer a similar jumble of sensational elements without any deeper, edifying purpose. I feared a string of war stories told in tones of false humility, in which each superficially different story or chapter is simply a reiteration of the Old Testament-style plot-line: "I/we warned them not to do X; they ignored the warning; they died (or almost died); too bad."

So what finally spurred me to pick up *Over the Edge*? Someone else's book review, of course. Before my own first trip to the Grand Canyon, I skimmed through the *Rough Guide to the Grand Canyon*. I quote the review by that book's author, Greg Ward, of *Over the Edge* here in full:

"In their bid to account for the demise of every single person known to have died within the Grand Canyon, the authors transcend the merely morbid to throw fascinating light on every aspect of the canyon's history, and provide masses of useful advice on how to avoid becoming another fatality. The morbid stuff's good too."

I agree with Ward. Still, I'll add my thoughts.

If these pages were just a thorough overview of what is known about how and why people died in the Grand Canyon, *Over the Edge* would be worth reading. Yet, the book is much more than a collection of incident reports organized by type of mishap.

The authors analyze patterns common to fatal events and offer suggestions to preserve lives in the great chasm. Frequently, the book is like a long-running conversation with two rangers who have both broad and deep expertise, and both of whom are consumed with saving future lives. (Neither author is actually a ranger; one is a doctor at Grand Canyon Clinic and the other an anthropologist, experienced river runner and other occupations).

Among many other topics, I picked up a lot about the history and geology of the Grand Canyon, its microclimate, wilderness survival skills, certain medical conditions, administrative history and the phenomenon of flash flooding. I read much of this book on the plane ride home from the Grand Canyon, and I thought to myself that I really ought to have read it before I went. But then again, I'm not sure if knowing all the accounts of hiking incidents would have made me overcautious in hiking the trails.

The authors' writing style is generally refreshingly candid, self-aware, simple and straightforward. At times they veer from objectivity, as when they indulge in satire (Ghiglieri's bathetic depictions of wildly unsafe river runner Georgie, for example; and both authors' characterizations of certain outlaws who feature in some of the adventures). These occasional diversions in tone can provide respite from the overall sense of sadness and loss naturally inherent to the topic. The authors convey clearly that their goal is to provide an accurate, transparent, multiperspective and exhaustive accounting of all known deaths in the Grand Canyon. This book is a service mission for them, and its tone is consistent with that. (There is no trace of the sensationalism I feared from the cover.)

They openly discuss their research techniques and include several examples of reader participation or comments readers have made to them in the interim between their first edition and this one. (On the last page, yet another concise book review by a 9-year-old boy is reproduced in its entirety.) In several places, Myers and Ghiglieri demonstrate how they have gained more nuanced perspectives about events through communicating with readers or experts.

My biggest difficulty with the book is that even at this second printing, the text remains riddled with grammatical, syntactical and stylistic errors. Many of these errors are unrelated and minor (thus simply annoying or briefly confusing). At times, incidents are simply strung together one after another without needed transitional language and analysis to provide readers with a sense of context.

Better editing would smooth out some authorial idiosyncrasies, such as needless repetition of theses in "trying to drive home a point." For example, the chapter discussing suicides in the Grand Canyon and in public places generally is insightful and empathetic. The authors mention (to chilling effect) that some successful suicides have been found to be in possession of the first edition of *Over the Edge* at the time of their self-destruction. Ghiglieri and Myers take pains, here, to emphasize that their purpose is by no means to glorify death or suicide. Part of that effort is to repeatedly assert that suicides are self-centered, narcissistic and inconsiderate. It seems unlikely that such assertions would effectively prevent any potentially suicidal readers from acting. This emphasis on berating the suicides in this way almost overshadows another crucial insight: that some failed suicides report after their attempt that they changed their mind at the last minute.

Because I took the cover art to task, I must mention that I enjoyed and appreciated Kim Besom's chapter heading illustrations after Puebloan rock art. Still, in terms of visual aids, they should have provided other graphics, such as a large map of the entire Grand Canyon area on which to locate the various incidents described, and a good graphic representation of the Colorado River that would put in context the numerous mentions of "River Mile 179" and other river locations.

Overall, this edition of *Over the Edge* edifies, entertains and provides invaluable service. It's provides important safety information for anyone who likes to explore wilderness anywhere; it's also vicarious exploration in the best sense of travel literature. Because the book encompasses

so many kinds of incidents, the lagniappe is its far-ranging discussion of relevant scientific, medical and historical information endemic to the canyon. Hence, "Safety porn, plus."

More rigorous copyediting throughout is needed and would yield a more seamless, coherent and impactful read. ❑

*Maria Abonnel was an English major who worked for several years as an interpretation ranger at Fire Island and Weir Farm. She is currently the website coordinator for the Coalition of NPS Retirees.*

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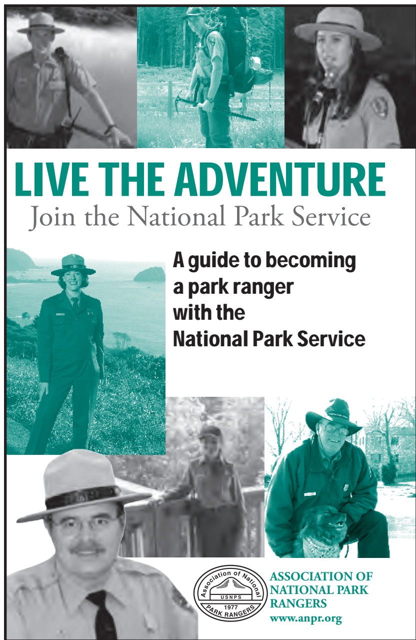


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# The Professional Ranger

## Administration

**Closing the Books on Sequestration** — It is that time of year to be kind to your park's finance folks as they begin the year-end close-out of the fiscal year. September is always a challenging month in the budget world as we close the books on another fiscal year. This year will be most interesting, and it will test our patience and adaptability as we close using the new fiscal program Federal Business Management System. As you may remember, the entire National Park Service migrated to this system in November, and we have been learning it ever since. Now that we have conducted an entire fiscal year in the program, we must learn how to do the closeout. This will certainly be a stressful time for the administrative folks so please look after them.

We can't help but look ahead warily at the next fiscal year. The budget is still uncertain and we will likely be under a continuing resolution beginning Oct. 1. We have survived a fiscal year that reflected the sequestration that hit parks as a mandatory 5.1 percent budget cut from the 2012 level.

Parks have once again been asked to perform a budget planning exercise that introduces the possibility of the NPS obtaining authority to use Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive Payment Authority. To be eligible for VERA, employees must have completed at least 20 years of creditable service and be at least age 50, or have completed at least 25 years of creditable service regardless of age. To be eligible for VSIP, employees must meet specific criteria. Exploring the use of VIRA/VSIP is one new tool that parks can use to plan for a possible higher budget-cut percentage. The NPS is being proactive with this planning exercise to ensure parks are ready to enact another likely budget cut for fiscal year 2014. Big or small, each park is required to submit their plan on how they will operate under another reduced budget while striving to maintain mission-essential activities. Parks will need to be ready to discuss impacts a budget cut will have to their operations.

I can't help but cringe as I look ahead to the next fiscal year. We have a few hurdles ahead, including keeping employee morale up, continuing to learn FBMS, implementing what is likely to be another budget cut, — and I almost forgot, we even have a new travel program being unveiled this fall!

Perhaps we would do well to remember this from Albert Einstein: "In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." ❑

— Michelle Torok, Saguaro and Tumacácori

## Interpretation

*"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."*

— Mark Twain

**(Inter) National Park Service?** — Although the word national is in our agency's name, professional interpreters need to think and act beyond the confines of nationalism. Regardless of what some of our professional colleagues, park visitors and politicians may ignore and often deny, we live today in a globally interconnected society. Complex issues like climate change, endangered species, ocean stewardship, democratic struggle, war, advances in technology, and preservation of humanity's common natural and cultural heritage have no national boundaries. These are all issues common to many national and international park sites and in dire need of "interpretation outside the boundaries." Even the interpretation of the American Civil War has much to offer today's troubled world if we as interpreters thought beyond the nationalistic (flag-waving) approach to interpretation. Honestly, this narrow approach isn't interpretation at all. It's what NPS interpretation legend David Larsen referred to as Interpreganda (interpretation as propaganda), which ignores multiple points of view, oversimplifies facts, attempts to force the audience to see only one perspective.

While on a personal vacation to Sweden, I attended an international conference on interpretation organized by the European Association for Heritage Interpretation (*www.interpret-europe.net*). The conference was packed with 166 passionate interpreters from 40 countries. I was joined at the conference by two professional friends: one an archaeologist and the other a historian. Like me, both just happened to be on personal vacations in Sweden. Together we were the only NPS-affiliated presence at the conference. We were not representing the NPS, only ourselves and

our personal passion for the art and science of interpretation. We met park interpreters from Scotland, Korea, Israel, Austria, Tasmania and other countries. They asked where was the NPS presence? Imagine the building of international goodwill through sharing of ideas if the conference had been packed with official NPS presence. The hard reality is that the NPS is deeply affected by the degenerative state of our country's political and cultural myopia. Walls are built physically and mentally around our national boundaries. With little or no international vision, interpretation easily falls back on simplistic NPS jingoisms like "America's Best Idea" and "Experience Your America" for myopic inspiration. But consider this: "Sweden's Best Idea" (or any other country's best idea) may be better!

The professional interpreter can play a powerful role in overcoming the current myopia by finding personal and professional ways to see beyond boundaries. Look around your park and ask yourself what aspects of your park's interpretive themes have a connection to issues of international significance? Include these connections in your park's personal and nonpersonal interpretive services. Do you have international visitors in your park? Learn to greet them in their own language. Recruit an international volunteer for your park.

Take Mark Twain's advice to heart and travel. Get outside the U.S. and visit another country's national parks or heritage sites. Don't have a passport? Get one. Did you know that only 30 percent (a generous estimate) of the U.S. population holds a passport? Compare this to 70 percent of the population of the U.K with passports. This means that three of five Americans can't even travel to nearby Canada to see their "best idea." Got Banff? Don't sit around your park waiting for the current political myopia to improve. Go on a vacation and attend an international interpretation conference.

Become familiar with the NPS Office of International Affairs. Visit its website at *www.nps.gov/oia*. OIA operates on a tiny budget yet it continues to help our parks think and act outside their boundaries. OIA coordinates the International Volunteers-in-Parks Program, promotes NPS involvement in the World Heritage Site Convention, and develops "Sister Park" relationships between the U.S. and other countries. The OIA's Sister Park Program's motto is "Sharing Lessons Learned from the National Park Idea." Currently, 29 NPS units (including a national battlefield) have sister park relationships. If you work at a NPS unit that has an international sister park, can you name the park and describe its significance? If your park does not have a relationship, could it benefit from one? Is your park a World Heritage Site? If so, promote and interpret the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Convention World Heritage Site program. UNESCO's mission "*seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.*" There are 21 World Heritage Sites in the U.S. Do you know how many of them are administered by the NPS?

As professional interpreters, we must correct our vision to recognize the NPS mission as having the *universal* qualities to preserve our *common* heritage for future generations of *humanity* to enjoy. ❑

— Pete Peterson, Grand Canyon

## Protection

**Nineteen More After 19 Years —** Nineteen years ago, the wildland firefighting community endured an unspeakable loss. On July 6, 1994, nine hotshots, three smokejumpers, and two helitack firefighters were killed in a massive blowup on the South Canyon Fire on Storm King Mountain outside Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

Now, 19 more, all from the same crew — the Granite Mountain Hotshots — are dead after another burnover this past summer. It happened June 30 on the Yarnell Hill Fire outside of Prescott, Arizona.

Capt. Jesse James Steed of the Granite Hotshots wasn't quite 19 when the South Canyon Fire roared up Storm King Mountain. Crew members Kevin J. Woyjeck and Grant Quinn McKee were barely 2. Almost a full generation ago none of them could have known that they and their crew would be inextricably linked with the Storm King Fourteen on the long list of firefighters who've given the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

They're not the first fire fatalities since Storm King. There have been others: two on Idaho's Cramer Fire in 2003, six more on California's Esperanza Fire in 2006, and others peppered throughout the past two decades. In terms of pure numbers, these 19 represent the single worst tragedy since the Big Burn of 1910 swept across the northern Rockies from eastern Washington to western Montana.

The Granite Mountain Hotshots had a wealth of firefighting experience among a healthy mix of seasoned veterans and youthful, strong up-and-comers. As is the case with any Hotshot crew, Granite Mountain was the best of the best, a close-knit band. One simply does not get a coveted slot on such a crew unless he is dialed in solid.

To lose an entire crew, save one survivor, of such high caliber in a single burnover incident is a major blow to the fire service. Even the word "devastating" is an understatement.

The tragedy was painfully evident at the memorial service July 9 in Prescott. Through the magic of YouTube, I viewed every minute of the three-hour ceremony. A firefighter friend of mine, Tim, attended. He's a former Prescott Hotshot, and he went to say farewell to two personal pals, two of the 19.

He described the experience as a thing of beauty and love of friends. It was inspiring to see wildland and structural firefighters filling the auditorium to capacity and spilling into the parking lot. It was heartwrenching too. Representatives from each of the 108 hotshot crews were there. Every member of the Prescott Fire Department was there, made possible because firefighters from neighboring departments provided coverage.

Dozens of honor guards were there, including the National Park Service Fire Honor Guard, showing their respects. As each fallen firefighter's name was read aloud, an honor guardsman tolled a single bell, while other guardsmen presented the families with a bronzed Pulaski and folded flags. Both Arizona and the U.S. Granite Mountain alumni were in the front rows wearing their crew T-shirts. Surviving firefighters from the South Canyon Fire were there, too, remembering their own tragedy. And the families of the fallen were there, all weeping tears of sadness, still in disbelief that their beloved firefighter was gone. Utterly heartbreaking, a sorrow one can't describe.

Some tried to put words to the pain, including dignitaries from every level of government. Vice President Joe Biden attended, and he described the Hotshots as "men of uncommon valor . . . a rare breed." He acknowledged that "no memorial service can fill the void" when loved ones are lost, but he added, ". . . they will live on in the hearts of every firefighter who's ever answered the call."

The presiding pastor asked God in his opening prayer to "bind up the wounds of the brokenhearted." Dan Bates, from a local firefighters association, quoted Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord," when he said that God himself placed the Granite Mountain Hotshots in Prescott as part of a divine plan. He called them "saints placing a guarded hand over Prescott." The governor of Arizona echoed this sentiment, saying

the hotshots were "…in the gentle embrace of God and continue to protect."

Several speakers pointed out the crew's motto: "*Esse quam videri*," which translates: "To be rather than to seem to be." Darrell Willis, the "father" of the Granite Mountain Hotshots, summed it up this way: "These guys were the real deal, right and tight, authentic in their purpose."

It has been said that it's not tragic to die doing what you love. These young men were doing what they loved — fighting fire — but it's tragic that they died doing what they loved while they were young.

I was young when the South Canyon Fire blew up; 25 years old, on a fire crew passing through Glenwood Springs on our way to a different fire. Less than two hours later 14 were dead. The event rocked my world.

Nineteen years later I'm striving to become a division supervisor, and incidents like the Yarnell Hill Fire weigh heavily on my mind. Leading other firefighters into the "breath of the dragon," having their welfare on my shoulders, gives me pause.

Earlier this year I visited the Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Prineville, Oregon, honoring the Storm King Fourteen. I vowed to incorporate what I learned there at my park's wildfire refresher next year, which will mark the 20th anniversary of that tragedy. I also plan to somehow honor the Yarnell Hill Nineteen.

Of all the firefighters at the memorial service, one stood out in particular: Brendan McDonough, the lone survivor from the Yarnell Hill burnover. When introduced, he received a standing ovation that honored him and his crew. It also communicated an overwhelming sense of gratefulness that at least one of the crew was spared to tell their story. He courageously took the podium and honored his crew the best way he knew how: by reciting "The Hot Shot's Prayer:"

"For if this day on the line…
I should answer death's call…
Lord, bless my hot shot crew…
My family, one and all."

He closed with the simplest and purest of messages: "I miss my brothers." ❑

— Kevin Moses
Buffalo National River

# ANPR Actions & News

## ANPR board needs your ideas on fundraising during tight times

The ANPR board is tackling the serious issue of financial stability and fundraising for the association. As every member understands from professional and personal experience, acquiring the necessary finances to adequately sustain lives, work and mission is often fraught with circumstances and conditions beyond individual control and often limited means of support.

The phrase "we survive on the generous backs of our members" is often uttered in regard to the work of ANPR. It is the hallmark of our association — individual members giving from their limited means, through membership dues and individual donations, for the benefit of the whole.

The funding supports important programs and organization business, and without them, ANPR could not print our quarterly journal *Ranger*, fund the oral history project, conduct an annual professional conference with associated training, materially support programs associated with the work of the International Ranger Federation, or pay for day-to-day business practices. Like our mother agency and sister organizations, the business of ANPR currently operates within a period of belt tightening.

Thus, the ANPR board seeks member involvement, ideas and comments about fundraising concepts and programs. If ANPR is going to survive through periods of financial limitation, it will only be accomplished by calling upon the professional experience and abilities of the entire membership.

The board needs your ideas toward generating funds to operate and perform the work of ANPR. Please forward fundraising ideas directly to any board member. Contact information is posted at *www.anpr.org* and on the back cover of *Ranger*. In turn, the board will pool the ideas and suggestions received for further examination and action.

## National Park Travelers Club seeks ANPR assistance

The National Park Travelers Club invited ANPR president Stacy Allen to speak at its annual convention in July at Corinth, Mississippi. Shiloh National Military Park served as the featured host NPS site. The NPTC is currently comprised of more than 1,000 members, both nationally and internationally, with nearly 150 members attending the annual convention. The presentation concerned the purpose and missions of ANPR and the International Ranger Federation, highlighting the stewardship work and programs each performs for the benefit of the parks, visitors and each other. A related discussion focused on ANPR's plan to host the Eighth World Ranger Congress in 2016.

The mutual interest that NPTC and ANPR hold for the NPS led to discussions on cooperation between the organizations in stewardship support for the parks. The NPTC asked for ANPR member assistance to link the Travelers Club directly to parks. This would include NPTC as a source for volunteers to conduct "sweat equity" service projects for the parks. With members in all 50 states and regions, the NPTC membership could be of considerable assistance to individual parks in need of volunteers for service projects.

"We are a diverse people, from avid backpackers and hikers to windshield tourists, and from cultural sites to natural," said incoming NPTC president Nancy Bandley. "That is our national parks, and that is also our (NPTC) membership."

ANPR members, either currently employed with the NPS or retired, are encouraged to forward Bandley's contact information directly to interested park volunteer coordinators. She can be reached at *nbandley@flash.net*. ❑

**Affordable health insurance**
through ANPR & Transamerica
**www.anpr.org/insurance.htm**

**Professional liability insurance**
discounted from Wright USA
**www.anpr.org/liability.htm**

**Life members:** Please send your email address to Ranger editor Teresa Ford, fordedit@aol.com, to get on ANPR's email list. We send *occasional* emails to update the membership about association business, but we are missing contact information for about 30 percent of life members.

## ANPR Reports

### Kudos List

These people have either given a gift membership to a new member or recruited a new or old member to return to ANPR. Thanks for your membership help.

| | |
|---|---|
| Liam Strain | Teresa Ford |
| Gannon Frain | Kathy Grant |
| Seth Tinkham | Mark Herberger |
| Amelia Bruno | Jin Prugsawan |
| Dick Martin | Jessica Browning |
| Alison Steiner | Matt Blythe |
| Katie Ehler | Sandy Tennyson |
| Michael Matthes | Cindy Purcell |

### ProMotive.com connects you to name-brand discounts

If you're in the market for some new outdoor gear, join ANPR's ProMotive team for deep discounts on many products. The savings could easily pay back the price of your ANPR membership. As long as you continue your ANPR membership you are eligible to remain on the team. It isn't dependent on job status with the National Park Service. Email *fordedit@aol.com* for sign-up details.

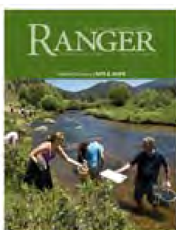
### We need more mentors

See program details at *www.anpr.org/mentoring.htm*. Contact the program coordinators to volunteer as a mentor: Roberta D'Amico, *joro.boise@gmail.com*, and Ken Bigley, *kbigley172@gmail.com.*

### *Shop online & earn money for ANPR*

Link to **iGive** from the ANPR website, then go to your preferred shopping sites. A portion of your sales will go back to ANPR. When you shop at the nearly 700 brand-name online retailers, a percentage automatically goes to ANPR. Give it a try — your support to ANPR is greatly appreciated. Start at *www.anpr.org.*

Give a friend or work colleague an ANPR membership! Details on page 25.



### BBQ in California marks ANPR regional gathering

Nearly 20 ANPR members and their families enjoyed a regional gathering in late July in Three Rivers, Calif., near Sequoia National Park.

Members came from Sequoia and Kings Canyon, Manzanar and the BLM Hollister field office.

President-elect Erika Jostad spoke briefly about ANPR's oral history project and the upcoming World Ranger Congress, which ANPR will host in 2016. She also talked about the value of ANPR's mentoring program.

The gathering included a potluck barbecue and lawn games, and it provided members with a great networking opportunity.

If you want to organize a regional gathering in your area, contact Teresa Ford, *fordedit@aol.com*, for assistance in publicizing the event to nearby ANPR members.

### New insurance options

Insurance plans for identity theft protection and legal access are now available to ANPR members.

The LifeLock Benefit Solutions will protect you against identify theft. The cost starts at $9 monthly for an individual.

The Legal Access Family Plan, for $14.25 a month, provides legal coverage to a member, spouse and children.

Full details and enrollment links are on ANPR's website: *www.anpr.org/other.htm*

The limited-benefits health insurance plan through Transamerica also is detailed on the website. Beginning later this fall further information will be available about new plans resulting from federal health care reform.

ANPR's award-winning 'Lost . . . But Found, Safe and Sound' video

*Available on DVD*

Designed to show children, ages 4-12, what to do if they become lost in remote areas such as parks or forests.

■ ■ ■

DVD: $6 for ANPR members, $10 for others; VHS: $4 for members, $6 for others; also available in CD-ROM PowerPoint presentation; quantity discounts available; credit card payment (Visa/MC) accepted

*Order online at www.anpr.org/lost.htm*

Questions?
Contact ANPR's business office:
25958 Genesee Trail Road, PMB 222
Golden, CO 80401 • ANPRbiz@aol.com

Dan Donovan. © St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission, used with permission

# Come to St. Louis in October for annual Ranger Rendezvous

Logo design by Allison Barnes

Register now for Ranger Rendezvous 36 and "Explore the Possibilities." This annual event is scheduled for Oct. 27-31 at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark in St. Louis, Missouri.

Here are five reasons why you need to visit the ANPR website *(www.anpr.org)* to sign up for the Rendezvous.

1. Experience and explore new perspectives for a changing National Park Service landscape.
2. Speak with NPS leaders and be heard.
3. Participate in professional training.
4. Network with other attendees.
5. Begin to decode the hiring system.

The program includes the familiar with the cutting edge.

Peggy O'Dell, NPS deputy director for operations, will speak about the future of the agency. Her insights should help inform your perspectives about your park site and its operations.

Dr. Gary Machlis, NPS science adviser, will talk about preparing a contemporary version of the 1963 Leopold Report to confront modern challenges in natural and cultural resource management. Join the conversation as we rethink resource stewardship in the national parks.

This year's Rendezvous has a technology twist — Google. If you thought you knew the world's most popular search engine, join us to see and learn about emerging technologies that will help shape the NPS in the future.

Michele Weslander Quaid, Google's chief technology officer and innovation evangelist, has a copy of the director's Call to Action and will show how we can use Google technologies to better serve and protect our parks. Google also will have a team to answer questions about the technology on your computer, and how you can better use it to streamline park communications and manage your day-to-day operations.

Two training courses will be offered — Operational Leadership Facilitator Skills and Mountain Medicine in National Parks. See the online agenda for program details and how to sign up. Both courses are free to participants.

## Hotel, room sharing, raffle, photos

Hotel rooms will run $109 a night for a double. ***Our room block expires after Oct. 4, so reserve a room now at 877-845-7354.*** ANPR will coordinate room and ride sharing to help keep the conference affordable for attendees.

Remember to bring a few items for the raffle, but if you can't attend the Rendezvous, ship your raffle items to the hotel. In addition, bring your best images to enter in the photography contest. See *www.anpr.org* for full details.

## Breakout groups and evening events

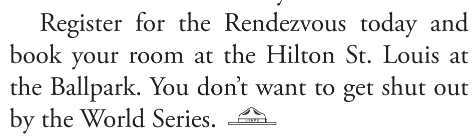
Daily breakout groups and evening events will provide opportunities to develop professionally and personally.

- Hear from WASO representatives and the seasonal recruiting office about hiring processes.
- Learn more about rangering worldwide.
- Join the annual ANPR service project and show your support of the St. Louis community.
- Enjoy the ever-popular NPS film night.
- Get social during evening events — dinner, conversation and ranger trivia games.

The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, site of Gateway Arch, will host several events. The St. Louis area has a rich historical heritage with a diverse culture, superb entertainment venues and good food. Visit *www.explorestlouis.com* for more details.

A final thought: Did you know that the St. Louis Cardinals have the best schedule in Major League Baseball? It's possible that the Rendezvous and the World Series may happen in St. Louis simultaneously.

Register for the Rendezvous today and book your room at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark. You don't want to get shut out by the World Series.



## All in the Family

Send your news to Teresa Ford, *Ranger* editor: *fordedit@aol.com* or 25958 Genesee Trail Road, PMB 222, Golden, CO 80401. You also can send All in the Family news and update contact information at ANPR's website: *www.anpr.org*. Go to **Member Services**.

**Jerry Case — then and now**

ANPR life member **Jerry Case** retired July 29 after 39 years of service. He began his career cleaning toilets seasonally at Lake Powell, and ended it in Montana as superintendent of Bighorn Canyon. In between, it was a marvelous ride that took him from myriad islands (Gulf Islands, Isle Royale, the Big Island of Hawai`i) to southeast Alaska, Washington, Everglades, central California and the Washington Office. He worked in maintenance, interpretation, law enforcement and management.

"I am grateful and appreciative to have had such a rewarding career protecting and enjoying our nation's magnificent national park sites, and to wake up every day for four decades proud of the Park Service mission I helped administer," Jerry said. "I can't imagine working and playing with a more dedicated, inspirational and adventuresome cadre of people.

"Being able to live, work and play in these special places is a privilege not many are able to experience. I feel very lucky to have shared many grand adventures with co-workers and friends."

He loved his career and never aspired to retire. However, his wife and best friend **Shawn** started a job with the Department of State Foreign Service last spring. Jerry is accompanying her — around the world — as part of her new career. Their first post began in August in Lome, Togo, West Africa. He can be reached at *jerrycase@gmail.com*.

**Jim Hummel** retired Dec. 7, 2012, after 35 years of service, the last 13 years as chief ranger and pilot at Voyageurs. He began his NPS career as a seasonal ranger at Great Smoky Mountains, then went to Apostle Islands. After a brief stint with the Army Corps of Engineers at Clark Hill Lake, he accepted a permanent ranger position at Gulf Islands. Five years later he transferred to Bryce Canyon, before moving north to Wrangell-St. Elias where he was able to complete pilot training and begin his dream as a district ranger and pilot in Alaska. After eight years he went to Katmai as chief ranger/pilot. His final move to Voyageurs completed his protection ranger career, and the reward was developing the Midwest Region all-hazard incident management team. Jim, an ANPR life member, and his wife, **Mary**, live in International Falls, Minn. Future plans include continued flying, teaching opportunities at Albright Training Center and DOI water ditching classes, home improvement projects, fishing on Rainy Lake, traveling and short-term mission trips. He can be reached at *jlhummel@icloud.com*. ❑

## Letters

*(continued from inside front cover)*

### Thank you, rangers

While visiting Washington, D.C., in late July, a friend and I encountered a number of park rangers who were so helpful and informative. One especially, a young ranger, worked in the house opposite Ford's Theater where President Lincoln passed away. We think his name was Chris. His patient and kind explanation of those times to two white-haired ladies was exceptional and appreciated.

Please compliment all of of the ranger staff located at all the monuments. They made our visit very special. Thank you.

Mary Reifeiss

## Welcome (or welcome back) to the ANPR family!

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

Kristin Anderson .................Yosemite, CA
Tony Ashdown ...................Elkridge, MD
Zachary Bolick ...........Hendersonville, TN
Jeremy Childs.......................Madison, TN
Rebekah Claussen................ Socorro, NM
Marc Collier.......................... Moose, WY
Rob & Mary Danno..Shepherdstown, WV
Doug Dawson ........................ Kanab, UT
Ken Ferguson ................ Washington, DC
Robert Friend.............. North Branch, MI
Joseph Gallegos .................... El Portal, CA
Geoffrey Havens............. Springfield, MO
Devin Haynes ............ Virginia Beach, VA
Paul Holthouse.................Springdale, UT
Leslie Johnson ................ Three Rivers, CA
Jamie Kennedy .....................Medora, ND
Leigh Lindstrom............. Long Beach, CA
Courtney Mackay.............Springdale, UT
Tyler Martin......................... Rexburg, ID
Gavin McGimpsey .............Idaho Falls, ID
Maureen McLean ..................Ashford WA
Kenneth Minck.................. St. Albans, VT
Justin Monetti ....................Malverne, NY
Bruce & Rosemary Moorhead ..................Port Angeles, WA
Theresa Morringiello ..............Shelton, CT
Jesse Nivolo ........................Litchfield, CT
George Osborne .................Galveston, TX
Darby Robinson ....................Ashland, OR
PJ Ryan .............................Wheaton, MD
Andrew Sexton ..................Sevierville, TN
Joe Sobinovsky ............. Martinsburg, WV
Angela Steffey................ Martinsburg, WV
Hallie Stevens............... Atlantic Beach, FL
Karen Stoeber.................. Edwardsville, IL
Deryl Stone .......................... Fenton, MO
Jennifer Swacina..............Three Rivers, CA
Jim Syvertsen................. Lake Stevens, WA
Tracy Thetford................Three Rivers, CA
Douglas Thompson ..............Capitan, NM
Chris Trotter ... Sequoia National Park, CA
David Weber ..................Washington, DC
Carmedy West..................Bar Harbor, ME
Matthew Whitney ...............Springfield, IL
Peter Winfrey ....................... Torrance, CA

# IRF Update

## World Ranger Day recognized by Prince William

Prince William and Prince Henry showed interest in worldwide ranger and conservation work during a meeting earlier this year attended by IRF President Sean Willmore. This meeting on illegal wildlife trade was held at St. James Palace in the United Kingdom.

Subsequently, Prince William issued and signed a public message in commemoration of World Ranger Day, observed each year on July 31:

"It is my great honour to acknowledge the brave and tireless work of the world's Park Rangers on the frontline of conservation on the occasion of World Ranger Day.

"I am aware from personal experience just how important the work of Park Rangers is: to protect landscapes and species from poaching and illegal logging and forest clearing, to spot bushfires and the early signs of disease, and to encourage visitors to explore some of the world's most stunning areas. Without you, the world would be a very different place.

"Many Park Rangers risk and sometimes lose their lives in their brave efforts to protect our world's most special endangered places and animals. In fact, over 1,000 Park Rangers have paid the ultimate price during the last 10 years. The staggering sacrifice that you and your colleagues have paid underlines just how dangerous – and how critical – your work is. You are the frontline, the thin green line of the planet's critical conservation battle.

"I have been pleased to learn about the work of the International Ranger Federation and the work of charities such as the Thin Green Line to celebrate all you do and to support you and your families and communities. On this World Ranger Day, please know that my thoughts are with you and that I, along withg so many others, are in awe of your selfless brave work – you have my total admiration.

"Happy World Ranger Day."

For other updates on IRF activities, visit the website at *www.internationalrangers.org*.

Travel well. ❑

— Tony Sisto, International Affairs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## Life Century Club Members

Life members who contribute an additional $125 are recognized in the Second Century Club. Third Century membership can be attained by contributing an additional amount to bring your total life membership to $500; Fourth Century membership can be attained by contributing an additional amount to bring your total life membership to $750; Fifth Century to $1,000; and Sixth Century to $1,250 or more.

If you are a life member, consider raising your contribution to the next level.

### 2nd Century Club

Lawrence Belli
Tony Bonanno
Jim Brady
Paul Broyles
Rod Broyles
David Buccello
Patricia Buccello
Robert Butterfield
Michael Caldwell
William Carroll
Cliff Chetwin
Bruce Collins
Bruce Edmonston
A.J. Ferguson
Mitch Fong
Hal Grovert
Dr. Russell Clay Harvey
Larry Henderson
Keith Hoofnagle
James Hummel
Steve Hurd
Craig Johnson
Margaret Johnston
Ron Konklin
Bob Krumenaker
Mary Kimmitt Laxton
Tomie Patrick Lee
John Mangimeli
Colleen Mastrangelo
Jack Morehead
Rick Mossman
Aniceto Olais
Tim Oliverius
Cindy Ott-Jones
Bundy Phillips
Bill Pierce
Tom Richter
Bryan Swift
Mark Tanaka-Sanders
Dale & Judy Thompson
Victor Vieira
Karen Wade
Philip Ward
Kathy Williams
Janice Wobbenhorst
Phil Young

### 3rd Century Club

Erin Broadbent
Dennis Burnett & Ginny Rousseau
Carl Christensen
Kathleen Clossin
Maureen Finnerty
Rebecca Harriett
Steve Holder
Mary Karraker
Dave Lattimore
Dan Moses
Alden Nash
William Quinn
Edward Rizzotto
Teresa Shirakawa
Barry Sullivan
John Townsend

### 4th Century Club

Deanne Adams & Tony Sisto
Vaughn Baker
Jonathan Lewis
Deborah Liggett
Jay Liggett
Scot McElveen
Bruce & Georjean McKeeman
Jean Rodeck
Rick Smith
Nancy Wizner

### 5th Century Club

Rick Erisman
Butch Farabee

### 6th Century Club

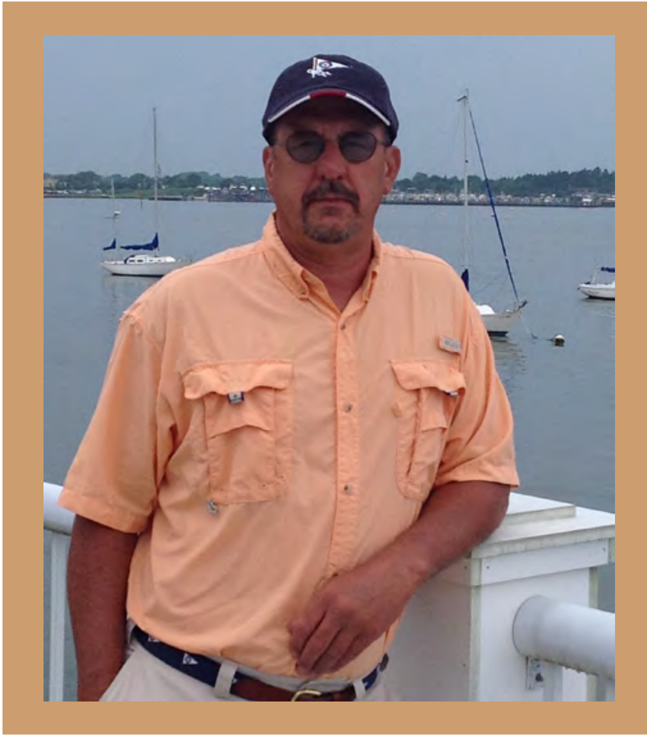
Dick Martin

### 9th Century Club

Wendy Lauritzen
Bill Wade

### 10th Century Club

Stacy Allen



# 'No one really knew what was going to happen'

## Ranger Barry Sullivan: An interview with historian Hannah Nyala West

**ANPR's oral history project** preserves personal memories of shared public events. Interviewed at the Ranger Rendezvous in 2012, Barry Sullivan traced a career that began in 1976 as a seasonal ranger at Edison National Historic Site and ended in 2010 as superintendent of Gateway National Recreation Area. On Sept.11, 2001, he was the deputy superintendent in charge of operations at Fire Island National Seashore in New York City. Join us as we talk.

The plane struck the World Trade Center around a quarter to 10, if I recall correctly. We could see a slight cloud of smoke from Manhattan from where we were — it was a clear day. I had worked at Gateway and was very familiar with New York City. I knew the layouts. I knew what the park police and the park ranger staff had at Gateway and at the Statue of Liberty. I knew what their resources were. I was still in law enforcement at the time, and I knew, because I had been an incident commander in several large events, what they would be going through in those first couple hours.

We had two 41-foot oceangoing patrol boats, actually converted Coast Guard boats, at Fire Island. I called the commander of the U.S. Park Police, who I knew pretty well, and said, "Major, I'm sure you don't even know—no one knows—what's going on, but I would voluntarily send our two 41-foot patrol boats down with a full ranger staff to help protect the Statue of Liberty, if you felt that they would be of benefit." He thanked me profusely, said he wasn't sure what they would do with them, but it would take about an hour and a half for the boats to get there. So by noon that day, I had ordered our boats with a staff of about six on each to New York City, and they were immediately sent to secure the perimeter of the Statue of Liberty.

It was a very interesting day. No one — no one really knew what was going to happen.

Several of the folks from the Long Island area where we lived lost their lives that day. Several [of my children's] friends lost parents that day. It was a very emotional day for Long Island. In the coming weeks and months, we were sending all of our rangers in uniforms to funerals of firefighters and law enforcement. There were so many funerals out there on the same day that there literally weren't enough uniformed people to properly pay respect.

**Nyala West:** How did you see things shift after 9/11?

**Sullivan:** Prior to that event, our protection program was focused on protecting the resource from fire or poaching. We were looking at protecting visitors from a criminal element that might come in. We never looked at the National Park Service as being the potential object of a terrorist attack. When we started to look at the resources of our nation, six of the top 10 targets in the United States were national parks. And we managers started to realize that things had to change particularly quickly.

The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, for example . . . Our previous protection program there was if someone was smoking marijuana out in front, we dealt with it. We weren't thinking about a terrorist car bomb coming into the Liberty Bell and trying to blow the Liberty Bell up. We weren't prepared for it. So we started to look at ways to defend these iconic sites. The Statue of Liberty was shut down, for example, till we could figure out a strategy.

We started to look at Gateway National Recreation Area vis-à-vis New York City. How could we use park resources for emergency response? Floyd Bennett Field was used as a Red Cross shelter for emergency response helicopters, for instance. We started to work with the New York City Office of Emergency Management to [understand] how park assets could augment New York City in the event of any future attacks.

So 9/11 really did have a profound effect. We started to look at the protection responsibility of the Park Service in a much broader, much bigger way than we had prior to that day.

*Barry T. Sullivan is retired and lives in New Jersey. Hannah Nyala West is a historian, ethnographer, and consultant for oral history and tribal oral traditions projects. She teaches at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point.*

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**The oral history project** is financed by the Rick Gale Memorial Fund. Many remember Rick, one of the founders of ANPR and a long-serving president, as a moving force of the organization. With his passing in 2009, ANPR established a memorial fund, which his family and the board agreed to use for the oral history project. The audio recordings and transcriptions will be archived at the Harpers Ferry Center in West Virginia.

You can continue Rick's legacy with a tax-deductible donation. This will help pay for transcription services for these important interviews. Please visit *www.anpr.org/donate.htm.*

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION — Association of National Park Rangers

❑ New Member(s) ❑ Renewing Member(s) Date ______________

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

Name(s) ____________________________________ 4-letter code of park / office where you work ___ ___ ___ ___

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

Address ______________________________________________ Home phone _________________________

City ______________________ State _______ Zip+4 __________ Personal e-mail address ____________________________________________

***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.***

## Type of Membership (check one)

NOTE: The annual membership renewal notification is each fall with an annual membership period of Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Membership for those who join Oct. 1 or after will last the entire next year.

### Active Members

*current & former NPS employees or volunteers*

| | Individual | Joint |
|---|---|---|
| • Seasonal/Intern/Volunteer | ❑ $45 | ❑ $85 |
| • Permanent or Retiree | ❑ $75 | ❑ $145 |

### Associate Members

*not an NPS employee or representative of another organization*

- Sustaining ❑ $70
- Full-time Student ❑ $45

### Life Members (lump sum payment)

| ACTIVE (all NPS employees/retirees) | | ASSOCIATE (other than NPS employees) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Individual ❑ | $2,500 | Individual ❑ | $2,500 |
| Joint ❑ | $3,000 | Joint ❑ | $3,000 |

**OR** life payments made be made in three installments over a three-year period. Rates are $850 per year for individual or $1,025 for joint. If full payment isn't received by the third installment due date, the amount paid shall be applied at the current annual membership rates until exhausted. At that point the membership will be lapsed. Check here if you want to make payments in three installments _______.

### Gift Membership

❑ $35 (please gift only a new member other than yourself, one year only)

Name of person giving gift __________________________________

### Library / Associate Organization Membership

(two copies of each issue of *Ranger* sent quarterly) ❑ $100

**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!**

❑ $10 ❑ $25 ❑ $50 ❑ $100 ❑ Other ______

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** __________

*Membership dues in excess of $45 a year may be tax deductible. Consult your tax adviser.*

**Payment by Visa or MasterCard accepted:**

Visa ______ MasterCard ______

Card # ____________________________________

Expiration date ___________

Name on Account________________________

Signature _______________________________

Please mark your job discipline:

____ Protection
____ Interpretation
____ Administration
____ Resources
____ Maintenance
____ Concessions
____ Park Partner
____ Other – list: _____________________

### Special Supporters

Contact the president or fundraising board member for details on special donations. Check the website at *www.anpr.org/donate-ack.htm*

**Return membership form and check payable to ANPR to:**

**Association of National Park Rangers**
**25958 Genesee Trail Road, PMB 222**
**Golden, CO 80401**

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## Share your news with others!

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

**Send news to:**
Teresa Ford, Editor
*fordedit@aol.com* or
25958 Genesee Trail Road, PMB 222
Golden, CO 80401
or visit ANPR's website: *www.anpr.org* and go to **Member Services** page

Name ______________________________________________

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

*New* Position (title and area) ______________________________________________

Old Position (title and area) ______________________________________________

Address/phone number (optional — provide if you want it listed in *Ranger*)______________________________

Other information ______________________________________________

Association of National Park Rangers
25958 Genesee Trail Road, PMB 222
Golden, CO 80401

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# Directory of ANPR Board Members, Task Group Leaders & Staff

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www.anpr.org
www.facebook.com/parkrangers

News, features,
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*Strategic Planning*
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