The Journal of the Association of National Park Rangers

RANGER

Stewards for parks, visitors & each other

Vol. 32, No. 4 | Fall 2016

FIRE IN THE PARKS

CONTENTS Fall 2016

Cover: Aerial photograph of the 2015 Rough Fire at Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks in California. Photo by Rita Lovato Baysinger

In this issue:

The NPS has celebrated the Centennial across the land, and, in turn, *Ranger* has celebrated how far we've come as well as peered into the future. In this issue, we explore topics from dark sky interpretation, to the impact of a massive wildfire, an analysis of undergraduate education, and an entrepreneurial approach to helping park guides in Nicaragua.

Our cover story provides an inside view of an evacuation of Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks last year when the area park was overcome by fire.

In "Malheur 101: Interpreting public land takeovers," we talk to NPS professionals and a reporter about events on public lands in Oregon, Alaska and Arizona, and the politics of "state's rights."

Especially inspiring is the ANPR Oral History interview with Deanne Adams, who has been on the forefront of the international ranger profession.

Perhaps one of the most poignant articles is "Leaving with a kind heart" by Jackie Gonzales, who writes: "Comprehending the injustice [of Manzanar internment camp] is something that even adults have a hard time with. How do you get a 6-year-old ... to understand this was wrong, but not feel thrust into despair?"

Our goal is to cover a variety of topics from different perspectives and publish more articles about professional subjects and discourse. Although rangers together are dedicated to the unified mission of the NPS, each person has a unique voice. We encourage more of you — particularly rangers beyond the American West — to become *Ranger* writers and share your stories with fellow ANPR members. We are especially interested in receiving article ideas from rangers in new parks, cultural and historical parks, urban parks and parks in the Midwest, East and South.

If we could tap into additional advertiser support, we could publish even more information. Please let us know if you can suggest an advertiser or a Ranger Rendezvous exhibitor to ANPR.

We are forever grateful to our advertisers and to our Association of National Park Rangers members, who continue to express their support for a full-size magazine.

— Ann Dee Allen, *Ranger* editor

RANGER

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

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

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

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FINAL DEADLINES

Spring issue ..... Jan. 31
Summer issue ..... April 30
Fall issue ..... July 31
Winter issue ..... Nov. 15

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Finding success in leadership

Erika Jostad, Denali National Park and Preserve, President ANPR

A conference session at Ranger Rendezvous in 2015. Ranger *photo*

Greetings, friends, from the far north. As I come to a close of my term as president of the Association of National Park Rangers this December, I reflect on our organization's achievements over the past several years. We have much to celebrate and I am optimistic about what can be accomplished in our next chapter. I want to encourage you to step up and be an active part of ANPR's future.

Four years ago our organization's expenses exceeded income — some years in excess of $10,000. ANPR's financial picture is fairly simple. We generate income largely from the annual Ranger Rendezvous, membership dues and annual giving. Our expenses are the annual Ranger Rendezvous, production and publication of Ranger magazine, and salary for a part-time business manager.

In the intervening years we have retooled our business model to incorporate web-based membership management that is economical and provides more features than we were able to offer independently. Your board of directors has paid close attention to the details of hotel contracts and Rendezvous expenses, enabling ANPR to host productive and financially sustainable events.

Without adding expenses we hired a new editor for Ranger magazine and regularly work with a contract graphic designer, expanding our staff so that when there is turnover, we have greater resiliency.

Throughout this time, you, our members, continued to support our organization with your time and generosity through membership dues, annual giving and participation in programs like mentoring and oral history. These programs have been hugely successful, connecting members within the organization, across professional disciplines and to the National Park Service as we celebrate 100 years of service.

During this time we advocated for NPS seasonal employees to receive both health benefits and the ability to compete for merit promotion positions under the passage of the Land Management Workforce Flexibility Act.

We just hosted the largest, most successful event in ANPR's history, the 8th World Ranger Congress. We welcomed rangers from more than 60 nations to the U.S. to share common goals and plans for collaboration on behalf of the International Ranger Federation. We are poised to continue to take a leadership role in international ranger work into the future. This event further shored up ANPR's financial stability.

As we move into the Association's 40th anniversary year, I am delighted to have been part of these achievements and am confident that ANPR has new initiatives and accomplishments ahead. It is time for me to pass the torch to new leadership. I encourage you to enter the fray and become a leader in ANPR by bringing an important issue forward, serving as a board member and/or volunteering your time as a mentor. We pass on to you a stable organization that can be taken to its next success with your active participation.

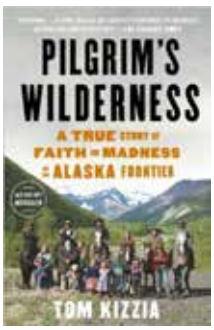
Send us your ideas and stories for *Ranger*

Please send your feature article ideas to kendellthompson@gmail.com. Please send letters to the editor, completed announcements, photos and captions for All in the Family and all items for ANPR Actions & News, ANPR Reports and book review ideas to *Ranger* Editor Ann Dee Allen at rangermag.editor@gmail.com.

Send fully completed content for these departments for the winter issue by November 15. Questions? Kindly email or call Ann at (414) 778-0026 Central time.

Malheur 101:

Rob Arnberger
Marcia Blaszak
Tom Kizzia
Hunter Sharp



▲ *Malheur Visitor Center and 1995 Grand Canyon National Park protesters. NPS photo*

Interpreting public land takeovers

By Kendell Thompson, Lincoln Boyhood

The National Park Service has celebrated its Centennial. At *Ranger* magazine, we have marked this auspicious anniversary throughout the year. We've also started to look to Centennial 2116.

In *Ranger's* continuing series about the future of the NPS, we asked another group of deep thinkers to take a look at the issues surrounding the crossroads of public and private lands. We wanted to know how these observers view events like the 2016 siege at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and what events like these might mean for the NPS.

Sign at Malheur refuge.

Malheur takeover protesters in Portland, Oregon. Reed Andrews photo

1995 National Guard at Grand Canyon. NPS photo

The Malheur incident began when an armed group of private militia members took over the headquarters of the 188,000-acre U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge in Harney County, Oregon. For 41 days, the group demanded that the U.S. government relinquish rights to the refuge. The last of the militants surrendered on February 11, after two of the men were shot by law enforcement officers and one died.

Somewhat similarly, in 2003 a local family that took the name Pilgrim engaged in a standoff with the National Park Service at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve in Alaska. Tom Kizzia, an Alaskan journalist and author of *Pilgrim's Wilderness, a True Story of Faith and Madness on the Alaska Frontier*, said the Pilgrims were, at least in part, NPS inholders.

"The town was sympathetic to the rights of inholders, but later turned against the Pilgrims when they squatted on private land in town, a staging area where they lived much of the time, and wouldn't move," Kizzia said. The legal dispute was nuanced and "turned on the specific rules that were being written to cover the new national parks in Alaska, where the NPS was supposed to grant access and not buy out unwilling inholders," he said.

Whereas the siege at Malheur in Oregon was ostensibly a political protest against the federal land manager, in Alaska the Pilgrims maintained that they hardly knew what the NPS was when they decided to bulldoze a new road to their enclave. Where their story may be similar to Malheur is the ambiguous support they received from the local townsfolk in McCarthy. Like the residents of Burns, Oregon, some Alaskan locals may have felt a general kinship with their dislike of federal land management practices, but most in the town became unhappy with the family's tactics and the negative attention their actions engendered.

The Malheur occupation was big news, but it was not necessarily new. Rob Arnberger, former NPS Alaska regional director and Grand Canyon National Park superintendent for 1994-2000, has a unique perspective on how the takeover fits in with similar events and what it could mean for the future. During his tenure in the NPS, Arnberger faced not just the Pilgrim family at Wrangell-St. Elias but also the Arizona governor and National Guard troops intent on taking Grand Canyon National Park under state control during a U.S. government shutdown.

At Malheur, Arnberger said, the militants wanted a public forum for their demand that the refuge be turned back over to the state to run, since the state would theoretically have a better connection to the ranchers and people of the West and would therefore be better stewards. But the refuge was not on state land.

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We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope.

—Wallace Stegner, 1960 letter to David E. Pesonen at the University of California-Berkeley Wildland Research Center

1995 Grand Canyon standoff. NPS photo

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Somewhat similarly, during the 1995 U.S. government shutdown, Arizona Gov. Fife Symington thought the state could better run the Grand Canyon. He told the House Resources Committee: "When God gave us the Grand Canyon, I don't think he ever intended for the lawyers to rope it off and secret it away... . In our view, the decision to close the parks was a good sign of the need to transfer responsibility for important matters closer to home."

The Malheur militants acted out of cynicism and anarchy, whereas the Arizona governor demonstrated a political private vs. public land schism that has been around for more than150 years.

Arnberger told *National Parks Traveler's* Kurt Repanshek, "The last time a state attempted [a takeover of federal land] was in 1861 and was the proximate cause of the Civil War. This last sentence was stated in just that manner to the governor when I met him and his troops at the gate of Grand Canyon National Park."

In contrast, the Alaska Pilgrim family was trying to stay off the grid and out of the limelight. Like the Malheur radicals, they had a basic anti-government stance but they didn't want to transfer federal authority to the state. They were concerned with individual rights and wanted the government to simply leave them alone.

Marcia Blaszak, who took over as Alaska regional director following Arnberger, said she would not exactly describe the Wrangell-St. Elias Pilgrims as squatters. They were squatters, but not on NPS land, she said, although a number of their buildings crossed onto NPS property.

"The Pilgrim issues were convoluted to say the least," she said. "They decided to pick their own access route without the benefit of seeking permission ... and constructed a number of buildings that crossed onto NPS property."

The Pilgrim standoff had echoes of the larger issue of federal land ownership. Hunter Sharp, chief ranger at Wrangell-St. Elias at the time of the standoff, believes it was an extension of the earlier "Sagebrush" rebellion fostered by Secretary of the Interior James Watt. In the mid-1980s, Watt opened some federal lands to homesteading, including some lands adjacent to Wrangell St.-Elias.

"Robert Hale (Papa Pilgrim) was much more interested in having his own kingdom to rule and the ability to continue to control the lives of his family," Sharp said. "He was supported by 'land rights' advocates who hired his lawyer and supported his court case against the NPS. I believe that it was a case of the two groups using each other for publicity."

The Sagebrush rebellion and the Watt-era homesteading are premised on the concept that federal lands will be better used by private citizens. "But then those lands will no longer belong to the general public and it will not be long before the general public will not be welcome on those lands," Sharp said.

In *Good Magazine*, Terry Tempest Williams told Jennifer White that she was reminded we are still a divided nation when a Confederate reenactor at Gettysburg National Military Park told her the Civil War was not about slavery, it was about state's rights and the federal government "getting in our way." Williams said 150-year-old rhetoric like this was behind the siege at Malheur.

Connecting current events with the future, Kizzia said, "I do expect that the loud efforts by prominent politicians to delegitimize the federal government will encourage more such actions, especially in the West."

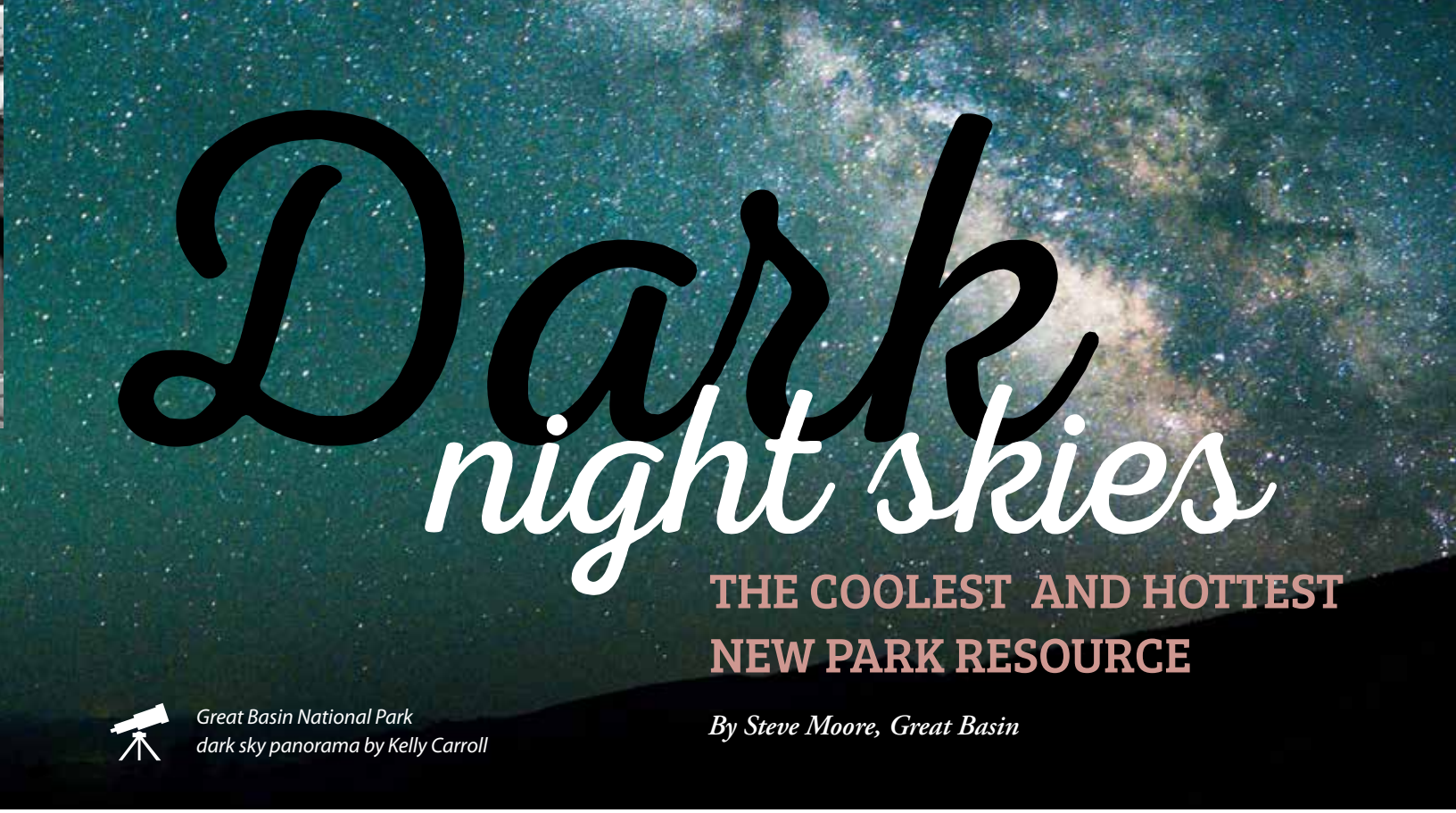
Arnberger noted that the ideological schism represented in environmental issues appears to get little or negative attention in the current national election. The party platforms range from aggressive, Bundy-style approaches to benign neglect.

In a recent speech at the National Press Club, NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis said the idea that public lands would be better managed by the states may derive from a more general attitude among some Americans that "nothing in government is good," even though that sentiment doesn't square with people's experiences with national parks. Jarvis pointed out the history of federal land management agency development and how, despite varying missions, the agencies are focused on the national good. He noted that many state park systems are struggling financially and that public land is "being well managed and is best managed by the federal government."

Some might say that Jarvis's words fall far from the Malheur militants' perspective. But as Williams told *Good Magazine*: Subversive actions make "brave and courageous men and women" want to protect our magnificent landscapes for the greater good.

We have accomplished much in 100 years as the NPS has settled into an established bureau. But we may have to get radical in the years ahead. As we brush off the Centennial cake crumbs, we need to start looking for new ingredients to bake into the cake for 2116. The next one will probably be spicy.

Kendell Thompson is editorial adviser for Ranger *magazine and superintendent at Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in Lincoln City, Indiana.*



Dark night skies

THE COOLEST AND HOTTEST NEW PARK RESOURCE

Great Basin National Park dark sky panorama by Kelly Carroll

By Steve Moore, Great Basin

Check the activities page of almost any National Park Service unit not embedded in an urban area and there is likely to be at least a few night sky events. Astronomy in national parks has caught on like wildfire!

There may be many reasons for this, but two are worth mentioning. First, the majority of people are losing access to dark night skies in much of the nation. For example, far less than half the total population has ever seen the Milky Way. Our city and suburban landscape is simply too bright. Second, national parks, the key sanctuaries of our nation's natural and cultural treasures, are now among the last sanctuaries of a natural nightscape.

Looking deeply, these shared characteristics go well together. The parks and their treasures, including primeval night skies, are by design and intent what our cities and suburbia are not. But there was a time when the wonders of the night skies were around me almost everywhere, even in the cities and towns where I lived.

In only a few generations we are progressively stripping that experience away from daily life. So is it any wonder that dark skies are becoming a primary attraction that our park visitors not only enjoy, but actively seek?

SPOTLIGHT ON NIGHT SKIES

The NPS and other related agencies and organizations now formally recognize the value of this not-so-new resource and are incorporating the preservation and interpretation of dark night skies into their planning and public programming. Every park has its own story as to how this came about, and I will share that of my park here.

Many interpretive achievements are not the result of a dictate from higher authority; they come from the passion and persuasion of individuals who ultimately develop programs that become institutionalized. The astronomy program at Great Basin National Park in eastern Nevada came from such a beginning. It began in about 2010 with individual rangers and guides who brought their knowledge and love of observational astronomy and interpretation to the park, and elected to give presentations at their regularly scheduled evening programs.

I'm proud to have been one of those rangers and I also credit Roberta Moore (now retired) and Kelly Carroll (now at War in the Pacific National Historical Park in Guam) for starting our night sky programs. We had little or no equipment at first and often used our personal telescopes for the programs. Others who contributed are Carolyn Hunt, Annie Gilliland, Steph Campbell and Justin Griggs. The volunteers who also made this program such a success are simply far too numerous to list.

POPULARITY INCREASES

The numbers of people coming to our night sky programs increased quickly and dramatically. Carroll observed the heightened public interest, and immediately went to work to expand the astronomy programs. Securing supervisorial and managerial support, he had a regular schedule in place in 2011 with two nights per week during the summer.

By 2012, we had grown the program to three nights per week, and added an additional "dark ranger" to the team.

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Great Basin National Park dark sky time-release by Kelly Carroll

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We have remained at that level since. Moreover, attendance at astronomy programs has leaped, especially during the summer.

It's not unusual to have well over 100 visitors on warm clear summer nights, sometimes close to 200. These numbers must be viewed in the light that Great Basin averages only about 100,000 visitors per year and is comparatively remote.

The Great Basin Foundation, a nonprofit fundraising organization, has furthered our efforts with the purchase of two Celestron 11-inch go-to telescopes, along

How to enhance your park's dark sky visitor access

By Steve Moore

Parks can send a message and set an example with light management, just as we set an example with energy use, recycling and our preservation principles.

No park is an island. We are entities in the larger community, region, state and world. But even if our park is near a city, we can take steps both small and large to control the output of unneeded, unwanted and even deleterious light.

We have developed laws, procedures and policies to protect and manage plants, wildlife and cultural resources. We can make the same commitment regarding light pollution. In fact, recognition is increasing that excess light harms plant life, wildlife and even human health. But that's a subject for another article.

Details of the problems of light pollution and the technological tools available to control it can be found on the website of the International Dark Skies Association at **www.darksky.org**.

One simple step to take is to turn off lights when they are not needed and light them only when necessary. Examples are lights on buildings that shine in unused areas. At Great Basin National Park, we no longer illuminate the back Visitor Center patio or the cave entrance. Park residents are encouraged to cut down on lighting, as well.

Another step is to retrofit lights, especially in public use areas, to direct the illumination only where it is needed. Light that radiates beyond its intended target is glare. Ironically, glare actually makes viewing areas for security purposes more difficult. Full shielding is more effective, and uses less wattage as well, thus saving energy and money.

Recently, resident porch lamps at Great Basin have been reconfigured with full cutoff fixtures. Also, the Lehman Caves Visitor Center front lights have been converted to red in color, which enhances dark sky preservation and viewing.

Let the sky speak for you

Parks can send a message and set an example with light management, just as we set an example with energy use, recycling and our preservation principles. In our literature, media and programs we can emphasize our nightscape, what we are doing to enhance it and what visitors can do to help us. This builds awareness that visitors take with them as they return to their communities — which ultimately may translate into appreciation for the value of a natural nightscape and into collective action that may enhance dark skies on a much larger scale.

Back to the "no island" concept, we also work with our own local communities. Great Basin is fortunate to be situated in a sparsely developed region, but the communities in our neighborhood are fully aware of our dark sky qualities and that they are a significant attraction for visitors. The subject of dark sky enhancement is frequently on the agenda in community discussions. Steps have been and are being taken by our local neighbors to reduce their light footprint, even though it is small to begin with.

And then there is interpretation. No matter where a park is situated, astronomy can still be conducted. John Dobson and his sidewalk astronomers thrilled people with telescopic sights on the streets of San Francisco. In every park I have worked since 1988, I have participated with or started a night sky program. And every one has become the first or second most popular attraction in visitation numbers for interpretive programs.

This is about more than attracting visitors, though that's important. It's also contributing to a larger goal of preserving dark skies as a resource, not just within a park, but for the planet.

with much-needed support equipment and even a secure trailer to house them.

The programs at Great Basin are not star parties. While the telescopes give thousands of visitors each year their first glimpse of Saturn's gossamer rings, the moon's stunning mountain landscape or the ghostly gaseous shell of a dying star, they visually support our real message of awakening the visitors to their heritage of a skyscape that can still be captured. All programs begin with a skilled interpretive presentation covering one or more of a variety of relevant topics, and also include a conservation message of night sky preservation within the parks and beyond.

EXPANDING THE VISION

The park staff, and especially Carroll, kept enhancing the program. At the same time that we were institutionalizing the astronomy program, we were also establishing special events. The signature event is the annual Astronomy Festival, now in September, featuring music, talks, workshops, keynote speeches, children's activities and nightly viewings hosted by amateur astronomers from far and wide. We also partner with the local Nevada Northern Railway for a series of "Star Trains" that have onboard astronomy-related entertainment and a midway stop to view the heavens. Great Basin NP is also getting increasing requests from the neighboring communities and entities to bring our programs to them as a road show.

The park is proud of two recent major achievements. In early May 2016 we were awarded status as an International Dark Sky Park, gold tier, by the International Dark Sky Association! This is a prestigious certification that involves not only the possession of truly primeval skies, but a well-defined commitment and collaboration to preserve, interpret and promote dark skies.

The second achievement recently crested the horizon. Again with the support of the Great Basin Foundation, several major and minor donors, and commitments from several colleges and universities, the park built a research-grade observatory, with first light during the Centennial celebration on August 25, 2016. This is a first for any national park.

The sky as a natural resource is universal and timeless. Under current circumstances, Great Basin National Park is one of the finest places in the United States, a place where people can connect to the resource in a dramatic and meaningful way.

We have built that experience into one of the core principles of this park. Like many programs, this one started from seeds of inspiration. And like the venerable Bristlecone pines nearby, it has grown to take on a life of its own.

Steve Moore is a seasonal ranger at Great Basin National Park in Nevada.

◀ *Apostle Islands National Lakeshore staff and community members "Stand With the World's Park Rangers" on World Ranger Day.*

NPS photo by Neil Howk

World Ranger Day 2016

APOSTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL LAKESHORE

On World Ranger Day 2016, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore permanently installed the "Dedication and Sacrifice" wayside exhibit that was virtually dedicated in a moving ceremony two months earlier on the last day of the World Ranger Congress. This fulfilled a promise to the rangers of the world. The panel sits outside the main Apostle Islands visitor center in Bayfield, Wisconsin, and will be accessible to visitors year-round.

The "Dedication and Sacrifice" exhibit, designed and fabricated by Apostle Islands National Lakeshore staff, features images of rangers in action in South Africa, Grand Canyon National Park and Apostle Islands, as well as a photo of Ranger Margaret Anderson, who was killed on duty at Mt. Rainier National Park in 2012.

▲ *NPS photo by Bob Krumenaker*

The human side of wildfire

By Mike Theune, Sequoia & Kings Canyon

▲ *Rough Fire, September 12, 2015. InciWeb photo*

On July 31, 2015, a fire was discovered on Rough Ridge, high above the Kings River in the Sierra Nevada. Subsequently named the Rough Fire, it grew to become California's 13th largest fire and the second largest fire in Sierra Nevada history. Starting in Sierra National Forest, the fire moved to Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument before reaching two different sections of Kings Canyon National Park, where it became the largest fire in the park's 125-year history.

Started by lightning, the Rough Fire eventually covered more than 151,000 acres and took 99 days to contain. At the height of the fire, more than 3,000 firefighters and personnel were committed to stopping it. Terrain, drought, high summer temperatures and the effects of climate change all worked against firefighting efforts. In the end, $121 million was spent to keep the fire at bay.

A wildfire is an unplanned and uncontained event. That's what makes it wild. But land managers, firefighters, rangers and outdoor enthusiasts know "fire season." Weather forecasts, fuel moistures and time of year contribute to that knowledge. Still, when a big fire comes, many rangers are surprised that it is happening — and happening to them.

Wildfires are not classified as natural disasters, but have just as profound an impact on the operations of a national park as their "natural" cousins, especially in places that are busiest in the summer. In 2014, Kings Canyon National Park had 502,268 visitors, and 2015 was on track to break that record. But when there is smoke, poor air quality and a wildfire growing by as many as 10,000 acres a day, plans can change in an instant.

You need only turn on the evening news to see pictures of wildfires with blazing hillsides, trees engulfed at their crowns, helicopters dropping water and tankers making retardant drops. But what about the people on the ground? Sometimes, if there are evacuations, the focus shifts to those stories. There is a human side of wildfire, but rarely does the public get more than a glimpse of how the fire impacts people's lives.

The Rough Fire impacted hundreds of thousands of people — smoke can travel a long way — and had a direct impact on thousands.

TOO CLOSE TO COMFORT

In most cases, the firefighters and fire camp personnel at the vanguard of a fire are away from their homes and families. In the case of the Rough Fire, however, every single fire staff member from Sequoia & Kings Canyon was assigned to it. It was in their neighborhood.

Then there were the visitors. The two highest visited places in Sequoia & Kings Canyon, Cedar Grove and Grant Grove, are about an hour's drive from each other along California Highway 180. Between the two, the road follows the Kings River corridor — the same river corridor where the Rough Fire started. These two destinations also have the highest concentrations of visitors. Cedar Grove is hard to get to; visitors really want to be there.

Finally, consider the residents: National Park Service employees and volunteers, park partners and concession staff. They are there for the visitors and the resources, but for most of the staff their work is not just a job but a dream come true.

NPS house gets protection from the Rough Fire.
J. Michael Johnson photo

WATCH SHORT VIDEOS OF THE ROUGH FIRE AT
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks:
http://go.nps.gov/roughfirevideos.

These are remote places. Cedar Grove, for example, has no cell phone service and television and radio are limited due to high canyon walls. The closest large city is two hours away. Cedar Grove staff live in Cedar Grove. There is no other place to live. It is their home.

Home. It's an emotionally loaded word. It represents safety, family, friendship and community. It's the place where we are told we can return to, the place where we make memories that last a lifetime.

ONE WAY OUT

A few days before the Rough Fire crossed Highway 180, plans were made to evacuate the visitors. Everyone had to get safely out of Cedar Grove before the fire cut them off. This moment demonstrated the passion and caring that the employees have for the work they do. At the sacrifice of their own plans, they worked long, hard hours to get everyone out without injury.

On August 18, the fire crossed Highway 180 and separated Cedar Grove from Grant Grove. To the east is the crest of the Sierra Nevada. There are no roads there. Highway 180 is the only way in and out of Cedar Grove.

Evacuation also meant that all the employees and staff had to leave their homes and possessions. With only bare essentials in hand and memories in mind, they were escorted away from the fire.

While this was happening, an hour away Grant Grove was also evacuating visitors and non-essential personnel due to smoke and poor air quality. In fact, the air quality readings were literally off the chart. Everyone was in a cloud of smoke.

Then, the fire behavior and direction changed. As air quality improved, Grant Grove was reopened for a short time. The fire jumped lines and rushed toward Grant Grove. On September 8, people there were forced to leave. This time, the evacuation was for smoke and fire. Being evacuated is terribly stressful. Evacuating twice for the same fire is that much worse.

On September 19, residents were allowed to return to Grant Grove. Soon after, Cedar Grove residents were able to retrieve the possessions they had abandoned a month earlier and winterize their facilities. Grant Grove re-opened to the public on September 21, but Cedar Grove remained closed for the year.

The Rough Fire was without a doubt the largest, most complex fire event Sequoia and Kings Canyon have experienced in a very long time, if ever. Despite this, there were no structures lost in Grant Grove or Cedar Grove. Years of prescribed burning and defensible space work done by staff were instrumental in saving nearly $400 million worth of NPS assets.

It is fortunate that fires on the scale of the Rough Fire are unusual. A year after the fire changed so many lives, we can reflect on the impacts of displacement on both the personal and professional lives of the dedicated staff who work in the parks and also call them home.

Fires are often recounted in statistics: the biggest, the deadliest, the most expensive. But ask anyone who had to flee and you learn his or her story. Every NPS employee, volunteer, park partner and concession staff member had a different experience during the Rough Fire. There is a human side to wildfire.

Mike Theune is the fire communication and education specialist for Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. He was assigned to the Rough Fire on August 6, 2015 and completed five tours working as a fire information officer. He has been with the National Park Service since 2007 and was a public affairs officer with the Forest Service for short time.

a century of SAR III search & rescue

The 1980s

By Kevin Moses, Shenandoah

EDITOR'S NOTE:
This article is the third in a series to appear in *Ranger* magazine about the legacy of U.S. National Park Service search and rescue personnel and events. The series highlights some of the more significant events and milestones of NPS search and rescue (SAR) over the last century.

The 1980s blessed the world of search and rescue with what would become two "SAR Bibles": *On Rope*, by Allen Padgett and Bruce Smith, published by the National Speleological Society, and *Wilderness Search and Rescue*, penned by Yosemite Ranger and SAR Officer Tim Setnicka. Dog-eared, marked-up, and with broken bindings, my copies are cherished, and each resides in a special place on my bookshelf.

Setnicka begins his work with a compelling tale of a recovery from Yosemite's Mt. Watkins, which he calls "a glimpse of the possibilities of fusing training, technology, and decisive action into a coordinated effort capable of performing difficult and dangerous tasks." The book traverses several decades of SAR in the NPS and covers everything from big wall rescues and search management to cave and whitewater rescue.

Good thing, too, because there was a noticeable increase in river rescues. Many SAR rangers had realized that techniques and equipment used in cliff rescue could also be applied to river rescue. When the Big Thompson River outside Rocky Mountain National Park flash-flooded, trapping scores of people and killing 145 others, SAR personnel from Rocky responded. According to Butch Farabee, "Their mountain rescue experience paid off when rangers swung numerous victims across the raging torrent on lifesaving ropes."

Other noteworthy river rescue missions included a 1981 multiple-day search on the Potomac River by the Great Falls Park River Rescue Team in the wake of six drownings. Though the team received the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) Unit award for Excellence of Service, the victim they tirelessly searched for was also lost to the river. Three years later, another five hapless rafters would be killed by the Potomac, this time at a low-head dam (known in SAR jargon as "killing machines"). Two more would have died in the incident had it not been for the heroics of the U.S. Park Police (USPP) *Eagle One* crew. A 1983 Yosemite river rescue had a happier ending when rescuers unpinned a woman from a logjam strainer that held her underwater for 25 minutes. Miraculously, she lived! And another Unit Award had been earned.

In April 1983, Arkansas' Buffalo River would have claimed a life had it not been for the heroic actions of Ranger Rick Brown. In *Ranger Up!*, Brown takes an "awe shucks" approach to his actions that unquestionably saved a paddler's life. A floater

In January 1982, heroic efforts by U.S. Park Police staff and others saved passengers of a jumbo jet that plunged into the Potomac River in Washington, D.C. United States Park Police photos

had capsized his canoe which pinned him against a tree, mostly underwater. "I ... dove in and swam to the canoe ... barely able to reach the boat without being swept downriver myself," writes Brown, who was able to hold the man's head out of water. Ultimately freeing the victim, Brown was awarded DOI's Valor Award for saving a life at extreme risk to his own.

Diving operations increase

Water-related SAR ops in the '80s weren't limited to rivers, though. Diving operations throughout the NPS were being applied to SAR missions more frequently as NPS diving became more established. Perhaps no one can speak more thoroughly on the subject than archeologist Daniel Lenihan, author of *Submerged*, the edge-of-your-seat history of the Park Service's highly acclaimed SCRU, or Submerged Cultural Resources Unit.

In *Submerged*, Lenihan relives what is probably one of the harrier dives he's ever been on. February 1982, Amistad National Recreation Area, Texas. Four divers had explored an old powerhouse; three surfaced. SCRU was called to recover the body. "I let the butterflies find some place to rest in my innards," Lenihan writes, "and focused my dive light on an okay sign formed by my thumb and forefinger." They found the young man wedged 80 feet below the surface and ever-so-delicately performed a touch-and-go extrication, each movement of which displaced more silt and further reduced visibility. This spooky mission earned the team members the first-ever DOI Exemplary Act Award.

Several additional water-related SARs occurred elsewhere in the NPS in the '80s, including lifeguard saves at Golden Gate, Cape Cod and Cape Hatteras; a shipwreck at Isle Royale; a flash flood in Capitol Reef; and an attempted rescue of two small children from a submerged car in Olympic National Park's Lake Crescent, during which Richard Thomas exhibited bravery of incredible proportions. Thomas earned DOI's Valor Award but was tragically killed six months later in a SAR training exercise with the Civil Air Patrol.

Of all the river- and aviation-related rescues that transpired during the 1980s, one of the more renowned combined both aviation and river rescue, and once again it took place on the Potomac River. This time though, the river was frozen. After Air Florida Flight 90, a Boeing 737 jumbo jet, plummeted out of the sky on January 13, 1982 and shattered the icy surface of the Potomac, six passengers unbelievably survived and began desperately treading water. USPP Pilot Don Usher and Rescue Technician Mel Windsor flew to the scene in *Eagle One*. Its skids skimming the surface, the helo served as an angel, ultimately ferrying five of the six swimmers to shore, saving them from certain doom.

In *National Park Ranger: An American Icon*, Farabee gives accolades to this often overlooked, but vital arm of the NPS: "Employing several helicopters, Park Police provide search, rescue, and advanced medical assistance to the region, both inside and outside their jurisdiction." Both Usher and Windsor received the Valor Award for their efforts on that dreary, winter day, and Usher was voted Washington, D.C.'s Citizen of the Year.

Jumping into action

Also receiving attention in 1980s was NPS SAR BASE jumping. For starters, Black Canyon of the Gunnison experienced a BASE jumper fatality in 1981 after an Oklahoma jumper steered his chute into the 2,200-foot Painted Wall, sustaining

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fatal injuries in the process. Rescuers used a cable winch apparatus to retrieve the body from the hung-up parachute.

One of the more popular '80s destinations for BASE jumpers was New River Gorge's 876-foot-tall bridge, the highest single-arch span in the western hemisphere. There is one legal day to jump a year — Bridge Day — during which thrill-seekers can also obtain permits for long-distance rappelling and bungee jumping. For most jumpers, things go well, but sometimes accidents happen.

According to Brown in *Ranger Up!*, "The park had hired a few extra seasonal river patrol positions for the 1986 season, so during Bridge Day we were able to put an NPS boat on the river to help with picking up parachutists." In recounting one jumper's fate, Brown writes, "He hit the rock with his legs first causing a major femur fracture ... then bounced ... into the river. I heard the loud crack from his leg fracturing. It was a sickening sound. Drowning was a real concern, but we were able to reach him by motorboat."

Other jumpers weren't so lucky. Just hours after that rescue, a jumper's wet chute only partially deployed. He tried his reserve, but ran out of time. Brown says, "When he impacted the river, immediately the water turned completely red where he went in ... the noise from the impact was like a gun going off." Brown worked 16 Bridge Day events before he transferred out.

Winter warnings

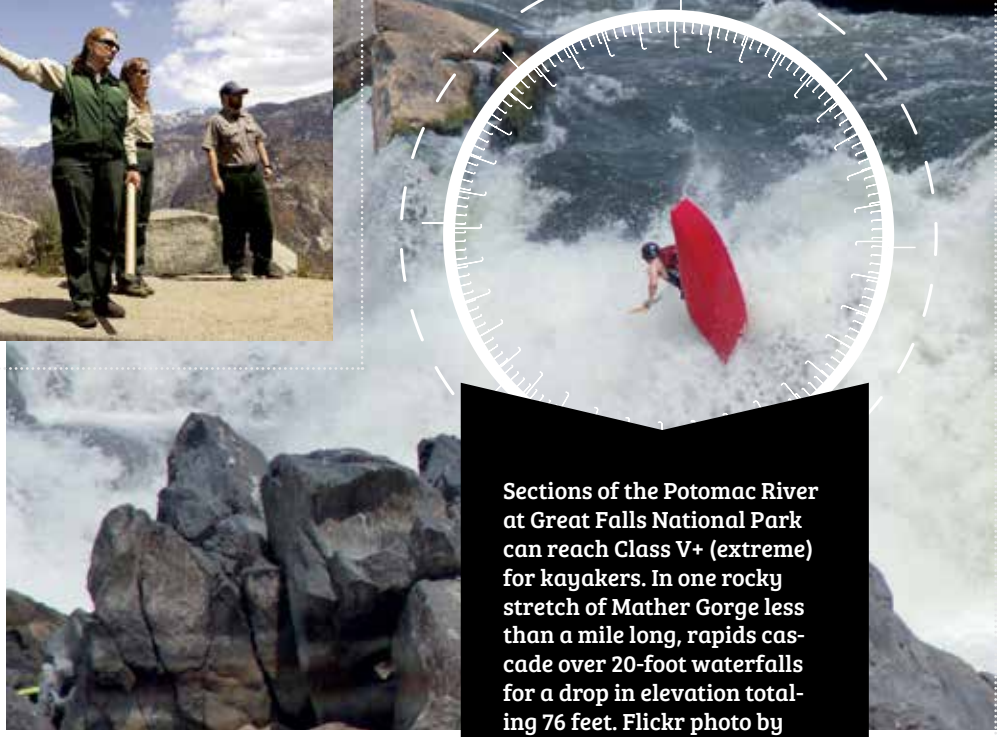
America's deadliest mountaineering accident happened in the '80s, as well, when an avalanche swept down from Mt. Rainier's Disappointment Cleaver, burying 11 climbers. And a smaller avalanche would have taken the life of an 11-year-old boy in February 1980 at Michigan's Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore had it not been for the speedy response by the park's staff and cooperating agencies. For their extraordinary efforts in saving his life, the Sleeping Bear Dunes staff received DOI's Unit Award for Excellence of Service.

No wrap-up of 1980s NPS rescues would be complete without mention of what occurred in Yosemite on July 27 and 28, 1985: Two simultaneous rescues, both challenging in their own ways. The first mission resulted from deadly lightning blasts on the summit of Half Dome that killed two hikers and critically injured three others. The ranger staff in Yosemite Valley didn't receive the call until 9:30 p.m., which meant they were looking at an extremely complicated all-night rescue effort. Add to it the second call: A party of four hikers — two suffering epileptic episodes — were lost somewhere up the far reaches of sheer-walled and remote Tenaya Canyon.

In his book, *Shattered Air*, which recounts the lightning strikes on Half Dome and the ensuing SAR, Bob Madgic describes a "conversation" that was held via bullhorn and flashlight flashes between the victims stranded atop the lofty summit and legendary Yosemite SAR technician John Dill, positioned 2,000 feet below at Mirror Lake: "Dill repeated: 'If we can't get to you tonight, will someone die?'... She hollered more resolutely this time: 'Yes!'... Help was in sight — park rangers and medics would arrive soon. The nightmare was about to end."

By the time these two missions were over, three hikers injured by the lightning — two critically — were rescued from Half Dome, four were plucked to safety from Tenaya Canyon by a Navy "Angel" helicopter, the two bodies were recovered (technically from a third, separate effort), and the 59-member SAR team received DOI's Exemplary Act Award for the astonishing work ethic, teamwork and heroism they displayed.

Kevin Moses is Central District ranger at Shenandoah National Park in Luray, Virginia, and Basic Technical Rescue Training--East incident commander. He is a regular columnist for The Professional Ranger section in Ranger *magazine.*



Sections of the Potomac River at Great Falls National Park can reach Class V+ (extreme) for kayakers. In one rocky stretch of Mather Gorge less than a mile long, rapids cascade over 20-foot waterfalls for a drop in elevation totaling 76 feet. Flickr photo by David Priddy

A video of the January 13, 1982 Air Florida Flight 90 rescue and investigation can be found at **http://www.statter911.com/2014/09/04/gene-windsor-us-park-police-paramedic-rescued-air-florida-victims-potomac-dies-age-74/**.

AUTHOR'S NOTE:

I wish to express my sincerest appreciation to all the authors cited herein, and especially to Charles "Butch" Farabee, whose SAR collection, *Death, Daring, and Disaster*, was indispensable to the completion of this series. I also wish to advise that the events and milestones mentioned herein do not cover everything worth mentioning in NPS SAR's last hundred years, but rather only scratch the surface.

RANGER

TO STAY IN SYNC WITH ANPR MEMBERS AND THE TIMES

By Ann Dee Allen, Ranger *editor*

Ranger recently conducted a survey to ask readers about their preferences and collect new content ideas. Readership surveys are commonly used for this purpose, and it was time for us to get your feedback.

The survey helped us to develop a strong list of article ideas for many issues going forward. In addition, we learned that:

- A total of 97% of respondents said *Ranger* is either an important or very important membership benefit; a total of 70% said it's important or very important to print *Ranger*; a total of 77% said it's important or very important to continue to make *Ranger* available electronically
- 90% of respondents read *Ranger* in print
- 90% read the cover story and ANPR Actions & News
- 80-90% read All in the Family and the feature stories
- 70-80% read ANPR Reports and the president's letter
- 60-70% read the Oral History article, The Professional Ranger section and Welcome to the Family
- 50-70% read the articles about World Ranger Congress and Ranger Rendezvous
- 30-40% read the book reviews and Life Century Club listings
- 53% of respondents have 15 or more years in federal service; 33% have five to nine years
- 41% have been annual ANPR members for five or fewer years; 37% have been life members for 15 or more years
- 40% of readers have worked the longest in interpretation; 40% have worked the longest in law enforcement.

Although the sampling was not statistically representative of ANPR membership, we did get the impression that readers are very satisfied with *Ranger*. Therefore, we have no plans to replace any *Ranger* sections. In fact, we are making an effort to increase coverage of interpretation issues and have already added columns to The Professional Ranger this year.

We understand that readers want their news to be in sync with the times. In looking at the story ideas from survey respondents, this is true for our readers also. We hope to bring you more articles about geographically, historically and culturally diverse people and places. To help make this happen, I encourage ANPR members to send article ideas about rangers and issues in smaller parks, new parks and less well-known parks.

One change you will start seeing soon is the publication of more book reviews. For space reasons, this means that book reviews will be shorter but there will be two to three listings in each issue. If you read and thoroughly appreciate a book released in the calendar year, please send the title and author of the book and a 300-word description of why rangers would find the book of value to **rangermag.editor@gmail.com**.

All publications need to stay up to date on their look and appeal. This is why you'll see upgrades to magazines and websites from time to time. In our *Ranger* survey, we asked respondents about adjectives they might use to describe the magazine they would like to see. These words came out on top:

- Innovative
- Professional
- Service-oriented
- Futuristic
- Variety
- Consistent
- Friendly
- Evocative
- Progressive
- Contemporary

Interestingly, although 80% of respondents said it is important to archive *Ranger*, there was only one vote for a "historical" magazine.

In conclusion, your *Ranger* team thanks all of the survey respondents who provided us with feedback. We will do all that we can to live up to your expectations.

Don't be shy

Show us your *Ranger*!

Send us a selfie holding a copy of *Ranger* or giving a copy of the magazine to a non-ANPR-member friend and inviting them to join ANPR. We'll publish it in the magazine or on anpr.org, or Facebook, depending on space and the number of photos we receive. Use the largest size of photo, or "actual size" if you use a cellphone.

NO EXPIRATION DATE
this offer is ongoing! (Remember to play it safe.)

PLEASE SEND TO RANGERMAG.EDITOR@GMAIL.COM

Leaving with a KIND HEART

Helping children and adults with difficult topics

By Jackie Gonzales

Around 1:30 on the afternoon of the summer solstice, a family walked into the Manzanar National Historic Site Visitor Center in central California. They were a little chaotic: a 5-year-old with enthusiasm to rival a marching band, a baby in mom's arms, a dad helping to corral the energy.

The boy asked for a Junior Ranger booklet. Busy with another Junior Ranger, I gave him a quick spiel from the side of the desk, told him to come back with any questions he might have.

Going through Junior Ranger books at Manzanar is a completely different process than at most parks. Most children, of any age, aren't aware that the U.S. government incarcerated 120,000 loyal American citizens and residents without due process during World War II, just because they happened to be of Japanese descent.

Many kids who arrive at the Manzanar Visitor Center have a notion of what happened, but comprehending the injustice is something that even adults have a hard time with. How do you get a 6-year-old to learn something, to understand this was wrong, but not feel thrust into despair?

I once heard a mom joke to her daughter, "We're going to leave you here." The mom thought it was a joke; the girl started crying. Children understand right and wrong and they understand magnitude, but in their beautifully naive perspectives they don't have the tools to comprehend and process such wrongs.

22 MINUTES TO UNDERSTANDING

On the summer solstice, the family, Junior Ranger book in hand, disappeared into the auditorium to watch the movie. As I pressed the button to start the film, the 5-year-old proudly announced, "I'm on the second page already!!!" He jumped in his seat, unable to contain his energy in sedentary form.

A half hour passed. The father wandered back to the front desk after the movie's conclusion and a brief tour of the museum. He held his baby in arms. His son was still frantically bouncing around the Visitor Center in his Junior Ranger exploits. The baby and I started playing peekaboo, which entertained both of us for some time.

After a few minutes of playing with the baby, chatting small talk, Father's Day, summer solstice, this father opened up. He said he really appreciated the film.

"I came in here with hate in my heart," he confessed, "and I'm leaving with a kind heart." He elaborated, explaining that his father was a World War II vet who talked about "damn Japs." His father instilled this hatred in his son, something that neither one ever questioned.

Somehow, though, a 22-two minute film and a few museum exhibits had opened this man's heart.

"I can't even say the word 'Jap' anymore," he spit out, choking on the words. He continued, his eyes welling with tears as he recalled an elderly Japanese-American man sitting at a bench inside the Visitor Center.

"I saw him sitting there, and when I passed him, I nodded to him and he nodded back at me." The father stopped to compose himself, then continued, and admitted that the mutual respect between him and the man is something he wouldn't have thought would have been possible before coming to Manzanar on this longest day of the year.

A SPACE FOR DIALOG

We talked about how the film and exhibits really humanize this experience — the people confined here were American citizens, they were children, families, completely innocent, not much older than this man. But he had never seen Japanese-Americans as individuals, and as — in the case of WW II incarceration of Japanese-Americans — mostly American citizens. This experience allowed the park visitor to strip away the generalizations and see the individual people behind them.

We parted ways when he started to discuss current political debates in ways that National Park Service employees cannot engage. Still, it was heartwarming to see him there, holding his baby in his arms ("an old guy gets a baby for Father's Day!" he said, as he relayed that his daughter had been born on Father's Day last year and

Manzanar National Historic Site photos by Jackie Gonzales

would turn 1 the next day), admitting that he has felt so much hatred against a group of people simply because of their heritage and that he felt that "weight" of hatred lifted off of him.

That's progress. If these exhibits can provoke such a sudden emotional change in people, can't other sudden changes of heart be possible? That gives me hope.

The young son kept working away on the Junior Ranger booklet, drawing Japanese gardens, writing a list of what he would bring in his suitcase if he were told to leave his home. He finished and we presented him with his Junior Ranger badge, reminding him that we have to share this story and speak up for the rights of everyone if we want our democracy to work.

In that Junior Ranger booklet on that longest day of the year, I was reminded that education isn't just for the kids scribbling away in a workbook; it's for the whole family. The way we reach a child on a difficult topic might be different from how we reach an adult, but the subject remains difficult for both. Personal epiphanies, human connections and calm, reasoned discussion can help father and son, mother and daughter, to open their hearts and lift the weight of prejudice, at least in some small way.

As the family left, I thanked the father for sharing his story.

I'm not always sure how to say the right thing, or if I said the right thing in this case. But if just one visitor to the park goes home with a slightly more open heart, we've done something right.

Jackie Gonzales is a former Manzanar National Historic Site park guide.

Levis Antonio Hernandez of Ometepe Guides talks to Jen Lopez, a Guías Unidos volunteer and ranger at Everglades National Park, about a guanacaste tree during a field training session in Nicaragua. Photos courtesy of Jeff Zylland

Amigos in Training:

Couple taps into knowledge sharing in Nicaragua

By Jeff Zylland, Everglades

"If we're going to pay for law enforcement rangers, shouldn't we know the extent of illegal activities?"

Silence.

"Does anyone even know how much lumber is being poached from the national park?"

Our moderator chimes in, "You know we don't have the resources to study that, but if we don't hire rangers, nobody is going to change the way things are done here! We have to do something."

We are in Nicaragua. We are with the new "Amigos de Maderas" group of the new UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and National Park, Volcano Maderas. Besides a name and a designation, however, the park has no management. There's no funding, no rangers, no visitor center, no protection and hardly any baseline data. This sounds like our kind of job!

It all started seven years ago, when we quit our permanent jobs, sold our house and hit the road to migrate with the seasons: "Dual-career couple seeks adventurous jobs with low pay." Soon we were wearing Stetson hats and brass badges and learning the ropes from

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Using donations and volunteers, Amigos de Maderas is learning to maintain trails, keep visitors safe and stop illegal deforestation.

Kate Zylland, co-director of Guías Unidos and Everglades National Park ranger, leads a discussion at an interpretive methods training class in Nicaragua.

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other nomadic parkies. We learned that when winter comes, there is a small number of park jobs among a few sun-baked border states. Spanish fluency could get you a competitive edge, but not our couple years of college conjugations. We saw foreigners volunteering with the National Park Service and working concessions, so we wondered if we couldn't do the same in reverse. Unfortunately, there's no obvious ranger exchange program with our Hispanic neighbors.

We eventually found conservation internships in Latin America. After two winters abroad, we were ready to click the Spanish fluency application box. It worked. Finally "permanent seasonals" with the NPS, in winter we slogged through the Everglades, trailed by packs of fifth-graders.

It was frustrating, however, that with all the national parks in Latin America it was hard to find internships there. We started to seriously consider an idea conceived on an island in Nicaragua.

Ometepe Island was formed where two volcanoes wedged up through Central America's largest lake, Cocibolca. One cone-shaped peak belches sulfurous steam while the other age-slumped caldera shrouds a misty lagoon. Windswept cloud forests stand above steamy jungles. It's a perfect place for travelers seeking mystery and adventure. Peasant farmers and fishermen who earned $5 a day are now getting $25 a head to take tourists up the volcanoes. Suddenly everyone here is a tour guide.

Unregulated markets can breed aggressive guides, but when we met Arlin Hernandez, he seemed genuinely interested in just talking with us. We inquired about his job after explaining that we were also "guides" in the USA. Concerned about the lack of training and resources, Hernandez was organizing a guide cooperative to raise standards and promote sustainable ecotourism. The guides needed training, equipment and English lessons. We needed winter work and Spanish lessons. We all love nature and the outdoors. "Maybe we could try to work together one day," we suggested as we exchanged contact information.

During the next four years, as we developed our interpretive ranger careers, we kept in touch with Hernandez. But an email relationship has its limits, so we took the summer off to return to Nicaragua and promote our idea. We found support through crowdfunding donations and an equipment grant from Idea Wild.

We get it now, why there were no park internships here. There's hardly any park service in Nicaragua. Our guide friends give small tours to paying tourists. We can't shadow their private tours, and giving our own tours would take away their jobs. So we're finding work that supports the community without replacing jobs. We're developing basic training programs for guides: cultural issues, interpretation, first aid and naturalist topics using the books and binoculars that donors help us acquire.

We're exchanging language lessons and trading computer lessons for tours. We're teaching ecology with a prevention program for at-risk youth. We're working with the guides to teach extracurricular English to kids, mixing in environmental education to inspire future conservationists. Finally, we've joined a group of local businesses and stakeholders to protect the Biosphere Reserve.

Using donations and volunteers, Amigos de Maderas is learning to maintain trails, keep visitors safe and stop illegal deforestation. The Friends are deciding whether to hire law enforcement rangers. Knowing that interpreters can influence without enforcement authority, however, perhaps we could get guides to rove the park.

We are always looking forward. We're applying for nonprofit sponsorship and writing grants for next year. A ranger exchange program still makes sense to us. We are still learning how to do it right. But we know there's a park that needs help, and we know there are people who want to help. We may never fully understand the solution, but we've got to do something.

Jeff Zylland is working with his wife, Kate, to found Guías Unidos (guiasunidos.org) as they prepare for their 10th season together as National Park Service rangers.

PERSPECTIVE

Are we failing undergrads?

PARK MANAGEMENT CURRICULA AND NATIVE AMERICANS

By Chance Finegan

Much has been made lately about the lack of diversity in national park visitors, and rightly so. This is a conversation we need to be having. We must ensure that the national parks are welcoming to everyone and representative of America's entire story. However, we have neglected to address two fundamental questions wrapped around issues of race and diversity.

First, we have not given enough attention in our Centennial discussions to the role of Native Americans, Alaska Natives and Native Hawai'ians in protected areas. While we are rightly concerned about the lack of people of color visiting and working in parks, we have been giving scant attention to our relationships with our indigenous neighbors.

Second, we (particularly those of us in the academy) have been content to teach undergraduate students aspiring to be park employees all about science, history, public finance, outdoor skills, interpretation and other nuts-and-bolts topics without placing enough emphasis on the relationship between parks and Native people.

Today, interaction with Native Americans is a fundamental part of park management. Sacred site protection. Grave and artifact protection and ownership. Subsistence activities. Land tenure. Co-management. Parks surrounding reservations. Reservations surrounding parks. Interpretation responsive to all of a site's stories. Reserved treaty rights within parks. Religious access to park land and resources. Keller and Turek's *American Indians and National Parks* and Burnham's *Indian Country, God's Country* both detail the role the National Parks System has played in the colonialization of this continent. I encourage you to read them. They are as necessary for understanding today's park system as the Leopold Report or Freeman Tilden's writings on interpretation.

CURRICULA LACKING

This relationship is not given the attention it so plainly deserves, particularly in university classrooms. Go to the library and look for all the texts you can find about how Native Americans and the NPS interact. Listen closely when NPS leadership talks about the challenges of the next century. Crack open conference programs and look at the sessions offered. Look at popular websites like National Parks Traveler. The attention given to this relationship is very small indeed relative to other park management topics.

Why is this? Social theorist Gayatri Spivak might argue that as an oppressed, colonized minority (or "subaltern"), Native Americans are inherently doomed in any effort to be respected by settler-Americans. Cherokee writer Thomas King suggests in *The Inconvenient Indian* that, "... as the 19th century rolled into the 20th century, live Indians were forgotten, safely stored away on reservations and reserves or scattered in the rural backwaters and cityscapes ... out of sight, out of mind."

These are both thought-provoking comments, but let me suggest another more practical reason: universities are graduating students who are woefully unprepared to engage with Native communities.

This spring, I reviewed the National Association for Interpretation's list of universities offering interpretation coursework. I examined the curriculum at each U.S.-based university for any major that might lead one to a career in protected area management. For each of these major programs, I scrutinized the course descriptions, learning outcomes, syllabi, program descriptions and marketing materials.

Even when being very generous (e.g., generating more false positives than false negatives), 62 of the 96 degree programs have no in-major required or elective courses that might introduce students to the rich history and relationships parks share with Native Americans; only two programs actually required courses that might do so.

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

As anthropologist Michael Asch writes in *On Being Here to Stay*, "... we have agreed to join with indigenous peoples in travelling down the river of life. That does not work if we begin our journey by taking a portion of the river ... or by insisting that we alone have the authority to steer the vessel." Asch further argues that the treaties our ancestors signed with Native Americans imparted upon everyone involved "a shared responsibility to sustain" one another.

It is difficult indeed for the NPS to do its part to nourish and sustain all North American cultures if its employees lack the knowledge required to do so. Universities must do better.

We are all treaty people, bound by the agreements our ancestors made. Working with Native Americans is a fundamental task of the National Park Service. We must work with our alma maters to design curricula that adequately prepare undergraduates to become our colleagues. Many universities have alumni councils and other means for alumni to provide input regarding curricula. I encourage you to reflect on your post-secondary education and to provide feedback to your alma mater.

Chance Finegan is a PhD student at York University in Canada, where he studies the relationship between protected area managers and indigenous North Americans. He holds degrees from the University of Tennessee (BS, 2012) and the University of Northern Iowa (MPP, 2014). He has previously been employed by a variety of state and federal conservation agencies in the United States, including Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area in Kentucky and Tennessee (2008) and Ozark National Scenic Riverways in Missouri (2010, 2011). He can be reached at finegan@yorku.ca.

SANTA FE, NM

2016

ANPR

RANGER RENDEZVOUS

OCTOBER 27-30

Ranger Rendezvous 2015
Ranger *photo*

LAST CHANCE

TO JOIN US IN SANTA FE!

Get off the fence and come to the Association of National Park Rangers 39th Annual Ranger Rendezvous in Santa Fe, New Mexico, October 27-30. A draft program is provided at www.anpr.org and online registration is available. You will need to register and pay separately for the conference and your room at the Hotel Santa Fe, Hacienda and Spa (**www.hotelsantafe.com**).

Registration and the hospitality suite will open in the Hotel Santa Fe on Wednesday evening, October 26. All-day field trips to Bandelier National Monument, Manhattan Project National Historical Park or Pecos National Historical Park or service projects are offered on October 27. Dinner that evening will be in groups of 10 at 15 different restaurants in Santa Fe and will be followed by NPS Trivia Night back at the nearby Hotel Santa Fe.

On October 28, participants will be welcomed by the superintendents of Fort Union National Monument and Bandelier. The morning keynote address will feature NPS Deputy Director of Operations Mike Reynolds. An overview of the 2016 World Ranger Congress and concurrent sessions will round out the day, followed by the Exhibitors' Reception and an evening program.

On October 29, sessions include a keynote, a presentation about the ANPR Oral History Project and concurrent offerings, followed by another round of dining options and special park films at Movie Night.

Conference sessions are posted and updated online. A sampling includes:

- Fatigue & Performance: Lessons From NPS Operational Leadership by Mark Herberger, NPS Operational Leadership
- What Is a Learning & Performance Ecosystem & How Are We Using It to Innovate by Dave Barton and Demmy Vigil, NPS Learning & Development

RENDEZVOUS EXHIBITORS HELP SUPPORT ANPR

The following exhibitors supported ANPR by participating in last year's Rendezvous. ANPR appreciates their generous contribution.

Colorado Northwestern Community College
McDonald & Woodward Publishers of books in natural and cultural history
Montreat College
National Parks Conservation Association
PatrolSunGuard Permanent Sun Protection
Pilot Rock
unicor
ZANFEL

- Wise Decision Making for the Next Century by Paula Capece, NPS Southeast Coast Inventory and Monitoring Network, and Nicole Athearn, USFWS Great Plains Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- Park Partnerships: Successes and Challenges by Seth Tinkham and Kristine Brunsman, WASO State, Tribal, Local Plans & Grants Division
- Stepping Into the Future: How a Grassroots Employee Movement Can Transform the Working Culture of the NPS
- View from the Seashore: Environmental History and Interpretation panel.

Rendezvous will also include awards presentations, a photo contest, raffle and silent auction, and other activities in addition to casual networking.

LEND A HAND

Please help us continue to identify and contact potential donors, sponsors and exhibitors for Ranger Rendezvous, whether or not you attend. Also, freely thank these supporters every time you have the chance (see the list of sponsors and exhibitors in every issue of *Ranger*).

To volunteer for Rendezvous, please contact Alison Steiner at **anprbusinessmanager@gmail.com**.

Whether or not you come to Santa Fe, please send or bring items for the raffle and silent auction to support ANPR.

ENTER THE PHOTO CONTEST

Be sure to enter your photographs in the Rendezvous photo contest (photos from the past are eligible, too). The categories are:

- People in the Parks (receive permission from photo subjects before submitting your photos)
- Landscapes
- Wildlife
- Historical & Cultural Resources
- I Found My Park! (photos must picture the photographer)

Photos can be submitted at Rendezvous or by mail by October 10 to Liz Roberts, HC-1 Box 6804, Joshua Tree, CA 92252. You do not have to attend the Rendezvous to enter. More information is available at **https://www.anpr.org/resources/Documents/ANPR_RangerRendezvous_2016_PhotoContestFlier.pdf**.

COME ON DOWN

Ten major airlines serve Albuquerque, an hour's drive from Santa Fe. Santa Fe also has a municipal airport and the city is located along U.S. Interstate Highway 25, U.S. Route 285 and State Highway 599. Amtrak's Southwest Chief stops in Albuquerque, Las Vegas and Lamy, which has shuttle service to Santa Fe (**https://www.amtrak.com/southwest-chief-train**).

We look forward to seeing you in the Southwest!

— *Lauren Kopplin*
Lauren.kopplin@gmail.com

ANPR
Oral History Project

It's hard not to be inspired'

Former International Ranger Federation President Deanne Adams: An interview with Brenna Lissoway

Deanne Adams enjoyed a 37-year career with the National Park Service. Starting in her home state of Alaska, she held multiple assignments there and in the Lower 48, eventually retiring as the chief of interpretation and education for the Pacific West Region.

The International Ranger Federation (IRF) captured Deanne Adams's heart nearly two decades ago. In 1994 she was serving on the executive board of the Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR) when a representative of the IRF requested financial support for the first World Ranger Congress. Adams recalls that ANPR leaders hesitated before committing some of their slim budget, although ANPR was among the three founding members of IRF.

After Adams and her husband Tony Sisto, also an NPS veteran, attended the second World Ranger Congress in 1997, she began a long period of service with IRF. Adams represented North America on the IRF executive board, became vice president, and then served as president from 2009-2012. At the 2016 Congress, Adams and Sisto led the drafting of the Estes Park Declarations, a set of principles and goals that echo what Adams had discovered long ago: Rangers the world over share common bonds as they safeguard the planet's fragile resources.

Brenna Lissoway's Oral History Project interview with Adams at the 2014 Ranger Rendezvous follows.

LISSOWAY: I wanted to give you an opportunity to talk about how you became involved in the International Ranger Federation. What was it about the international aspect that attracted you? Why did you want to help that organization?

ADAMS: This week [at the 2014 Rendezvous] we're talking about how ANPR is going to host the 2016 Congress. A lot of people have been reflecting on what a Congress does to them, and what they are saying is what I say, too. That is, we grumble in our parks about the resources we don't have, and we do need more. This is a rich country and we should invest more in our parks.

But when you go to a World Ranger Congress and you meet people who are ... I get emotional here, sorry. I mean, some of those people literally put their lives on the line. The people, they're just incredible people. We have incredible people in this country and a group of rangers who do wonderful things throughout the service, for people and for the planet.

Can I make it through this [emotionally]?

We don't think of that so much in this country. I mean, we've had rangers murdered in this country. But in other countries, it's incredible what they go through. Because they believe that the health of

Photographs courtesy of Deanne Adams.

Tony Sisto and Deanne Adams with the plane for their honeymoon trip after getting married in Denali National Park in 1980.

The IRF booth at the 2003 World Parks Congress in South Africa. Deanne Adams with rangers Alejandro Caparros, Argentina, and Elaine Thomas, Australia. Photos courtesy of Deanne Adams

their country, the health of the world, is so dependent on what they do in their jobs. And that they'll go back every day and do it again. Their families lose them. The Congo's a big example. But it's, to a lesser extent, so many other countries.

So you come to this Congress and you learn about those kinds of people. It's hard not to be inspired. But you also see this huge bond that we have. When I went to Costa Rica, my first Congress, I don't speak Spanish. There's a guy there from Colombia, not a young ranger, probably my age at that point, and he starts talking to me in Spanish.

I didn't know what he was saying. So I grabbed Yvette Ruan [retired from the NPS]; she translated. What he was saying was, "I had no idea there were other rangers in other countries. I had no idea that there were people doing this work that I'm doing, and that they understand what I'm dealing with. They understand the challenges that I have." It was just a revelation. And that happens at every Congress.

We have new rangers coming, and it is so strengthening for them, to know that they're not alone. One ranger, Juan Carlos Gambarotta, got real active with IRF. He was the only ranger in Uruguay when he first learned about IRF. And they've got more rangers there now.

So there's that very basic thing, really, the family, that we share the same values across languages, across these immensely different cultures. But we're all bonded by this basic knowledge that our earth is limited, and — [choking up] it's hard to talk about this all of a sudden — just how important our work is for our planet. And for the future of our kids, our grandkids.

That's why I'm so in love with the IRF.

LISSOWAY: Can I ask, what do you see is the major contribution that the United States National Park Service can give other countries?

ADAMS: That's a great question, because you know, the U.S. is perceived so poorly a lot of places — you know, as a bully — and we've got all the resources and we can do whatever we want in the world. But when it comes to parks, we used to be a real leader internationally.

"We're all bonded by this basic knowledge that our earth is limited, and just how important our work is for our planet."

When a bunch of us from IRF went to the World Parks Conference in Durban in 2003, people would come up to us that represented the U.S. Park Service and say, "Where have you guys been? We miss you. You are our leaders. You have the first national park in the world. You have these great systems. You have all these great examples for us of how things can be done if you have the resources. And you're not here."

And it's politics, over time, that we stopped going. With Jon Jarvis now we're getting re-engaged internationally to the extent that we can. And of course resources is always a part of that.

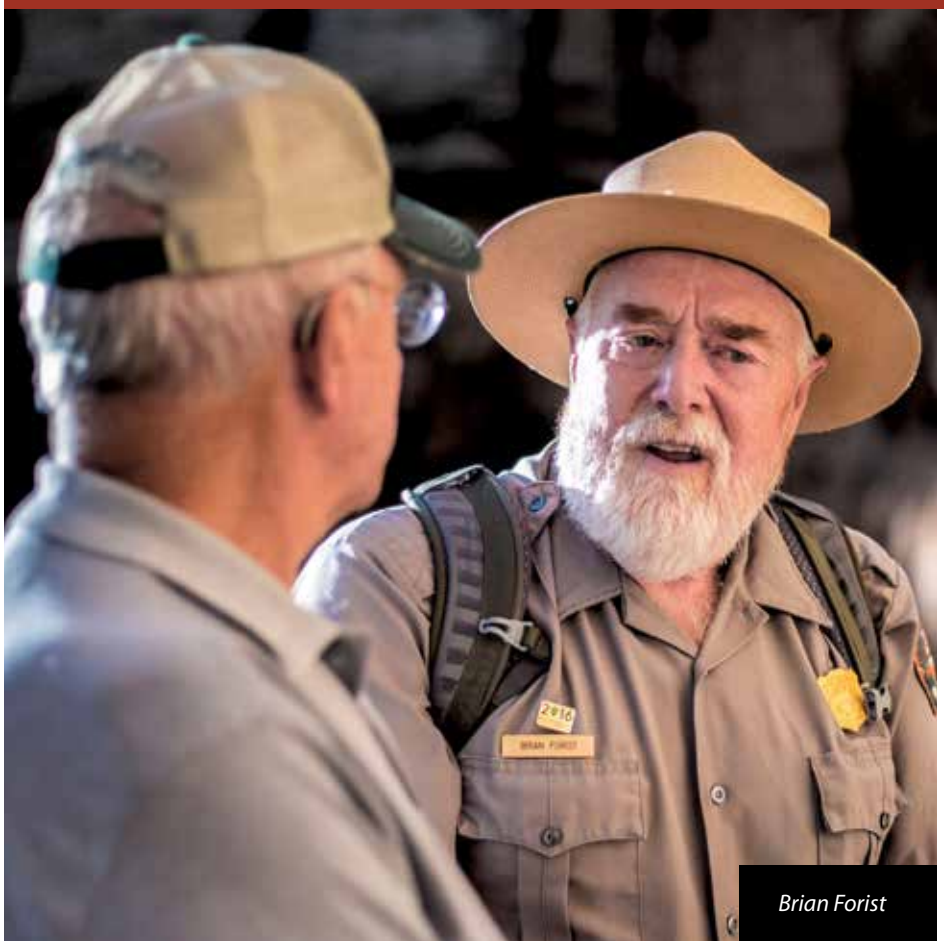
I feel like there's a lot we can learn from other countries. We talked about the involvement with communities, and man, oh, man, can we learn from other countries about that. They'd teach us tons. The other thing we can learn is just being resourceful. So many of those countries that don't have very many resources are very creative in how they still protect their parks, so we can get a lot of good ideas from them.

But what they get from us is some real specific support. Sister parks are a great example. Rocky Mountain has a fantastic sister park arrangement with Poland and Slovakia. Rocky Mountain got a bequest, and they're using that money so rangers from there come over here and rangers from here go over there. That's all kinds of rangers; resource management's really involved with it. Those rangers over there really appreciate what Rocky Mountain is being able to share with them and show them, from technologies to techniques. But it's the same for us, that what they brought over here, Rocky Mountain has used.

So the World Ranger Congresses are terrific sharing grounds for that.

Brenna Lissoway is an archivist at Chaco Culture National Historical Park in New Mexico.

Lu Ann Jones, a staff historian with the Park History Program in Washington, D.C., and Lissoway edited this interview excerpt.


Brian Forist

INTERPRETATION

On being genuine and fully engaged

I'm a reader. It's what interpreters do. I am constantly reading, thus learning about parks, protected areas, visitors, ecology, American history and other relevant things. Imagine my surprise, and embarrassment, when I read the July 2016 special issue of the Southwest Airlines magazine that focused on the National Park Service Centennial in which the editor recalled attending an ANPR Ranger Rendezvous and asking, "What's the dumbest thing you've seen a visitor do?" Unfortunately, rangers in attendance responded with no hesitation. This willingness to see visitors as "dumb," "other" and "not like us" is antithetical to emerging trends in the field of interpretation as well as just plain wrong.

I have just completed my second summer as a ranger at Mesa Verde National Park, the eighth park I have worked in over the last few decades. While there I was trying on my "new pedagogy for interpretation" and *Foundations of 21st Century Interpretation* as articulated by the NPS Interpretive Development Program. Specifically, I was trying to master leading cliff dwelling tours with up to 50 visitors in a way that focused on their interests rather than my own. I made every attempt to be respectful of and open to park visitors.

According to the NPS, "Interpretation must be relevant to the audience's lives to help them build new experiences. Active engagement with audiences allows their input to guide meaningful experiences, through both personal interaction and observation of their use of the resource" (*Foundations*, Lacome & Rudy, 2016). In order to focus on relevance to the visitors and to truly engage with them, the interpreter must possess two critical skills: presence and possess openness.

Webster's Dictionary defines presence as, "the state or fact of being present; opposed to absence" and openness as the state of being "ready and free for engagement." According to "A New Pedagogy for Interpretation," presence involves "being genuine and fully engaged in the specific interaction taking place," and openness requires that the interpreter is "recognizing and accepting the genuine being of the other person and understanding that the other is fundamentally different from oneself."

It we truly embrace and develop our skills of presence and openness, we will, in turn, act in a fully respectful way toward our visitors. We will no longer see them as "dumb" and we might learn a thing or two along the way.

— Brian Forist, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

"A New Interpretive Pedagogy" can be found at **http://oldlighthousemuseum.org/Knapp_Forist_2014_JIR-v19n1%20copy.pdf**.

ADMINISTRATION

Closing the books on our Centennial year

As you are reading this article the finance staff at all National Park Service units are closing the books on our Centennial budget year. If you recall, the NPS received a Centennial budget of $2,851,245 billion. This was a much-needed increase over the fiscal year 2015 funding by $236.7 million. All over the country, national park units celebrated the Centennial with visitors, volunteers, partners and employees. The budgeted dollars were used for visitor services, some infrastructure repair and outreach to our current and next generations of stewards.

September is always a challenging month in the budget world as we close

Cutting the cake at the 8th World Ranger Congress. Ranger *photo*

the books on another fiscal year. Please be kind to the finance staff at the parks during budget closeout, as it can be stressful. The year 2016 is a historic budget year and closing the books will be both rewarding and satisfying — and maybe even worth a little stress to make sure the Centennial goes down in the history books smoothly.

Check out all the Centennial celebrations and projects at www.nps.gov. And then look ahead to the next 100 years!

— Michelle Torok, Saguaro and Tumacácori, Arizona

PERSPECTIVE: CULTURAL RESOURCES

Black and White no longer: Embracing the complex history of America's civil rights movements

It's summer time in the nation's capital and the living is humid. Congress skedaddled a few weeks ago, leaving much unfinished business. Among the various legislative and budgetary priorities the 114th U.S. Congress left dangling are several measures pertaining to civil rights. Namely, a call for money to be provided to the National Park Service budget for the preservation of African American civil rights sites and a bill to establish an African American Civil Rights Network that would, in part, also be managed by and funded through the NPS.

While support for the African American civil rights experience is a highly laudable goal, it is the exclusive nature of this focus that troubles me. For we as Americans should be more capable than ever before of understanding that our shared experience is no longer exclusively black and white, no longer exclusively male, nor heterosexual. And this is especially the case when it comes to the history of civil rights in this country.

President Obama acknowledged this in his second inaugural address. The president mentioned three of the most significant sites on the American civil rights landscape: Seneca Falls, the location of the 1848 conference on women's rights; Selma, the launching point of the March 1965 Selma to Montgomery March for racial justice; and Stonewall, where an uprising by lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender people led to the birth of the modern gay civil rights movement. The president identified all three as places where Americans tested whether that most self-evident of truths — that all of us are created equal — actually applied to every citizen. All three sites are now NPS units.

Since we already have national parks that commemorate the struggles and achievements of Asian Pacific Islander Americans, Latino Americans and American Indians, why should we limit the scope of new NPS-managed programs and resources to the African American experience? The answer lies in our fundamental lack of familiarity with the long-standing struggles and stories of other racial and ethnic groups, women and the LGBTQ communities. A lack of awareness that leads many to assume the civil rights struggles of these groups are a relatively recent (meaning not yet historic) phenomenon. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) were both founded in 1929 to combat racist policies and practices decades old. LULAC fought to end discrimination against Latinos, first in Texas, then nationwide. In 1954, the same year the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against "separate but equal" elementary schools for black and white children in Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, LULAC lawyers also stood before Chief Justice Earl Warren's court. They argued and won Hernandez vs. the State of Texas, a landmark decision that extended the protection of the Fourteenth Amendment to persons of Mexican descent.

After the Second World War, JACL fought to repeal the Alien Land Act, a California statute that prohibited Japanese Americans from owning land. In 1948, the group helped found the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and in 1963 it joined with their African American colleagues in the March on Washington. Both organizations continue their vital civil rights work today and JACL has taken stands in support of NPS programs and historic preservation initiatives that commemorate the experiences of Japanese and all Asian Pacific Islander Americans.

The Mattachine Society and the Daughters of Bilitis pioneered the struggle for LGBTQ equality in the 1950s. Bayard Rustin, an openly gay black man, was the trusted advisor who persuaded Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to finally and fully embrace non-violent, direct action. Rustin also served as the chief architect of the 1963 March on Washington.

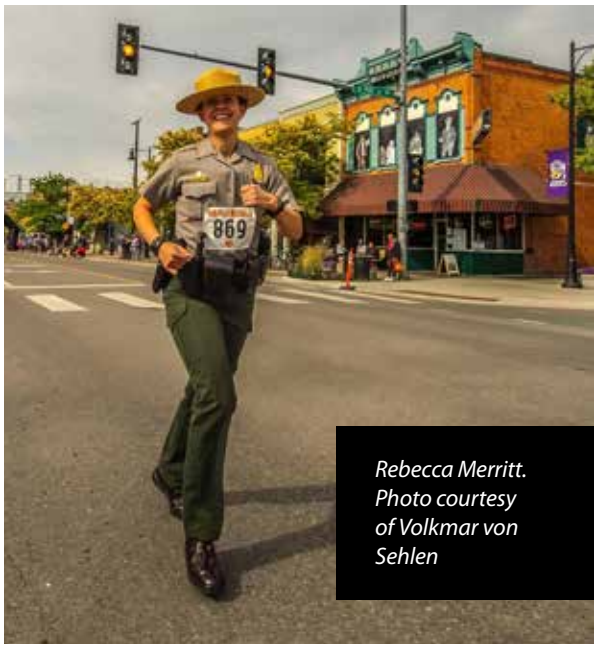
Any Civil Rights Network that we create today should include the inextricably linked stories of all those who struggled for freedom and equality. Let us recognize that our civil rights history is no longer a matter of black and white. That in truth, it never was. And let our policies, programs and legislation reflect and honor this.

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

All in the Family

Lisa Eckert.
Photo by Lee Gelatt Photography

Lisa Eckert retired September 30 from Bryce Canyon National Park. With 17 years as an NPS superintendent (BRCA, COLM, HOAL, GATE-JBU, DETO; detail at ORPI, KNRI) and 20 years as an "omnivore" ranger, Eckert's 14-park career included the NPS diversity of urban, wilderness, natural, cultural, Horace M. Albright Training Center and an international affairs assignment in Croatia (ranger at DENA as chief of interpretation, GWMP, COLM, GRCA, SHEN; seasonal at HALE, COLM, EVER, YELL; two VIP opportunities in Australia). A lifetime ANPR and Employees & Alumni Association member and former ANPR Board member, Eckert retired to Grand Junction, Colorado. She can be reached at **leckert56@hotmail.com** where she happily hikes, travels and "touches the earth" to remain grounded.



Rebecca Merritt. Photo courtesy of Volkmar von Sehlen

Rebecca Merritt participated in the Missoula Mile First Responder Division — in full law enforcement uniform. She ran to promote fitness, ParkRX and the Centennial of the National Park Service. You can read more about ParkRX and the use of parks and public lands to improve health and wellness at **http://www.parkrx.org/#sthash.L1kwW2YZ.dpuf**.

ANPR Life Member Jeff Ohlfs retired on August 31 after 32 years with the National Park Service. He has served at Joshua Tree National Park for 26 years. Ohlfs started his parks career in California with San Jose City Parks, Santa Clara County Parks, California State Parks, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. He began his NPS career

Jeff Ohlfs.
Photo by Brad Sutton

in 1981 as an intern at Pinnacles National Monument. He worked as a seasonal law enforcement ranger at Crater Lake National Park, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and Redwoods National Park. He spent his entire permanent career as a law enforcement ranger, first at C&O Canal National Historic Park, then Hot Springs National Park, and he had a detail at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Jamboree National Park. He has spent the majority of his career at Joshua Tree, where he retired as chief ranger. He never planned to work at a desert park, but grew to love the beauty of Joshua Tree.

Ohlfs has been and continues to be very active in the international ranger community. He has attended every World Ranger Congress, initiated the first World Ranger Day and most recently served seven years as the International Ranger Federation's North American Representative and is a charter member of ANPR's International Committee. He served on the Ranger Rendezvous and *Ranger* magazine teams from 1989 to 1992 and has been a part of the ANPR Mentoring Program since 2010.

Jamie Richards

Jamie Richards has joined the staff of Yosemite National Park in California as a public affairs officer. She works on public affairs, special events and legislative issues in the park. Richards began her career as an SCA interpretation intern at Fort Sumter National Monument and U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays' office in Washington, D.C. She joined the NPS in 2009, working as a seasonal and as a Pathways student. She has served at Joshua Tree and Rocky Mountain National Parks and in a detail with the Washington Office of Policy. Richards is a recent graduate of the WASO Aspiring Leaders Development Program. In May she was a volunteer deputy public affairs officer and special events coordinator for the 8th World Ranger Congress. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, photography, Celtic music, theater, skiing, hiking and kayaking.

Cassie Werne

Cassie Werne is now recreation fee program analyst for the Northeast Region. In her role Werne supports and advises more than 90 parks in the region in the management of their Recreation Fee and Interagency Pass Programs. Prior to this position, Werne worked at Weir Farm National Historic Site in Connecticut for nine years in a variety of positions, including park ranger, chief of interpretation and management assistant.

Welcome to the ANPR family!

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

(updated 8/6/16)

New member Ravis Henry, right, at the 2016 World Ranger Congress.

Chris Alford, *Triangle, VA*
Ellen Carpenter, *Falls Church, VA*
Michael Cuff, *Bangor, PA*
Janna Drew, *Milton, WI*
Alex Eddy, *Boulder, CO*
Akiva Garfield, *Oneonta, New York*
Justin Glasgow, *Corinne, UT*
Kristen Hamilton, *Lander, Wyoming*
Ravis Henry, *Canyon de Chelly National Monument*
Daniel Howe, *Raleigh, NC*
Patrick Jarrett, *Newark, AR*
Seth Johnston, *Dayton OH*
Scott Lingelbach, Jr., *Jeffersonville, GA*
Rebecca Merritt, *West Glacier, MT*
Megan Munton, *Springfield, MO*
Michael Naumann, *Williamsburg, VA*
Kri Nelson, *Moab, UT*
Christopher Nelson, *San Juan, Puerto Rico*
James Olson, *Rapid City, SD*
Mel Poole, *Thurmont MD*
Jessica Pope, *Flagstaff, AZ*
Sonya and Louis Rowe, *Woodbridge, VA*
Jonathan Shafer, *Washington, DC*
Rebecca Stroup, *Hazen, ND*
Maria Thomson, *Homestead, FL*
Abby Wines, *Death Valley, CA*

Yellowstone Ranger:

Stories from a Life Spent with Bears, Backcountry, Horses and Mules from Yosemite to Yellowstone

Jerry Mernin. Riverbend Publishing. ISBN: 978-1-60639-090-0. 2016.

By Rick Smith

I was one of the lucky rangers to work for Jerry Mernin as a seasonal at Yellowstone National Park. Now Mernin's autobiography gives others a chance to get to know him.

Jerry Mernin grew up in Yosemite as the son of a park ranger. His parents encouraged him to be anything he wanted to be, but not a ranger. Even so, after undergraduate school at Notre Dame, he enrolled in law school but dropped out to become a seasonal ranger in Yosemite.

Mernin went on to work in Yellowstone for 32 years, from 1964 to 1995. *Yellowstone Ranger* is full of stories from that time, many of them centered on the park's vast backcountry, encounters with bears and the stock that Mernin used in his travels throughout the park.

Mernin devoted a chapter in the book to his favorite horse, Dusty, illustrating the unique bond that can develop between horse and rider. It's the kind of relationship that is formed when two beings spend long hours together and depend on each other to do a job.

Another chapter is reserved for Irwin the pack mule. One of the stories in the book recounts a "rodeo" in the backcountry after Mernin jerked Irwin's lead. Big mistake. After dragging Mernin through the grass and sagebrush, Irwin finally stopped. The supreme insult was as Mernin was being dragged face first, the brim of his brand new ranger Stetson broke.

Anyone who knew Mernin knows that he revered his Stetson. It was always worn at a certain angle and it was always worn. Woe to the ranger who was seen outside the office in uniform without his hat. I never had the courage to ask Mernin's wife, Cindy, if he wore it to bed.

The most dramatic stories in the book are about encounters with bears, mostly grizzlies. Mernin respected grizzlies. He wrote, "After my first season as a permanent ranger in Yellowstone, I became an admirer of grizzlies. I resolved to do everything in my power to see that grizzlies remained a viable, breeding population in the Yellowstone ecosystem… . I was especially concerned about the times I had to shoot grizzlies. On those occasions, had I overlooked something? Could I have done something better or differently?" These questions haunt all rangers who have been involved in bear management.

I was present for one of the encounters, which occurred in the willows along the banks of the Yellowstone River immediately upstream from Fishing Bridge. The park had begun to close the garbage dumps that were at least partially responsible for habituating grizzlies to human food. In a short period, two visitors had been jumped or injured by a grizzly. After the area had been sealed off, Mernin entered the willows. He had not gone far when the bear emerged, charging straight at him. When the bear was five yards away, Mernin shot him three times. The grizzly came to rest about six feet from him. As he remarked in the book, "I felt no joy or elation, only remorse for having to kill another grizzly."

There are humorous "and that's no shit" stories also. One is about a seasonal ranger who showed up with long hair. When the district ranger asked the seasonal when he planned to get his hair cut, he replied that he didn't plan on having it cut soon. Mernin characterized those days in Yellowstone as "my way or the highway." It was only after seeing his termination papers that the seasonal got his hair cut. Mernin wryly observed, "So ended the first wave of Lake's (Lake Sub-District) long hair sagas."

Mernin titled one of the book's chapters "Barney Sander's Tie." I worked with Sanders for a few seasons. He wore his uniform meticulously. But this was a really bad day for his tie. It started early at the Fishing Bridge Campground. He noticed that the bear trap was sprung and approached the trap. An extremely irate grizzly slammed against the trap door, spewing saliva and snot on Sanders' tie. No sooner had he secured the bear trap and grizzly away from visitors than Sanders received a call of a possible heart attack in the campground. He raced back and with the help of the medical staff from the Lake Hospital, loaded the patient on a gurney. The patient threw up on Sanders' tie. Not a great day for that tie. And that's no shit.

In the four or five seasons I worked for Mernin, I probably heard him say more than a dozen times, "Do good, avoid evil; remember who you are and what you stand for; and watch out for the company you keep." That probably is a good summary for the way he tried to conduct his career and manage the people who worked for him. His standards were high and he expected employees to measure up to them.

In 1971, Mernin met a nurse at the Lake Hospital, fell in love, married and spent the next 40 years with Cindy. She, too, was beloved. Their partnership was especially important when Mernin suffered from Parkinson's disease after his retirement. He died from a brain hemorrhage in 2011.

When I think back on my own career with the NPS, I realize that almost everything I knew about being a ranger I learned from Jerry Mernin. I bet that there are many rangers who would say the same thing. He was a "ranger's ranger." It's the highest compliment I can give him.

This book is a great addition to your library. It's the story of a ranger who put a park ahead of his career and resolved to turn down promotions to stay in a place he loved. I highly recommend it to the readers of *Ranger*.

Rick Smith, an ANPR 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 and his wife, Kathy, live in Tucson, Arizona.

ANPR REPORTS

Kudos List

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

- Kristin Gibbs
- John Ott
- Jamie Richards
- Rick Mossman
- Tim Moore
- Jessie Jordan
- Edwin Padilla
- Colleen Derber
- Michael Schumacher
- Bob Krumenaker
- Chris Wonderly

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(updated 8/6/2016)

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

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