

# National

PARKS



## THE ART OF GAMAN

*Arts and Crafts from the Japanese-American Internment Camps*

# No Contracts. No Risks. Low Rates and Support for Our National Parks



Rates  
as low as  
**\$10**  
a month!

**FREE!**  
Motorola  
WX345  
and Free  
Shipping

**Doro**  
Phone Easy®  
410 GSM  
\$25\* and  
Free Shipping

## 100% RISK FREE

**No contracts, no surprises — ever.**

You're in control. You can change your plan or add family members any time. And every plan is backed by a 30-days or 30-minutes money-back guarantee†. We are the #1 rated no contract wireless provider in the nation.

## AFFORDABLE RATES

**Plans start as low as \$10/month.**

Our low rates will save you money — with plans for any usage need. And free, automated Usage Alerts help ensure you never receive a surprise bill.

## GREAT PHONE CHOICES

**Phones starting at FREE from the world's leading makers.**

Affordable flip style, big button senior friendly, or touch screens. We have what you want — plus FREE shipping.

## We're helping protect our national parks for future generations

Our national parks are living, breathing monuments to our nation's history, culture, and landscape. They need our care and support to overcome the many dangers that threaten to destroy them forever. Join the National Parks Conservation Association, along with Consumer Cellular to ensure our national parks get that vital care and support...now and into the future.

**Consumer Cellular® will donate up to \$5 to the NPCA when you sign up for e-billing.**



**National Parks Conservation Association®**  
Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations®

**CALL** Consumer Cellular at 1.888.589.9654  
**CLICK** [www.ConsumerCellular.com/npca](http://www.ConsumerCellular.com/npca)

# Consumer Cellular®

Now available at **sears**

**AARP®** | *Discounts*

AARP members ask for your special discount when starting new service!

\*Requires new service activation on approved credit and \$35 activation fee. Pricing at retail stores will include the \$35 activation fee. Certain models are free beyond activation fee. Cellular service is not available in all areas and is subject to system limitations. Phones are limited to stock on hand. Terms and Conditions subject to change. †If you're not satisfied within 30 days or 30 minutes of usage, whichever comes first, cancel and pay nothing, no questions asked. AARP receives royalty fees from third parties for the use of its intellectual property. These fees are used for the general purposes of AARP.

# National PARKS

FALL 2011  
Vol. 85 No. 4

## FEATURES

**24** **The Visionaries**  
Meet Stephen Mather and Robert Sterling Yard, the two men who founded the National Parks Conservation Association nearly 100 years ago.

*By Kate Siber*

**34** **A Grand Teton Winter**  
Experience a simpler, quieter side of Grand Teton National Park.

*By Scott Kirkwood*

**44** **The Art of Gaman**  
Although they had access to nothing more than found objects and modest art supplies, many Japanese Americans held in WWII relocation camps crafted stunningly beautiful works of art.

*By Delphine Hirasuna*

# 44

**A JAPANESE-AMERICAN MAN** attracts an audience as he paints in watercolors at the Granada Relocation Center in Amache, Colorado, 1942.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

**COVER IMAGE:**  
**WOODEN BIRD PINS**  
carved by Sadao Oka, Poston, Arizona

© TERRY HEFFERNAN

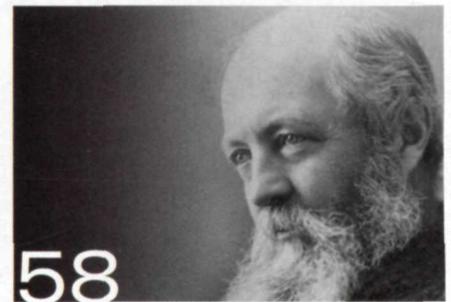
# Contents

# DEPARTMENTS

FALL 2011  
Vol. 85 No. 4

# 18

A VICTORY FOR the delicate tundra of  
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, Alaska



3 **President's Outlook**

4 **Editor's Note**

6 **Letters**

8 **Trail Mix**

Expanding Oregon Caves, retracing the Underground Railroad by bike, park champions in Congress, and how climate change affects the rhythms of nature

20 **Park Mysteries**

Meet an old man who has wandered Crater Lake for more than a hundred years.

*By Kevin Grange*

22 **Rare & Endangered**

What led to the dramatic decline of Organ Pipe's acuña cactus?

*By Amy Leinbach Marquis*

53 **Reflections**

A composer hikes through Rocky Mountain National Park in search of inspiration.

*By Stephen Lias*

58 **Historic Highlights**

Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, Massachusetts

*By Scott Kirkwood*

60 **Aperture**



www.npca.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHAIR

\*Thomas F. Secunda, Croton-on-Hudson, New York

VICE CHAIRS

\*Sally Jewell, Seattle, Washington

\*Robert B. Keiter, Salt Lake City, Utah

\*H. William Walter, Minneapolis, Minnesota

SECRETARY

\*John E. Huerta, Elkins, West Virginia

TREASURER

\*Norman C. Selby, New York, New York

Donald B. Ayer, Washington, D.C.

William R. Berkley, Greenwich, Connecticut

H. Raymond Bingham, Menlo Park, California

Frank Bonsal, Glyndon, Maryland

\*Robert F. Callahan, New York, New York

Joyce C. Doria, Potomac, Maryland

Carole T. Hunter, Hobe Sound, Florida

Dirk A. Kempthorne, Washington, D.C.

\*Alan J. Lacy, Lake Forest, Illinois

Stephen Lockhart, M.D., Ph.D., Oakland, California

William J. Pade, Menlo Park, California

Audrey Peterman, Plantation, Florida

\*William B. Resor, Wilson, Wyoming

James T. Reynolds, Henderson, Nevada

\*Fran Ulmer, Anchorage, AK

Greg A. Vital, Georgetown, Tennessee

Peter Vitousek, Ph.D., Stanford, California

Olene Walker, Ph.D., St. George, Utah

\*Executive Committee

TRUSTEE EMERITUS

Roger Kennedy, Rockville, Maryland

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Thomas C. Kiernan, President

Theresa Pierno, Executive Vice President

Craig Obey, Senior Vice President  
for Government Affairs

Ron Tipton, Senior Vice President for Park Policy

Karen Allen, Vice President for Human Resources

Kevin Barnhurst, Vice President  
for Finance, Administration, and IT

Ray Foote, Vice President for Development

Tony Jewett, Vice President for Regional Operations

Jim Nations, Vice President  
for Center for Park Research

Linda M. Rancourt, Vice President for Communications

Mina R. Stanard, Vice President for Membership

Mark Wenzler, Vice President for  
Clean Air and Climate Programs

Julie Williams, Vice President  
for Center for Park Management

Elizabeth Fayad, General Counsel

REGIONAL OFFICES

John Adornato III, Director, Sun Coast

Don Barger, Senior Director, Southeast

Alex Brash, Senior Director, New York City

Suzanne Dixon, Director, Texas

Lynn McClure, Director, Midwest

David Nimkin, Senior Director, Southwest

Joy Oakes, Senior Director, Mid-Atlantic

Tim Stevens, Director, Northern Rockies

Jim Stratton, Senior Director, Northwest and Alaska

Ron Sundergill, Senior Director, Pacific

# Renewing Our Promise

Nearly a century ago, Robert Sterling Yard and Stephen Mather came up with an idea for an independent organization, outside of government, one that could advocate for the national parks and promote their value to the American people in a way they believed the government never could.

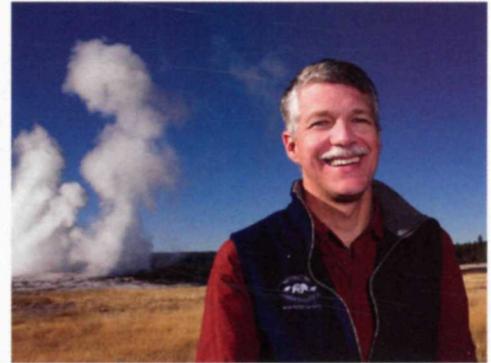
The National Parks Association, later to be called the National Parks Conservation Association, emerged several years after that conversation as the nonpartisan group that would focus its energy and resources on the national parks. From the very beginning, NPCA benefited from the generosity of its members and supporters who believed in the organization's mission to protect our national parks. One of the first donations came from Stephen Mather himself, who agreed in 1919 to an annual gift of \$5,000 to be used as "seed" money to get the group started. Mather was the Park Service director at the time and had used his wealth to aid the parks in a variety of ways (see story, page 24). Other donations came from scientists and community activists who believed in the tremendous value of our national parks and wanted to see them preserved for future generations.

Today, 92 years after Mather's first and critical contribution, you and hundreds of thousands of other NPCA members have taken on that mantle of generous, voluntary support. In a real sense, you are Mather's direct successors, and we thank you. In two weeks, NPCA will publicly announce "Renewing Our Promise: The Second Century Campaign for the National Parks," through which we are striving to raise \$125 million by the end of 2012.

"Renewing Our Promise" is a powerful effort to enhance the ability of NPCA's staff to do their best work, and to increase the organization's geographic and programmatic reach and impact on parks.

I am delighted to report that over the last three years we have already raised more than \$112 million toward that goal as hundreds of people have made sacrificial or "stretch" gifts in the early phase of this fundraising campaign. Mather's \$5,000 gift amount was prescient in a way. Today, we are making a concerted, sustained effort to invite members who have never considered such a gift to give that exact amount for the first time, and they are responding. We hope that you, too, are in a position to consider a "Trustee for the Parks" gift at that level to propel this campaign toward a successful conclusion. There are also many options for arranging a pledge at that level that can be paid over time. (See the special insert on page 30 to learn more.)

"Renewing Our Promise" is about more than financial support. It is also engaging people like you who are passionate about preserving the national parks for future generations. Today's NPCA team is demonstrating a surge of productivity in advocacy, public education, and awareness, research and management, and field work on behalf of our national parks and monuments. In addition to seeking your continued financial support, we renew our own promise to you that each dollar we receive will be used wisely and efficiently to continue our ongoing, fact-based advocacy work. Together, we can ensure that America's "best idea" remains a remarkable gift to the world into the next century.



© IAN SHIVE

THOMAS C. KIERNAN

# Out of Nothing...



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

**TOM KOBAYASHI** photographed in the Manzanar Relocation Center, California.

Last summer, I was fortunate enough to visit the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery, across from the White House, to see an exhibition featuring artwork created by Japanese Americans held at internment camps during World War II. Three of those 10 camps—Manzanar, Minidoka, and Tule Springs—have since become national parks units, and Heart Mountain, Wyoming may soon become the fourth. As I looked at the beautiful paintings, delicate brooches, handcrafted furniture, and Japanese dolls rendered in alarming detail, I was amazed at the ingenuity and creativity exhibited by these people who had somehow become prisoners of war. Where did they get their tools? Where did they get their inspiration? What does it say about the human need for expression under any circumstance? I bought the accompanying book in the museum's gift shop and days later I contacted the author, Delphine Hirasuna. She agreed to share some of the images from "The Art of Gaman," and she wrote an introduction to the piece, which begins on page 44 of this issue.

Each of those works of art illustrates the fact that sometimes, something can emerge from nothing. The same thought occurred to me this March, as I spent several days in Grand Teton National Park to write the travel piece that begins on page 34. Most people visit the Tetons in the summer, hiking along the trails, camping under the stars, and dipping their feet in Jenny Lake to cool off. Few people visit when Jenny Lake is frozen over, when not a soul is visible for miles in any direction, when the only noise you hear is the *whoosh whoosh* of your snowshoes and the sound of your own breath. That's when you surrender to the emptiness, embrace the silence, and enjoy the nothingness that spreads out before you.

SCOTT KIRKWOOD  
NPMAG@NPCA.ORG

# National PARKS

**EDITOR IN CHIEF:** Scott Kirkwood

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR:** Amy Leinbach Marquis

**PRODUCTION MANAGER/DESIGNER:** Annie Riker

**PHOTO EDITOR:** Nicole Yin

**FEATURES DESIGN CONSULTANT:** Bates Creative Group

**NATIONAL PARKS**

777 6th Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001-3723  
202.223.6722; npmag@npca.org

**ADVERTISING INQUIRIES**

**YGS Group**

3650 West Market Street, York, PA 17404

**Jason Vranich:** 800.501.9571 x185; jason.vranich@theYGSgroup.com

**Marshall Boomer:** 800.501.9571 x123; marshall.boomer@theYGSgroup.com

PRINTED ON 10% POST-CONSUMER WASTE RECYCLED PAPER



**National Parks Conservation Association®**  
Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations®

## WHO WE ARE

Established in 1919, the National Parks Conservation Association is America's only private, nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated solely to protecting, preserving, and enhancing the U.S. National Park System.

## WHAT WE DO

NPCA protects national parks by identifying problems and generating support to resolve them.

## WHAT WE STAND FOR

The mission of NPCA is to protect and enhance America's National Park System for present and future generations.

## EDITORIAL MISSION

*National Parks* magazine fosters an appreciation of the natural and historic treasures found in the parks, educates readers about the need to preserve those resources, and illustrates how member contributions drive our organization's park-protection efforts. The magazine uses the power of imagery and language to forge a lasting bond between NPCA and its members, while inspiring new readers to join the cause.

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Members can help defend America's

natural and cultural heritage. Activists alert Congress and the administration to park threats; comment on park planning and adjacent land-use decisions; assist NPCA in developing partnerships; and educate the public and the media. Please sign up to receive Park Lines, our biweekly e-mail newsletter. Go to [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org) to sign up.

## HOW TO DONATE

To donate, please visit [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org) or call 800.628.7275. For information about bequests, planned gifts, and matching gifts, call our Development Department, extension 145 or 146.

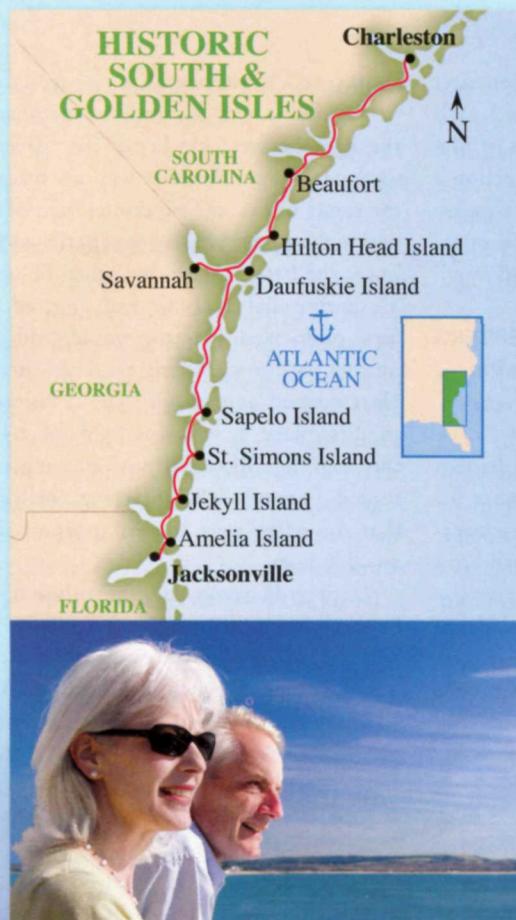
## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about your membership, call Member Services at 800.628.7275. *National Parks* magazine is among a member's chief benefits. Of the \$25 membership dues, \$6 covers a one-year subscription to the magazine.

## HOW TO REACH US

National Parks Conservation Association, 777 6th Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001-3723; by phone: 1.800.NAT.PARK (628.7275); by e-mail: [npca@npca.org](mailto:npca@npca.org); and [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org).

# SMOOTH WATERS SOUTHERN CHARM



## 7-Night Cruise

Charleston, SC to Jacksonville, FL

American Cruise Lines provides passengers a unique style of cruising along the magnificent East Coast of the United States. With no more than 100 guests, you'll be able to enjoy each port of call, up close and personal, all while enjoying the camaraderie of fellow passengers, sumptuous cuisine and the exemplary, personal attention that is the hallmark of American Cruise Lines.

Come and discover *small ship cruising done perfectly™*.



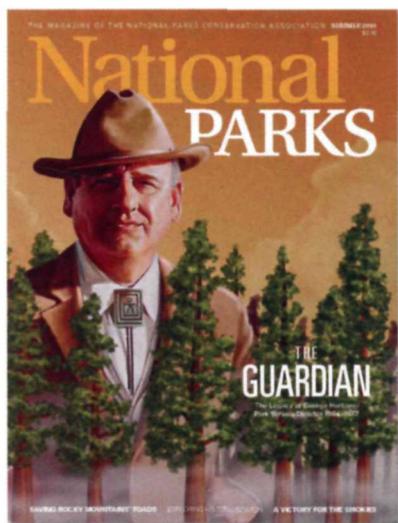
**THE WORLD'S NEWEST FLEET OF CRUISE SHIPS**



Toll Free **1-800-814-6880**

*Reservations office open 7 days a week*

New England Islands • Mississippi River • Maine Coast & Harbors • Alaska  
Columbia & Snake Rivers • Chesapeake Bay • Hudson River  
Historic South & Golden Isles • Great Rivers of Florida • East Coast Inland Passage



## LIFE LESSONS

If only Ann Heyse had been one of my teachers ["Lessons in the Tallgrass," Spring]... I couldn't help thinking how lucky these kids were to be experiencing such an extraordinary adventure—and also how fortunate they are to have a teacher who is blessedly aware of the world around her. Through my own travels in the national parks, I have found many vital things—among them, a sense of peace, enlivened curiosity, and appreciation for both the natural and social worlds. If we all had this opportunity to remove ourselves from our daily chaos—to encourage us to wonder, learn, and explore—we could become more sensitive stewards of both ourselves and our surroundings.

**Laura V. Scheel**  
Orleans, MA

## ILLUMINATIONS

The spring issue of *National Parks* was especially outstanding. The two articles about teaching kids about the environment on the Colorado River ["A Classroom with a View"] and in the South Dakota Badlands ["Lessons in the Tallgrass"] should inspire more community leaders to present similar programs. The author's statement that the youngsters "learn again the value of intonations, body language, smiles—features that have begun to wane in their new world of digital

communication" makes for the greatest case to expose them to nature and each other. The inside view of restorers of historical artifacts ["Objects of Affection"] was illuminating. These people deserve our appreciation, and I'm proud to support NPCA, which brings them—and so much else—to our attention.

**Roni Silverberg**  
Boca Raton, FL

## OMISSIONS

I found the article on the Johnstown Flood of 1889 [Summer] to be most interesting. But several details were overlooked. First, the dam on the South Fork was originally built as a reservoir by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to supply water to the mainline canal west of Johnstown. On abandonment of the canal, the dam was breached and sold to create a private recreational club for Pittsburgh's wealthy families. The club rebuilt the dam, but omitted the drainage tunnel and installed fish screens in the overflow spillway. The resulting Lake Conemaugh was then considered to be a prime vacation spot. Poetry was written about its beauty.

May 1889 brought heavy rain that caused flooding all over the region. When the flows became too great for the poorly engineered dam, it failed. After the flood, reportedly, Pittsburgh's wealthy vacationed elsewhere and never mentioned the disaster to their children. Apparently, no one was sued over the matter. Imagine that today.

**David Barber**  
Hopedale, MA

## A POLARIZING FIGURE

Your article on George B. Hartzog [Summer], former director of the National Park Service, disturbed me, perhaps because I witnessed firsthand the effects of the other Hartzog, the author notes—the "brusque taskmaster with a

short fuse." It was brutal.

My father was a longtime member of the Park Service. He began his career as a ranger and worked his way up through the ranks to become superintendent of key national parks. He knew the parks and he knew the Park Service, but when he made a controversial decision and angered the local politicians, Hartzog would send him off to a park in another state, even though Hartzog had agreed with the decision in the first place. It was very hard for my father, but he rallied and went on, and continued to work with Hartzog, believing that the parks were more important than any one man.

George Hartzog, on the other hand, believed that he *was* the National Park Service. As one of your sources said, he was a tyrant. He had a vision; a vision which necessarily had to be that of everyone else in the organization. His vision was vast expansion of the national parks but he failed to create a way to sustain them, so today's National Park System is vastly underfunded and the Park Service is overstretched.

Today's Park Service is trying to deal with their problems in new and creative ways and a man with George Hartzog's management style would not cut it. While leadership is important, it is also important to empower everyone within the organization to find new ways to deal with the greater challenges of today's world.

**Gail McLaughlin Stephens**  
Frederick, MD

Thank you for the story about George Hartzog's illustrious stint as Park Service Director, during which the park system underwent phenomenal growth. You failed to mention one of Hartzog's most noteworthy accomplishments: the establishment of the "Volunteers-in-Parks" program, which has given hundreds of

thousands of volunteers the opportunity to serve the parks and park visitors.

**ED BONSEY**  
Oakland, CA

### CHERISHED VIEWS

I just read the report about the victory in the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) law suits ["Breathe it In," Summer], and I'm thrilled to hear that TVA is cleaning up its act. I was born in Seymour, Tennessee, and now own the farm where I was raised, in the beautiful mountains of East Tennessee. My Dad worked for TVA for many years; I am one of nine children, and appreciate what TVA has contributed to the area. But I have also watched the air quality decline; years ago, the view was magnificent, but on some days, we're unable to see across the valley anymore. I moved to

Texas 48 years ago after graduating from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, but I still return home three or four times a year, and will begin watching for those beautiful views to reappear. Thanks for all your great work to protect the Smokies and all parks.

**MARGARET ROGERS DUNCAN**  
Fort Worth, TX

### CORRECTIONS:

"What's in a Name?" incorrectly noted that Samuel Gettys was Gettysburg's town clerk, sheriff, treasurer, and a Pennsylvania state legislator when, in fact, his son James held those positions. "Completing the Tetons" identified Laurence Rockefeller as the man who donated 35,000 acres of land for the establishment of the Grand Teton National Park, but

John D. Rockefeller did so. "The Visionary" incorrectly noted that Bebe Rebozo was Richard Nixon's brother-in-law, but the incident that led to George Hartzog's dismissal arose due to a permit issued to Rebozo's brother-in-law. "The Crossing Guards," indicates a wildlife overpass spans I-93; it should have read U.S. 93. We regret the errors.

**Send letters to**  
National Parks Magazine,  
777 6th Street NW,  
Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001-3723  
**or e-mail** [npmag@npca.org](mailto:npmag@npca.org).  
Include your name, city, and state.  
Published letters may be edited  
for length and clarity.



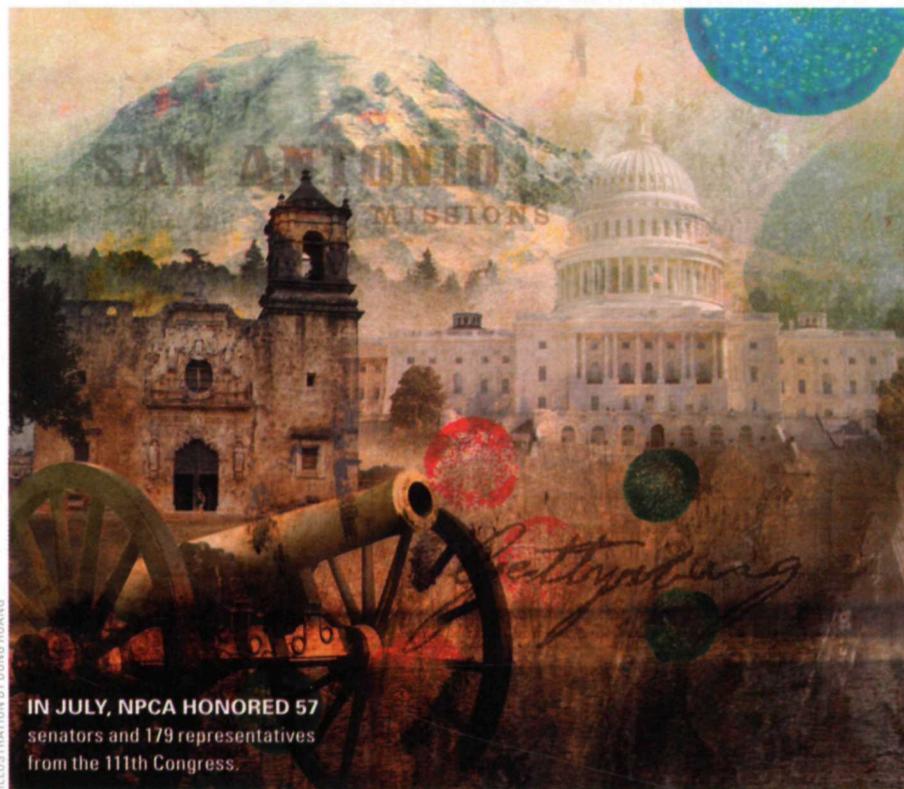
*Different:  
experiences*

Over 100 miles of unspoiled shoreline and plenty of adventures to move you.

**The Outer Banks®**  
OF NORTH CAROLINA  
877-629-4386 | [outerbanks.org](http://outerbanks.org)

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Photo courtesy of R.E.A. Whitepapers



## A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

NPCA recognizes members of U.S. Congress who took a stand for national parks

With presidential candidates jockeying for position a year before the presidential election and debt-ceiling debates dominating late-night talk shows, Washington's power players have been in the spotlight even more than usual. And in one case, NPCA was the one setting the stage. In July, the National Parks Conservation Association bestowed a Friend of the National Parks Award on 57 senators and 178 representatives for their votes in support of national park issues that arose during the 111th Congress.

Senators who voted pro-park on four out of six key proposals received the award, as did House members who supported parks on at least seven out of 12 key proposals. Members in both houses were applauded for voting in favor of an Interior Department

appropriations bill that increased park funding by \$130 million and made vital investments in the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Both houses were also scored on a vote in support of a public lands bill that contained nearly 50 park-related provisions,

including establishment of new park units, boundary expansions, and park wilderness protection; that bill became law as well.

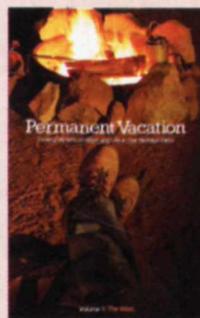
In addition, senators were scored on their vote regarding a proposal to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating greenhouse gas emissions (which was, thankfully, rejected). Representatives were scored on a bill in favor of a boundary modification for Casa Grande Ruins in Arizona, and on their support of the CLEAR Act, which would have fulfilled a promise to fund national parks and other lands with receipts from offshore oil and gas drilling, both of which failed. Representatives were also scored on bills proposing the expansion of San Antonio Missions and Gettysburg National Military Park (both of which passed the House but stalled in the Senate) and a bill to designate Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial in California, which became law in 2009.

"From the preservation of the natural beauty at the very heart of our nation to the economic benefits of tourism... our national parks serve an essential role all across the country," said Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL), co-chair of the Everglades Caucus, upon receiving his award. "Unfortunately... air pollution, climate change, and environmental disasters take a toll on these national treasures every single day. We must not be silent when it comes to protecting these parklands. We must do everything we can to protect these historic and dignified places."

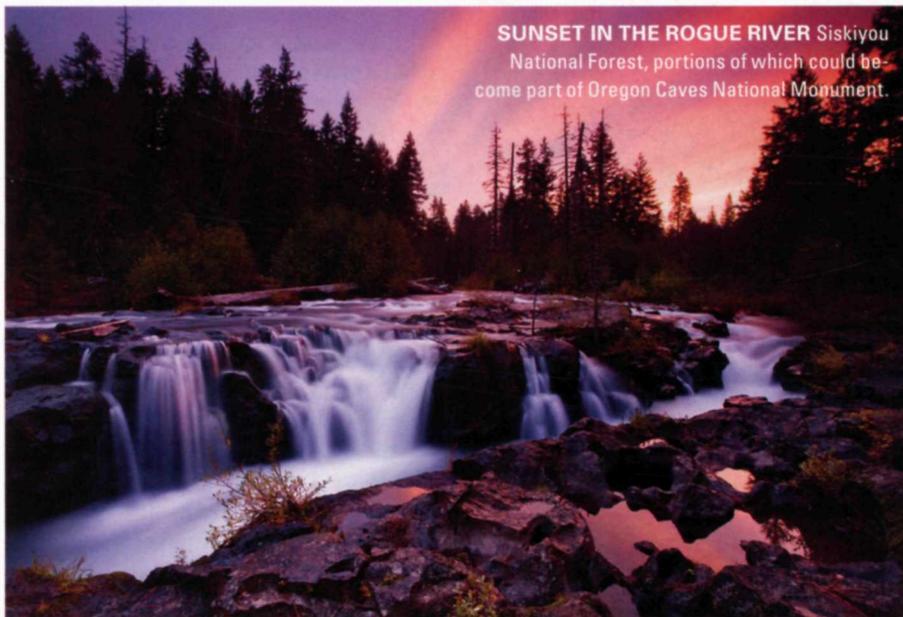
To find out if your senators and representative made the list, visit [www.npca.org/co111](http://www.npca.org/co111).

—Scott Kirkwood

### EYE-OPENER



Millions of people visit our national parks each year, and some never leave. **PERMANENT VACATION: TWENTY WRITERS ON WORK AND LIFE IN THE NATIONAL PARKS** includes essays from a river guide in the Grand Canyon, a biologist in the Grand Tetons, a maid catering to Yellowstone's guests, and a restaurant manager at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, among others. "Volume 1: The West" is the first in a planned series designed to let readers peek behind the curtain and experience the parks through the eyes of people who serve as your hosts every summer. 205 pp. (paperback), \$15, Bona Fide Books.



**SUNSET IN THE ROGUE RIVER** Siskiyou National Forest, portions of which could become part of Oregon Caves National Monument.

© SEAN BAUGHN/ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

## A BIGGER VISION

A new bill would expand Oregon Caves National Monument.

**P**ick up any map of the Northwest, and you might struggle to pinpoint Oregon Caves National Monument. At just 400 acres in size, it generally shows up as a tiny dot, making it one of the most overlooked park units in a region famous for its national parks.

If you *do* happen to find it and plan a trip there, you'd likely breeze through in a single day. Besides a three-hour cave tour, there are limited recreational options within park boundaries; just outside, however, 4,000 acres of Forest Service land boast several other caves, gorgeous water features, a network of hiking trails, and the area's only campsites.

"One of the things the Park Service hears consistently at the visitor center is, 'What else is there to do here?'" says Sean Smith, director of NPCA's Northwest Regional Office. "Our hope is that by providing visitors with more camping and hiking options, we'll turn day trips into longer, more meaningful experiences within this landscape."

Oregon's legislators agree. In 2009, Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives to transfer those 4,000 acres to the Park Service; Sens. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) followed up with a similar bill in the Senate. Congress is expected to attach this legislation to an omnibus lands bill, which members will vote on later this year.

It's a critical step in securing stronger protections for the land, because even though the Forest Service doesn't currently permit timber cutting here, there's no guarantee that the agency wouldn't allow it in the future. Cattle-grazing in the area is also a concern because manure can contaminate streams that provide Oregon Caves with drinking water.

An expansion would also allow visitors more time to experience the landscape as they approach the cave. "Moving the park entrance sign farther down the road would give visitors more time to transition from their everyday lives into an experience that's truly special," says Smith. "This isn't about pointing a finger at the Forest Service and saying, 'You're doing a bad job.' It's about creating the best management plan for the area. If your goals are to boost the local economy, improve visitor services, and better protect the land's resources, the Park Service model just fits better."

—Amy Leinbach Marquis



© MARCEL VAN KAMMEN/FOTO NATURE/ MINDENPICTURES

## ECHOES

*I've never seen as much consensus about a proposed National Park Service site. There isn't... a serious player who has an alternative vision [for Fort Monroe].*

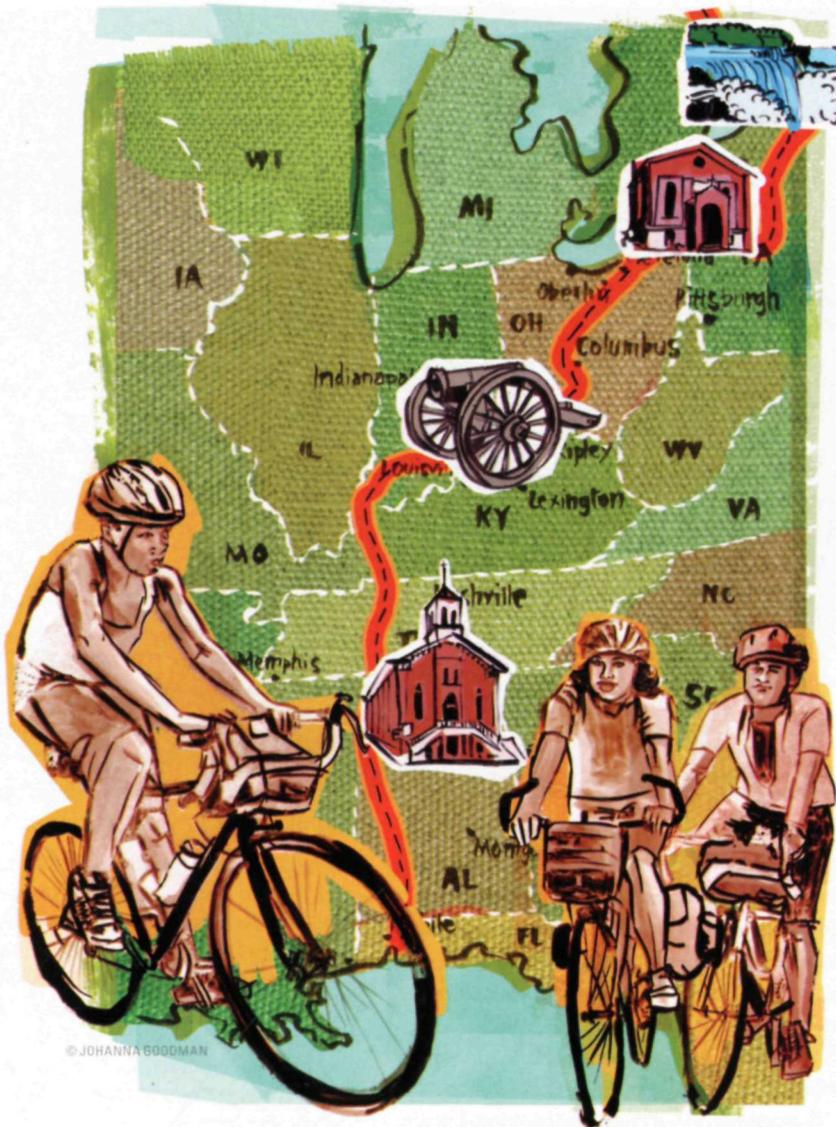
*Alan Spears, NPCA legislative representative, quoted in the Richmond-Times Dispatch, on NPCA's hopes to make Virginia's Fort Monroe a unit of the National Park System when the military decommissions the site in September.*

*National parks are becoming North American biological life boats, but they are leaking.*

*Jim Nations, vice president of NPCA's Center for Park Research, quoted in the Los Angeles Times, in June, when NPCA released its State of America's National Parks report, revealing that the health of natural and cultural resources within national parks is fading, while a host of new and long-standing threats is rising, such as declining air quality, polluted waterways, and decreased diversity of species. To read the report, visit [www.npca.org/cpr](http://www.npca.org/cpr).*

*This isn't just a national park—it's one of the most iconic national parks in the country, and [a proposal to wrap] it up in power lines has gotten people very protective.*

*Dawn Shirreffs, Everglades restoration program manager for NPCA, quoted by the Bradenton Herald in June, speaking out against a proposal that would facilitate a land exchange between the Park Service and Florida Power and Light, to allow the construction of a powerline in key habitat for woodstorks and other wading birds. The Park Service is expected to complete an environmental impact statement in December 2011.*



**NINE HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS** traced a route from Alabama to New York on two wheels, to connect with American history.

lies, where bikes tend to sink to the bottom of a long list of financial demands. Keith and Hicks knew these kids and their situations well; for six years, they had been working with local nonprofit groups focused on youth, including one whose goal is to help underserved kids reach their creative and academic potential. So when the couple set out to get more kids on bikes, they immediately turned to the ones they knew. Slowly but surely, their fledgling nonprofit—Spoke 'n Revolutions Youth Cycling—was born.

Their first goal: to build up a small but sturdy collection of old, donated bikes, with help from the Recyclery, a local bike co-op. Their second goal: to find underprivileged kids who actually wanted to *ride* those bikes. After a series of talks at local high schools, Keith managed to recruit a small group of sophomores. But she didn't just want to give them bikes; she wanted them to make those bikes their own. So the Recyclery trained the kids to be bike mechanics and make their own repairs. Then Keith and Hicks began leading the students onto the streets, where they learned to ride comfortably in traffic and in a pack. By their junior year, they were ready to test their legs—and their resolve—with a cross-country bike ride. From a few possible routes rose a clear winner: A month-long journey, from Alabama to New York, tracing the Underground Railroad—the very same routes enslaved African Americans used to obtain their freedom during the mid-19th century.

"These kids have a personal connection to this history," Keith says. "It really means something to them. They weren't just riding 1,800 miles to say they could do it—they wanted to honor the slaves, the conductors, the stationmasters, and all the wonderful people who risked their homes, businesses, families, and lives to help free African Americans 150 years ago." (cont'd)

## A ROAD LESS TRAVELED

Students reconnect with African-American history on an 1,800-mile, self-propelled journey along the Underground Railroad.

In 2006, Suepinda Keith decided to rekindle an old flame: cycling. She and her husband, Kevin Hicks, bought new bikes and began venturing out onto the streets of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, on the weekends. Pretty quickly, they started to notice something: The vast majority of cyclists all looked the same—avid "roadies" donned in span-

dex and brightly colored jerseys, riding expensive bikes. "We kept wondering, 'Why aren't there any kids out here on bicycles?'" Keith says.

For the most part, Chapel Hill is a highly educated, well-to-do community, but a handful of its children—mostly African-American and Hispanic kids—come from cash-strapped, single-parent fami-



Actual size  
is 30.6 mm

## Before they were carved in stone, they were struck in silver. Today they're forever etched in Civil War history.

Two Civil War generals, Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee, captured in stunning 90% silver.

And the first U.S. coin to commemorate the War Between the States.

As Americans, we're riveted by outsized personalities like these military leaders from a century and a half ago.

This year, as we mark the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, we're happy to bring you a coin that has *never been available in large enough quantities* to make an offer like this one.

### A remarkable discovery

Thanks to an intrepid southern collector who squirreled away these coins a few at a time over decades, we now have what could be the largest hoard ever assembled of silver 1925 Civil War Commemorative Half Dollars.

They were minted to raise money for the Stone Mountain Civil War memorial near Atlanta, where the image on this coin is now carved in *bas relief*.

The detail and relief make each coin a work of art.

You can almost hear the two generals discussing their next move. You can almost feel the horses fidgeting as they await their riders' commands.

It's no wonder these coins are in such high demand.

You will hold not simply history in your hand. *You'll hold a piece of your past.*

### Historic public release

Each half dollar is in lightly circulated condition and comes with a storycard and certificate of authenticity detailing this important coin.

### Order now risk free

At less than \$100 each, we expect our small quantity to disappear quickly. We urge you to call immediately to avoid disappointment!

You must be 100% satisfied with your Civil War Commemorative Half Dollar or return it via insured mail within 30 days of receipt for a prompt refund (less s&h).

### Buy more and SAVE

1925 Civil War Commemorative Half Dollar  
\$99.95 + s/h

3 for only \$93.00 each + s/h **SAVE \$20.85**

Toll-Free 24 hours a day  
**1-877-566-6468**

Offer Code **CWC154**

Please mention this code when you call.



**GovMint.com**  
YOUR ONE BEST SOURCE FOR COINS WORLDWIDE

14101 Southcross Drive W.  
Dept. CWC154  
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337

[www.GovMint.com](http://www.GovMint.com)

Prices and availability subject to change without notice. Past performance is not a predictor of future performance.

Note: GovMint.com is a private distributor of worldwide government coin issues and is not affiliated with the United States government. Facts and figures were deemed accurate as of March 2011. ©GovMint.com, 2011



Last February, Keith approached Diane Miller, program manager of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, with a modest request: free lodging in national park units in exchange for volunteer work. Inspired, Miller came back with an even better offer: the support of the Network-to-Freedom community—from Quaker families to Park Service staff—who could serve as modern-day “conductors” for the students, providing meals, housing, and history lessons along the way. “I had no doubt this journey would be life-changing for everyone involved, touching not only those on the ride, but also the people and communities who welcomed them,” Miller says.

On June 13, nine kids and two adult chaperones took their first pedal strokes along the Alabama-Mississippi border, with Keith driving ahead in the support van to make sure the roads were safe. They averaged 60 miles a day, stopping to rest their legs in gateway towns and camp in state parks. They braved thunderstorms, searing heat, and territorial dogs. They survived broken bikes, minor wipeouts, and enormous logging trucks. They even came to favor fruits and whole grains as a fuel source over Doritos and Little Debbie's.

Most memorable, however, were the stories they came away with, thanks to ranger-led tours along the Natchez Trace Parkway in Mississippi, Fort Donelson National Battlefield in Tennessee and

Kentucky, and Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio.

“When it comes to American history, we don’t always hear about the amazing things that minorities did for our country,” Keith says. “Instead we tend to get this watered-down version—and when you only learn about history from the perspective of a white person, our African-American kids grow up thinking that their story isn’t as important. But on this route, these kids learned that their history is so much bigger and more powerful than what they’d been told.”

Not every lesson was so uplifting. At campsites, the kids found themselves surrounded by mostly older, white people in RVs—visitors who looked nothing like them. Why weren’t other kids of color taking advantage of these beautiful, fascinating places, too?

Keith couldn’t offer her students any explanations as to why minorities aren’t more engaged with the Park Service. Nor could she fully understand why, from Alabama to New York, people initially perceived the group as troubled. “People would say to me, ‘Oh, are you doing this to keep these kids off the streets?’” she says. “I would tell them, ‘No, they’re great kids. They’re going to go to college, they’re going to be change-makers, they’re going to do community service. They just happen to lack financial resources.’ I was shocked by this assumption that a group of minority kids must have done something bad to deserve an

adventure like this. No one meant it in a malicious way, and it certainly didn’t take away from the importance of the trip. But I think our kids have to fight through a lot more prejudice on a daily basis than we realize.”

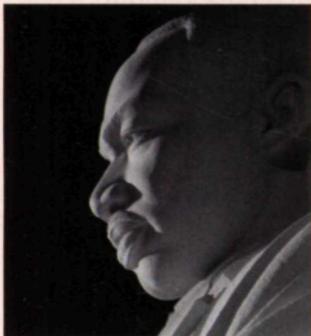
It wasn’t the only judgment turned on its head. “Months before the trip, when I showed the kids that the route started in Alabama, they looked at me and said, ‘But Miss Sue, are we going to be safe?’” says Keith. “I just kept saying, ‘It’s going to be okay. There are nice people wherever you go—we’ll find them, they’ll find us.’ And it was true—the kids met the nicest people—people who opened their homes to them, fed them, gave them directions, gave them thumbs-up and high-fives. People were so impressed that they would reach into their wallets and give them \$20, which we used for meals. I think we collected \$200 from random strangers this way—they were our unexpected ‘conductors’ on the road.

“We had a couple of incidents that were really nasty, but we also had two thousand great experiences with really nice people. When it was all said and done, the students realized how wrong they’d been to prejudice white people in the South.”

On July 15, the crew reached its final destination—Niagara Falls, New York. But unlike the experiences of most visitors to the falls, the students’ “wow” moment didn’t come from the scenery itself. Instead, it came from standing on the same

## THE DREAM UNVEILED

© MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL MEMORIAL PROJECT FOUNDATION, INC. JOHNNY BIVERA



Washington, D.C., added another name to the list of American icons honored along the National Mall, when the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial was unveiled in August, 48 years after Dr. King’s “I Have A Dream” speech and the historic March on Washington. Tucked between the FDR Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial, the monument to MLK was designed to convey four fundamental and recurring themes throughout Dr. King’s life—democracy, justice, hope, and love—and features the use of natural elements including water, stone, and trees. A 450-foot wall features more than a dozen of Dr. King’s quotes engraved into granite as a lasting testament and reminder of Dr. King’s humanitarian vision. Consider this one more “must see” on your next trip to the nation’s capital.

ground where Harriet Tubman helped usher slaves to freedom across the Canadian border—and finally realizing the gravity of their own efforts to arrive there. “I woke up with my mind set on freedom,” wrote Itza Salazar, one of the students, in her final blog post. “I still can’t put words to the way I was feeling. All I really know is that we made it... we all completed an 1,800-mile journey... something that 31 days ago was nothing more than a goal, an idea, a distant thought.”

“At that point, our bikes were literally falling apart,” Keith says. “But I think the kids gained a sense that they can do anything.”

If Keith has her way, Spoke ‘n Revolutions’ adventures will have just begun. She’s already plotting a route for next summer’s senior ride, which will likely trace the Trail of Tears up through Oklahoma, then follow the Buffalo Soldiers’ biking excursion from Montana to Missouri. But that’s not all. Keith also hopes to fly a new set of restored bikes to Ghana, Africa, where her students would

help set up a bike shop, teach locals to become their own bike mechanics, and empower the community with a much-needed mode of transportation.

“We never would have gotten this far without the National Park Service,” Keith says. “They did so much for us—it’s not something we could ever repay.” Unless,

of course, you count the fact that she successfully engaged a new generation of kids in the parks. “I don’t know how to get more people of color to the parks, but taking these students is a good start,” she adds. “Maybe they’ll be inspired to take their own kids someday.”

—Amy Leinbach Marquis

# 148

**NUMBER OF YEARS** that two bullets had been lodged in an oak tree at Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania, before being discovered in August, during routine maintenance work. As the *Washington Post* reported, park employees made the discovery when their chainsaw struck the bullets as they were removing the fallen tree from Culp’s Hill, the site of bitter fighting between Union and Confederate armies in early July 1863. “One hundred years ago it was commonplace to find bullets in Gettysburg trees,” said Superintendent Bob Kirby. “But this is a rarity today.

## Finally, A Tough Super Glue



Gorilla Super Glue’s Impact-Tough® formula creates a flexible bond, providing a strong, reliable fix. Quickly bonds metal, wood, ceramic, paper, rubber, leather and more!

**FOR THE TOUGHEST JOBS ON PLANET EARTH®**

**GORILLA TOUGH**

1-800-966-3458 Made in USA

### National Historic Landmark Hotel Belton Chalet

1910 CELEBRATING 100 YEARS 2010

GATEWAY TO GLACIER NATIONAL PARK




Hotel ~ Restaurant ~ Taproom  
Private Cottages ~ Weddings ~ Special Events

406.888.5000  
West Glacier, MT  
beltonchalet.com

**YELLOW-BELLIED MARMOTS** in the Rocky Mountains are experiencing a population boom as a result of climate change.



© KEVIN DIXON

## OUT OF SYNC

Climate change is affecting the national parks' most ancient and critical cycles. Can citizen science help?

**A** yellow warbler, wintering deep in the jungles of Central America, responds to the longer days of spring by migrating to its breeding grounds in Yellowstone National Park. A desert dandelion, coaxed through sandy soil by warm temperatures and rainfall, blooms in Mojave National Preserve. A western tiger swallowtail butterfly emerges from its cocoon to feast on nectar from mountain wildflowers blooming in Sequoia National Park.

This is phenology: the seasonal patterns of growth, development, and reproduction in plants and animals. Some of those patterns have been in place for millions of years, but recently, climate change has caused some to fall out of sync. Scientists are determined to get a better handle on those changes. "By tuning in to the patterns around us, we are able to understand a lot more about how

climate change may affect the relationships between plants and animals," says Brian Haggerty, a doctoral student studying phenology at the University of California–Santa Barbara. "If a plant flowers earlier because of an unusually warm spring, it might benefit that plant, but it might be bad for animals that depend on the flowers, fruit, or seeds if they can't shift their timing with the plant."

Such timing changes in the life cycles of plants are rippling across food webs. Yellow-bellied marmots, for example, have increased their weight and improved their winter survival rates, thanks to a longer plant-growing season in the Rocky Mountains. These high-elevation herbivores are emerging from hibernation earlier and are able to fatten up longer for winter. While a population increase of yellow-bellied marmots might sound like a good thing, it could

have unintended consequences. "How does it affect other plants and herbivores when we look down the food web?" asks Liz Matthews, a postdoctoral associate for the California Phenology Project. The marmot boom could upset the predator-prey balance or deplete high-elevation plant resources, ultimately triggering a marmot population crash. And considering marmots' attraction to antifreeze—which drives them to chew through car engine hoses—one has to wonder if a population increase might adversely affect national park visitors, too.

Farther west in Mojave National Preserve, the health and reproductive success of two icon species—the desert tortoise and bighorn sheep—depend on plants, which are influenced by climate. When desert tortoises emerge from their burrows in spring, they search for tender green plants and flowers. Bighorn sheep, on the other hand, consume vast quantities of green vegetation to gain weight, which helps ensure that ewes give birth to healthy lambs. A shift in climate could change the timing of the growth and reproduction of plant resources that are

critical to both animals. And when individual species begin to suffer, it can put their entire ecosystem in jeopardy, too.

Debra Hughson, Mojave's Science Advisor, compares it to the vital signs of a medical patient: "If you see a symptom in a patient that reflects poor health, you would look closer at the patient's blood pressure, or you might conduct other tests to find out what's wrong." Similarly, if dramatic changes are occurring within the park's bighorn sheep population, scientists would have to ask what those changes reflect about the health of the ecosystem to which those sheep belong. That's why studying phenology is so valuable—it helps connect the dots.

But tracing the history of these ancient cycles isn't always so easy. Although humans have kept records about the growth and reproduction of food crops for a long time—"agricultural phenology"—there are hardly any data about phenology in wilderness or national parks. The California Phenology Project (CPP), a collaboration

among the National Park Service, National Phenology Network, and the University of California at Santa Barbara and Berkeley, uses "citizen science"—the act of engaging the public to assist in scientific research—to explore the life histories of plants from national parks and other wildlands. CPP is working in seven national park units in California alone: Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Joshua Tree National Park, Lassen Volcanic National Park, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and Redwood National and State Parks. These units represent key California bioregions, ranging from the mountains to coasts to deserts. Citizen scientists are tasked with gathering data about the life cycles of specific plants. They will record stages of growth and development, or "phenophases," like flowering and fruiting.

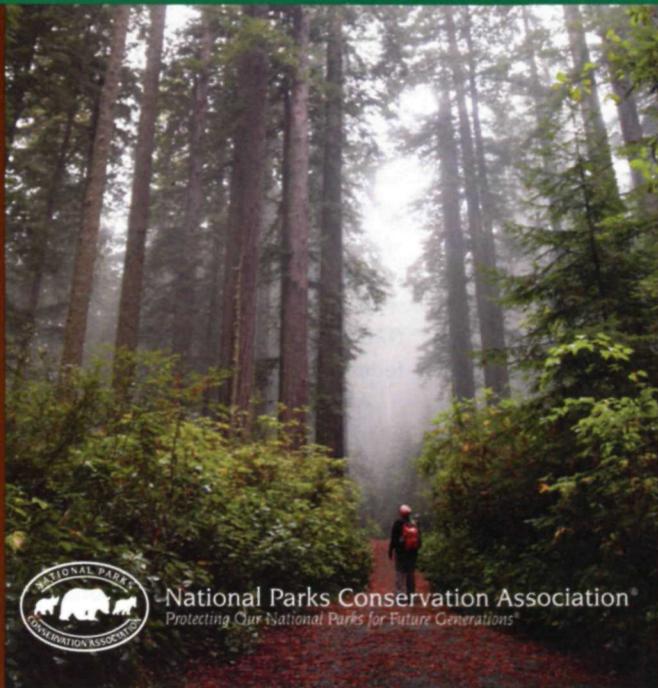
But it's not just about numbers; their work contributes to a much bigger picture, too. "Plants are everything to people and

animals," says Angie Evenden, a lead investigator for CPP. "They provide habitat to animals, food for humans, wood for building—but we don't know how those systems are going to be affected by climate change."

Ultimately, CPP's goal is to establish data that will shed more light on how climate change is disrupting natural cycles, because once scientists understand that, land managers might be able to help the more vulnerable species adapt. Relocating those species to a more hospitable environment is just one example. Until then, Sylvia Haultain, a plant ecologist studying phenology at Sequoia National Park, sees herself playing another critical role: educator. "We as Park Service managers have an obligation to detect these changing patterns and communicate what's happening," she says. "It's important to be able to tell this story to the public and policymakers."

—Seth Shteir

## What will your legacy be?



Assist in the protection of our national treasures for future generations by including the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) in your will or trust.

Create a legacy that will last beyond your lifetime with a planned gift to NPCA. Join the Mather Legacy Society today!

To receive our free brochure, *How to Make a Will that Works*, call our toll-free number 1.877.468.5775, visit our web site, [www.npca.org/giftplanning](http://www.npca.org/giftplanning), or return the form below.

### **NPCA Gift Planning Department**

777 6th Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001-3723  
giftplanning@npca.org • [www.npca.org/giftplanning](http://www.npca.org/giftplanning)

### **Please send your free brochure, *How to Make a Will that Works***

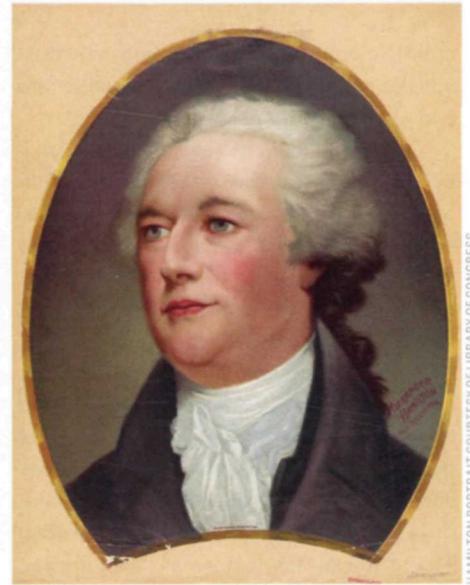
- I would consider including NPCA in my estate plans  
 I have already included NPCA in my estate plans

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



## HOME AT LAST

More than 100 years after it was moved from its original site, Alexander Hamilton's home is restored, relocated, and open to visitors.

He was a Founding Father who gained the trust of George Washington at an early age, while serving as the general's aide de camp during the Revolutionary War. He helped draft the U.S. Constitution. And as our first secretary of the treasury, he developed the nation's banking system. But all Alexander Hamilton (1755–1804) really wanted was to be perceived as a gentleman.

"Hamilton was the quintessential self-made man," says Maria Burks, commissioner of the National Parks of New York Harbor, which manages Hamilton's home, located in Harlem. "He was born poor in the West Indies, probably out of wedlock, and was orphaned at 13," she says. "As he gained prominence, it was very important to him that he own a home that reflected his position."

When The Grange—named after Hamilton's grandfather's estate in Scotland—reopens to the public for the first time in five years, visitors will finally get an accurate sense of how he and his architect achieved that goal. The September unveiling fol-

lows an extensive relocation and restoration effort that's been under discussion since 1962, when the National Park Service assumed ownership of the house.

The house's troubled history began long before then. Hamilton would live in what he called his "sweet country project" for just two years after it was finished in 1802. One summer morning, he crossed over to Weehawken, New Jersey, to meet Vice President Aaron Burr in a duel. Burr's first shot hit Hamilton in the lower abdomen, mortally wounding him.

Hamilton's wife, Elizabeth, eventually sold the house, and it languished in obscurity until 1889, when the leaders of St. Luke's Episcopal Church learned that it was threatened by the expansion of Manhattan's street grid. The church purchased the building for use as a rectory, then relocated it via horse-drawn carriage to a site on which it planned to erect a new church. During preparation for the two-block trip, the house was shorn of its foundation and basement; afterwards church leaders removed its

**BUILT IN NEW YORK CITY** in 1802, Alexander Hamilton's two-story home was quickly overtaken by development.

porches to better fit the lot.

In its new locale, the two-story house was gradually overtaken by development, sandwiched between the hulking new Romanesque Revival-style church and an apartment complex. "It looked like an inconspicuous cottage," says Burks. "Nothing could have looked less impressive, less of a monument to the man."

Ten years ago, NPCA stepped in.

"We thought finding the home a location that more closely echoed its original one, and restoring the structure, should be pushed to the top of the to-do list," says Alex Brash, director of NPCA's Northeast Regional Office. Working with the city's congressional delegation, NPCA helped secure the \$8.4 million in federal grants to get the project rolling.

And roll it did. Two years after The Grange closed in May 2006 to undergo a thorough structural analysis, a team of German Baptist house movers from Bernville, Pennsylvania, arrived on the scene. Armed with 7,000 wood planks; two miles of chain; and an arsenal of hydraulic jacks, dollies, and remote-controlled pulleys, they lifted up the house a few inches at a time, eventually hoisting it 35 feet into the

air so it cleared the neighboring church's loggia. Next, they slid the 300-ton home out onto the street, around a corner, and

boundaries of Hamilton's original 34-acre plot, and once again The Grange is gifted with the sweeping views its owner craved.

Movers lifted up the house a few inches at a time, eventually hoisting it 35 feet into the air so it cleared the neighboring church's loggia.

then two city blocks down a slope.

"It traveled just 300 feet or so, but it felt like 15 miles," recalls Burks. "Everything along the path was removed—light stanchions, hydrants, trees, overhead wires, street signs." At the trickiest spot, one of the movers alerted a watching official that a bay window might have to be removed. "This fellow's face turned absolutely white," says Burks. "The mover started laughing: 'I'm kidding. *Kidding.*'"

When its journey was over, The Grange found itself safe and sound in New York City's St. Nicholas Park. The new site is perched on a cliffside location within the

"It's remarkable to see the house from all four sides now, sitting in this bucolic setting," says Adrian Benepe, commissioner of New York City's Department of Parks & Recreation. The neighborhood park is well used, Benepe says, but "bringing this level of attraction, being able to interpret history like this, is a great thing. It's another example of the ongoing partnership between our parks department and the National Park Service."

Designed by John McComb, Jr.—who also built New York's City Hall, Gracie Mansion, and another national park site, Castle Clinton—Hamilton's dream home features

the octagonal rooms, tall French windows, and graceful details that became the hallmarks of Federal-style architecture. Based on departures from McComb's drawings, historians now assume that Hamilton provided significant input to the final design.

As part of the renovation, lost elements such as the porches have been rebuilt practically from scratch, and in many cases, consulting architects were able to work with original materials. For example, they used treads and wood trim found under floor boards and behind walls to reconstruct an interior staircase that had been substantially altered. Obscured exterior details, such as small ornate windows, are also seeing the light for the first time in more than a century.

And so the house that Hamilton built, the only one he ever owned, has at last found its final resting place. No longer will his pride and joy be "squirreled away," says Burks. "It's come out from the shadows—both literally and metaphorically.

—JoAnn Greco

# National PARKS

FALL 2011

## FREE INFO FOR YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE!

Learn more about the advertisers featured in *National Parks*. Simply fill out the attached card and return to us. We'll handle the rest! For faster service, fax toll-free to 888.847.6035 or visit [www.npca.org/magazine](http://www.npca.org/magazine) and click "search advertisers."

Circle the number on the attached card that corresponds to your categories and advertisers of interest.

<b>Circle #</b> .....	<b>Page #</b>
<b>100. All Resorts &amp; Hotels</b>	
1. Belton Chalet .....	13
2. Forever Resorts .....	23
3. Kennicott Glacier Lodge .....	57
<b>200. All Travel &amp; Tour</b>	
4. Alpine Adventure Trail Tours .....	57

5. American Cruise Lines .....	5
6. Arizona Highways Photography .....	19
7. Arizona State Parks .....	56
8. Collette Vacations. ....	19
9. NPCA Parkscapes Tours .....	41
10. Outer Banks of North Carolina .....	7

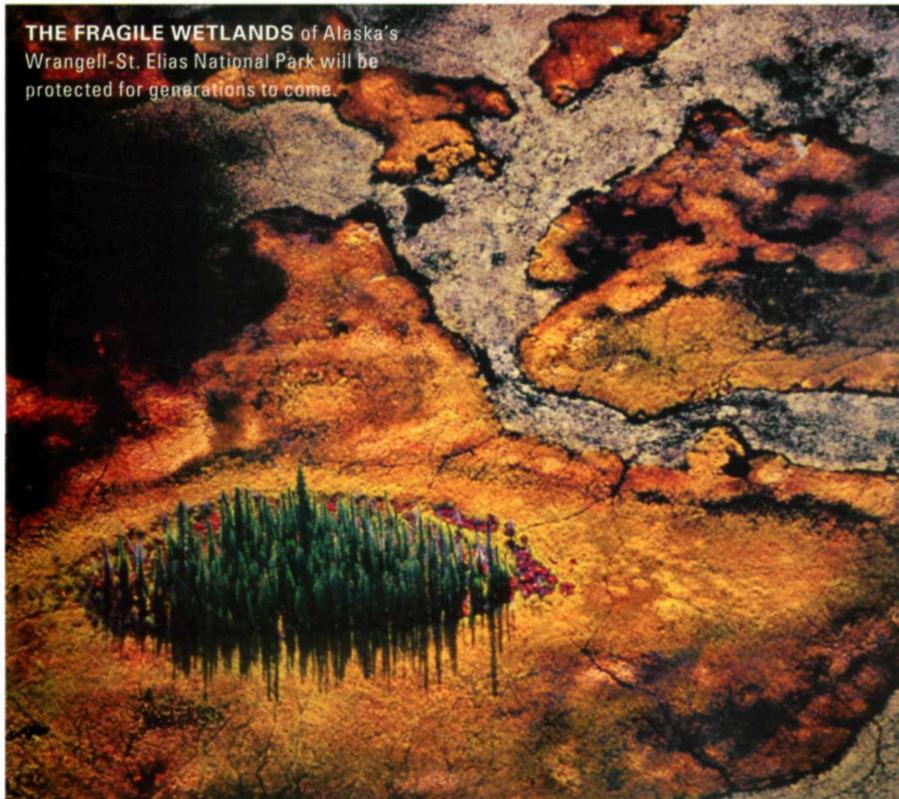
<b>300. Outdoor Gear</b>	
11. Celestron Telescopes .....	21
<b>600. All Home</b>	
12. GEICO .....	Ins. Back Cvr.
13. Gorilla Glue .....	13
14. GovMint.com .....	11

### ADVERTISING SALES CONTACTS:

**Jason Vranich**  
800.501.9571 x185  
[jason.vranich@theYGSgroup.com](mailto:jason.vranich@theYGSgroup.com)

**Marshall Boomer**  
800.501.9571 x123  
[marshall.boomer@theYGSgroup.com](mailto:marshall.boomer@theYGSgroup.com)

THE FRAGILE WETLANDS of Alaska's Wrangell-St. Elias National Park will be protected for generations to come.



© FRANS LANTING/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STOCK

## ON THE RIGHT PATH

Off-road vehicles have scarred the landscape of Wrangell St. Elias for years, but that's about to change.

The first challenge is this: Alaska is really, really big, which means getting from Point A to Point B takes some doing. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve is no exception. Unlike Yellowstone and Yosemite, which have miles of paved roads, carefully placed boardwalks, and asphalt trails to host millions of visitors, the nation's largest park is a wild and untamed landscape with hundreds of residents who predate its creation in 1980. Many of those people still live off the land, and their most effective means of travel in the summer season is an off-road vehicle (ORV). That's where another problem comes in: The Alaskan tundra is an incredibly sensitive landscape, and its fragile wetlands can turn into mud bogs with the passage of just one ORV. Riders often skirt muddy spots by a few feet to avoid getting bogged down in the mess; over the years, some scarred

trails had grown wider than the length of a football field.

Wrangell-St. Elias is actually two separate units: a national preserve, which permits sport hunting and the use of ORVs for recreational purposes on designated trails, and a national park, which allows ORV use by only local residents who are allowed to hunt and gather food to feed their families. Over the years, NPS had backed itself into a corner with a permitting system for recreational ORV use in the national park, in a violation of federal law. The agency also paid scant attention to long-term trail care. To put a stop to the damage caused by this illegal use, NPCA joined with the Alaska Center for the Environment and The Wilderness Society to take the Park Service to court in 2006. NPS quickly recognized the error in its ways and halted recreational ORV activity on the damaged trails in question while it took steps to design a long-term man-

agement plan. In August, the Park Service finalized its plan, promising to improve park trails that have suffered long-term damage so local residents can return to subsistence activities and gain access to private property. Hunters and outdoor enthusiasts who aren't local residents will be prohibited from driving their ORVs in the park, but will be able to use ORVs in the national preserve on trails that have been improved to a sustainable level. The plan also calls for new hiking routes.

Recognizing that Alaskans are often slow to trust the federal government, Bruce Rogers, the park's environmental protection specialist, was encouraged last year, when locals in the small community of Slana took a strong interest in the environmental impact statement, a 300-page document that can stymie even the most experienced government worker. After working those residents through the process and getting their vital feedback, he's now looking to engage more locals in trail-restoration work, which generally involves trucking in gravel to stabilize routes or dispersing the weight of ORVs by laying down plastic grids with the trade name "Geoblock" (picture the side of a milk crate, and multiply it exponentially). When reconstruction isn't possible, the park will pursue other options, like re-routing trails to drier ground. In August, the park held its first volunteer day to engage local stewards in the work; more events will be scheduled for 2012. Repairing and rerouting the almost 66 miles of ORV routes will take years, and is expected to cost about \$4 million.

"We're really pleased that our litigation led the Park Service to roll up their sleeves and tackle the trail problems that were so evident to everyone," says Jim Stratton, senior director of NPCA's Alaska Regional Office. "This announcement ushers in a new approach to trail management, one that is focused on protecting the fragile tundra and the wetlands of Wrangells while improving access for local folks using these trails for hunting, fishing, berry-picking, and traveling to their remote cabins. It took four years to get to this point, and it'll take a few more years to complete the work, but it's absolutely worth it."

—Scott Kirkwood

## NPCA Gift Memberships



# THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT!

Introduce your family and friends to the stunning beauty and rich history of our national parks. Enroll them as members of NPCA!

They'll enjoy a year's subscription to *National Parks* magazine, filled with the wonders of our national parks, and learn about the important role NPCA members play in protecting America's treasures. **Plus they'll receive our exclusive plush bison as a special gift.** You can give a Gift Membership by visiting [my.npca.org/gift](http://my.npca.org/gift) or by calling 1.800.628.7275. Gift Memberships are \$25 each.

We'll send our plush bison to your gift recipient(s), and they'll start receiving *National Parks* magazine as soon as we process your order.

**Free... our plush bison for each of your gift recipients!**



National Parks Conservation Association®  
Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations®

Call 1.800.628.7275 or Visit [my.npca.org/gift](http://my.npca.org/gift)

## ARIZONA HIGHWAYS Photo Workshops

EDUCATE. MOTIVATE. INSPIRE.



### Upcoming Winter Workshop

Yellowstone in Winter  
with Henry Holdsworth  
January 20-26, 2012



For more information call or visit our website for a complete schedule or to download our current brochure

[azhighwaysphotoworkshops.com](http://azhighwaysphotoworkshops.com)

602-712-2004 or toll free 888-790-7042

## AMERICA THE beautiful

Collette Vacations...your gateway to America's National Parks...is proud to present

### Canyon Country

9 Days • 12 Meals

from \$1899\*

Highlights ... Scottsdale, Oak Creek Canyon, Kaibab National Forest, Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, Monument Valley, Bryce Canyon National Park, Zion National Park, Las Vegas

### National Parks

12 Days • 17 Meals

from \$2649\*

Highlights ... Scottsdale, Lake Powell, Grand Canyon, Bryce, Zion, Salt Lake City, Grand Teton & Yellowstone National Parks, Old Faithful, Sheridan, Bighorn Mountains, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial

Other great historical destinations available.

**A FREE RIDE!** Receive complimentary roundtrip home to airport sedan service on all air-inclusive tours.\*\*



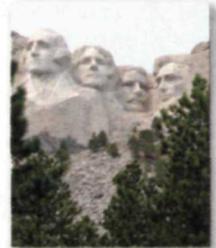
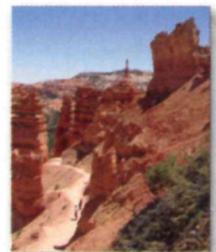
COLLETTE  
VACATIONS

For a FREE brochure, contact your travel agent or call 877-961-8687. Mention promotion code D534-AX1-918.

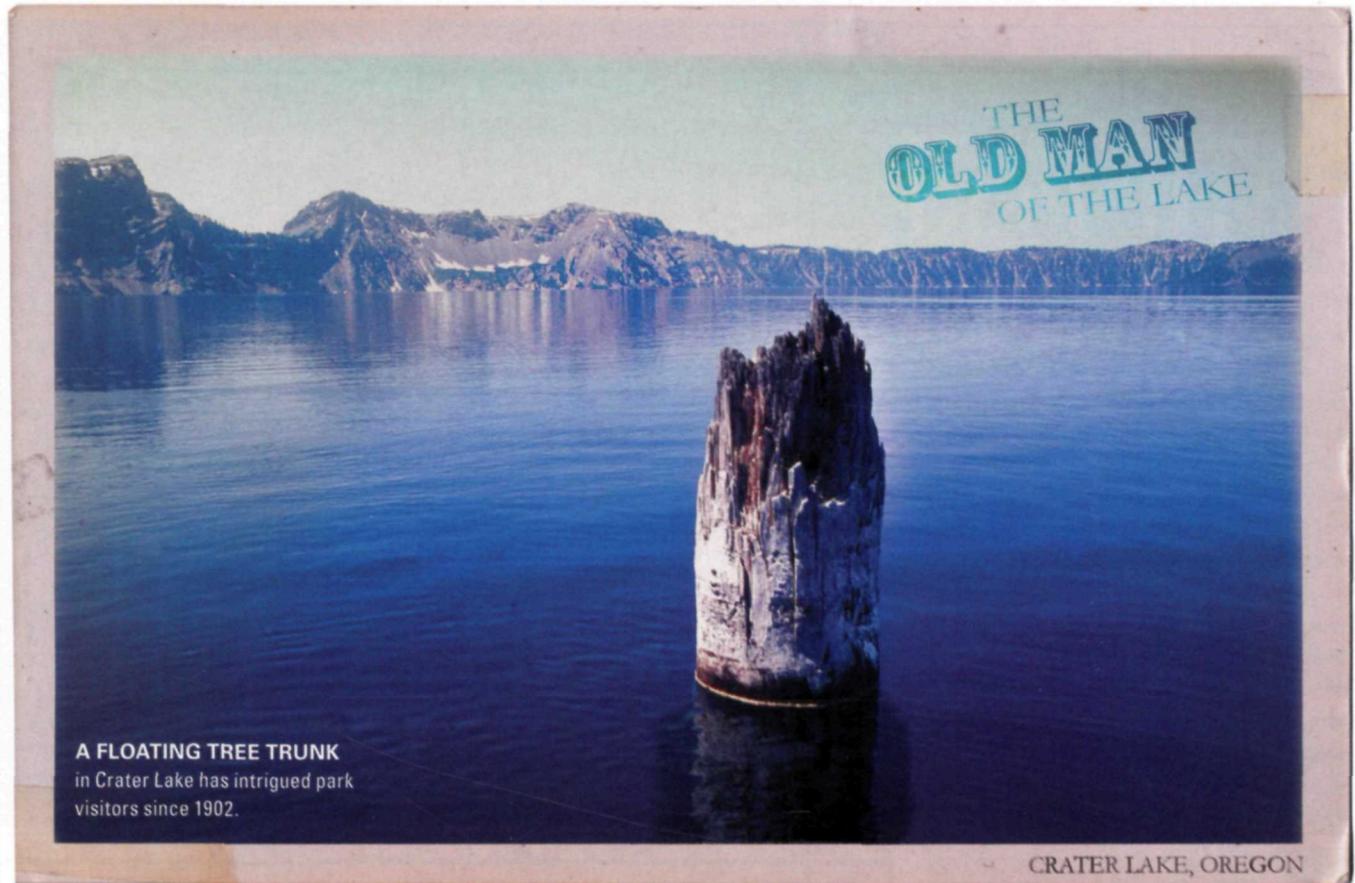
Visit [www.collettevacations.com/npm](http://www.collettevacations.com/npm)

\*Rates are per person, land only, based on double occupancy. Call for airfare from your gateway.  
\*\*Not valid on group travel. Included in many U.S. cities within a 50 mile radius of more than 90 airport gateways.  
One transfer per room booking. Additional stops are not permitted on route. Other restrictions may apply; call for details.

CSF# 2006766-20  
URN# 691220855  
Nevada Seller of Travel Reg No. 2003-0279



© LARRY SMITH/CRATER LAKE INSTITUTE, PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ANNIE RIKER/NPCA



# The Old Man of the Lake

How has a giant hemlock managed to float upright in Crater Lake for more than a hundred years?

According to Native American legend, an epic battle occurred one night in southern Oregon 7,700 years ago. Standing atop Mount Mazama, spurned by the daughter of a local chief, Llao, god of the underworld, spit magma and shot superheated steam miles into the sky. Skell, god of the world above, fought back by pitching pyroclastic fireballs from

California's Mount Shasta, blowing the massive summit of Mount Mazama to bits. By dawn, Llao was driven back underground; Skell honored the victory by filling the massive caldera with water, creating Oregon's Crater Lake.

Since then, strange stories have hovered above the area like a chilly Northwest fog. People have spotted ghostly campfires on

uninhabited Wizard Island, and visitors to Crater Lake Lodge still tell stories of eerie occurrences in the night. Despite these tales, the park's most famous phenomenon appears during the day: An ancient hemlock tree, known as "the Old Man of the Lake," has been floating completely upright for more than 100 years.

The first written account of the Old Man appeared in 1902, the year Crater Lake was named a national park. While reporting on the cataclysmic events that shaped the area, geologist Joseph S. Diller mentioned seeing the miraculous stump six years earlier near Wizard Island at Crater Lake's west end. The Old Man's sun-bleached and splintered head and torso floated nearly four feet above the water. His lower body descended 30 feet into the depths, and his waist was two feet in diameter at the surface.

Appearing to be rooted and yet, still moving, the Old Man seemed to defy the laws of physics. In 1929, William Glad-

stone Steel, known as “the father of Crater Lake” for pushing Congress to designate it as a park, mentioned seeing “the great tree, broken squarely off and floating upright.” In 1938, park naturalist John Doerr spent three months tracking its travel patterns, noting “the Old Man travels extensively and, at times, surprisingly fast.” Between July 1st and Sept 30th, the Old Man logged more than 62 miles and, on one particularly windy day, traveled 3.8 miles. In the years that followed, the Old Man became a local celebrity, and a legend rose up that he controlled the weather. Naturally, the scientists who helicoptered a small submarine into the lake in 1988 to study the geothermal activity downplayed such an idea. To them, the Old Man was a navigational hazard, so they tied him up near Wizard Island—but the moment they did, the sky grew dark, and a storm blew in. Humbled, the scientists quickly released the Old Man, and moments later, the skies miraculously cleared.

The initial belief was that a landslide on the

crater wall carried the Old Man into the lake, and rocks wedged in an expansive root structure stabilized its base. Such an explanation made sense, for at Spirit Lake near Mount St. Helens, hundreds of trees have been floating upright ever since the eruption in 1980. But these trees follow a typical pattern: They have a large root structure, float for a number of years, and eventually sink to the lake bottom. Why hasn't the Old Man sunk? Why hasn't he eroded? And how, despite having no significant root structure, does he stay balanced?

When Ranger Dave Grimes leads his boat tour on Crater Lake, he doesn't jump aboard the massive conifer like rangers in the past, but often steers the boat over to pay a visit. Up close, the Old Man is an example of perfect balance—between movement and stillness, darkness and light, earth and sky, Llaol and Skell. And then there's the matter of depth. You could stack the Eiffel Tower, Statue of Liberty, and Washington Monument beneath the Old Man and still not reach the lake's deepest point of 1,943 feet. “It takes people a few

moments to register what they're seeing,” says Grimes, “but once they realize that this log has been floating like this for over a hundred years, they're amazed.”

Grimes credits Crater Lake's clean, cold water for preserving the tree and the higher density of the submerged part for keeping it balanced. Based upon initial carbon dating, Scott Girdner, an aquatic biologist with the park, says the Old Man is at least 450 years old but he isn't sure how long it's been floating in the lake. For the staff, the Old Man is much more than a floating log. “He has character, a story, and history that is part of the park,” says Girdner.

While some tourists find the Old Man eerie, Grimes has a different experience. “For me, the Old Man is a calming presence,” he says. “He is blown by the wind, but he's not rocked by the waves.” NP

**Kevin Grange** is a freelance writer in Los Angeles, California. His first travel memoir, *Beneath Blossom Rain*, was published in April.



SPEND YOUR PRECIOUS TIME TOGETHER EXPLORING INSTEAD OF WORRYING.

Celestron's new compact, easy to use handheld GPS device is designed to help you reTrace your steps in any situation. reTrace works anywhere in the world a GPS signal can be received and provides you with a sense of security by allowing you to store locations in its memory so you can find your way back to saved locations quickly and easily.

reTrace™

To learn more about our reTrace Deluxe & reTrace Lite models, visit [www.celestron.com](http://www.celestron.com)



**CELESTRON**

Your Adventure Starts Here | [www.CELESTRON.com](http://www.CELESTRON.com)

**ORGAN PIPE'S ACUÑA CACTUS**

**POPULATION** took a big hit in the '90s, and has yet to rebound.



© ANDREW RECHER

# Unusual Suspects

What triggered the fall of Organ Pipe's acuña cactus?

**T**he Sonoran Desert is the most lush, diverse desert in the world—but you wouldn't have known it trekking through Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Southern Arizona last spring. The landscape, typically carpeted with wildflowers by March, was brown and dry, save for a few bold, orange-flowered ocotillos. Inadequate rainfall and unusually severe winter freezes zapped any chance of color this year.

Some would argue that such conditions are cyclical, nothing out of the ordinary; others see them as yet another warning sign of a changing climate. Growing evidence

suggests something more is wrong. Small cactuses (also called “cacti”) throughout the region are disappearing before botanists have a chance to learn even the most basic information about them. And the acuña cactus has proven the most mysterious case of them all.

In 1997, Organ Pipe's botanists were conducting annual field research when they stumbled upon hundreds of uprooted acuña. “Plants were just lying on the ground, on their sides,” says Sue Rutman, a plant ecologist at the park. “It was devastating.”

Worse still, the crime scene was nearly devoid of clues. It seemed like a case of

thoughtless vandalism, yet whoever or whatever had done the damage didn't seem to profit from it in any way: The plants hadn't been eaten by a hungry animal, and they hadn't been removed by a poacher. The staff's best hunch came in the form of something much smaller and more difficult to penalize: insects.

Sometimes cactuses become infested. When they do, insect larvae munch through the plants' tissue and eventually hatch into adults. Rutman and her team suspect that there were so many insects inside the plants that the birds heard them and uprooted the acüñas in an effort to reach a tasty snack.

Whatever the culprit, the result was a devastating population crash: a third to half of the park's acuña cactuses were dead, and the species has been in a swift and steady decline ever since. Evidence supports a growing suspicion among botanists that small cactus species throughout the Sonoran Desert are falling prey to increased insect outbreaks,

and drought only weakens the plants' defenses—a sign of climate change in action.

"Insect populations tend to increase and decrease in cycles," Rutman says, "so this is all conjecture on our part. But there are a certain set of characteristics that appear when insects damage plants, and we're seeing them where we never noticed them before."

Knowing which insects might be boring into the acuña cactus isn't easy to figure out. Doing so would require cutting into stems, spelling certain death for the few plants that remain—and even then, botanists might not find the answers they need.

Experts are also struggling to understand the most basic characteristics of the acuña—such as why it lives on exposed bedrock scattered like tiny islands throughout the northern Sonoran Desert. Is it a special nutrient they're drawn to? Something about the soil composition? "We look at the acuña and ask, 'What is this plant seeing that's not obvious to the

rest of us?'" says Rutman.

Answers to such basic questions are critical to the survival of a plant that has awaited an endangered-species listing for 25 years. But there aren't enough botanists available to search for those answers. "There are so many more wildlife biologists than plant people in the federal agencies, but we're losing these plants, and the botanists we have are so busy, they can't do anything about it," Rutman says. "I'm the only botanist with Organ Pipe, and I can't set aside the time I need to learn more about the acuña and increase our monitoring efforts."

Without plants like the acuña, wildlife could suffer, too. "We know that native bees pollinate this plant," Rutman says, "but we don't know much about those bees, or if they'll be able to withstand climate change."

Thankfully, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has taken notice, and there's a good chance the acuña will be federally listed in the near future, which would kick-start a recovery plan. Organ Pipe

staff are also discussing seed storage with the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix (those seeds could eventually be used to supplement wild populations), as well as restoration plans within the park (growing acuña in beds alongside wild populations to encourage cross-pollination).

No one can say whether these efforts will bring the acuña back from the brink, but its plight stands as a wake-up call to the entire country, if not the entire world. "It's very possible that this plant is telling us that climate change is already affecting us," Rutman says, "and that's worrisome. I'm not sure if people are ready to believe that we're already so far progressed in the changing climate that we're losing species. If climate change keeps gaining momentum, this could become a real problem for people, too." NP

*National Parks'* associate editor **Amy Leinbach Marquis** hiked and camped in Southern Arizona's national parks last spring.

## Forever Resorts North American Portfolio

30 YEARS IN THE MAKING.



Luxury Houseboating Vacations | Unique Lodging | Adventure Tours

Review the entire Forever Resorts North American Portfolio at

[Travel-Forever.com/11npm](http://Travel-Forever.com/11npm)

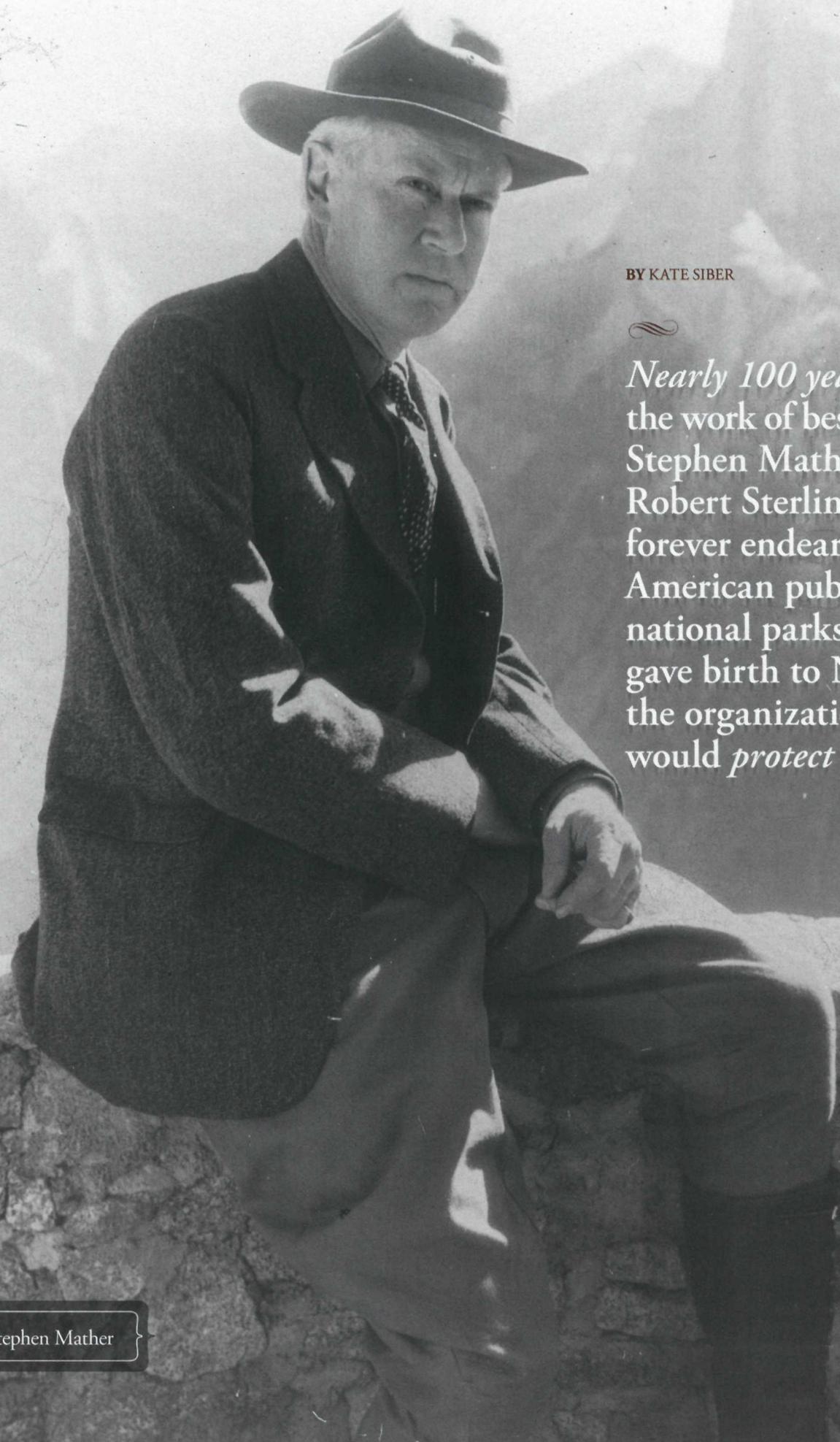


Forever Resorts is an Authorized Concessioner of the National Park Service and an Equal Opportunity Service Provider.

# { THE Visionaries }



Robert Sterling Yard



BY KATE SIBER



*Nearly 100 years ago, the work of best friends Stephen Mather and Robert Sterling Yard forever endeared the American public to the national parks—and gave birth to NPCA, the organization that would protect them.*

Stephen Mather

1916-2016  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
CENTENNIAL  
16  
VISIONARIES  
WHO SHAPED THE PARK  
EXPERIENCE

O

n a cool summer evening in 1915, more than a dozen of the country's most influential men sat around a bonfire at the toes of Mt. Whitney. Among them were a congressman, a railroad executive, a *National Geographic* editor, and the president of the Natural History Museum.

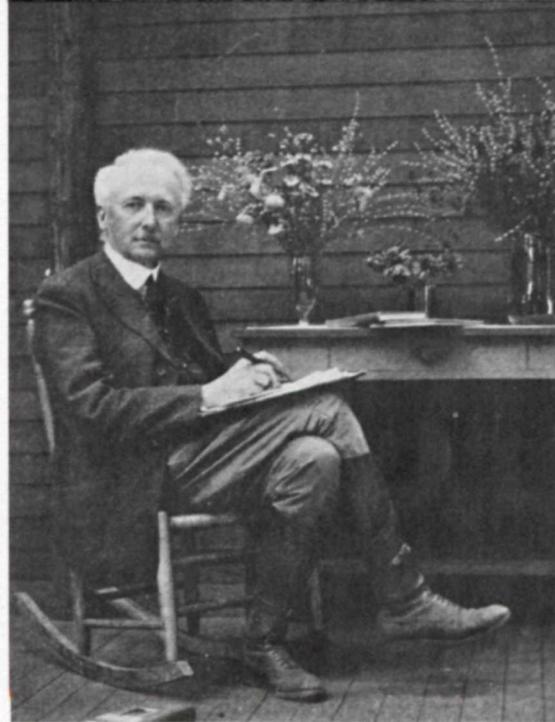
After a meal of venison and trout served on crisp white linens under the glow of Japanese lanterns, the group lit up cigars, quietly nursed sore muscles, marveled at the stars, and reflected upon their remarkable journey through what are now some of America's most storied landscapes.

Over the course of 12 days, they had gathered around the living giants of Sequoia National Park, plucked trout from remote streams, dared each other to swim in the icy Kern River, and climbed to the top of Mt. Whitney. But they also witnessed the heart-tugging devastation of overgrazing and other self-absorbed interests run rampant on public lands.

If they were feeling nostalgic, there was good reason. That was precisely what Stephen Tyng Mather, the assistant to the secretary of the Interior and leader of the trip, had hoped for. He brought this esteemed group of men together to endear them to the pressing need for an agency to oversee the national parks—what would one day become the National Park Service. In front of the snapping blaze, Mather stood up—a well-cut figure at six-foot-one—cleared his throat, and capitalized on the opportunity of the moment.

"Well, men, we've had a glorious ten days together, and we'll have a few more before we part in Yosemite," he began. "[But] the valleys and heights of the Sierra Nevada are just one small part of the majesty of America.... Just think of the vast areas of our land that should be preserved for the future." With his words reverberating throughout the darkness, Mather impressed upon them the utter necessity of a government agency to protect the parks for future generations and from selfish interests before it was too late: "To each of you, remember that God has given us these beautiful lands," he said. "Go out and

IN 1915, STEPHEN MATHER and Robert Sterling Yard (bottom) took a group of the country's most influential men into California's national parks to help them reconnect with their love of nature—then sign on to protect it.



PREVIOUS SPREAD:  
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING,  
AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER,  
ROBERT STERLING YARD PAPERS  
(LEFT), HARPERS FERRY CENTER,  
HISTORIC PHOTO COLLECTION

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING, AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER, ROBERT STERLING YARD PAPERS

STEPHEN MATHER (left, in bowtie) and Robert Sterling Yard (to his left) with a crowd at the 1915 dedication of Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

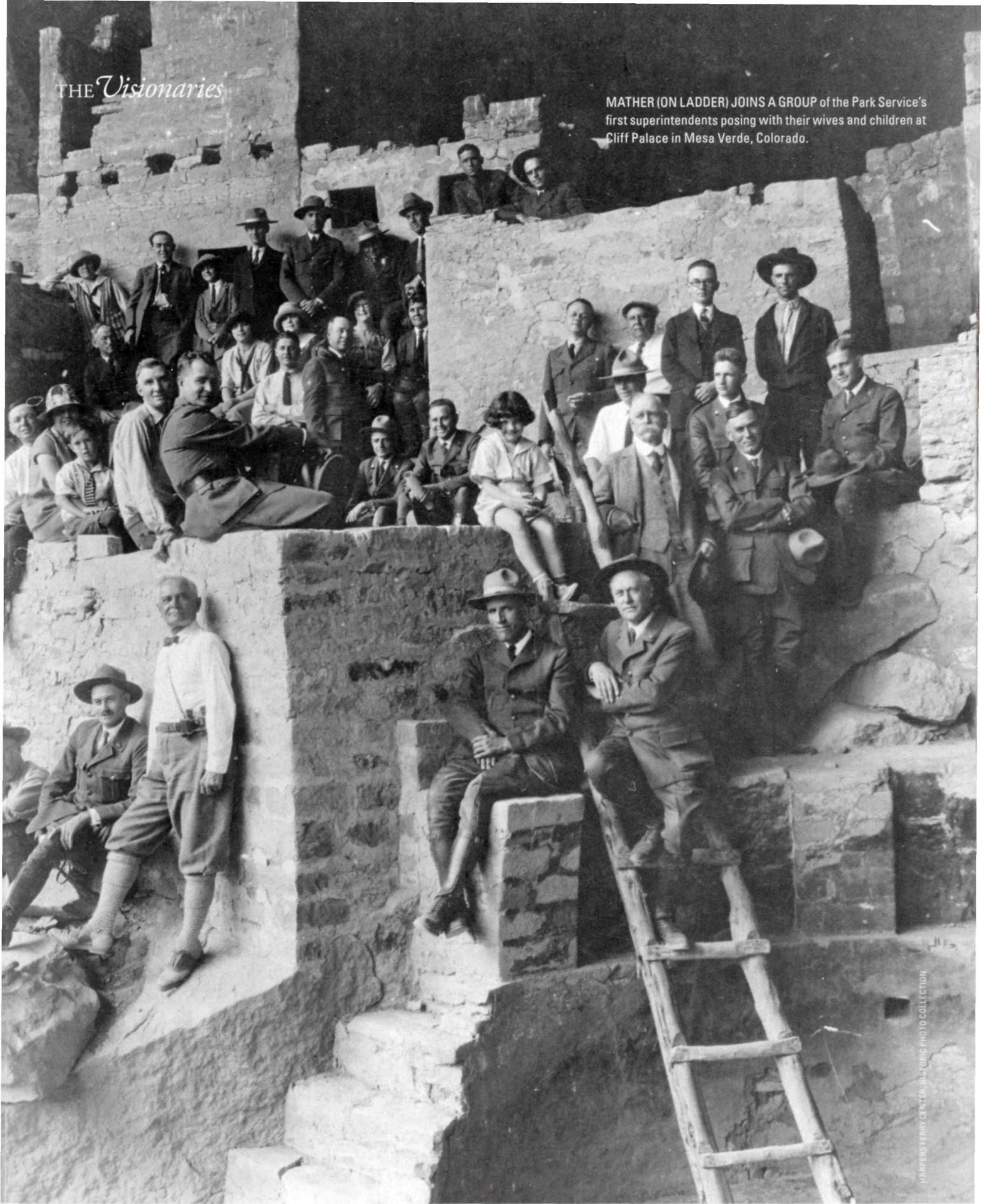
spread the gospel." If Mather's goal was to convert every one of these men into park advocates, he succeeded.

Though a pivotal moment, this trip was but one part of a national-parks publicity blitz Mather designed with the help of one of his best friends, Robert Sterling Yard, a former newspaper reporter and gifted wordsmith. Back in Washington, D.C., Yard spun tales of the majesty of the national parks for books, dozens of magazine and newspaper articles, and press releases. But the effort had started several years earlier, when Horace McFarland, president of the American Civic Association, sparked a movement to establish a parks agency after he and naturalist John Muir had failed to save the Hetch Hetchy Valley, part of Yosemite that was dammed in 1913. Now, Yard and Mather built upon McFarland's momentum, hoping to gather the spectacular but disparate beginnings of the national parks into a system that would educate and inspire generations of Americans and set an enduring example for conservation. This friendship also, in short turn, gave birth to another organization vital to the

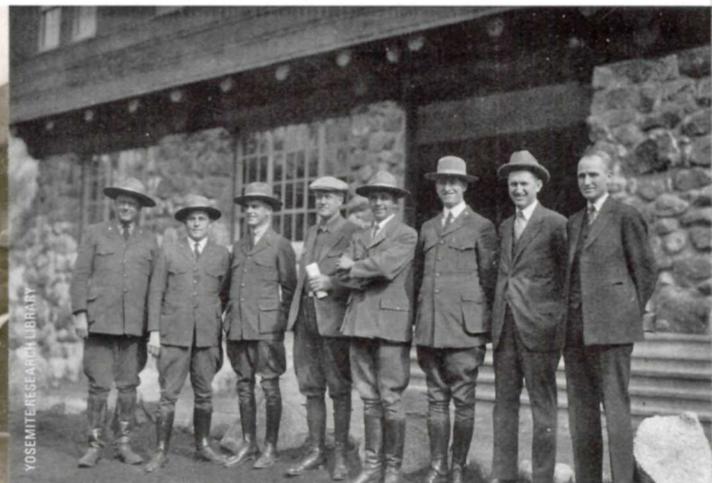
*Robert Sterling Yard*  
spun tales of the majesty  
of the national parks for  
books, dozens of magazine  
and newspaper articles,  
and press releases.

THE *Visionaries*

MATHER (ON LADDER) JOINS A GROUP of the Park Service's first superintendents posing with their wives and children at Cliff Palace in Mesa Verde, Colorado.



HAMPDEN HERRY CENTER, HANCOCK PHOTO COLLECTION



survival of the national parks as we know them today: the National Parks Conservation Association.

Stephen Mather and Bob Yard met as cub reporters for the *New York Sun* in the 1890s. After Yard served as best man at Mather's wedding, Mather left the newspaper business to please his new wife, who didn't think highly of newspapermen who chased politicians and smelled of printer's ink. Over the next 20 years, Mather applied his marketing genius to the Borax industry, installing it as a staple in every American household through ideas like the now-famous 20 Mule Team brand. He amassed a fortune but still grew restless, itching for a higher purpose.

Wilderness had always inspired Mather. Born in San Francisco, he hiked and rode horses through the mountains and meadows of the Sierras and grew into a strong

grave threats to the wilderness. In 1914, two years later, Mather was so inspired by Muir's devotion and horrified by the persistence of loggers eyeing the sequoias of Yosemite that he sent an indignant 26-page missive to Franklin K. Lane, the secretary of the Interior and fellow Berkeley alumnus, detailing the sorry state of the national parks. Lane famously responded with one sentence: "Dear Steve, If you don't like the way the national parks are being run, come on down to Washington and run them yourself."

Wary of dealing with government red tape but keen on pursuing a dear cause, Mather hesitantly accepted the position and moved to the capital. Like a good businessman, he knew he needed to assemble the best help. If anyone understood the necessity of marketing, it was Mather. At this time, more prosperous American families

LIKE A GOOD BUSINESSMAN, Mather knew he needed to rally support around his idea to create higher standards of protection in the national parks. Above, Mather speaks at Hot Springs National Park in 1925. Right, Mather and Horace Albright pose with other park employees at the dedication of the Yosemite Post Office the same year.

*Stephen Mather knew he needed to change public sentiment and install national parks as a fixture in the American imagination.*

adventurous man. Tall with piercing blue eyes, prematurely silver hair, and a strong jaw, he combined movie-star looks with an intelligence and circumspection that commanded respect. He was also a restless insomniac. On camping trips in the Sierras, his buddies would wake to find that their air mattresses had been deflated and some devil was clanging pots. Mather had been awake for hours and finally wanted some company.

"He was a Steven Jobs or a Walt Disney," says Donald Scott, a former ranger at Alcatraz and a Mather historian. "He was a tremendously driven man in the best sense. He believed when you did something, you did it thoroughly."

During Mather's wanderings in the mountains, he encountered the famous naturalist John Muir, who spoke of

traveled abroad to see Europe than the treasures of the United States; Mather knew he needed to change public sentiment and install national parks as a fixture in the American imagination.

All this time, Robert Sterling Yard had honed his skills as a newsman and writer in the journalism trenches of Manhattan and had risen to Sunday editor of the *New York Herald*. He was Mather's obvious pick, no matter that there was no budget to pay more than a paltry \$30 a month for Yard's salary. Mather paid his \$5,000 salary himself. A native New Yorker who claimed that his most intimate knowledge of green space was "Central Park," Yard was soon utterly infected by Mather's legendary passion for conservation.

## The Next Century

**Over the 92 years** since National Parks Conservation Association's founding, there have been many accomplishments worthy of celebration. "Renewing Our Promise: The Second Century Campaign for the National Parks" will soon take its place among the most significant of these. On October 6, on Ellis Island in New York Harbor, NPCA will publicly declare its official goal of raising \$125 million by the end of calendar year 2012. Thanks to the commitment of NPCA supporters, the organization has already raised more than \$112 million to be spent on park-protection efforts in Washington, grassroots advocacy in local communities, and public outreach of every kind.

But NPCA's success is measured in more than the numbers. Read on to meet three individuals who are advancing the work begun by Yard and Mather by donating their time, talent, and treasure. Their stories may even inspire you to find ways to deepen your own connection with NPCA. In the center of this issue is an envelope you can use should you wish to increase your financial contribution to the only member organization solely devoted to the 394 units of the National Park System. NPCA, its volunteer leadership, and its 160 employees are grateful for the confidence that hundreds of supporters have shown in the organization and, ultimately, in the value of reinvesting in America's Greatest Idea.



### GREG VITAL

Greg Vital's office in Georgetown, Tennessee, could easily be mistaken for a museum. The CEO of the Independent Healthcare Properties, a firm focusing on senior-living development and management services, Vital has visited more than 325 national parks. Mementos from his travels festoon both his office and

his home: antique badges, parks brochures from the early 1900s, pamphlets, old signs, uniforms, and even a 1934 porcelain National Park Service license plate.

If his office is any indication, Vital loves the national parks. He has been a member of NPCA for 25 years and now serves on its board of trustees and chairs its national council. He has fought for national parks funding by lobbying Congress, he also sits on the board of The Land Trust for Tennessee, and he has placed a conservation easement on his 90-acre farm near Chattanooga. But no matter where his advocacy takes him, he always returns to the national parks.

"There are many wonderful state parks, forests, and wildlife refuges, but the National Park System is one of the treasures of our country, whether it's hiking to a mountain top in Glacier and looking out over the preserved landscape or visiting a Civil War battlefield and understanding the conflicts that shaped this nation," says Vital. "It's 394 unique and diversified iconic treasures."

Though the grand Western national parks have impressed Vital, it is always Cades Cove, a verdant valley dotted with meadows, wildlife, and historic buildings in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, that he returns to. That's where he grew up playing hide-and-seek with his sisters, hiked to Abrams Falls countless times, and introduced his wife and two children to the tranquility of nature and wonder of American history. Cades Cove was also where he was irrevocably motivated to make a life-long commitment to conserve lands as beautiful as this valley, rimmed with forests and craggy balds.

His six-figure financial commitment to the "Renewing Our Promise" campaign was targeted to inspire others to make their first stretch gift, specifically new gifts of \$5,000 or more. His challenge is working; last year, the number of such new donors doubled. But Vital's gift was more a reflection of his respect for the parks and NPCA's ability to protect them than anything else, and he has pledged his volunteer service and leadership to the organization to bolster his gifts. "We're all stewards of these parks. I feel privileged to be able to help."



COURTESY OF MARILYN MORGAN

### MARILYN MORGAN

On a fall evening in 2007, Marilyn Morgan, a senior technical writer for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, sat next to the four-story fireplace in Yellowstone's Old Faithful Inn, sipping a glass of pinot grigio and listening to a pianist tap out old ditties. Nearby, other visitors played cards or whispered in the warm glow from

the vintage lamps and fireplace.

"It was really a wonderful scene right out of a picture book," says Morgan, who has visited dozens of national parks, from the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone to the battlefields of the Civil War.

A self-admitted museum junkie, voracious reader of history books, and keen birdwatcher, Morgan has a serious case of the national-parks bug. Every year, she and her significant other, Larry Allen, take off in their camper to explore some aspect of American history or landscape by stringing together a series of parks, staying days in each one to learn as much as they can. One year it was more than a dozen Indian ruins sites and battlefields of the Southwest and Oklahoma. Another year, it was the volcanoes of California, Oregon, and Washington. Next stop? Glacier National Park.

"Visiting a park is different from reading about it and different from seeing a movie about it," says Morgan. "There's something about walking there, being there—it gives you a very profound feeling." Her unique experiences in national parks led her to believe their educational and ecological value require ardent protection, which is why she chose to support NPCA's lobbying and advocacy work by establishing charitable gift annuities in 2008 and 2010. These gift agreements, backed by a reserve and the full assets of NPCA, offered Morgan immediate charitable tax deductions and lifetime quarterly income payments at an attractive rate of return including a portion in tax-free income. They also gave her the satisfaction of making two significant gifts that benefit her now and will provide NPCA more resources later to help protect the parks that have become so important to her. Her forward-looking gifts capture the spirit of NPCA's work—protecting and enhancing the national parks for present and future generations.



JANE SHIWE

### DIANA J. BLANK

Amid the stark white backdrop of the Yellowstone Valley in winter, the bison sat like dark commas on a white page. Snow hung down their backs, their heads steeped in white, as the vapor from geothermal vents swirled above them like the steam from a fresh mug of coffee. Diana J. Blank sat watching in silence.

She had come for a conference, but she left transported.

"You feel like you have stepped back in time," says Blank. The experience changed her enough that several years later, she moved from Atlanta, Georgia, to Bozeman, Montana. Since then she has become addicted to national parks, visiting Acadia, Great Smoky Mountains, Sequoia, and Yosemite, among others.

She's always had inordinate energy and has participated in a flurry of philanthropic activities, from the Atlanta Women's Fund to the I Have a Dream Foundation, while living in cities like Los Angeles and Atlanta. After raising three children, she went back to school to study cultural anthropology and religion at Mount Holyoke, graduating merely a week before her youngest daughter. When she moved to Montana, she took up hiking, birding, wildflower hunting, and piano lessons, and yes, parks advocacy, all with her characteristic gusto.

"I grew up spending time in the natural world and loving it, and I still remember what a peaceful, spiritual time that was for me," says Blank. She served on NPCA's board of trustees and now acts as co-chair of the Northern Rockies Regional Office. Despite her impressive CV of volunteer work, most of the time she is known as another member of the Bozeman Women's Activity Group, or BWAGs, a collection of avid women hikers that takes the woods by storm twice a week.

Blank made the lead gift to the campaign, a multi-million-dollar commitment that inspired additional leadership gifts and created instant momentum toward the effort's goal. "We Americans have the opportunity to touch, once again, the spirit and devotion upon which our nation and our National Park System was founded," Blank said. "The natural wonders in our national parks and the historic sites which reflect so well on our nation's history have been places of inspiration, serenity, and comfort to me personally. I know I do not stand alone in these feelings." Blank wrote to NPCA to confirm her extraordinary pledge, noting that "the time is right" for this work. The day of the letter? Earth Day. Naturally.



STEPHEN MATHER UNDERSTOOD that the national parks needed an independent organization outside the federal government—one that would fight for their highest protection regardless of the politics of the day. Here, he and Horace Albright meet with Blackfoot Indians from Glacier National Park in 1915.

MARIAN ALBRIGHT SCHEINCK—THE COLLECTIONS OF HORACE ALBRIGHT

“His fire was indescribable and absolutely unique,” Francis Farquhar, a former president of the Sierra Club and Mather’s close friend, has said, according to Mather’s biography. “Something about his eyes and the way his face changed color when he talked. If he was out to make a convert, the subject never knew what hit him.” For Bob Yard, this passion for national parks conservation would define the rest of his life.

Like Mather, Yard was no wallflower, and perhaps it was the combination of their indomitable energies that accomplished so much—and eventually drove them apart. Yard was a man without the rugged good looks and stature of Mather, but he was blessed with remarkable energy. Though soft-spoken, he clung to strong opinions and occasionally burst into fiery rants.

The time was ripe for such passion. Celebrating our rugged wilderness—or anything uniquely American—appealed to a populace that could readily visit inspiring places thanks to the popularity of automobiles. And with America’s success in World War I, pride and optimism in the country grew just as much as disposable income.

While Mather used his deft political skills and considerable charisma to woo Washington bigwigs—with the help of his assistant, Horace Albright, American Civic Association president Horace T. McFarland, and others—Yard traveled the country and installed the legend of the national parks in American minds through a stream of press releases, hundreds of magazine stories, and books like *Glimpses of Our National Parks* and *National Parks Portfolio*, which, naturally, were largely financed by Mather and conveniently landed on the desk of every congressman. The collective efforts paid off: In 1916, the National Park Service was born.

But even before then, Yard had dreamed of establishing a group free of the sticky politicking of government and devoted to promoting the parks as a priceless educational tool. In 1915, he sent out hundreds of letters to university professors and scientists across the country seeking support for the idea. Finally, after World War I, a group of prominent scientists and leaders met in June 1918 and committed to forming the National Parks Association when the time was right.



“Whatever differences of opinion they had, however their paths diverged, they gave us an extraordinary gift.”

A month after the meeting, Congress passed a law that prohibited private funding of government activities, which meant Mather could no longer pay Yard’s salary. Fifty-seven years old and already stubborn and curmudgeonly, Yard had turned off more than a few prim Washingtonians and was virtually unemployable. It was the perfect opportunity to embrace his true calling: founding the organization he had dreamed of. In 1919, with \$5,000 of Mather’s seed money and his old friend’s blessing, Yard and the committee founded the National Parks Association—which later became the National Parks Conservation Association, whose stated purpose was “to further the view of national parks as classrooms and museums of nature.”

In the coming years, the infant organization found its voice with its first major fight—over the development of water-power utilities and irrigation in Yellowstone National Park, which would have proven a disastrous precedent had it not been thwarted. By its second birthday in 1920, NPA had a considerable 1,300 members and at its annual meeting, held a reception with the president of the United States, Warren G. Harding, which had been arranged with the help of Henry Macfarland, the president of NPA’s board.

As director of the National Park Service, Mather stayed on under three presidents and five secretaries of

the Interior, leaving behind a vast legacy of new parks by the time he died of a stroke in 1930. Yard fought ceaselessly for the preservation of the parks through NPA and eventually helped found the Wilderness Society in 1935, publishing *The Living Wilderness*, the organization’s magazine, until his death in 1945 at age 84.

The passion that drew Mather and Yard together and to the cause that defined both of their lives also split them apart. Ironically, the issue that divided them—a political tangle over the possible expansion of Sequoia National Park—proved inconsequential, yet Mather and Yard never had much to say to each other after that.

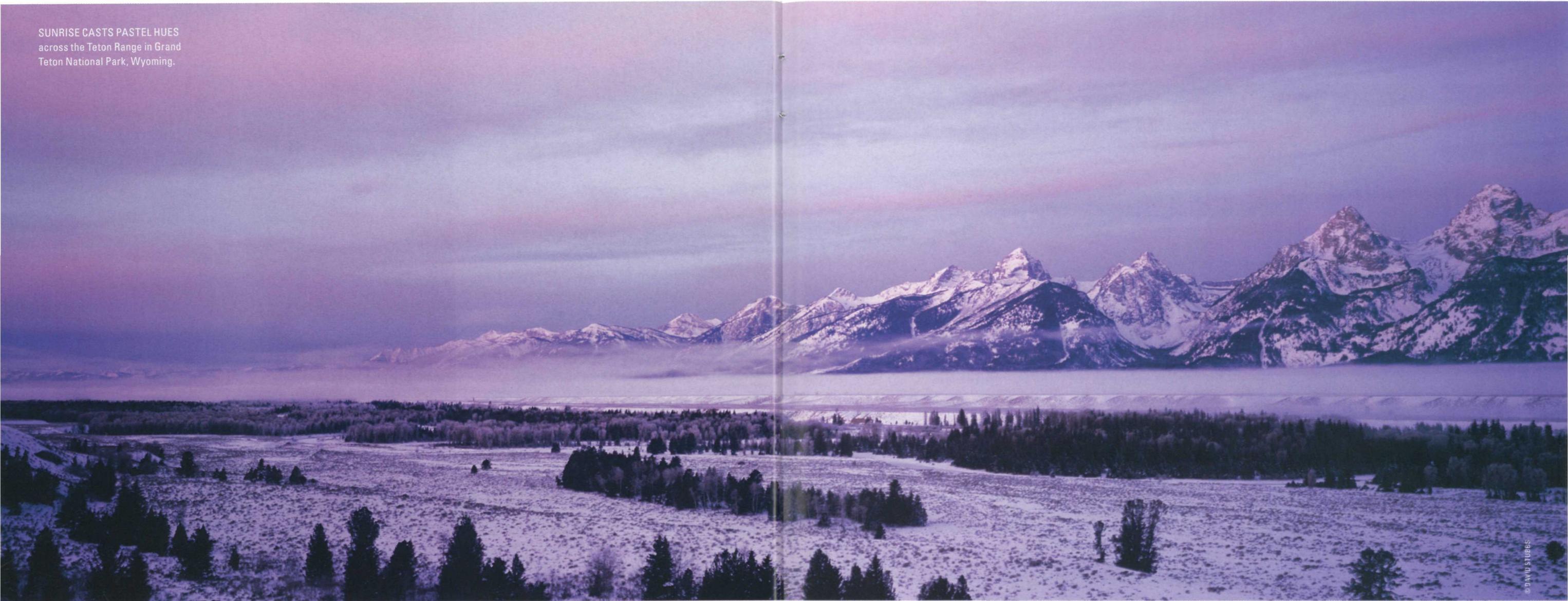
“Whatever differences of opinion they had, however their paths diverged, they gave us an extraordinary gift,” says Donald Scott. “We have an incredible park system that has survived the trials of wars and presidents and even congresses who don’t know anything about them.”

Nearly 100 years later, even if the men themselves are mostly unknown by the members of three generations distant, the fruits of their friendship endure. **NP**

**Kate Siber** lives in Durango, Colorado, and is a contributor to *Outside* magazine. Her work also has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Men’s Journal*, and *National Geographic Traveler*.

MATHER, SHOWN WITH HIS DAUGHTER in Yosemite and in a sidecar in Yellowstone (right), had an incredible energy and passion for conservation that led many people to join his cause.

SUNRISE CASTS PASTEL HUES  
across the Teton Range in Grand  
Teton National Park, Wyoming.



© DAVID STUBBS

## A GRAND TETON

# winter

Even in winter, Yellowstone grabs all the headlines, but its neighbor to the south turns into a wonderland all its own.

The first thing I notice upon arriving in Grand Teton National Park in early March is that there is snow absolutely everywhere. I mean everywhere. As I drive the five miles from Jackson Hole Airport to Dornan's rustic cabins, a short walk from the park's main visitor center, I can't see beyond the walls of snow on each side of the road. In the summer months, the small complex of log cabins is bustling with visitors picking up groceries, dining at the restaurant, or renting outdoor gear. But things are different now. A sign advertising "FISHING GUIDES" is barely visible behind the avalanche of snow that covers the front of the building. The restaurant doesn't open until the dinner hour. And the hotel staff clocks out at 1 p.m., so my afternoon arrival is greeted by a manila envelope tacked to the wall outside the main office, keys inside. Thankfully, the hosts have plowed a path the short distance from the street to my cabin, and a sled is left out front so I can slide my luggage to the door if need be. Clearly, these people are used to a little snow—they've thought of everything.

### WINTER WONDERLAND

Most of the iconic Western parks like Yellowstone and Grand Teton are overrun with visitors from June to September, and you might struggle for elbow room in the fall. But if you enjoy solitude, silence, and a healthy dose of skiing and snowshoeing in a stunning landscape, it's hard to do much better than this part of Wyoming. Yellowstone winters were once a well-kept secret, but that secret is out. If you want to wander among mud pots and steaming cauldrons of sulfur while watching bison simply ignore wind chills of 30 below, then a trip to the first national park is still your best bet. Bison are plentiful up in Yellowstone because the park's thermal features keep the ground warm and allow animals to munch on grasses year-round. The Tetons offer no such conveniences.

But there are still many species that find a way to make it through a Teton winter. In five days in March, I saw two trumpeter swans fly overhead during a ranger snowshoe tour, three coyotes walk across a wide expanse at Elk Ranch Flats, a handful of deer browse just outside of downtown Jackson, and three moose wander along the Gros Ventre River. Ten thousand elk also spend their winter at the National Elk Refuge, sandwiched between Jackson and the park. Although their names don't appear on the marquee, dozens of bighorn sheep also make themselves at home on the Elk Refuge during the winter months; sometimes wolves and cougars are clever enough to visit the refuge in search of prey.



© KAREN MINDOT

To learn as much as you can about the wildlife you might spot on your travels, and to get some tips on navigating the snow, plan to spend one of your first few days on the two-hour ranger-led snowshoe trip that leaves from the Craig Thomas Visitor Center at 1:30 every afternoon from late December to mid-March (\$5 suggested donation for adults, \$2 for kids; call 307.739.3399 to make reservations). Get there a little early to check out the film, the modern displays, and the panoramic view of the Tetons. You can bring your own snowshoes, but I'd suggest coughing up the five bucks and using the old wooden snowshoes that the Park Service provides, some dating back to the 1940s. Surprisingly, when it comes to lightly packed snow, ash trees bent into three-foot-long

### TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

Unless you're going to Yellowstone before or after your visit to the Tetons, you'll

probably fly into the Jackson Hole Airport or the Idaho Falls Airport, a couple of hours away. (The former is the only airport in the country located within a national park, which is convenient for visitors but poses serious threats to the park's natural values, making it an ongoing concern of NPCA's Northern Rockies Regional Office.)

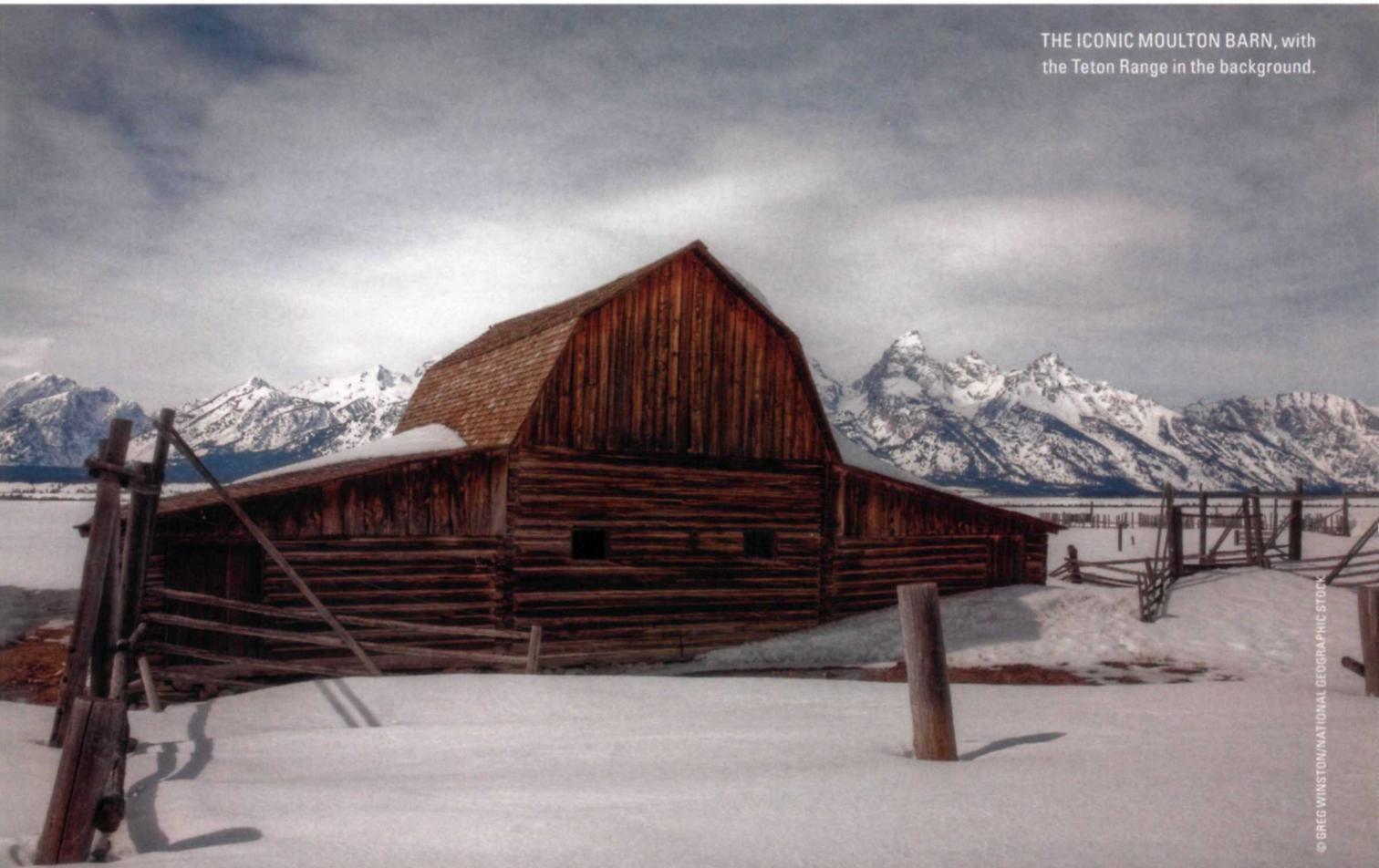
Most people stay in the nearby town of Jackson, about six miles from the park. Teton Village offers more hotel options near a huge downhill skiing resort only a mile from the park's southern boundary. If you want to wake up and snowshoe or ski right into the park, your options are Dornan's cabins, on the southern end of the park, steps from the Craig Thomas Visitor Center ([www.dornans.com](http://www.dornans.com)), and the Triangle

X Ranch ([www.triangleX.com](http://www.triangleX.com)) on the eastern side of the park, near the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Both are rather rustic options, priced at about \$120–150 a night. Dornan's has a small restaurant and a grocery store with some rental equipment. The rooms have no televisions but do offer wireless service for those of you tethered to the Internet. Triangle X is a dude ranch on the eastern side of the park that offers some of the very same amenities.

The park's main roadways—Highway 89/91 and Highway 26/287—are plowed during the winter months and open for travel from Jackson to Flagg Ranch near Yellowstone's South Entrance, or east to Dubois over Togwotee Pass. Teton Park Road is closed but groomed for snowshoers and cross-country skiers.

If you want to get out of your car and explore the Tetons in any meaningful way, you'll need something

THE ICONIC MOULTON BARN, with the Teton Range in the background.



© GREG WINSTON/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STOCK

strapped to your feet. The grocery store at Dornan's rents skis and snowshoes, but most visitors head to downtown Jackson, where Skinny Skis and Sports Authority will gladly rent you equipment for about \$20 the first day and \$10 each additional day—it's a small price to pay for access to 99 percent of the white landscape that spreads out before you.

For snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, you'll want several layers and a waterproof jacket and pants to keep you dry in case you're caught in nasty weather or take a spill in the snow, which is pretty likely given the awkward mechanics of both sports.

Once you've burned off a thousand calories or so, you'll want to find a good way to refuel. The Merry Piglets serves the freshest salsa I've ever tasted, in a colorful atmosphere with warm yellow stucco walls, Mexican music, and whimsical murals of pigs that surround you. On the other end of the scale is Nikai, an Asian restaurant with great sushi and a bamboo-covered dining room that would make you forget you were in Jackson

if it weren't for the HDTV screen that shows stunning video of skiers throwing themselves off cliffs as sheer as skyscrapers. Lotus Café downtown offers great organic/vegetarian cuisine and has the vibe of a modern hippie hangout that's perfect for lunch. Snake River Brewing, Rendezvous Bistro, and Trio American are also popular among locals.

If you're the kind of person who loves winter sports but prefers to let gravity do the work, Jackson Hole has excellent downhill skiing options. In town, there's Snow King ([www.snowking.com](http://www.snowking.com)), a smaller mountain conveniently located downtown, perfect for beginner skiers. Jackson Hole Mountain Resort ([www.jacksonhole.com](http://www.jacksonhole.com)) in Teton Village, a world-class ski resort, has dozens of runs for all abilities, including lots of expert terrain, and it's just 20 minutes away via the cheap and convenient StartBus shuttle, which makes stops near most hotels.

Get more vital information for your winter visit on the park's website: [www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/winter.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/winter.htm).

*"IF YOU ENJOY SOLITUDE, SILENCE, AND A HEALTHY DOSE OF SKIING AND SNOWSHOEING IN A STUNNING LANDSCAPE, IT'S HARD TO DO MUCH BETTER THAN THIS PART OF WYOMING."*

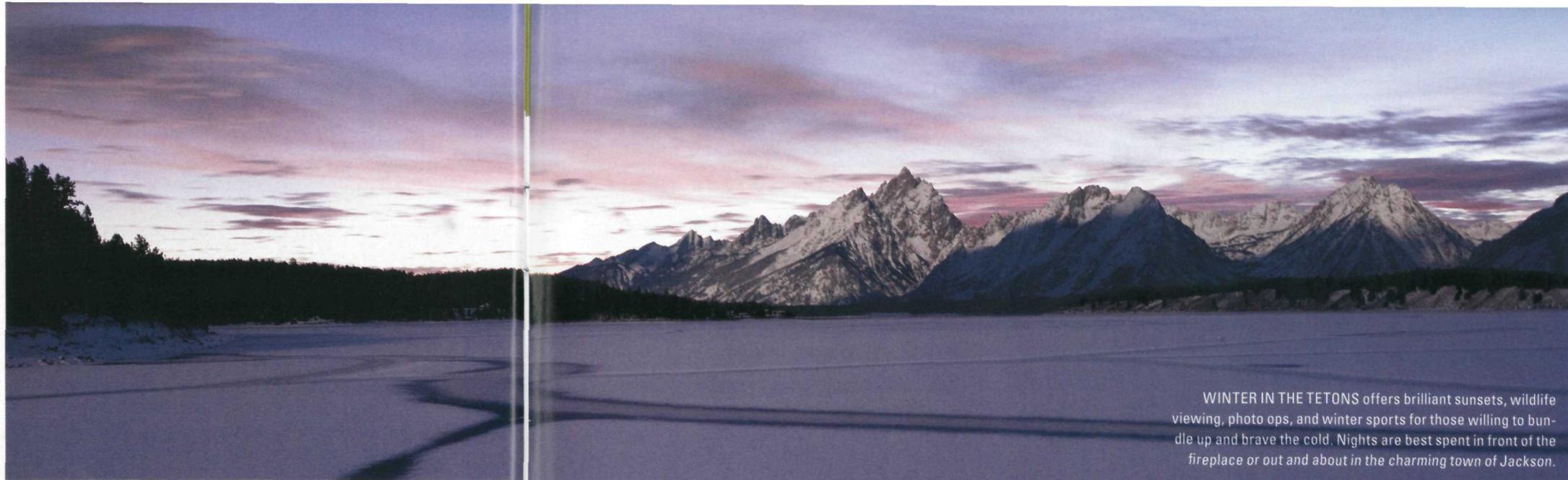
teardrops with deer hide proved superior to the more compact modern snowshoe made of aluminum covered with nylon.

Never snowshoed before? Not a problem. Tour guide Ann Mattson told us as we gathered near the fireplace, "If you can walk, you can snowshoe." She was right. Stretched out behind her like a cold-weather conga line in clown shoes, we stopped occasionally to as Mattson showed us how the shapes and sizes of wild animals' feet make them more or less able to move through the snow. She also gave us all a crash course in winter survival techniques for wildlife—pulling out swatches of animal hides from moose, elk, and even weasels and discussing how their fur helps them adapt to the climate.

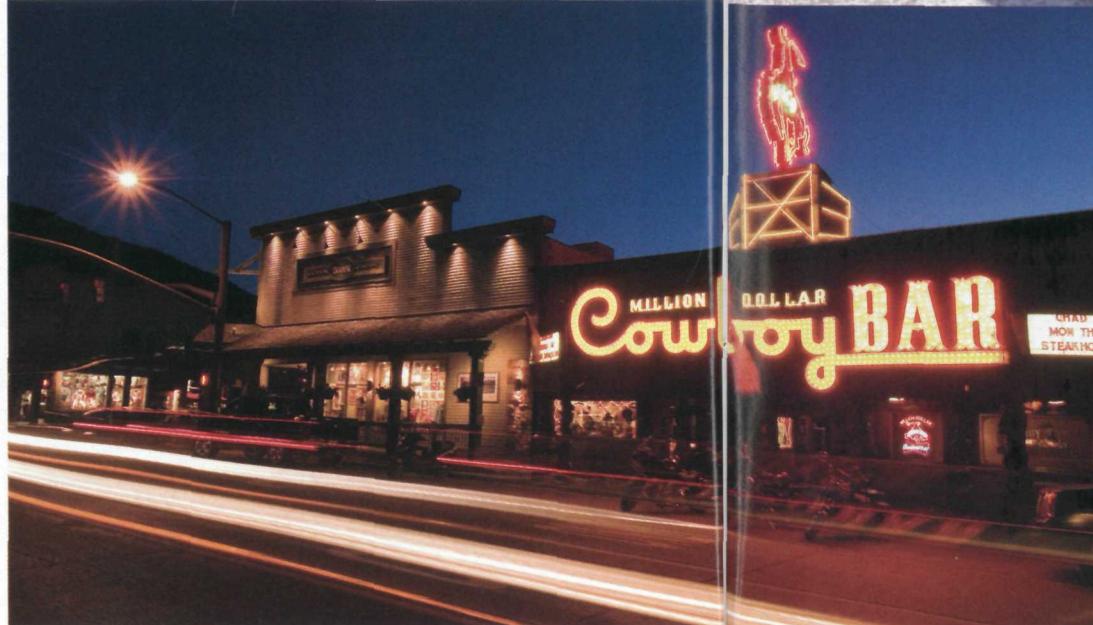
The next day I ventured out on my own, snowshoeing Taggart Lake-Beaver Creek Loop, which I'd hiked in the middle of June five years earlier. This time the 3.2 miles took me about two hours. The only sound I heard was the squish-clink of my snowshoes' metal teeth hitting the snow. By the end of it, I could barely summon the strength to remove the shoes from my feet.

#### GOING CROSS-COUNTRY

The sheer exhaustion of walking on water led me to jealously eye the dozens of visitors who seemed to glide across the surface on cross-country skis. The Tetons offer plenty of challenging backcountry terrain and easier, groomed routes that are perfect for newbies. I'd been cross-country skiing a few times as a teen in Michigan, and I'd spent more than a



WINTER IN THE TETONS offers brilliant sunsets, wildlife viewing, photo ops, and winter sports for those willing to bundle up and brave the cold. Nights are best spent in front of the fireplace or out and about in the charming town of Jackson.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: © DAVID STUBBS, DREW RUSH/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STOCK, DAVID BROWNELL, TOM BOLL/AUROREA PHOTOS, DAVID STUBBS.



ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF ALTAMIRA FINE ART GALLERY.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Memory of Stone #2/15 by Steve Kestrel, Turning Buffalo by John Nieto, The Rat Pack by Amy Ringholz, and Three Pony Lodge by R. Tom Gilleon.

**SIDE  
TRIP**

**THE ART OF  
JACKSON HOLE**

One of Jackson's best features is its vibrant arts scene—it's possibly the only gateway town with more galleries than T-shirt shops, each one of them comparable to galleries in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, or San Francisco. You'll find classic and contemporary Southwestern art, wildlife abstracts and photography, sculpture, pottery, handcrafted furniture, and American Indian collections that include rugs and handmade jewelry. I saw price tags ranging from \$80 for an intimate charcoal sketch of a buffalo to \$300,000 for a contemporary painting that would fill an entire wall of your million-dollar mansion in the mountains. Check out the Jackson Hole Gallery Association ([www.jacksonholegalleries.com](http://www.jacksonholegalleries.com)) for links to the major galleries and their current exhibits, special events, and even a map of the downtown area. Some of my favorite galleries were Altamira, Diehl Gallery, and Tayloe Piggott. For national park photography, don't miss Tom Mangelsen's "Images of Nature" gallery and Henry

Holdsworth's "Wild by Nature" gallery, both of which are just off the main square.

The National Museum of Wildlife Art is another great place for art aficionados. The beautiful building perched on a bluff overlooking the National Elk Refuge is well worth the \$12 price of admission ([www.wildlifeart.org](http://www.wildlifeart.org)). During my visit, the exhibits included paintings, charcoal drawings, etchings, and sculpture; photography seemed oddly absent. Contemporary local artists have plenty of work on the walls, but old-school artists like Thomas Moran and Frederic Remington also are featured here.

Want to create some of your own art while you're in town? The Center for the Arts in Jackson Hole offers free art exhibits and inexpensive films, classes, and short workshops for locals and out-of-towners—check the offerings at [www.artassociation.org](http://www.artassociation.org). Classes in the winter months are scarcer, but you still might be able to schedule a trip around a workshop if you do a little planning. As you'll see, even if your idea of a winter vacation doesn't include layers of polyester, fleece, Gore-Tex, and down, you'll be just fine holing up in Jackson.

**Surrounded  
by friends.  
You can  
be one, too.**



**Adopt-A-Manatee.  
Today**



**1-800-432-JOIN (5646)  
www.savethemanatee.org**

Photo © David Schlichte



**ARCHES, CANYONLANDS & MONUMENT VALLEY**  
GRAND & SUBTLE INFLUENCES SHAPE LIFE IN THE SOUTHWEST

**PREFERRED NPCA TRIP DATES: SEPTEMBER 8 – 13, 2012\***

The intrigue of the past, beauty of the present, and serenity of the outdoors blend perfectly on this journey of discovery. Enjoy guided hikes into a landscape of spires, fins, arches, and canyons at Arches and Canyonlands. Accompany expert guide into a world where ancestral puebloans adapted to the land at Mesa Verde National Park.

\*Alternate 2012 Off the Beaten Path Departures: May 13-18; May 27-June 1; September 30-October 5



PHOTOS: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SUNSET AT MESA ARCH AND BUCK CANYON IN ARCHES NATIONAL PARK, UTAH © MIKE NEWCOMER/ISTOCKPHOTO; SQUARE TOWER HOUSE IN MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK, COLORADO © DONALD GIBERT/ISTOCKPHOTO; WALKER TRAVELING THE ROCKS IN ARCHES NATIONAL PARK, UTAH © BEN BLAIR/ISTOCKPHOTO



[www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org)

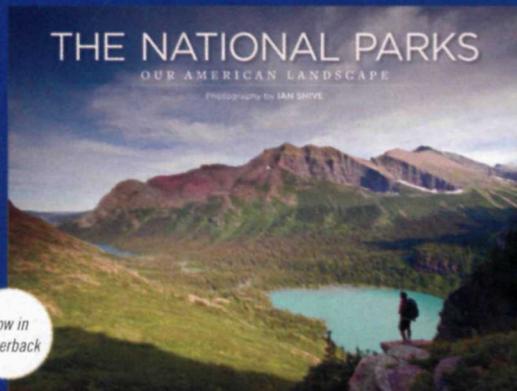


Contact us by phone at **800.628.7275**,  
email [travel@npca.org](mailto:travel@npca.org), visit  
[www.npca.org/travel](http://www.npca.org/travel), or circle NPCA  
ParkScapes on your Reader Service card.

# THE NATIONAL PARKS: OUR AMERICAN LANDSCAPE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY IAN SHIVE — Winner of the Ansel Adams Award for Conservation Photography

[www.earthawareeditions.com](http://www.earthawareeditions.com)



Now in  
paperback



EARTH AWARE  
EDITIONS



978-1-60887-021-9 | \$24.95  
Available at Bookstores Everywhere!

[amazon.com](http://amazon.com) **BARNES & NOBLE**

"Not since Ansel Adams has one photographer published a work that truly captures the magnitude and majesty that are America's National Parks."

—Blog on Books, [goodreads.com](http://goodreads.com)



PARK RANGER ANN MATTSON explains how coyotes, ermine (above), and other animals are able to travel through the three-to-four feet of snow that cover the landscape all winter.

few hours in the basement, using a NordicTrack machine to keep those winter pounds at bay, so I was pretty used to the mechanics. But I wasn't used to the challenge of newly fallen snow that greeted

*"AT TIMES IT FELT LIKE I WAS SKIING ATOP A HUGE TREADMILL MADE OF SUSHI RICE."*

me as I headed out from the Taggart Lake parking lot on a Saturday morning. Although three or four people had broken trail ahead of me, their prints were quickly filled in with new snow. At times it felt like I was skiing atop a huge treadmill made of sushi rice—all that sticky white stuff prevented me from

gliding more than a few inches. Snow fell so quickly, the whiteness that surrounded me made me wonder if I was getting anywhere at all.

At one point I got so tired that I started looking for a bench, then I quickly realized the benches were several feet beneath me, under three feet of snow. I spotted some historic cabins in the distance and considered the wisdom of skiing in their direction and sitting on the roof, but instead I found a nice wood-hewn sign with a log as its top, just two feet above the snow's surface. Perfect. I took a break and watched as a dozen people skied past me, and nodded their approval, no need to exchange a word. **NP**

**Scott Kirkwood** is editor in chief of *National Parks* magazine.

# gravity defyer™

VERSOSHOCK REVERSE TRAMPOLINE SOLE

## Defy Pain, Defy Aging, Defy Fatigue

### This is my story

I used to be more active. I used to run, play basketball, tennis, football... I was more than a weekend warrior. I woke up every day filled with life! But now, in my late 30's, I spend most of my day in the office or sacked out in front of the TV. I rarely get to the gym – not that I don't like working out, it's the nagging pain in my knees and ankles. Low energy and laziness has got me down. My energy has fizzled and I'm embarrassed to admit that I've grown a spare tire (I'm sure it's hurting my love life). Nowadays I rarely walk. For some reason it's just harder now. Gravity has done a job on me.



### Wear them and you'll know

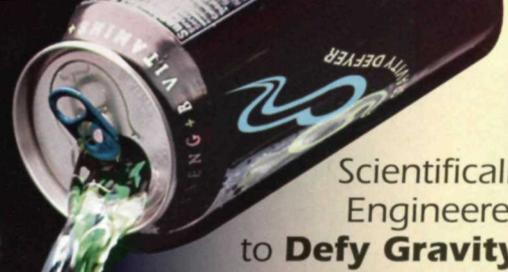
That's what my doctor recommended. He said, "Gravity Defyer shoes are pain-relieving shoes." He promised they would change my life-like they were a fountain of youth. "They ease the force of gravity, relieving stress on your heels, ankles, knees and back. They boost your energy by propelling you forward." The longer he talked, the more sense it made. He was even wearing a pair himself!

### Excitement swept through my body like a drug

I received my package from GravityDefyer.com and rushed to tear it open like a kid at Christmas. Inside I found the most amazing shoes I had ever seen – different than most running shoes. Sturdy construction. Cool colors. Nice lines... I was holding a miracle of technology. This was the real thing.

### GDefy Benefits

- Relieve pain
- Ease joint & spinal pressure
- Reduce fatigue & tiredness
- Be more active
- Have more energy
- Appear taller
- Jump higher, walk and run faster
- Have instant comfort
- Cool your feet & reduce foot odor
- Elevate your performance



Scientifically Engineered to Defy Gravity!

I put them on and all I could say was, "WOW!" In minutes I was out the door. I was invincible; tireless in my new Gravity Defyer shoes. It was as if my legs had been replaced with super-powered bionics. What the doctor promised was all correct. No more knee pain. I started to lose weight. At last, I was pain free and filled with energy! I was back in the game. Gravity had no power over me!

### Customer Satisfaction Speaks for Itself!

4 out of 5 customers purchase a 2nd pair within 3 months.

### Nothing to lose: Start your 30 Day Trial Today!

So, my friend, get back on your feet like I did. Try Gravity Defyer for yourself. You have nothing to lose but your pain.



### ABSORB SHOCK

Eliminate pain from every step.



### REBOUND PROPELS YOU FORWARD

Reduce fatigue. Be more active

Tell us your story! Login at [Gravitydefyer.com](http://Gravitydefyer.com) and share your experience.

Semi-Rigid Heel Stabilizing Cage

Removable Comfort-Fit™ Insole Accommodates most orthotics

Twin Stabilizers

Smart Memory™ Master Spring Propels you forward and reduces fatigue

VersoShock™ Trampoline Shock-Absorbing Membrane Heel

AVS® Ventilation™ Port Cools & Reduces Microbial Growth

Resilient High Grade Ethylene-Vinyl Acetate (EVA) Midsole RockR construction protects metatarsal bones and aids fluid stepping motions

Rugged Polymer Sole



\$119.95 LIMITED TIME ONLY was \$129.95

**MEN** (Shown above) TB902MBL sizes 7 - 13 Med/Wide and ExtraWide/XXWide Widths  
**WOMEN** (Black on Black) TB902FBL sizes 5 - 11 Med/Wide and ExtraWide/XXWide Widths



### EXCLUSIVE ONLINE OFFER

30 DAY TRIAL – Pay only \$14.95 Shipping & Handling

Take advantage of this exclusive offer at [www.GravityDefyer.com/MM2ICE4](http://www.GravityDefyer.com/MM2ICE4) or by phone, dial (800) 429-0039 and mention the promotional code below.

Promotional Code: **MM2ICE4**

Offer not available in stores.



— Available exclusively at these fine retailers —

**TIPTOP SHOES**

NEW YORK CITY



GREATER WASHINGTON D.C./VIRGINIA



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND GREATER SAN DIEGO

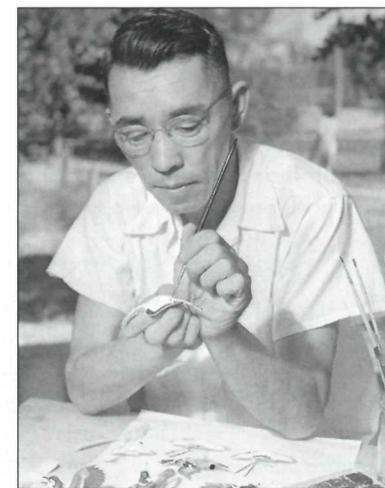


J. STEPHENS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA



**TOOLS AND MATERIALS** used by Sadao Oka to carve bird pins (above). Opposite: At the camp in Poston, Arizona, Mr. Hitomi carves birds out of blocks of wood and paints them to make colorful brooches.



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## The Art of Gaman

Photos by Terry Heffernan

**“THE ART OF GAMAN: Arts and Crafts of the Japanese American Internment Camps: 1942-1946”** was recently exhibited at the Smithsonian’s Renwick Gallery and is currently traveling the country. The objects in the show, ranging from the utilitarian to works of fine art, were made by internees from scrap and found materials. Author/curator **Delphine Hirasuna** relates what sparked her interest in looking for these forgotten artifacts and explains the role that arts and crafts played in practicing gaman, “bearing the seemingly unbearable with patience and dignity.”

A few months after my mother’s death in 2000, I was rummaging through my parents’ garage when I happened across a dusty little wooden box. Inside, I discovered an odd assortment of things, including a tiny wooden bird pin with a safety-pin clasp, and trinkets that my father must have brought back from Italy, where he served with the all-Nisei 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II. Given the contents of the box, I figured that these were things stashed away after “camp.”

“Camp” is how my parents referred to the Japanese-American internment camps located in remote and desolate regions of the United States during World War II. They were created after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, giving the U.S. Army authority to exclude anyone it deemed necessary from prescribed areas in the name of military defense. Within weeks of the signing of E.O. 9066, all 120,000 ethnic Japanese living on the West Coast were ordered into internment camps surrounded by

barbed-wire fences and guarded by sentries in watch towers with guns pointed at them. The so-called evacuation forbade any exceptions. As a result, anyone of Japanese descent—men, women, children, the elderly, orphans as young as three months old, and hospital patients—were forcibly sent into camp. Those incarcerated represented 90 percent of the ethnic Japanese in the United States; two-thirds were American citizens born on American soil (the immigrant generation was not allowed to apply for citizenship).

The ethnic Japanese on the West Coast were given about a week to settle their affairs and allowed to take only what they could carry. As a result, homes and businesses were lost. Belongings had to be sold for pennies on the dollar. Possessions that were put in storage were stolen or vandalized. Release from camp after three and a half years inevitably meant starting life over from scratch.

Ironically, I knew little of this as a child growing up in California. As with most post-

war Japanese-American families, my parents never discussed the camps openly with their kids, nor was the subject taught in schools or mentioned by mainstream society. Yet for my parents' generation, time was divided into life "before camp" and "after camp." In passing conversation, they would mention "we had one before camp," "we had to buy a new one after camp," "we knew them from camp." Often this was followed by a pause and then, as if shaking off despair, they would quickly add, "*Shikatanai*. It can't be helped. We have to *gaman*—bear the seemingly unbearable with patience and dignity."

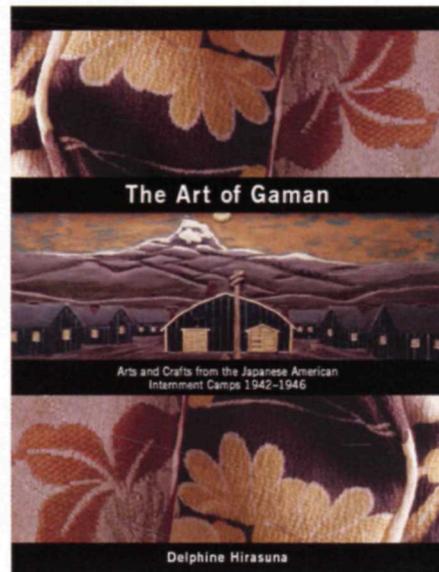
Finding the little bird pin nearly 60 years after the camps closed, however, got me wondering what other things made in camp lay hidden away and forgotten. I asked around, and family friends began stopping by with objects tossed into the trunks of their cars, some still in wrapping from 1945.

I was astonished by the variety, artistry, imagination, and craftsmanship of the things that they brought. The objects, made from scrap and found materials, ranged from ordinary things such as a hand-made wooden washboard and containers woven out of twisted crepe paper to an intricately decorated tea-pot carved from slate.

Many items were obviously made out of necessity, because the horse stalls where the internees first lived contained only a metal cot and mattress ticking to be filled with straw. A few months later, most of the internees were sent to live in barrack encampments in remote desert areas. The barracks weren't furnished any better. A chair to sit on, and a place to store belongings were immediate needs. Fortunately, the haste with which these quarters were built left plenty of scrap lumber scattered on the grounds, and the internees quickly salvaged every piece to construct chairs, tables, and even clothes hangers. Because internees could not bring metal objects into camp, they generally had to devise their own tools, too. Sharpened butter knives, discarded metal from the automotive pool, and even abandoned animal traps found on the ground, all were repurposed into tools; internees even fashioned sandpaper by gluing crushed glass onto pieces of cardboard.

Although internees were allowed to buy goods via mail-order catalogs, the little

money they had was generally set aside for clothing and other essentials; buying almost anything else was considered a luxury. As a result, internees scrounged for scraps of every kind: Waxy string from onion sacks was unraveled and woven into baskets. Old toothbrush handles were turned into pendants. Gallon-sized mayonnaise jars became miniature display cases for fragile pieces of art. Tin cans were converted into toy trains. Peach pits were scraped smooth against



cement and gouged in the center to make rings. Produce crates were chopped into blocks and carved into bird pins. Even meat bones, gnawed clean during dinner, were crosscut into circles and linked together through the softer marrow portion to create jewelry. Nothing was viewed as waste.

The terrain itself offered up a wealth of indigenous materials. Camps at Tule Lake in northern California and at Topaz in Utah were located on ancient seabeds that yielded millions of tiny shells that could be bleached, sorted, and formed into brooches and ornaments. The camp in Minidoka, Idaho, was littered with pebbles that internees would cement into containers, polish into jewelry, and use as a "canvas" for miniature paintings. The desert surrounding the camps at Gila and Poston—both located on Indian reservations in Arizona—grew ironwood, cacti, and mesquite that could be carved into objects both practical and beautiful. The forested swamps of southeastern Arkansas, where Rohwer and

Jerome camps were located, offered an abundance of hardwood and pine.

Arts and crafts became an obsession in the camps. As a distraction from their plight, internees embraced such endeavors to pass the time and to enjoy the satisfaction of making something that emerged from their own imagination and industriousness. All ten of the internment camps organized classes in arts and crafts, both formal and informal, taught by internees who had been professional artists and by others who exhibited a specific skill. Other internees simply tested their own creativity, trying their hand at everything from wood carving to sand sculptures.

In looking at the works of art the internees created, it's hard to believe that so few of them had any formal art training. Before their lives were abruptly interrupted, they were farmers, shopkeepers, doctors, fishermen, homemakers, and clerks. After they were released from camp, most struggled to eke out a living and abandoned their artistic pursuits. Because they did not view themselves as artists and because nearly everyone in camp was busy producing similar things, they didn't see much value in what they had made, and many threw their handicraft away. The objects were nothing more than painful reminders of a time they wished to forget.

By the time I began asking if anyone had objects made in camp for use in a book I intended to write, most of the makers of these objects had died. Their children, now in their 70s and 80s themselves, kindly went into their attics and storage sheds in search of long-forgotten items. When showing me what they had uncovered, many told me it was all right to leave the object out if I didn't find its quality book-worthy. "It was just busy work," they'd explain, "a way to *gaman*." Even the humblest works, however, had poignancy, evoking images of the conditions under which they were made.

Today the sites of the World War II internment camps have largely reverted back to desert. On the barren land, the sand swirls and settles down on the traces of barrack foundations as if to try to erase this sad episode in American history. What remains in the arts and crafts produced by internees is evidence of the triumph of the human spirit, the true art of *gaman*.



Puzzle game by Kametaro Matsumoto, interned at Minidoka, Idaho



Assorted shell flowers made by Shigeko Shintaku, Iwa Miura, and Grace Ayako Ito, interned at Tule Lake, California, and Topaz, Utah



---

*Red pine* by Akira Oye, interned at Rohwer, Arkansas.  
After the camps closed, Oye never carved again.



---

Model Ship, *artist unknown*, interned at Rohwer, Arkansas  
Minnie Mouse shell pin by *Iwa Miura*, interned at Topaz, Utah  
Chest of drawers by *Giichi Kimura*, interned at Minidoka, Idaho



---

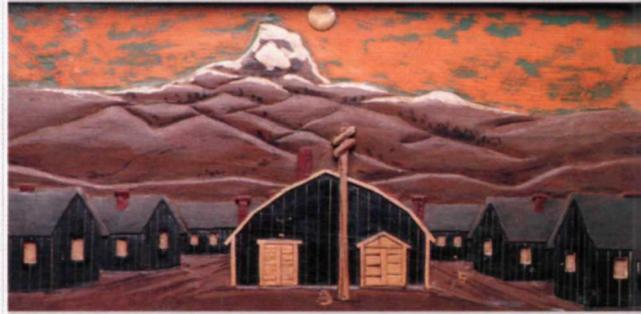
Miniature barracks, by Mr. Toshima, interned at Rohwer, Arkansas



*Samurai shell man* by *Kinoe Adachi*,  
interned at Topaz, Utah

Top right, *painted wood carving of  
tarpaper barracks* by an *unknown artist*,  
interned at Heart Mountain, Wyoming

Objects shown are from the Japanese American Archival Collection, Department of Special Collections, California State University, Sacramento; Japanese American Museum of San Jose; and National Japanese American Historical Society, as well as from private collections. Reprinted with permission from *The Art of Gaman: Arts and Crafts from the Japanese American Internment Camps 1942-1946*, by Delphine Hirasuna, with color photography by Terry Heffernan and design by Kit Hinrichs. Copyright 2005 by Delphine Hirasuna, Ten Speed Press, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, Berkeley, CA.



## NPCA@WORK

**OF THE TEN JAPANESE** internment sites scattered throughout the country, only Manzanar, Minidoka, and Tule Lake have been designated national park units. But Heart Mountain in Powell, Wyoming, may soon join the list. The site, which was home to nearly 11,000 Japanese Americans from 1942 to 1945, retains a significant degree of physical and historical integrity, and some remnant buildings still stand in their original locations, prompting the U.S. Department of the Interior to designate the site as a National Historic Landmark in 2006. In August of this year, the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, which manages the site, opened the doors to a new interpretive center with state-of-the-art displays including artwork created at the camp and an extensive archive of photos and historic documents.

NPCA has been working closely with Wyoming's congressional delegation to designate the site as a national park unit, but legislation introduced by Sen. John Barrasso and Rep. Cynthia Lummis died in committee. The delegation is committed to reintroducing similar legislation in the future, and NPCA will be a vocal supporter of the move, with the help of The Conservation Fund, Japanese American Citizens League, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, visit [www.heartmountain.org](http://www.heartmountain.org). **NP**

**Delphine Hirasuna** is an editor of *@Issue: Journal of Business and Design*, online at [www.atissuejournal.com](http://www.atissuejournal.com). She is the co-author of several nonfiction books and was a feature columnist for two Japanese-American newspapers for more than 25 years. "The Art of Gaman" is being exhibited at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie, Illinois, until January 15, 2012; the Breman Museum in Atlanta January 29–May 31, 2012; and the International Folk Art Museum in Santa Fe from July 8–October 7, 2012.



© DOUG BOEHM

# The Movement

A composer's ascent of Longs Peak,  
and the sonata it inspired.

**W**hen I woke up in the dark, the clock read 5:00 a.m. I stuck my head out of my tent, and was so amazed at what I saw that I froze for a moment. Silently, in the dark, dozens of bob-

bing headlamps were magically forming a meandering line up across boulders to the rock face. Just above them, framed perfectly in the jagged opening called "The Keyhole," the full moon was setting. I sat motion-

less for a long time. Seeing it so soon after waking, the whole scene had an impossibly dream-like quality and I was afraid I might shatter it. I was reminded of the magical silences in a great piece of music that are often the most dramatic and compelling.

Unlike the more hard-core hikers who tackle Colorado's Longs Peak in a single day (requiring start times around 3:00 a.m.), I had chosen the more leisurely two-day approach thanks to a campsite at Boulderfield, just over a mile and a half of climbing and scrambling from the summit. I hit the trail right around dawn (more to secure a parking space than to beat the afternoon storms) and was thrilled to see that the day was shaping up to be perfect for a trip to the top—blue sky, moderate temperatures, and low winds. I kept humming to myself and thinking how lucky I was to be here.

The details of the situation would be familiar to any hiker—the gear, the preparations, the peace and natural high of the trail, and the "call" of the wild. But my reason for being here was unique. Although I have visited Rocky Mountain National Park numerous times over the last decade, this was a special trip in more ways than one. I am a composer and was staying in the park as part of the 2010 Artist-in-Residence program.

## IN THE SHADOW OF THE MOUNTAIN

Anyone familiar with Rocky Mountain National Park knows the power and presence that Longs Peak holds over the entire area. No matter where you go, the peak always seems to show its unmistakable, angular profile above the surrounding peaks. It dominates the park, daring you to climb. It is not an arduous ascent, as fourteeners go, but it still gets the best of many—especially those who jump in too quickly without acclimating. Each year, thousands of people attempt it. Many turn back along the way, bested by altitude or intimidated by the catwalks, and one or two perish in the attempt.

None of my previous visits had provided sufficient time to tackle the peak, but this trip was different. I had been in the park for a week already and had taken progressive training hikes every couple of days—first the popular Loch Vale trail up to Timberline

Falls (eight miles round trip with a 1,300-foot elevation gain), then the longer and less-traveled route past Lawn Lake to Crystal Lake (13 miles round trip with a 2,960-foot elevation gain). With these safely under my belt, I felt reasonably confident that I was ready for the 15 miles and 4,850-foot gain that Longs Peak would require.

Between these explorations, I rested and tried to compose music in my cabin. My plan was to write a sonata for trumpet and piano that focused on experiences and locations unique to Rocky Mountain National Park. I had brought along just enough technology to meet my needs: a portable keyboard and a laptop running some notation software. Although this was my fourth in a series of compositions focusing on national parks (following pieces about Big Bend, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon), my primary struggle was just what you might suspect. What does the experience of the park sound like? While mimicking the sounds of nature is one possibility, the results can sometimes trivialize the subject matter by sounding a bit “cartoony.” Vivaldi and Mendelssohn were able to get away with imitating bird sounds and donkeys braying, but they didn’t have to contend with the legacy of Tom and

in the way you feel only when you’re in the midst of one of your life-list trips. How could I make music speak about this feeling, this scenery, the drive that pushes us to test our boundaries and explore? As I wandered the park, I turned this issue over in my head. I tested the quality of the experience like deliberately tasting a new food. What were its elements? How might those elements become sounds?

These thoughts occupied my mind as I continued up toward Granite Pass and then onward to a late-morning arrival at Boulderfield campsite. As with most hikes, a big part of the pleasure was the remarkable variety of people I encountered along the way. Trail-runners in wispy, neon running shorts and arm-band radios floated blithely past me up the mountain while through-hikers shuffled down to the parking lot with backcountry beards smudged on their beaming faces. I wondered what music was playing in their minds. Are we all composers, providing our own imagined score to the epic film the trail is showing us? Or are we audience members, listening to nature’s great symphony and responding differently—according to our peculiar sensibilities—to the tunes, chords, and rhythms that the mountains are drumming? As I looked up toward the immense rock faces that surround Chasm Lake, I

music of the ascent would sound like to her. The quality of my experience is almost entirely visual; hers must have focused much more on sounds, smells, textures, and air currents. I imagined woodwinds creating a vast soundscape of hard edges and sudden gusts, like something by Lutoslawski. I thought about the strength of character and degree of trust necessary for her trip and suddenly felt a little silly about having left an “If I don’t make it back...” note on the table in my cabin.

Boulderfield is a funny place to camp. The view of The Keyhole and the peak above is stunning, but the tent tops dotting this vast plain of car-sized rocks give the area an incongruous and somewhat comic appearance. This is only amplified by the daring antics of the local pikas and marmots, which will steal food out of your pocket if you aren’t careful.

Arriving shortly before noon, I could see some clouds moving in. I hastily set up camp next to some loud-talkers who had come in from Flattop Mountain and were announcing to everyone in earshot that they were planning to summit before dawn. I slipped into my tent just as the first few drops started to fall. Within minutes, the gentle rain turned stronger, then became a light hail with distant thunder. Percussion motives danced around in my head as I drifted off to sleep.

When I finally roused myself into action the next morning, I began assembling the summit bag I would take for the last two miles to the top. Most of my weight, including pack, trekking poles, and tent, would be left behind at the campsite to be retrieved on the descent. The morning was getting gray and I was about to set off up to The Keyhole when the loud-talkers returned from their ill-fated nighttime attempt. Although rangers and fellow campers had advised them not to attempt the “backside” of the mountain before sunrise, they had tried anyway and then lost their nerve when they got to a tight spot and couldn’t see well enough to continue safely.

## How could I make music speak about this feeling, this scenery, the drive that pushes us to test our boundaries and explore?

Jerry, the Roadrunner, and their ilk. Pieces like *Carnival of the Animals* and *Peter and the Wolf* are effective and popular but inevitably assumed to be children’s pieces, largely for this reason. An equally precarious approach is to recreate the disorganization and complexity of natural sounds in a way that comes across as random or experimental. This tends to alienate contemporary audiences, who are already distrustful of serious music by living composers. I’ve learned that today’s concertgoers tend to prefer their composers dead.

And yet, here I was, very much alive—alive

remembered the movie “Patton” and imagined trumpet calls with echoes that summoned up the spirits of all who had ever hiked these trails.

### THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

Full of the hubris of my long-planned attempt, I was quickly cut down to size when I encountered a blind woman who was making her second trip to the summit (with the help of a couple of friends). We leapfrogged each other along the trail for a few hours and ended up camping near one another when we got to Boulderfield. I wondered what the

### ON THE WEB

Listen to a portion of Lias’s composition at [www.stephenlias.com/timberline.html](http://www.stephenlias.com/timberline.html)

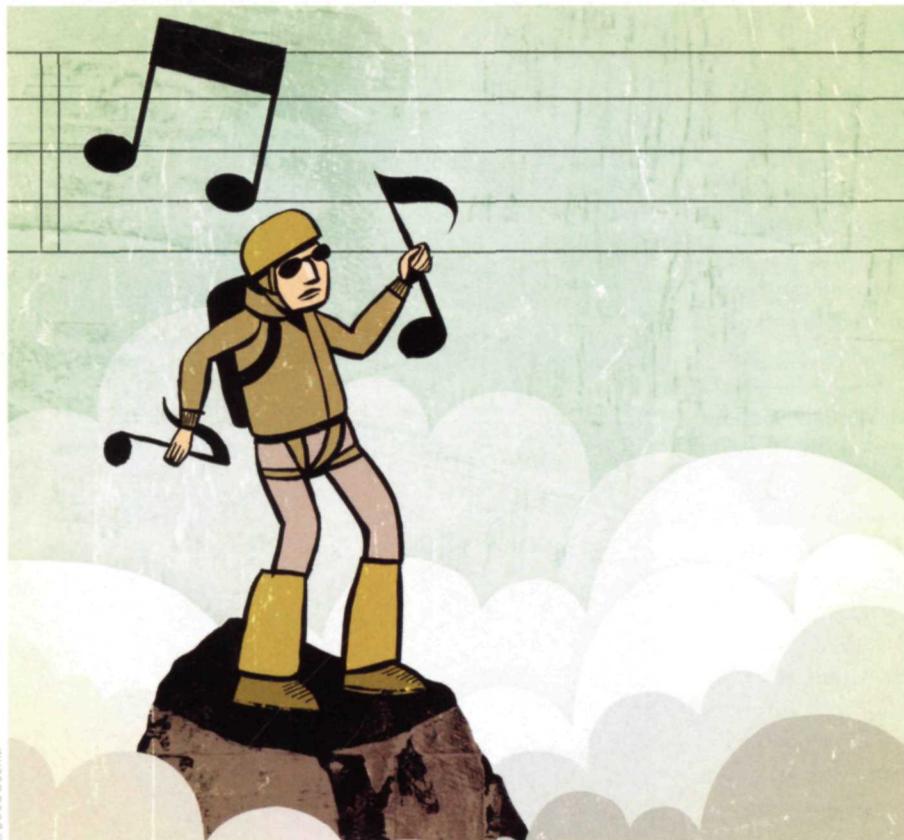


Although they were foolish for trying, at least they had the sense to reassess their situation before making a critical error. A hiker had fallen to his death just a week earlier on the very spot where they turned around.

As I made my way up toward The Keyhole, the first rays of the morning caught the

From the trailhead to The Keyhole is a hike. From The Keyhole to the summit is more of an experience. In spite of the fact that it is classified as “non-technical” for a few weeks in the summer when the route is ice-free, it still involves a full array of scrambling, balancing, sliding, and crab-legging maneuvers. It is not

that my new composition must include a movement on the ascent of Longs Peak. To visit the park is to be lured by this mountain. To start up the trail is to face its challenge, and to stand on its summit is to know something new about yourself and your place in the world.



cliffs around me with a fiery glow. By now, the crowd that had assembled in the predawn hours was starting to move through and traverse across the ledges and scree slopes that constitute the remainder of the route. Inevitably, as the path's danger and difficulty grew, everyone became best friends. People who had never met were holding out their hands to steady one another, pointing out loose stones, and sharing water bottles. I buddied up with a veteran hiker from Tucson who was taking her newly married daughter and son-in-law up for the first time. Although I didn't learn their names, a number of others who passed us on their way down assumed we were a family unit.

the highest nor the hardest peak in the Rockies, but now that I've done it, I understand why so many climbers count this among the most satisfying peaks to conquer. It is an immersive experience that combines adrenaline, exertion, and reward in exactly the right proportions. A blow-by-blow account would only minimize what is, unquestionably, best experienced in person. Instead, imagine music that is unpredictable—tentative, then bold, high, precarious melodic lines peppered with sudden stops, culminating in a slow crescendo that explodes unexpectedly into exhilaration and triumph.

As we all stood on the summit swapping cameras and drinking in the views, I knew

#### FROM TRAIL TO CONCERT HALL

It is a surprise to me that the symbiotic relationship between artist and the parks has lost its relevance to many. It was, after all, largely due to the efforts of writers, poets, painters, and photographers that Congress was persuaded to establish these wild spaces to begin with. Albert Bierstadt's painting of Longs Peak hung for many years in the Capitol rotunda in Washington. Few musical works have so eloquently captured the spirit of the parks as well as Ferde Grofé's *Grand Canyon Suite*; the theme from the third movement ("On the Trail") has become inseparable from the image of trail rides down into the canyon.

To me, the connection is obvious. Artists and the national parks are deeply connected in aesthetic ways. We routinely use phrases like "picture-perfect" or "poetry in motion" and talk about "birdsong" and "a sunset like a painting." We understand the connection between the love of the wilderness we feel and that expressed by writers and poets such as Jack London, Robert Service, Enos Mills, and John Muir. But artists and parks are connected in other ways, too. In these belt-tightening times, they can support each another like two orphaned children. They share a desperate need for funding, infrastructure, growth, and lasting support. They both feed the soul and bring meaning to life in ways that are fundamentally necessary but impossible to quantify.

All trails come to an end eventually, and life inexorably drags us back to work and obligations. Although I composed most of the first movement during my two-week residency, the remainder was slowly constructed back home, during evenings and weekends over the succeeding few months. Almost a year has now passed since my residency, and the finished piece (titled "The Timberline

## DETAILS: ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

The Artist-in-Residence program at “RoMo” provides an opportunity for six selected artists from various disciplines to draw inspiration from the stunning scenery, wildlife, forests, trails, lakes, and experiences available at one of the nation’s premier national parks. Artists are housed for two-week stays in the historic cabin of Pulitzer prize-winning author William Allen White. In return, artists provide donated works that celebrate the park and give two presentations in the Beaver Meadows Visitors Center to help educate the public on the artist’s discipline, as well as the legacy that artists hold in the creation and ongoing support of the parks. National parks throughout the country host about 30 similar residency programs, which vary widely in scope, discipline, duration, and accommodations. The list is constantly changing as new programs are added or (more often) existing programs are cut from lack of funding, lack of support, or both. There is no central repository of artist-in-residence programs right now, but type “artist in residence” and “national park” into any search engine and you’ll find a sampling of programs nationwide.

Sonata”) has been followed by another about Mt. Rainier, and one about Denali just under way. Seeing this project gain momentum has given my creative life a focus and intensity that it never had before, and allowed me the rare privilege of merging work and play in a manner usually reserved for food critics and testers of wilderness gear.

In February 2011, I was fortunate to see the first performance of “The Timberline Sonata” as part of the Estes Park Music Festival. I was delighted to present this gift to the community in which the piece was inspired and thrilled to introduce my performers—trumpeter Gary Wurtz and pianist Ron Petti—to the wonders of the park. Perhaps the most meaningful compliment I’ve ever gotten came in a follow-up letter from Artist-in-Residence Coordinator Jean Muenchrath, who said, “Mr. Lias’ musical compositions create music that captures and translates a sense of place—both the physical qualities of a landscape and the emotional feelings evoked from experiences in wild places. His compositions are also complex, rich, and inspiring.” I’d rather hear those words from a park ranger than from a dozen music critics.

A year later, the experience of climbing Longs Peak is still very real to me—perhaps kept alive by the music I have written. Have I captured the magnificence of the park? Will those who know the park well hear the piece and recognize an old friend? I hope so. Nothing would be more satisfying to me than to have lured some of those concert-goers out of their velvet seats and into the wild.

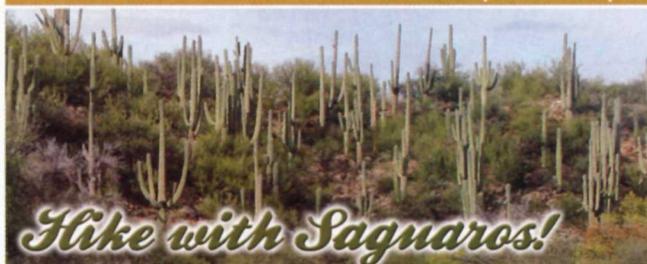


**Stephen Lias** teaches composition at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, where he is busily gearing up for 2012 residencies in Alaska.

Camping Reservations at [AZStateParks.com](http://AZStateParks.com)  
or Call Reservation Center at (520) 586-2283 8am to 5pm MST



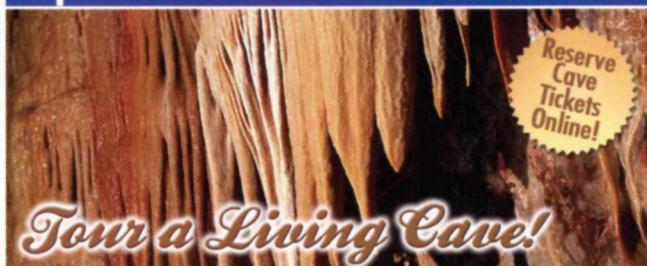
*Ride a Horse!*  
Dead Horse Ranch State Park, Cottonwood, AZ



*Hike with Saguaros!*  
Catalina State Park, Tucson, AZ • Explore 5,500 Acres

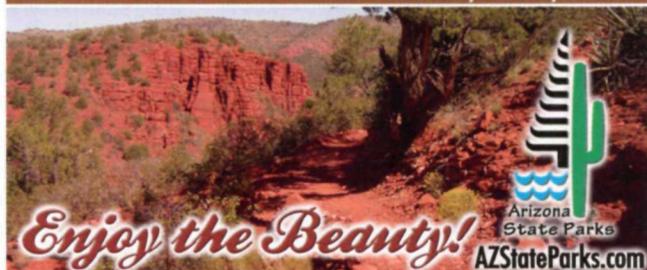


*Catch the Big One!*  
Roper Lake State Park, Safford, AZ • Cabin Rentals



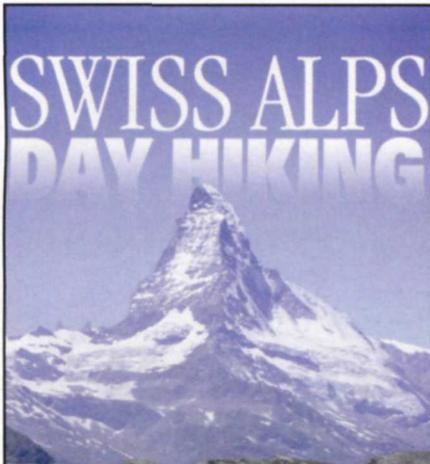
Reserve Cave Tickets Online!

*Tour a Living Cave!*  
Kartchner Caverns State Park®, (520) 586-2283 Benson, AZ



*Enjoy the Beauty!*  
Arizona State Parks  
[AZStateParks.com](http://AZStateParks.com)  
Red Rock State Park, Sedona, AZ • Guided Hikes

# SWISS ALPS DAY HIKING



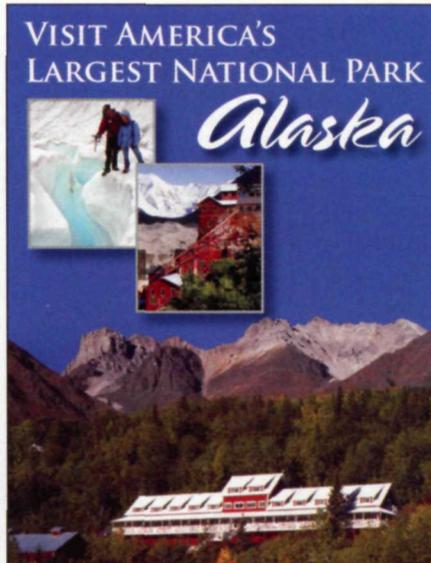
- Since 1978 -

**Optional Length Hikes Daily**  
Choice of Moderate or More Strenuous  
Basing weekly in charming  
mountain villages.  
One and two week trips offered.  
Call for free color brochure

**Alpine Adventure Trails Tours, Inc.**  
**888-478-4004**  
[www.swisshiking.com](http://www.swisshiking.com)

VISIT AMERICA'S  
LARGEST NATIONAL PARK

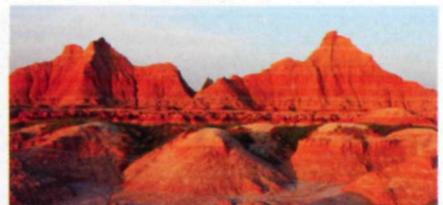
# Alaska



## KENNICOTT Glacier Lodge

Gracious hospitality and fine dining in the heart of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Historic mines, spectacular glaciers, great hiking, flightseeing, rafting

[www.KennicottLodge.com](http://www.KennicottLodge.com) 800-987-6773



**Advertise your company's tours and travel opportunities in National Parks Magazine.**

Contact the YGS Group for rates or visit [www.npca.org/magazine/mediakit.pdf](http://www.npca.org/magazine/mediakit.pdf)

**Jason Vranich:** 800.501.9571 x185  
jason.vranich@theYGSgroup.com

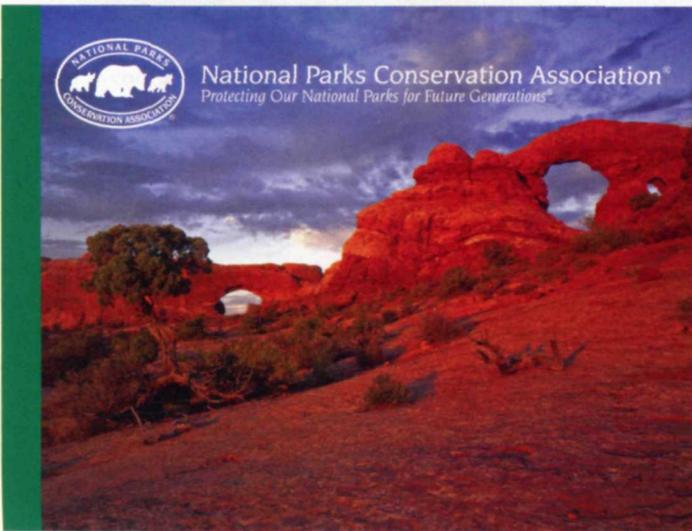
**Marshall Boomer:** 800.501.9571 x123  
marshall.boomer@theYGSgroup.com



[www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org)



**National Parks Conservation Association**  
*Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations*



### An NPCA Charitable Gift Annuity can:

- Increase your financial security by receiving guaranteed fixed payments for your lifetime.
- Reduce your tax burden with savings on capital gains and income taxes.
- Help NPCA protect the parks for future generations.

To receive our free brochure, Giving Through Gift Annuities, call our toll-free number 1.877.468.5775, visit our web site, [www.npca.org/giftplanning](http://www.npca.org/giftplanning), or return the form below.

**NPCA Gift Planning Department**  
777 6th Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001-3723  
[giftplanning@npca.org](mailto:giftplanning@npca.org) • [www.npca.org/giftplanning](http://www.npca.org/giftplanning)

Please send information on Charitable Gift Annuities to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

To receive a personalized illustration, please provide your birth date(s):

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

I would consider including NPCA in my estate plans.

Provide Income For Yourself and Your Loved Ones!

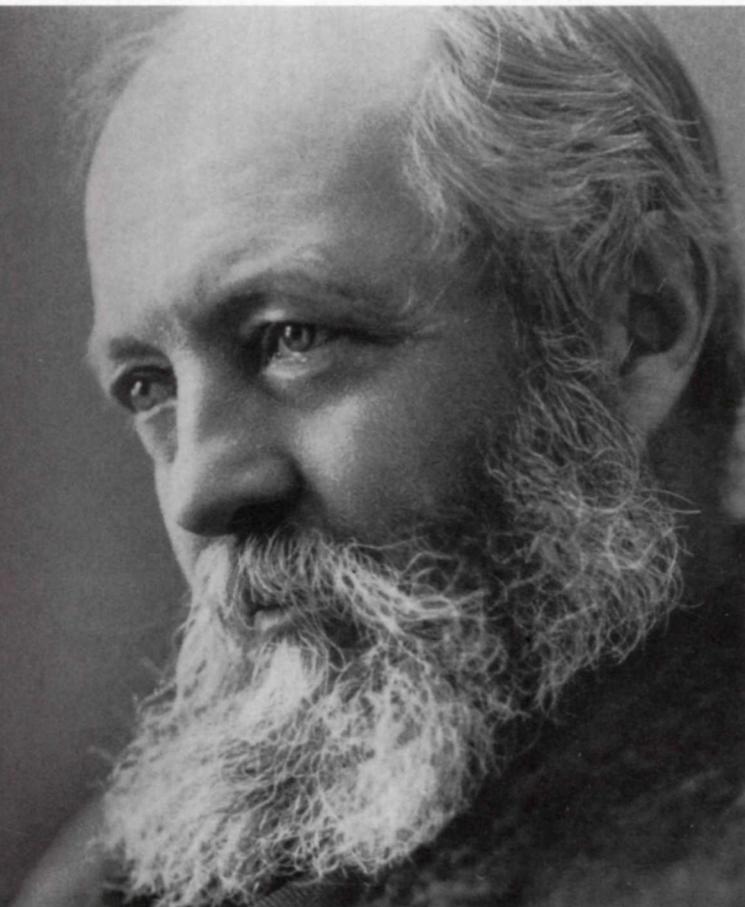
#### Current Annuity Payout Rates

Age:	65	70	75	80	85	90
Rate:	5.3%	5.8%	6.5%	7.5%	8.4%	9.8%

**FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED**

gave birth to the idea of landscape architecture.

NPS/FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



# The Lay of the Land

Meet Frederick Law Olmsted, the man who created Central Park and defined landscape architecture.

**F**rederick Law Olmsted is best known for creating Manhattan's Central Park, that heavenly expanse of green amidst the skyscrapers, which provides respite for millions of city-dwellers who measure elbow room in inches, not acres. But Central Park was simply the first chapter in many volumes of work that most of us have paged through at one time or another. Olmsted's former home in the

quaint Boston suburb of Brookline, Massachusetts, tells the story of a man who carved out natural landscapes from nothing, and in doing so, changed the face of the nation one city block at a time.

"From the very beginning, Olmsted had a great love of nature and scenery," says Alan Banks, supervisory park ranger at Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site. "Some of his happiest recollec-

tions were when his father took the family on trips, looking for beautiful scenery—'tours in search of the picturesque,' he called them. At a very young age, Olmsted became a student of landscape." Ironically, he didn't spend much time inside a traditional schoolhouse. After inadvertently rubbing poison sumac in his eyes as a teen, Olmsted was told not to read for long periods of time, so he set out to pursue learning in other ways.

"It followed that at the time my schoolmates were entering college, I was... for the most part given over to a decently restrained vagabond life," Olmsted said, "generally pursued under the guise of an angler, a fowler or a dabbler on the shallowest shores of the deep sea of the natural sciences." In his early adult years, he wandered from one occupation to another, working as a clerk and a farmer in New York, studying engineering in Andover, Massachusetts, and sailing to China on a merchant ship. Although he was seasick

during the entire voyage to China and set foot on the Asian continent for only one day, he wrote an article about the entire experience, which led him into publishing. In 1850 he traveled through Europe, seeing the farms and private gardens in England, publishing his observations in the book *Walks & Talks of an American Farmer in England* at a time when such knowledge wasn't available at the click of a mouse. His forays into publishing led him to meet key

too few of those people connect in meaningful ways. His designs included features that would draw people into the park and attract them to common spaces where they could interact. "Olmsted wanted to create spaces to negate the sense that in a city, everyone is out to get you," says Banks. "He believed that if people gathered together, they would find that they could enjoy each other's company, simply by their mere presence." And he was right.

"What Artist is so noble. . . as he who, with far-reaching conception of beauty and designing power, sketches the outlines, writes the colours, and directs the shadows of a picture so great that nature shall be employed upon it for generations before the work that he has arranged for her shall realize his intentions."

players in New York and eventually to his position as superintendent of a new park to be built in the middle of New York City.

The commission for Central Park provided Olmsted and his partner, Calvert Vaux, an opportunity to use landscape design for a social purpose. The two believed that there is no beauty without utility and based their work on the "noble motive," which drove their aesthetic decisions. Rather than aim merely for a lovely park with beautiful greenery, the two aimed to achieve a healthy environment for people and to promote democracy, with a little "d."

Olmsted was quick to recognize that although cities are places bustling with people,

For someone so focused on beauty, Olmsted was also surprisingly practical. In 1880, he took on the challenge of the Muddy River. Forming the border between Boston and Brookline, it was a waterway prone to flooding and used as a dumping ground. Rather than bury the river underground—common practice at the time—he built sewers to intercept floodwaters and added trees and plants to the shores. In time, people came to the site to stroll along what was essentially "a sanitary improvement," as Olmsted would call it.

"Olmsted certainly wanted to build parks that would make people healthy and happy, but his intentions weren't limited to altruism," says Banks. "Olmsted realized the real-estate industry would get on board if he could convince people that parks would increase the value of the surrounding land. In turn, taxes would go up, and those taxes would eventually help pay for the parks themselves." Take a look at the *New York Times* real-estate pages and

you'll see how right he was.

Frederick Law Olmsted's reign lasted from 1883 to 1895, when two of his sons took over the firm's work; they would go on to be even more prolific than their father. The Olmsted home in Brookline, now operated by the Park Service, was the firm's headquarters until 1980, when the business closed and the property became a National Historic Site. The nucleus of the site is an 1810 farmhouse, which Olmsted bought in 1883 when he moved to the area. The family made many additions to the house and increased design areas over the years, adding a floor or a wing to accommodate new drafting space, a blueprint department, and other needs of the growing business.

The home is being renovated, and should reopen fully in the spring of 2012; for now, rangers are offering tours on a limited basis. Every spring, rangers lead tours along the "Emerald Necklace" of green spaces in Boston and Brookline, city parks designed by Olmsted. (Visit [www.nps.gov/frla](http://www.nps.gov/frla) for more information.) When the site reopens, visitors can experience a ranger-guided tour of the design studios and see how the Olmsteds went about their work, from drafting their images to photography, model making, and blueprinting. Afterwards, a ranger leads a guided tour of the grounds, pointing out the design principles put to work on a small scale right in the backyard.

"Olmsted and the landscape architects that followed had to be true altruists, because he never got to see the results of much of his work in Boston and Brookline—he had to know that oftentimes when he planted a tree, he'd be long dead before it was anything more than a sapling," Banks says. "Most people want that immediate pat on the back, someone to tell them they did a great job, but as long as he was alive, his work never came close to the vision that we would all experience years later." **NP**

**Scott Kirkwood** is editor in chief of *National Parks* magazine.

#### ON THE WEB

To view a list of Olmsted parks, see photos, and watch interviews with Banks and other experts on Olmsted's life and work, visit [www.theolmstedlegacy.com](http://www.theolmstedlegacy.com), and look for the film on your local PBS channel.





© DAVID COLLIER

## REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS

California

In the winter of 2009, my girlfriend was offered a job in Eureka, California, about an hour south of Redwood National and State Parks, so we left Sacramento and headed north. Her fond memories of childhood trips to the region inspired us to devote our weekends to exploring as many Redwoods trails as possible. On the day I made this photograph, we were hiking Skunk Cabbage, a fern-covered trail that winds through new and old-growth forests for five miles until it reaches the ocean. We had lunch at the trail's end, overlooking the waves, and on our way back, we found this little newt lumbering slowly across some low foliage. It was rather dark under the deep forest canopy, so I set my camera wide-open at f2.8 and played around with different angles that allowed the bright-green ferns and the newt's wispy tail to create a strong composition. We recently moved back to the Sacramento area to be near our family and friends, but it seems we left our hearts back among the magical redwoods.

SAVING PEOPLE MONEY  
on more than just car insurance.<sup>SM</sup>

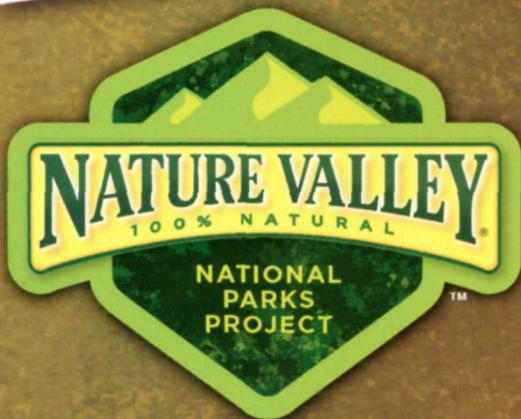
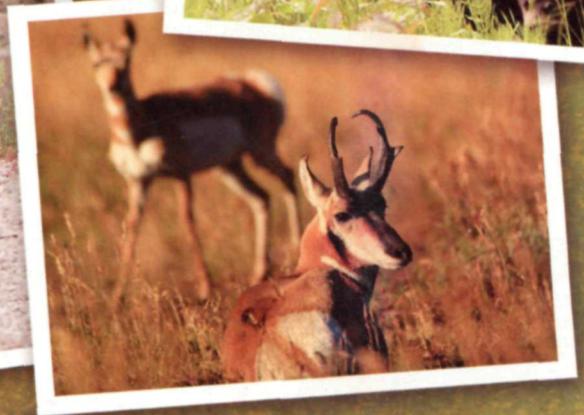


**GEICO**<sup>®</sup>

Call 1-877-434-2678 today  
or visit your local office.

Motorcycle and ATV coverages are underwritten by GEICO Indemnity Company. Boat and PWC coverages are written through non-affiliated insurance companies and are secured through the GEICO Insurance Agency, Inc. Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. Government Employees Insurance Co. • GEICO General Insurance Co. • GEICO Indemnity Co. • GEICO Casualty Co. These companies are subsidiaries of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. GEICO: Washington, DC 20076. © 2011 GEICO

Families just belong out here.



National Parks are more than family vacation spots. They're places where memories are made and family legends are born. And we think places that special are worth preserving. That's why Nature Valley is working to protect the natural, rugged beauty of these legendary parks for generations to come. To learn more about how we're making a difference and how you can help, visit [NatureValley.com](http://NatureValley.com)