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Stephen T. Mather plaque at the Visitor Center.

The first Director of the National Park Service, Stephen T. Mather, moved to Washington, D.C. from Chicago in January 1915. Having a reputation as a successful and wealthy businessman, Mather's interest in nature became renewed during a 1904 trip to Europe with his wife.

While Mather served as a special assistant to Secretary of Interior Lane promoting national park concerns, he helped persuade the U.S. Congress to create a National Park Service in 1916. Prior to August 25, 1916, national park units had been managed individually, beginning with Yellowstone, in 1872.

It made sense that Mather would be appointed the first director of this newly formed agency. In that capacity, Mather continued to promote park access, development, and use, and contributed

People Making a Difference *Directors and Defenders*

financially from his personal fortune. During his tenure, the Service's domain expanded eastward with the addition of Shenandoah, Great Smoky Mountains, and Mammoth Cave National Parks. With 57 park units under his wing, Mather retired after suffering a stroke in 1929, and died a year later at age 62.

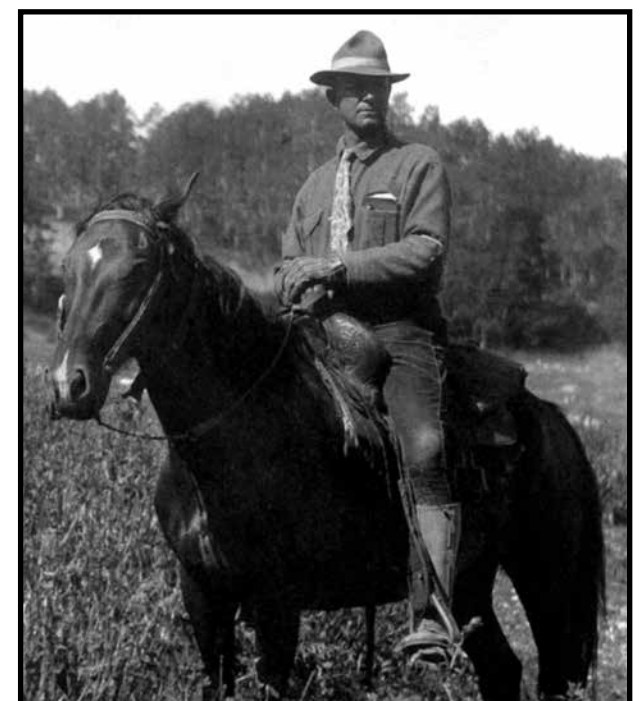
To commemorate Mather's accomplishments, a group of friends and associates commissioned and funded a bronze plaque to be installed at 25 national parks areas, including Bryce Canyon. Look outside in front of the park's visitor center (near the flagpole) for this plaque, and as you travel around the country, see what other park areas have a Mather plaque.

On a more local level for Bryce Canyon, there was a modest young man who became enamored with the various colors and formations of what are now known as "hoodoos." That person, J.W. Humphrey, had transferred to Panguitch, Utah in July 1915 as a U.S. Forest Service Supervisor. After a coworker suggested to Humphrey to accompany him to take a look at the eastern edge of the Paunsaugunt Plateau, Humphrey did exactly that -- he hopped on his horse and rode 26 miles to the rim near what is now Sunset Point. Stunned, Humphrey later wrote in his journal:

"You can perhaps imagine my surprise at the indescribable beauty that greeted us, and it was sundown before I could be dragged from the canyon view. I went back the next morning to see the canyon once

more, and to plan in my mind how this attraction could be made accessible to the public."

Humphrey sent photographs and movies of the canyon to U.S. Forest Service officials in Washington D.C. He penned magazine and newspaper articles (under an assumed name to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest) to promote the idea of setting this area aside for future generations. In 1916, Humphrey secured a \$50 appropriation to improve the road, making the rim accessible to automobile traffic for the first time ever.



J. W. Humphrey on horseback, circa 1920s.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Ribbon-Cutting Events

Please enjoy a slice of birthday cake with us as we celebrate 100 years of the National Park Service.

- Shared-Use Path & Solar Array, May 19
- Visitor Center exhibits & Bryce Canyon Memories Film premier, August 25.

Astronomy Festival

Join us for our 16th Annual Astronomy Festival (June 1 - 4, 2016) with Bryce Canyon's Astronomy Rangers and the Salt Lake Astronomical Society.

Both day and evening programs by rangers and special speakers are planned culminating with nightly telescope viewing from 10:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

Geology Festival

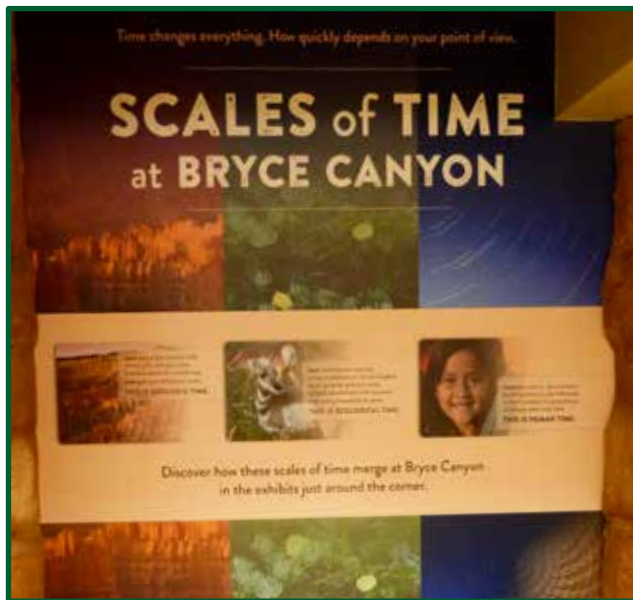
Bryce Canyon's 7th annual GeoFest is scheduled for a two-day event July 16 and 17, 2016.

Join park rangers for guided hikes, family-friendly geology programs, bus tours with a geologist, evening programs, new exhibits and family-oriented activities at the visitor center.

Fee Free Days

The National Park Service has designated the following 16 fee free days for 2016:

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 18.
- National Park Week, April 16-24.
- National Park Service's 100th Birthday Weekend, August 25-28.
- National Public Lands Day, September 24.
- Veteran's Day, November 11.



Visitor Center *Experience New Exhibits*

Thanks to you, the park has installed brand new exhibits at the Visitor Center. 80% of all entrance station fees stay in the park to help with special projects that connect back to you, the visitor. Just in time for the 2016 National Park Service (NPS) Centennial, the exhibits are now available for viewing. In fact, on the NPS birthday, August 25, there will be a special ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially commemorate this project along with a debut film viewing, *Bryce Canyon Memories*.

Most people's first stop at a national park is the Visitor Center so that they can orient themselves to their new park. The \$1.5 million project dubbed "Scales of Time" features the interplay between the earth's history (power of erosion), biological life zones, and human ties to the land. You will learn about unique geological formations ("hoodoos"), Utah Prairie Dogs, and the exceptional clarity of our air (those stellar skies!). But we don't want to give away any surprises, so make sure you stop on by!



Water Refill Stations *Quench Your Thirst*

Thanks to a partnership between the park, Vapur, Elkay and the Bryce Canyon Natural History Association, seven water refill stations have been installed throughout the park.

When you choose to refill a bottle, you reduce waste. Each year, an estimated 30 billion single-use plastic water bottles are used in the U.S., and 80% of these are tossed into landfills rather than being reused or recycled. The amount of water in the human body ranges from 50-75% and especially at the higher elevations, it is important to remain hydrated.

So fill'em up, and drink it up by replenishing your water at a refill station. Refillable water bottles are available for purchase at the visitor center bookstore, the lodge gift shop and the general store.



Centennial Salute & Celebration



*This
100th Anniversary
of the
National Park Service
is all about connecting people to special places in the
outdoors.*

It's about a vacation with an education.

*The park staff invites you to experience the park in the
following ways. . .*



Shared Use Path *It's all about Connections*

The 6.2 mile Bryce Canyon Shared Use Path is one way visitors can now link Bryce Canyon City, north of the park, to Inspiration Point inside the park. The paved trail offers bicycles, wheelchairs, strollers, and pedestrians, runners, and dog walkers, the opportunity to recreate. With only a 6% grade or less, the shared-use path complies with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

- This is the only “trail” that allows bicycles (be safe – wear a helmet).
- Stay to the right – announce your presence when passing someone.

Options include combining the path use with a return trip via shuttle bus (bike racks and wheelchair lifts available on all shuttles).

Entrance station fees in effect for path users (entrance fees support cost of bus).



Solar Array *Hurray!*

Upon arriving at the Visitor Center, you can't miss the solar collection system perched between parking areas. This new twin 75kw dual axis Concentrating Solar Photovoltaic (CPV) system will track the sun and offset the majority of the visitor center and headquarters building's electrical consumption. This CPV system will save the park approximately \$40,000 in electricity each year with a 22-year return on investment.

Climate change is everyone's concern. This forward-thinking of alternative energy designs could be compared to other dreams and ideas incorporated a century ago when the National Park Service was being established for protecting our public lands for all of us today.



FIND YOUR
PARK
2016 NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

PARKS100.COM

Inspiring you to discover local parks, hidden gems, and National Park Centennial Events in the "Grand Circle" portions of Utah, Arizona and Nevada.

National Parks

- Bryce Canyon • Grand Canyon North Rim
- Great Basin • Kolob Canyons • Zion

National Monuments

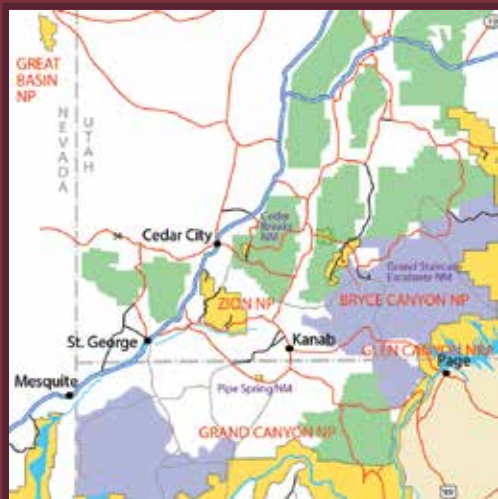
- Cedar Breaks • Grand Canyon/Parashant
- Grand Staircase • Pipe Spring
- Vermilion Cliffs

State Parks

- Coral Pink Sand Dunes • Sand Hollow
- Escalante Petrified Forest • Quail Creek
- Frontier Homestead Museum
- Kodachrome Basin • Snow Canyon

If you find your park today, please share your story by using #parks100.

If you haven't found YOUR park yet, visit parks100.com for inspiration and ideas on where to go and experiences to try in our area.



PARKS100.COM

PARKS100 is here to help you discover our local parks and inspire you to find the hidden gems and centennial events in the Grand Circle area as you **Explore Five More.**



Contributors - this publication has been made possible thanks to:

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All photos are NPS photos unless otherwise noted.

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Centennial Spruce-Up

- ✓ **New Roof at The Lodge at Bryce Canyon**
Construction began in 1923 for this overnight facility. Architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood is best known for his National Park lodges. At Bryce Canyon, he designed buildings with a unique wavy pattern in the rooftops. Look for "the wave" on other buildings within the National Historic Landmark district.
- ✓ **Visitor Center museum exhibits.**
- ✓ **Five restrooms replaced at the Sunset and North Campgrounds.**
- ✓ **Water lines replaced at Sunset Campground.**
- ✓ **Rehabilitate Bryce Point for safety and accessibility improvements (summer 2016).**



Your Fee Dollars at Work

These improvements are being completed using your fee dollars.

Thank you for your support!

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