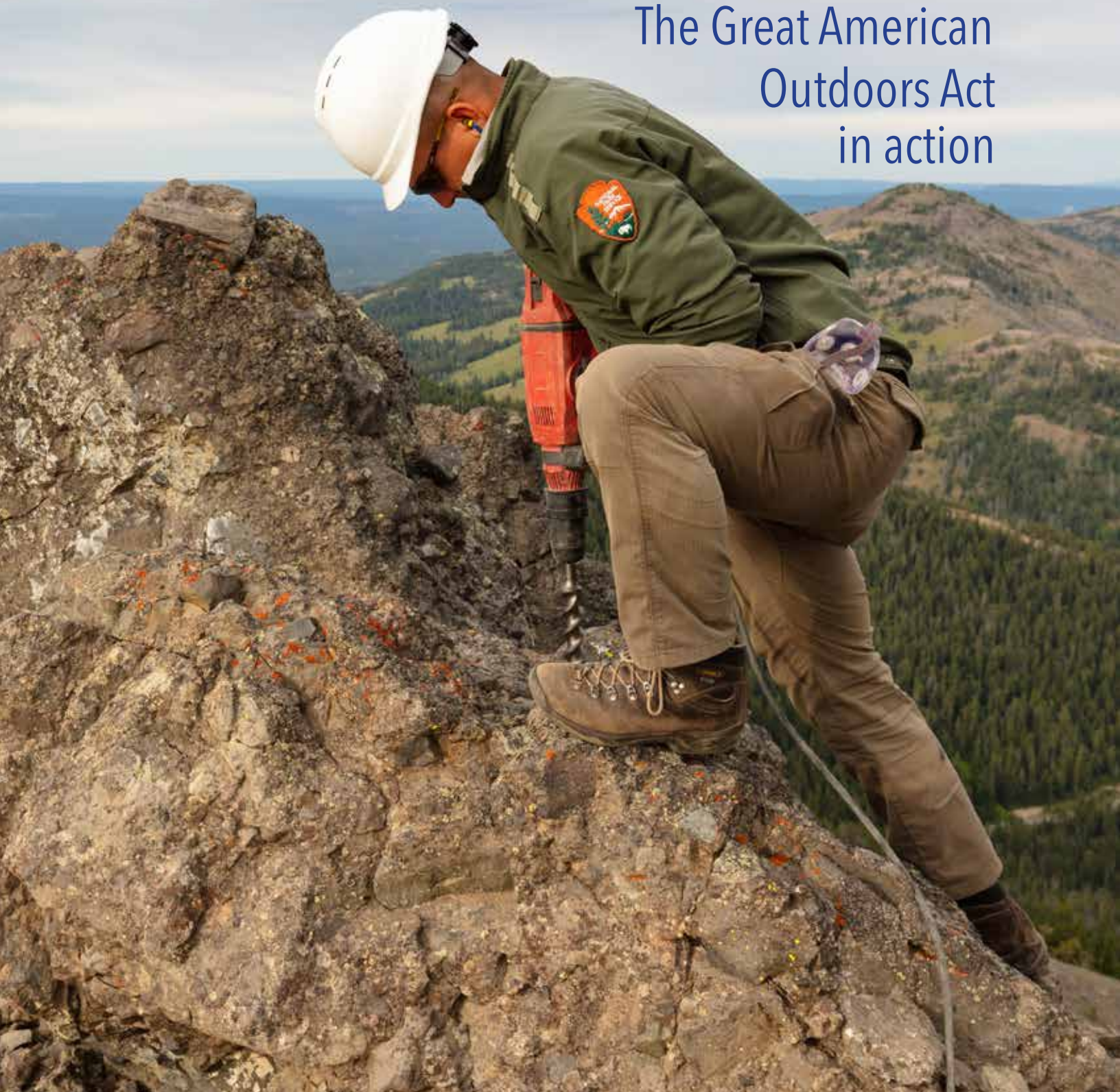


RANGER

The Journal of the Association of National Park Rangers

Stewards for parks, visitors & each other

The Great American
Outdoors Act
in action



Vol. 37, No. 4 | Fall 2021

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On the cover: An NPS employee works on the Mount Washburn Trail in Yellowstone National Park. The Great American Outdoors Act will provide funding to tackle hundreds of NPS deferred-maintenance projects such as trailwork, road improvements, building rehabilitation and more. Photo: NPS / Jacob Frank

BY THIS TIME OF YEAR, MOST FOLKS IN THE ANPR FAMILY are starting to anticipate this organization's annual Ranger Rendezvous. Part education, part reunion, the yearly event brings together ANPR members, presenters and guests who take a pause in their busy schedules to reconnect over their ranger lives.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic put a halt to the 2020 Ranger Rendezvous, canceling the in-person event for the first time since Rendezvous' beginnings in 1977.

Then it happened again. This year's Ranger Rendezvous also has fallen victim to a pandemic that is slow to wane, forcing the ANPR Board to reluctantly pull the plug for a second time – and without as much time to reassemble into a fully virtual event.

However, resiliency is a hallmark of the ranger profession, and the pandemic will not keep Ranger Rendezvous from still having a presence this fall. Organizers are busily working to present mini-Ranger Rendezvous opportunities throughout the country:

A few events to note:

- The Board's annual meeting is set for Oct. 16, and will be held virtually. Please join us, and consider running for a board member position. See Page 10 for more details on the meeting.
- Mini in-person Rendezvous social hours are planned in six locations throughout the country, following the annual meeting. See Page 10.
- The winners of the popular Super Raffle will be announced on Oct. 16. See Page 18 for more on the raffle and the great prizes being awarded.
- ANPR's annual photo contest is on, and this year includes open voting on our Facebook page. See Page 11 for more.
- Also in the works is an effort to conduct an in-person presentation to this year's Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award winners, Bill Halainen and Jack Morehead. The event is tentatively planned to take place in October at Yellowstone National Park. We are planning a full feature on these two well-deserving recipients – as well as highlighting the winners of our photo contest – in our Winter 2022 issue of *Ranger* magazine.

This month's issue of *Ranger* takes a closer look at the Great American Outdoors Act, heralded as one of the most significant pieces of legislation to benefit the National Park Service in decades. Signed into law in August of 2020, the GAOA is being implemented throughout the park service to complete billions of dollars worth of deferred maintenance projects. It was a bill decades in the making, and now that the funds are beginning to be dispersed, what will that look like? How will rangers' daily lives be affected, and which park units will be the first to receive help? Check out pages 4-7 for more.

Meanwhile, stay tuned for more updates on Ranger Rendezvous as planners continue to brainstorm ways to keep the RR tradition alive. And mark your calendars for Oct. 24-30, 2022. Ranger Rendezvous 45 is slated for Tucson, Ariz., when, hopefully, the COVID-19 pandemic will be a distant, unpleasant memory.

— Melissa DeVaughn
Ranger magazine editor

RANGER

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

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

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FINAL DEADLINES

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



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In-person Rendezvous foiled by COVID – again

President's message

– Paul R. Anderson

WE HAVE MADE IT THROUGH the majority of Summer 2021, with record visitation and the growing threat of the Delta variant of COVID-19. These are definitely interesting times! I hope that the fall and winter will bring relief to the stress that all of our NPS employees and ANPR members have been experiencing this year.

In August, the ANPR Board of Directors reassessed the COVID-19 situation in Florida. Quickly-surfing numbers of COVID-19 cases, no mitigation mandates, an NPS directive that employees may not travel to conferences on government time, and a significant lack of Ranger Rendezvous preregistrations all played into the decision to adopt the recommendations of the Ranger Rendezvous 44 management team to cancel the event for this year. It was a difficult decision for the board, but I believe it was the right decision for our members' health and safety. I hope that we will not be facing similar obstacles as we look toward the next Rendezvous in Tucson, Ariz., next year.

Also, in August, Chris Reinhardt, our capable ANPR business manager for the last 4 ½ years, resigned to pursue other interests. Thank you, Chris, for all you've done for ANPR over the years. We will miss you!

We advertised nationally for the vacant business manager position, and ultimately selected Melissa DeVaughn, our Ranger magazine editor, for the position. Because both the business manager and the Ranger editor are part-time positions, the board and Melissa believe that she can do both jobs, at least for the rest of the current fiscal year which ends in March, 2022. Please welcome Melissa to her new position!

This issue of *Ranger* highlights the Great American Outdoors Act and what it will accomplish in our national parks. I think you will find the articles interesting and informative, and I hope that you will actively support planning, development and implementation of these projects. This funding is sorely needed, and we need to make sure that it is well spent on NPS and park priorities.

Without an in-person Rendezvous, we still will hold a virtual annual Business Meeting (required by our by-laws), probably on Zoom, on October 16. One of the main agenda items will be to take nominations for the open board positions from the floor. We also have an active elections committee, chaired by Jamie Richards, jrichards@anpr.org, which is seeking candidates to nominate for President-Elect, Board Member for Fundraising, and Board Member for Membership Services. If you are interested in joining the board in one of these positions, or if you know someone who is interested, please contact Jamie via email and let her know. Our Board is working hard to represent you and your interests, and we need three really good, committed members to take over these key positions starting next year. I want to thank Jeanette Meleen and Reghan Tank for their really hard work and excellent accomplishments during their terms the past three years!! If you would like to know more about these positions and their responsibilities, please contact Jeanette, jmeleen@anpr.org, Reghan, rtank@anpr.org, or me, [panderson@anpr.org](mailto: panderson@anpr.org) to get our perspectives.

Thank you all for your service to the parks and to America. Please take care of yourselves and each other out there. Stay safe and stay healthy.

— Paul R. Anderson
ANPR President





The Great American Outdoors Act passed a year ago: Where does it stand now, and where is it headed?

By Melissa DeV Vaughn

A YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE THE PASSAGE OF THE **GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT** (GAOA), the most significant piece of legislation to affect the National Park Service in decades. The GAOA, signed into law on Aug. 4, 2020, addresses the \$12 billion backlog of deferred maintenance projects within the NPS. The GAOA will distribute funds for repairs and improvements among the 400-plus park units across the country.

“This is the largest investment to date in our natural treasures, wildlife, our economy, and all Americans, who enjoy our public lands,” said Bethany Barron, Great American Outdoors Act program manager. “We are pleased at being able to contribute to our country in this way.”

But is it enough? Visitation to national parks – and the pressures put on its facilities and staff – continue to outpace the NPS budget and staffing numbers.

The GAOA will draw on revenues from energy development to provide up to \$1.9 billion a year for five years for deferred maintenance on federal lands, and also use royalties from offshore oil and natural gas to permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), at \$900 million annually.

Of that maintenance funding, said John Garder, senior director of budget and appropriations for the National Parks Conservation Association, 70 percent will go to the National Park Service, with the remainder being split among the Bureau of Indian Education, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. However, he cautioned, it is not a panacea.

“There has been an erosion of park operations funding over the years, while visitation has soared,” Garder



said. Between 2011 and 2019, park staffing dropped 16 percent, while during that same time visitation grew by 17 percent, he added. In that same 2011-2019 window, between 273 million and 331 million people visited a national park. Compare that to 25 years ago (1986-1994), and visitation ranged from 255 million to 287 million.

The GAOA is a good start, Garder said, but it won't fix everything.

"The Great American Outdoors Act is not going to solve all the needs," Garder said. "Congress should reauthorize this bill when the time comes, but they should also add funding from other sources to both repair and better staff parks."

MANAGING THE MONEY

Barron said fair distribution of funding is at the forefront of how the GAOA is being implemented. It starts with the Legacy Restoration Fund, established by the GAOA to address maintenance backlog and help earmark projects for completion.

"We have a dedicated team focused on oversight and implementation of Legacy Restoration Fund projects across the NPS," Barron said. "To be as efficient and effective as possible, we are relying on existing processes, offices, and personnel to build program capacity and support where it's needed while adapting existing procedures and



Road crews trim brush along the Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park. The Great American Outdoors Act, passed in August, 2020, is helping to fund some \$12 billion in deferred-maintenance projects throughout the National Park Service. For Fiscal Year 21, Shenandoah received funding for two projects totaling \$29.7 million. NPS Photo

"The Great American Outdoors Act is not going to solve all the needs. Congress should reauthorize this bill when the time comes, but they should also add funding from other sources to both repair and better staff parks."

— John Garder, National Parks Conservation Association

tools to ensure projects stay within scope and schedule.”

Projects awarded in Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) include 48 large-scale projects and 100 smaller projects in 49 states, all ready to be initiated, Barron said. Proposed FY22 projects have been identified as well. According to the National Parks and Public Lands Restoration Fund website, the proposed 2022 budget is \$1.25 billion for 36 large projects in 14 states. Among those include major roadwork in six parks and water system upgrades in 11 parks.

“We want to maximize the impact of each and every dollar committed to this effort,” Barron continued. “NPS is making sound investment decisions, considering long-term operational commitments, and maximizing opportunities to leverage public-private partnerships so each project provides long-term value for the American people.”

Phil Francis, president of the Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks, acknowledges that funding for projects is likely a complicated matter – “I don’t envy them their job,” he said. But he is hopeful that smaller parks will not be overlooked.

“I started my career in a small park with only seven permanent rangers,” he said. “We didn’t have professional planners, engineers, and other people who were experts. We were very dependent on the regional office to provide those services. And when there was money for projects, there was certainly a push to obligate as much of that money, and serve as many visitors, as they could with projects that were ready to go to contracting.”

“There is a lot of concern that the small parks, that while they will get some money, it may not be as much money as we were hoping for,” he continued. “I think more emphasis should be placed on small parks. There are 423 national park units and we need to make a difference in all of those small parks.”

Garder said the NPCA agrees – “we want smaller parks to get their fair share, too,” he said. If the wealth can be distributed more widely, it will allow visitors to parks in all



Maintenance crews work on a boardwalk extension project at Silex Spring in Yellowstone National Park. The Great American Outdoors Act will fund some \$12 billion in deferred-maintenance projects such as these throughout the National Park Service. For Fiscal Year 21, Yellowstone received funding for four projects totaling \$121.6 million. NPS: Jacob Frank

corners of the country to see the value of legislation such as the GAOA.

“We also want hundreds of members of Congress to see the benefits of this bill and that it is helping parks across the country in places they represent,” he added.

Barron said smaller parks will not be overlooked. One project included in the FY21 is aimed at just such locations.

“Using the incredible skills and technical expertise of the NPS’s Historic Preservation Training Center and the Historic Architecture and Engineering Center, we’re standing up Preservation Maintenance Action Teams,” Barron said. “These MATs will focus on historic preservation and deferred maintenance needs for cultural resources, like historic buildings. They will support small to medium size parks that are not usually well positioned to have the specialized expertise to develop and complete these projects in-house. We anticipate that over 40 parks will benefit from the MATs as we pilot this concept for the NPS.”

Barron said the FY21 MAT project is made up of 80 maintenance activities that range in the \$4,000 to \$800,000 range.

Furthermore, Barron said, the GAOA allows planners to take a bite out of the big, expensive projects, which allows money to be freed up in other areas to accommodate smaller projects.

“There are other non-GAOA funding sources available to parks that will allow NPS to take advantage of its strengths in new ways that can help satisfy the ongoing need for operations and maintenance funding and maximize the benefit employees and the American public,” she said.

Francis and Garder are optimistic about the GAOA and its ability to rearrange funding so it is fairly and strategically divided across the system to parks that are both highly visited and the smaller, historic sites that may get less attention but have many overdue repair needs. Regardless of how it is determined, though, they both also stress that more money is needed as parks contin-

“I think more emphasis should be placed on small parks. There are 423 national park units and we need to make a difference in all those parks.”

— Phil Francis, Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks

ue to see increased visitation and scramble to meet public demand.

“We think the passage of the GAOA is a wonderful opportunity to make a dent in deferred maintenance,” Francis said. “We also think that Congress, if they pass the budget that we hope for, will include some new funding for operational needs. What I’m saying is the operation of NPS is going to continue to need adequate funding so that we don’t get back in the same position we were in that created the need for the GAOA in the first place.”

REAL WORLD GAOA EFFECTS

For rangers and other NPS staff, the projects being launched as a result of the GAOA funding are getting underway. Roads will get repaved, facilities will be rehabilitated, water and heating systems will be replaced – the list is long, and seemingly endless. But there will be growing pains.

“Staff and visitors may see impacts in parks with projects as construction activities get underway,” Barron said. “This will vary depending on the park and project. Depending on the project, the types of impacts could include area closures and road detours.”

Some projects, she said – such as demolition of abandoned buildings – will have little impact, but others may temporarily disrupt some services.

The projects are also creating an economic boost, Barron said.

“Use of these funds on NPS projects will also support jobs and business activity in local economies across the nation,” Barron said. “A recent economic analysis estimated that NPS Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) LRF project expenditures will support a total of 15,350 job-years, \$1 billion in labor income, and contribute \$1.7 billion to the US GDP.”

A LONG TIME COMING

While it may not solve all of the National Park Service’s infrastructure problems, it is clear that the Great American Outdoors Act is a giant boost for public land stewardship and a landmark bill that could give rise to more funding in the future.

Gardner, as the NPCA’s director of budget and appropriations, said the GAOA was a long time coming. The Land and Water Conservation Fund was set up in 1964 with the intent of full funding, but it rarely if ever received that because it was subject to the uncertain annual appropriations process. Conservation, historic preservation and outdoor recreation champions in Congress, as well as dozens of active groups in the LWCF Coalition, advocated for decades to permanently establish the program and ensure funds are actually dedicated from energy receipts.

Meanwhile, public park facilities were aging and a backlog of deferred maintenance mounted over decades. Recent years witnessed a growing list of congressional champions and a series of hearings to investigate the problem. There was also growing pressure for action from diverse stakeholders and members of the public, leading to in a series of bills to address long-overdue repairs. It wasn’t until those two efforts – conservation and maintenance – merged, that momentum began to build. “In the past, we had two great bills with a lot of bipartisan support, and a lot of sponsorship but they weren’t getting to the finish line,” he said. “It was when they were combined, that we finally got the support. ... The lion’s share of the credit really goes to those many bipartisan members of Congress who really pushed both of these efforts forward over the years.”

Melissa DeVaughn is editor of Ranger magazine.

FY 2021 large-scale projects at a glance

National Park Unit	No. of projects	Combined cost (millions)
Acadia NP	1	\$26.9
Blue Ridge Parkway	2	153.8
Boston National Historic Park	1	25.4
Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park	1	15.7
Colonial National Historical Park	1	10.0
Cuyahoga Valley NP	1	3.4
Delaware Water Gap NRA	1	21.5
Everglades NP	1	19.8
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site	1	18.8
Gateway NRA	1	28.3
George Washington Memorial Parkway	1	207.8
Glacier NP	1	17.1
Glacier Bay NP	1	19.2
Golden Gate NRA	1	8.8
Grand Canyon NP	1	20.2
Grand Teton NP	3	51.5
Great Smoky Mountains NP	1	33.6
Independence National Historical Park, Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site, Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial	1	22.0
Lake Mead NRA	2	9.5
Mammoth Cave NP	1	8.6
Mount Rainier NP	2	30.6
National Mall & Memorial Parks	3	9.8
Rocky Mountain NP	1	32.0
San Juan National Historic Site	1	8.2
Saratoga National Historical Park	1	6.6
Sequoia and Kings Canyon NP	1	1.0
Shenandoah NP	2	29.7
Statue of Liberty National Monument	2	43.8
Theodore Roosevelt NP	1	38.3
Yellowstone NP	4	121.6
Yosemite NP	5	68.4
Preservation Maintenance Action Teams at Multiple Parks	80	14.1

Source: National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund, nps.gov

THE NPS APP IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FOR IOS- AND ANDROID-POWERED DEVICES. IT CAN BE DOWNLOADED FOR FREE THROUGH THE APP STORE AND GOOGLE PLAY, OR SCAN THE QR CODE, AT RIGHT.



Photo: NPS

One app; all the parks

Launched in February, new platform unifies NPS locations, allows visitors to better plan

By Tim Cash and Matthew Poyner

WHEN VISITORS HEAD TO NATIONAL PARKS ACROSS THE country, their experiences are enhanced when they come prepared. That's why experts within the National Park Service created the new NPS app, launched in February 2021, which serves as a convenient resource for the hundreds of millions of visitors who come to these parks every year. By using the app, visitors can find essential information about all 423 parks: driving directions, reservations, safety tips, and the ever-important question of "where is the nearest bathroom?"

The NPS app was made, and is maintained, by park rangers – people who live and work in our national parks – to help visitors have a great experience. With increased summer, we want to ensure that visitors

plan ahead, are prepared for their visit and have the ability to adjust expectations and plans to have a good visit in a way that also protects park resources. By helping visitors "Plan Like a Park Ranger" through the NPS App and other tools, we hope our visitors get the information that they need before they even get to the park.

One feature that we think visitors will appreciate most is the ability to download info about parks ahead of time to use off line. National parks are some of the most remote places in the country – spotty cell service comes with the territory in many places. We encourage visitors to download info, maps, tours, and more before their trip to use while off line in the park.

Self-guided tours also have been an exciting feature for many visitors. Parks have curated tours through the app for visitors to learn more about the history of the park, geological features, cultural resources, wildlife, and even "Star Wars" filming locations (find this tour by searching for Death Valley National Park in the app). These self-guided tours have supplemented ranger-led tours, and have been especially helpful in allowing visitors to practice social distancing while still enjoying these public lands.

Before we launched this app back in the winter, there were dozens of individual park apps, focusing on just one park at a time. While these apps provided the information visitors needed for their visit, we wanted to create one app to provide information about all 423 national parks. The goal is that the app will help visitors discover parks nearby, as well as lesser-known parks across the country.

Since its launch, the app has had 1 million downloads across the iOS and Android platforms, and responses from users have been great. Parks are adding new information and resources every day, so we hope our users keep checking the app.

We're also working to add more features and functionality to make the app even more useful for national park visitors.

As more and more visitors use the app, we hope they will be able to plan a safe and exciting trip to national parks.

Tim Cash is chief of digital strategy for the National Park Service, and Matthew Poyner is NPS App program manager.



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Down, *but not out*

Rendezvous tradition endures, with work *and* play

WITH THE CANCELLATION OF **RANGER RENDEZVOUS 44** scheduled for Jacksonville, Fla., in October, ANPR has been exploring alternatives to uphold the Rendezvous tradition despite interference from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

So put a big red circle around the date **Oct. 16, 2021**. Think of it as “Ranger Rendezvous Day,” with several social events planned simultaneously across the country. These social gatherings are open not only to ANPR members, but also potential new members. Invite colleagues who may be unfamiliar with ANPR, and introduce them to the networking opportunities found when being part of a larger collective of like-minded individuals.

BUSINESS FIRST

Oct. 16 kicks off with ANPR’s annual membership meeting, required by the ANPR bylaws. This year’s event will be held virtually, beginning at 1 p.m. EDT. An agenda will be provided prior to the meeting, along with the specific details about how the meeting will be managed. Among the agenda items is the nominations to the positions on the Board of Directors to be seated Jan. 1, 2022:

- President Elect (one year as President Elect and automatic three-year term following)
- Fundraising (three-year term)
- Membership Services (three-year term)

Please consider running for one of these positions, or identifying someone to nominate.

SOCIAL HOURS

Since you can’t come to Ranger Rendezvous, let Ranger Rendezvous come to you – or at least as close as possible. ANPR has identified five regional locations in which it will host an RR Social, with possible additional sites as well. These events will start at 7 p.m. local time, with one exception, in the following locations, with more specific details to be announced via newsletter as plans evolve:

1. Tucson, Ariz. (6 p.m. start time)
2. Moab, Utah
3. Minneapolis
4. Asheville, N.C.
5. Washington, D.C.

LINK AND LEARN

After the annual meeting, but before heading to the RR Social, take in some of the educational content now being offered online.

The NPS Climate Change Response Program had been an anticipated highlight of the in-person Ranger Rendezvous, but with its cancellation the group has alternatively offered the following



presentations, accessible to ANPR members.

- **A RAD Tool: Anticipating and Responding to Strong Human-driven Ecological Trajectories:** by Gregor Schuurman, NPS adaptation ecologist. This 8-minute video provides a quick overview of the Resist-Accept-Direct decision framework for natural resources, which has garnered significant interest from the land management community over the past year. www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lqj6RYNfQaM.
- **The Warming Up to Adaptation Series:** by NPS Climate Change Response Program. This four-part series totaling about 20 minutes introduces key tenets of climate adaptation in a national park context, and explores three on-the-ground adaptation efforts across natural resources, facilities, and visitor experience. www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLr8uf42JALwefCJIBDfq05KX7TbOBO7-Z.

A LOOK AT 2022 AND BEYOND

The Rendezvous Management Team is already working on Ranger Rendezvous 45, scheduled for the Westward Look Resort in Tucson, Ariz. The dates are Oct. 24-29, 2022. The weather should be ideal in Tucson. Given the COVID-19-induced cancellations of the past two years, planners are especially eager to make the Tucson RR the best Rendezvous yet.

The ANPR Board also approved, at its August meeting, a renewed contract to try yet a third time for a Jacksonville Ranger Rendezvous. ANPR received and accepted a renewal of its contract with the Southbank Hotel Jacksonville Riverwalk to hold Ranger Rendezvous 46 there in 2023. The planning committee is in the process of exploring venues for RR47 and will keep members informed as the search is narrowed. The location will likely be somewhere in the western part of the country.

Meanwhile, keep abreast of more news on this year’s Ranger Rendezvous events as they develop. Go to the website (anpr.org); social media on Facebook and Instagram; and look for the member newsletter delivered via email. ♦

Pilot Rock
RJ Thomas Mfg. Co.

Many thanks for your continued Ranger Rendezvous support

Ranger Rendezvous photo contest: It's on!

ANPR's annual photo contest is underway now!

We're keeping the spirit of Ranger Rendezvous alive and need you to submit your best photos to the annual photo contest!

Since Ranger Rendezvous is once again going virtual this year, we will be hosting this contest on Facebook, so ANPR members and the public alike can see the efforts of our talented entrants. Determining the winners will be a simple matter of which images receive the most "likes."

Winners will be selected from each category and have their photos published in a future issue of *Ranger* magazine. There will be a "Best of Show" for the most liked photo overall.

Categories include:

- Landscapes
- Wildlife
- Historical & Cultural Resources
- People in the Parks (be sure to ask permission of subject before submitting)
- It's in the Details (close-ups, abstract designs, micro-details)
- Our Changing World (COVID-19, increased visitation, wildland fires, etc.)

Guidelines:

All photos must be taken within a national park unit or international protected area.

Contestants may enter only one photo per category.

Deadline for photo submissions is Sept. 30, 2021. Voting on Facebook will be open Oct. 3-13, with winners announced on Oct 16.

Send photos to Elsa Hansen, board member for Internal Communications, at ehansen@anpr.org, with your name, the location of photo and category as the file name. Ex: Elsa Hansen_Zion NP_Landscapes. ♦



The 2020 ANPR photo contest yielded some impressive photographs from across the ANPR membership. This image, submitted by Tom Banks, took Best in Show. It captures the intricate beauty of Glacier National Park. Entries for this year's photo contest will be accepted through Sept. 30, with voting open Oct. 3-13 on Facebook. Winners will be announced Oct. 16. Entrants agree to unlimited use of images by ANPR. Photo by: Tom Banks, RETI



The Ranger Roost

By Doug Crispin

A bright spot
amid a
worldwide
pandemic at
the North Rim
of the
Grand Canyon



Park ranger Doug Crispin takes a family photo overlooking the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Reduced services, prompted by the Covid-19 pandemic, have allowed rangers to have more one-on-one interactions with visitors.
Photo: Hannah Veltkamp

NO FLAGPOLE. NO NPS ARROWHEAD. NO DRINKING FOUNTAIN. NO RESTROOMS. No park relief map. No telephone. No Internet. Or computer. No park exhibits. Or displays. No orientation park movie. And no book sales area. Just one awesome park view ... and a lone, on-duty park ranger.

Welcome to Grand Canyon's latest "visitor center"—bringin' services directly to the park visitor – at the location of the park's primary resource.

Imagine a simple, old-school National Park Service visitor contact station located outdoors, right at Mather Point on the South Rim. Or what about these other locales?

- At the Tunnel Viewpoint, overlooking Yosemite Valley;
- The Snake River Overlook in Grand Teton;
- Along the boardwalk at Grand Prismatic Springs in Yellowstone.

That's what happened this summer at the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. This rudimentary delivery of services in many ways has been a temporary bright spot to an otherwise challenging 18 months of life during a deadly pandemic. Trying to balance the need of providing vital visitor services while also attempting to remain safe, some national parks set up an outside-the-visitor-center information table. Others opted for a simple ranger contact booth. These efforts, in many ways, have given visitors a more intimate experience, more closely connected to the very outdoor wonders to which they have traveled.



Seasonal park ranger Doug Crispin has a million-dollar view from the Ranger Roost, an open-air visitor welcome center at the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Photo: Carmen Kraus

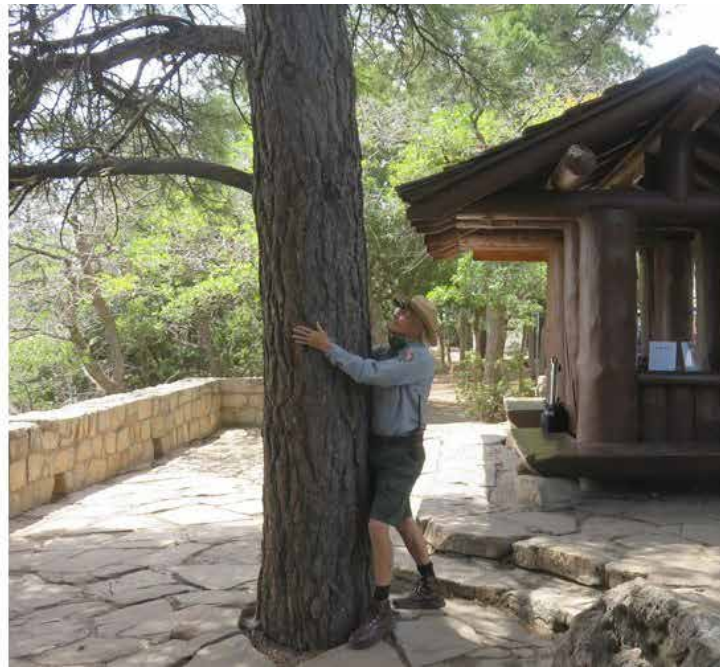
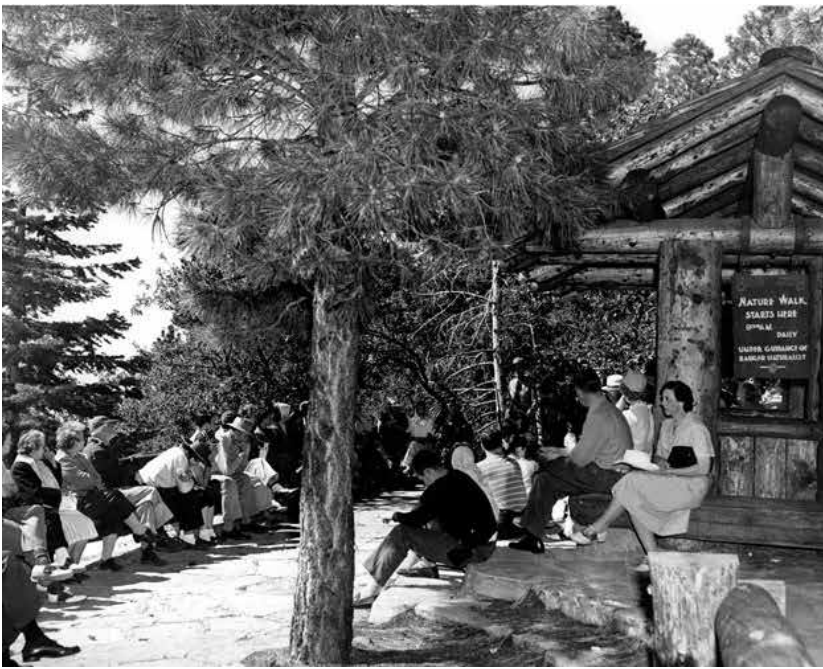
At the North Rim, which receives only one-tenth of the park's 6 million annual visitors, the visitor center and campground never opened in 2020. In 2021, the park's official visitor center was turned over to the park's nonprofit association for book sales. Park rangers moved outdoors, about 100 yards away, to a small, historic, open-air log structure located next to the public parking lot – but also right along the rim of the Grand Canyon! North Rim park rangers affectionately called this outdoor visitor center the “Ranger Roost.”

After driving 45 miles on a dead-end road, then finding a parking spot, visitors walk toward the associated buildings of any park service destination – public restrooms, a visitor center and other park developments. But this time, instead of disappearing into these public spaces, they spot, through a small opening in the ponderosa forest, the site they seek: the Grand Canyon. And there, right by the rim, is the old log structure manned by a ranger wearing the iconic flat hat of the National Park Service.

The scene takes one back in time to an earlier NPS era, when the natural landscape – not the associated technology promoting it – is at center stage. Not only do visitors get to take in this killer view overlooking Roaring Springs Canyon, but park rangers also get to experience, vicariously, that “first-time” awe that can overcome those seeing it for the first time.

I met a 100-year-old visitor, traveling from Connecticut with his daughter. When was the last time you saw a centenarian standing at an NPS viewpoint? He walked pretty slowly, with a John-Muir type oversized walking stick, but was sure happy to gaze into the Grand Canyon. I took their photo together, posing right on the rim of the canyon. It seems just about every visitor wants a photo taken from the spot where they first glimpse this place. We rangers are happy to jump in and take those pictures, capturing their awestruck faces for eternity.

In June, I talked to many happy couples celebrating wedding



Park Ranger Joe Hall greets North Rim visitors in 1949. Ranger Doug Crispin examines the growth of the same “Ranger Roost” tree, 72 years later. A stone safety wall has now replaced the earlier wooden seating area. Photo: NPS / Grand Canyon NP (historic) ; Hannah Veltkamp (current)

“Despite all the high-tech ways the NPS tries to connect park visitors with the resources these days, nothing beats the old-school way, and the pandemic, strangely, has brought that back into perspective. Here, the park resource is not abstract or distant. ... One visitor. One ranger. And one awesome view of the Grand Canyon.”

—Doug Crispin,
Grand Canyon National Park

anniversaries by visiting the Grand Canyon. This included a 65-year anniversary couple from Utah. I also met a 48-years-together couple who overwintered on the North Rim in 1978-79. They showed me a photo of their NPS cabin with snow reaching the roof line of their winter home. I took their rim-side photo, too.

After being at home or in lockdown for a year, Americans who are vaccinated are craving these special experiences. They are finally hitting the road visiting national parks again. I’ve met recent college grads, doing a cross-country road trip before settling into a career. I spoke with two adult sisters who drove from Florida together; and met an extended family of nine, coming from all across America to rent a houseboat and enjoy a week on the water at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

At the Ranger Roost, we park rangers stay busy performing typical visitor-orientation tasks: welcoming folks, answer sightseeing tips, sharing hiking/camping/travel advice, and answering natural/cultural history questions. Here visitors can also stamp their park passports, pick up a Junior Ranger workbook, or grab a hiking map. It’s this one-on-one interaction that seems to be the most meaningful.

Despite all the high-tech ways the NPS tries to connect park visitors with the resources these days, nothing beats the old-school way, and the pandemic, strangely, has brought that back into perspective. Here, the park resource is not abstract or distant. Even a dynamite park view looking through massive windows is still not quite the same as stepping beyond the roost and experiencing the view outside, up close and personal. One visitor. One ranger. And one awesome view of the Grand Canyon.

Doug Crispin is a second-year seasonal on the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park.

World Ranger Day 2021

Rangers across the globe pause to remember the fallen and celebrate their shared profession

By Jamie Richards



Rangers join together to celebrate World Ranger Day at the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center in Lee Vining, Calif. on July 31, 2021. This annual event is recognized the world over to celebrate the ranger profession and also to honor the lives and memory of rangers who have fallen in the line of duty. The event was co-hosted by the California State Park Rangers Association and the Ranger Foundation. Photo by: Mike Lynch

EACH YEAR, RANGERS AROUND THE WORLD COME TOGETHER ON July 31 to honor and celebrate World Ranger Day. This day, first established by the International Ranger Federation (IRF) in 2006, was founded as a day to honor the memory of colleagues and friends who have fallen in the line of duty, as well as a day to honor the ranger profession and all of the men and women who have chosen to protect and preserve the world's natural and cultural treasures.

One of the many in-person celebrations hosted around the world this year took place in Lee Vining, Calif. The California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) and the Ranger Foundation co-hosted an outdoor celebration at the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center. This special ceremony brought together local agency representatives from California State Parks, NPS, BLM, U.S. Forest Service, local elected officials, along with members from ANPR, and CSPRA. In this corner of the world, it also was a collective gathering of the Sierra Nevada ranger community to celebrate World Ranger Day and what it means to be a ranger.

Mike Lynch, president of the Ranger Foundation, reminded the audience about the many challenges that rangers outside the United States face on a daily basis. Rangers, particularly those in Latin America, face environmental and governmental challenges that make the job of being a ranger extremely dangerous. Rangers, as a community, are united in our dedication for the job and our mutual respect for each other, he added.

Indeed, rangers across the globe experience challenges unique to their countries and practically unheard of in the United States. The leading cause of death by rangers outside of the United States is homicide, followed by death by large animal, such as elephants and rhinoceroses. But also alarming is the lack of basic necessities that are often taken for granted here in the United States.

A 2019 survey conducted of 7,000 rangers found that 50 percent of respondents indicated they lack clean drinking water and access to basic first aid. They desperately needed basic communication devices such as radios, and other simple tools to do their jobs effectively.

Rangers around the world face a wide variety of environmental

and physical challenges, yet they remain dedicated. It's important for American rangers to have a deeper understanding of these realities. Rangers go by many titles – including park ranger, game warden, conservation officer, and park guardians. They fill a variety of key roles to protect sacred resources from poachers and other harm while working under these often-challenging conditions. They may speak different languages and may face different challenges, but rangers are united as a community in their passion for the mission of protecting and preserving the world's natural and cultural treasures and helping the general public find a deeper appreciation for these special resources. World Ranger Day gives rangers across the globe a unifying opportunity to recognize this shared mission.

In his worldwide message to rangers on World Ranger Day 2021, IRF president Chris Galliers wrote:

This has been a particularly taxing year for rangers who have the unenviable task of having to tackle the twin global crises of biodiversity loss and climate change, which poses current and future threats to people, the environment and global heritage. As if that were not enough, they have also had to do this in the midst of a global pandemic, which has resulted in increased health risks and also threatened their job security. We thank the rangers who have passed, whose lives we will remember and celebrate, as well as the current rangers whose true value as planetary health professionals must be fully recognized.

This message was directed to all rangers – from those in the Australian outback to the grasslands of Zimbabwe, to individual rangers and ranger associations located on all seven continents. It was a chance to unite, and also honor the 219 rangers who were killed in the line of duty in 2020 and 2021. These individuals are listed on the 2021 Roll of Honor (<https://www.internationalrangers.org/meet-our-rangers/#roll-of-honour>). In addition to the Roll of Honor, rangers who lost their lives due to COVID-19 also were remembered. In 2021, at least 500 rangers across the globe are known to have died from COVID-19.

To learn more about World Ranger Day 2021, visit www.internationalrangers.org/events/.

Jamie Richards is an ANPR member and park ranger at Yosemite.

IN MEMORIAM

WORLD RANGER DAY | RANGER ROLL OF HONOUR 2021



Chaisit Taptarm: **Thailand**, Motor vehicle accident
Krissada Kabbua: **Thailand**, Homicide
Konram Das: **India**, Found dead in forest camp
Kevin Layne Bodily: **USA**, Heart attack while on patrol
Charnchai Jongkiri: **Thailand**, Motor vehicle accident
Keval Singh: **India**, Homicide
Lorentz Wampagkit Yamil: **Peru**, Homicide
Djiby Salane: **Senegal**, Homicide
Poowadol Pongsa: **Thailand**, Drowned on duty
Md Yousuf Uddin: **India**, Homicide
Dandaiah: **India**, Motor vehicle accident
Shivananjalaiah: **India**, Killed in friendly fire incident
Vukani Mkhwazani: **South Africa**, Died following patrol
Kadri Abdou: **Niger**, Homicide
Bindashewar Ram Bhagat: **India**, Killed by elephant
Hetal Solanki: **India**, Homicide
Sheldon Hooper: **South Africa**, Killed by elephant
Brendan Unitt: **USA**, Drowned on emergency call-out
Andrew Davies: **South Africa**, Heart attack at work
Adano Mamo Bora: **Kenya**, Motor vehicle accident
Thanakorn Chana-aksorn: **Thailand**, Fell from boat, drowned
Wellington Fernando Peres Silva: **Brazil**, Died from firefighting burns
Khunmee Thumya: **Thailand**, Heart attack in elephant incident
Souleymane Coulibaly: **Mali**, Homicide
Unnamed trainee: **Mali**, Homicide
Rathram Patel: **India**, Homicide
Ken Fiamata Batalo: **DR Congo**, Heart attack on duty
N. Dharmakumara: **Sri Lanka**, Killed by elephant
Charles Morton: **USA**, Died from firefighting burns
Kausamwane Changle: **DR Congo**, Homicide
Moïse Tshanga Tshanga: **DR Congo**, Homicide
Bagurubumwe Chuhoze Deogene: **DR Congo**, Homicide
Keshav Ram: **India**, Motor vehicle accident
Mohammad Deen Khan: **Pakistan**, Died from burns
Issah Jibrin: **Nigeria**, Homicide
Edet Usen Okon: **Nigeria**, Homicide
Nabin Khatri: **Nepal**, Died in bike accident on patrol
Exeverino Chinoitezvi: **Zimbabwe**, Died following plane crash
Marianito G. Rufano: **Philippines**, Homicide
Joseph Ngeti: **Kenya**, Killed by elephant
Scot Guma: **Uganda**, Killed in elephant incident
Teimuraz Lomidze: **Georgia**, Killed by falling tree
Unnamed: **Thailand**, Drowned in boating accident
Checkers Mashego: **South Africa**, Missing on patrol; remains found
Alphonse Musafiri Gasacyoya: **DR Congo**, Killed in plane crash
Leki Dorji: **Bhutan**, Motor vehicle accident
Justin Assambi Likengele: **DR Congo**, Drowned whilst on patrol
Javier Francisco Para: **Colombia**, Homicide
Mahamane Ousmane Tagama: **Niger**, Homicide
Saley Garba: **Niger**, Homicide
Emmanuel Matsipa: **Uganda**, Homicide
Jessica Njeri: **Kenya**, Killed in elephant incident
Boonchu Tohtem: **Thailand**, Killed in elephant incident
Attapol Suksai: **Thailand**, Drowned in boating accident
Muthu Prabhakara Serapandian: **India**, Killed in elephant incident
Satheesh Kumar: **India**, Killed in elephant incident
Wanderlay do Nascimento: **Angola**, Died whilst on duty
Urbano Sillerico Cruz: **Peru**, Homicide
Gururaj: **India**, Trampled by elephant
Shawn Stewart: **South Africa**, Accidental pistol discharge
Prem Winyayong: **Thailand**, Died following patrol
Pradeep Prahant: **India**, Electrocuted by poachers wires
Surumwe Burhani Abdou: **DR Congo**, Homicide
Alexis Kamate Mundunaenda: **DR Congo**, Homicide
Reagan Maneno Kataghalirwa: **DR Congo**, Homicide
Eric Kibanja Bashekere: **DR Congo**, Homicide
Innocent Paluku Budoyi: **DR Congo**, Homicide
Prince Nzabonimpa Ntamakiriro: **DR Congo**, Homicide
Ravi: **India**, Heart attack during elephant incident
Gonzalo Cardona Molina: **Colombia**, Homicide
Kabege Masikini: **DR Congo**, Drowned on patrol
Morais Júlio Fonseca: **Angola**, Killed by snake
Moheswar Hazarika: **India**, Killed by rhino
Madanlal Verma: **India**, Homicide

Kobus Marais: **South Africa**, Killed by lion
Gitenyi Gitenyi: **DR Congo**, Died; work-related pneumonia
John Plimo: **Kenya**, Died in plane crash
Ian Lemaiyan: **Kenya**, Died in plane crash
Chaiwat Sae Linwong: **Thailand**, Firefighting; struck by a train
Bredoumi Mahaman Ouattara: **Cote d'Ivoire**, Motor vehicle accident
Tipusaran Sahu: **India**, Killed by rhino
Gaurav Kumar: **India**, Mauled to death by elephant
Jason Lagore: **USA**, Died during medical emergency
Unnamed: **Thailand**, Motor vehicle accident
Auwal Toli: **Nigeria**, Homicide
Jabulani Gwacela: **South Africa**, Homicide
Cyril Hlafuna: **South Africa**, Homicide
Malibongwe Mfala: **South Africa**, Killed by lions
Tanko (Tiger) Alhassan Ishiaku: **Nigeria**, Homicide
Nabaraj Budathoki: **Nepal**, Killed in bike accident on patrol
Jadu Mahanta: **India**, Died in forest fire
Selinde Roosenburg: **USA**, Died after UTV rollover
Precious Zephaniah: **Malawi**, Homicide
Bua Khai Saen Kham: **Thailand**, Stroke while on patrol
Tchawao Henry: **Cameroon**, Killed in elephant charge
Ram Tharu: **Nepal**, Killed by tiger
Rakesh Yuvraj Madavi: **India**, Died in forest fire
Rekchand Gopichand Rane: **India**, Died in forest fire
Sachin Ashok Srirange: **India**, Died in forest fire
Animesh Deka: **India**, Killed by rhino
Jenes Shayo: **Kenya**, Died; work-related pneumonia
Suya Prakash Yede: **India**, Died in forest fire
Jagan Meshram: **India**, Died from firefighting burns
Mana Manoen: **Thailand**, Stung by wasps/cardiac arrest
Sakharam Mandloi: **India**, Homicide
Jagdish Boro: **India**, Heart attack on duty
Marison "Sony" Markus: **Indonesia**, Died following patrol
Puttaraju: **India**, Killed in elephant incident
Edouard Bowaka: **DR Congo**, Died; work-related pneumonia
Marcel Ngangoue: **DR Congo**, Wild elephant attack
Jatia Rana: **India**, Homicide
Here Lal Yadav: **India**, Heart attack on duty
Arthur Ilunga Kazembe: **DR Congo**, Motor vehicle accident
Abdul Malik: **Pakistan**, Died fire fighting
Sangwan Phimdee: **Thailand**, Killed in elephant incident
Jean François Ndong Aubame: **Gabon**, Homicide
Deepak Tiwari: **Nepal**, Died in an on-duty bike accident
Vijay Tijab Maraskolhe: **India**, Died from firefighting burns
Winy Demineyn Banafai: **Togo**, Killed in elephant incident
The Unknown Ranger: Representing those fallen rangers not reported to date

Deaths previously not recorded on 2020 Roll of Honour (bringing the 2020 Honour Roll to 155 deaths in service)

Ally Juma Gwandu: **Tanzania**, On-duty vehicle accident
Godfrey Shabani Joseph: **Tanzania**, On-duty vehicle accident
Munkesia Ntooki: **Kenya**, Work-related Malaria
Arnaldo Martin Cruz Sebastian: **Peru**, Road Traffic accident
Joash I. Peregrino: **Philippines**, Homicide
Prasit Ringphet: **Thailand**, Heart attack on patrol
David Gogilashvili: **Georgia**, Drowned in river
Wenda Kaduwa: **Sri Lanka**, Killed during elephant relocation
Ivane Khizanishvili: **Georgia**, Fell ill on duty, died later
Brikudar Borah: **India**, Killed in rhino attack
Julius Marakot Laizer: **Tanzania**, On-duty vehicle accident
Larudhan Bordoloi: **India**, Died in elephant attack
Geoff Pollard: **UK**, Heart attack on patrol
Dattatraya Yadhav: **India**, Road Traffic accident
Basharat Hussain Dar: **India**, Slipped and fell on patrol
Luis Chourio: **Venezuela**, Heart attack on duty
Prabin Mahanta: **India**, Died in road accident
Elias Chiweshe: **Zambia**, Heart attack on patrol

COVID-19: The Ranger profession, like many others, has been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The IRF member associations have provided the names of almost 500 ranger colleagues lost to the disease, particularly in India and South America. They have not been individually named on this Honour Roll, but their names have been recorded in the IRF global archive of ranger deaths. The IRF further estimates that many other rangers have undoubtedly died worldwide due to COVID-19, but their names remain unknown to us.

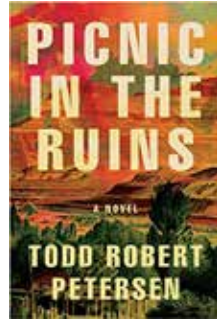
IN PRINT

'Picnic' a fast-paced thriller-mystery adventure

By Rick Smith

All right, all you archaeologists, anthropologists, curators, and lovers of places such as Mesa Verde and Gila Cliff Dwellings, this is the book for you. I'd also throw into that group lovers of mysteries and odd-ball characters. Mr. Peterson, a professor of creative writing at Southern Utah University, has delivered a fun book to read.

Maybe we should start with a few of the oddball characters. There is a longtime pot hunter who suddenly gets religion and decides to return the pots he removed to the places from which he took them. He keeps very detailed maps of where he returns them in an unnamed National Monument near the Utah-Arizona border. There is a lady representing a company that wishes to mine uranium there, if the size of the Monument can be reduced. She is very interested in getting the maps. She hires two brothers to steal them from the pot hunter. The brothers appear to have a combined IQ of about 150, and in a robbery that goes horribly wrong, they kill the pot hunter and make off with the maps. They hand the maps over to the uranium lady, but as an insurance policy, they keep one. Unfortunately,



"Picnic in the Ruins," by Todd Robert Petersen, Counterpoint Press, ISBN 978-1-64009-3225 (paperback) 336 pages

fortunately, it is the very one that she most wants.

Now, since this is in a National Monument, we have to have a park ranger. He spends a lot of time with a female graduate student from Princeton who is doing fieldwork in the monument and is concerned with things like provenance and other archaeological interests. The ranger guides her to several almost-unvisited sites in the monument that any archaeologist would dream of finding. There is also a German tourist, who bored with the tour he is on, rents a car and sets off on his own. It doesn't take long before he hooks up with the ranger and the graduate student.

I am somewhat reluctant to reveal much of the plot. Should a Ranger reader decide to pick up this book, suffice it to say that are enough surprises to keep one's interest. The biggest surprise comes at the end, when the ranger (ex-ranger now as he burst into the regional director's office unannounced when said director was having a meeting with the Department of Interior secretary), the grad student and the German swim through a hole in the rocks in a pool and discover a completely unknown, intact ruin.

I never worked in a park set aside for its archaeological values. Maybe that's why I was fascinated by this book. It took me places in my mind I'd never been before. Wait until you meet the character, Dreamweaver.

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

Biden taps Sams as NPS director

President Joe Biden, on Aug. 18, announced Chuck Sams III, a former administrator with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation now serving on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, as his choice lead the National Park Service.

Department of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, released this statement in support of Sams, who, if confirmed, will become the first Native American to lead the park service:

"The diverse experience that Chuck brings to the National Park Service will be an incredible asset as we work to conserve and protect our national parks to make them more accessible for everyone. I look forward to working with him to welcome Americans from every corner of our country into our national park system. The outdoors are for everyone, and we have an obligation to protect them for generations to come."

ANPR president Paul Anderson said of the nomination: "We are pleased that President Biden has nominated a permanent NPS director, and if he is confirmed, we look forward to working with him to support NPS employees and protect our national heritage."



Sams, 50, would fill the long-vacant director's position, which has not been filled since Jonathan Jarvis left as former President Obama's parks chief in 2017.

According to a White House press release, Sams holds a bachelor of science in business administration from Concordia University-Portland and a master of legal studies in Indigenous Peoples Law from the University of Oklahoma. He is a U.S. Navy veteran and also a member, Cayuse and Walla Walla, of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, where he and his wife, Lori Sams, live with their four children.

ANPR's Super Raffle is underway

The popular ANPR Super Raffle fundraiser continues through Oct. 16. Prizes include a weeklong cabin getaway in Yellowstone, \$1,800 toward a "roll-your-own vacation," and a variety of artwork.

To have a chance to win, simply donate for tickets. Each ticket makes the purchaser eligible to win any of the prizes. Get tickets for yourself, for your family or friends; or pass along the entry link to anyone who might want to support ANPR.

There will be a \$500 gift card prize with Amazon for the most donations for tickets by an individual, and a \$100 gift card prize with Amazon for the person who donates for the ticket drawn for the "Grand Prize."

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

ANPR supports Federal Retirement Fairness Act

By Rebecca Harriett

On June 30, 2021, representatives Derek Kilmer (D-Wash.) and Tom Cole (R-Okla.) reintroduced H.R. 4268 in the 117th Congress: the Federal Retirement Fairness Act.

The current text reads: “To amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that civilian service in a temporary position after December 31, 1988, maybe creditable service under the Federal Employees Retirement System, and for other purposes.”

In essence, this simple bill would modify the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) to include non-deduction service to be creditable service toward a federal employee’s retirement. Non-deduction service is defined as federal service/employment where an employee’s pay is not subject to retirement deductions like service under a temporary appointment.

Currently, non-deduction service performed before Jan. 1, 1989, is creditable under FERS as long as a deposit is made into the retirement fund to cover the period of nondeductible service. This bill would allow nondeductible service performed on or after Jan. 1, 1989, to be creditable under FERS so long as a deposit is made into the retirement fund for this time. (Summary citation by Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, 6/30/21).

This bipartisan bill would benefit our federal temporary/seasonal employees who transition into permanent positions so that their temporary time can count toward their federal retirement if they chose to

“buy back” their seasonal time. This option was available under the old Civil Service Retirement System and under FERS until Dec. 31, 1988. For seasonals who have worked many years prior to gaining that elusive permanent position, this legislation would positively impact the calculation of their retirement date and annuity.

The Association of National Park Rangers has long supported this legislation under the previous Congress and will continue to advocate for its passage. We have submitted a letter of support to Chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), where the bill now resides. We also have contacted the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) in support of this bill; they also are advocating for its passage.

If you support the passage of this bill, please contact your representative and request that they cosponsor this legislation. If they happen to be on the House Oversight and Reform Committee, even better. Currently only six members have signed on; there were 62 co-sponsors when this died in the 116th Congress, so we have our work cut out for us. Your Congressional representatives want and need to hear from you and they make it easy by going to their websites. Don’t wait until it is time to retire to find out your many years of seasonal service will not count toward your federal retirement; it will then be too late.

Rebecca Harriett is ANPR’s board member for government affairs.

The prizes include:

- Grand Prize: “Roll Your Own.” You decide when, where, how long and who goes with you. ANPR will contribute up to \$1,800; or take \$1,400 cash in lieu of trip.
- One-week stay at a cabin outside Yellowstone National Park – value \$1,200.
- Original nature photograph by Connie Rudd – value \$200
- Quilted wall hanging by famous Alaska quilt artist Ree Nancarrow – value \$650
- Stained glass NPS arrowhead – value \$525
- Lodging (four nights) at Ranger Rendezvous 45 in Tucson, Ariz. – value \$500 (or take \$200 in lieu of)
- Hand-carved caricature of a “ranger” by Rob Arnberger – value \$450
- Two-night stay in an AirBnB “tiny house” plus a dinner for two at a supper club in New Orleans – value \$300+
- Collection of “NPS books” autographed by the authors (see the list on the website) – value TBD
- Stained glass hanging of a bison – value \$60

The raffle closes at noon EDT Oct. 16. An online drawing will take place.

Tickets are priced as following: 1 ticket: \$5; 10 tickets: \$40; 50 tickets: \$150 or 100 tickets: \$200.

Enter at: rafflecreator.com/pages/38397/association-of-national-park-rangers-super-raffle.

Phone app geared toward rangers

A smartphone application intended to create a community of conservation-minded rangers is available for IOS, Android and webapp formats. The Force For Nature Ranger App, developed by Force For Nature, describes itself as “a tool for assisting rangers and their critical work at the forefront of conservation.”

The app connects rangers globally, and organizations such as the International Ranger Federation and the Universal Rangers Support Alliance endorse the product, according to its developers.

Users can take courses, post questions, share stories and meet rangers from all over the world. In a letter to ANPR promoting its app, Force For Nature wrote: “...you can post stories about your work, share and comment. Connect with new colleagues. Read conservation and ranger news. Hear about grants and job opportunities. Discover projects around the world. Advance your career.”

Download the Force For Nature Ranger App at the Apple Store for IOS users and (apps.apple.com) or through Google for Android users (play.google.com/store/apps). Or visit rangerapp.forcefornature.org to download to a computer.



CULTURAL RESOURCES

As U.S. anniversary approaches, it's time to reflect, and heal

THE YEAR 2026 WILL MARK THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN independence. Plans are well underway to commemorate this important date in ways that allow for both a celebration of and a reflection on our most imperfect union. This anniversary will grant us the opportunity for a timely pause to think about the tentative nature of our ongoing experiment in Democracy. Perhaps you will agree that we are facing more than a few challenges.

The contentious election of 2020 drew 67 percent of eligible voters out to the polls. That's 5 percent more than cast ballots in 2016, but voter turnout in the United States, even during presidential elections, has been known to hover in the mid-50s. By contrast, 80 percent of eligible French voters cast ballots in that country's 2012 presidential election.

Although civil discourse hasn't vanished, it does appear to have been driven underground. And with the deliberate and highly successful dumbing down of our culture over the last several decades we now have a population in which (it seems) everyone knows the identity of the masked singer while too few of us know the names and the political views of our elected representatives. This kind of ignorance does not breed bliss but rather creates an atmosphere in which a government dedicated to the preservation of democratic traditions and the common welfare becomes the enemy. Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to January 6th.

The U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission wants to use the anniversary of American independence, in part, to promote the enduring legacy of our independence and its evolution over time. National parks and the National Park Service will play a major role in this commemoration, perhaps leading the way in a reformation of civic discourse and serving as sources for inspiration, reflection, and healing that will go well beyond a remembrance of 1776.

No, national parks are not America's "best idea." They are, however, uniquely poised to tell stories that highlight the touchstones of our shared experiences and in so doing (maybe... hopefully?) help lessen the divide between us. What can national parks help us to discuss and better define?

In the summer of 1863, roughly 72,000 Confederate soldiers marched to a sleepy crossroads town in southcentral Pennsylvania called Gettysburg. For three days they fought with valor for one

of the most corrupt causes in human history. What brought those men to that hallowed ground? Let's talk about what it means to be a rebel.

In March 1913, Alice Paul organized a women's suffrage march along Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC. The National Women's Party wanted the newly elected president Woodrow Wilson to take their demands for voting rights seriously. The march, which segregated participants by race, was integrated only when Ida B. Wells stepped from the crowd of spectators and joined the procession of women from Illinois. Let's talk about equality.

In May 1965, John Lewis, Hosea Williams, and countless other civil rights foot soldiers attempted to march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. They marched for voting rights, for justice, and equality. On "Bloody Sunday" the march was disrupted by law enforcement and white citizens who waded into the peaceful protesters with truncheons and menace. Let's talk about what it means to be a citizen.

On June 2, 2020, a small phalanx of national guardsmen and women were stationed on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. The display of force was meant to intimidate the social justice protesters demonstrating near the White House, a multi-racial, multi-generational group that had rightfully and for the most part peacefully rocked the Nation's Capital in the aftermath of what the courts have ruled was the murder of George Floyd. Let's talk about a government "of the people, by the people, for the people..."

This democracy of ours is a fragile, tentative thing. It requires an informed and engaged populace to keep the experiment going, correct imperfections and strive to both be and do better. Unfortunately, far too many of us have become fat on bread and benumbed by circuses. That needs to change. The 250th anniversary of American independence will give us the chance to prove that the service and sacrifice of our ancestors was not in vain.

And that "we the people" are up to the challenge of creating and sustaining a more perfect union.

— Alan Spears
National Parks
Conservation Association



Photo by: National Archives

Welcome to the ANPR family

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

(Updated 8/6/2021)

Kyle Ackerman	<i>Moab, UT</i>
Patricia B Casey	<i>Arlington, VA</i>
Nathan Epling	<i>Washington, DC</i>
Grayson Henshaw	<i>Missoula, MT</i>
Heather Meadows	<i>Atlanta, GA</i>
Joe Pace	<i>Owasso, OK</i>
Claire Schuler	<i>Irwin, PA</i>
Sean Smith	<i>Covington, WA</i>
Demica Vigil	<i>Charles Town, WV</i>
Matthew Beeves	<i>Turtle Lake, WI</i>
Michael Quigley	<i>Arlington, VA</i>
William Reynolds	<i>Kure Beach, NC</i>
Angela Richard	<i>Olpe, KS</i>
Ricky Tuggle	<i>Saint Jo, TX</i>
Bowen Schwanke	

Kudos List

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

(Updated 8/6/21)

Amber Rose
Rebecca Harriet
Jonathan Shafer
Russ Wilson
Clare Curtis
Bill Wade
Paul Anderson

Donor Recognition list

(Updated 8/5/2021)

Half Dome \$500-749

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Branching out

Tom Banks (ROMO '78, GLAC '79, '80, '16, REDW '83-'84, OLYM '84-'19, DENA '91, MORA '94, NOCA '00, SEKI '04-'05), board member for education and training, has semi-retired after 27 summers as an NPS seasonal ranger and eight years as a permanent ranger with the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He's now working as a teacher, visitor-use management consultant, and community college professor (backpacking and winter sports) near the Olympic Mountains in Washington.

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



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PROTECTION

Rangering: an Olympic endeavor

We may not compete for medals, but the skill sets are quite familiar

The author punches through Class IV Rion's Eddy Rapids on Tennessee's Big South Fork River. Olympic athlete or U.S. park ranger on river patrol? You be the judge. Photo: Obed Wild and Scenic River Ranger Thomas Hall

EVERY TWO YEARS I SOAK UP AS MUCH OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES coverage as I can. Everything about them inspires me: The culture and scenery of the host nation, the history, tradition, and symbolism, the variety of events, and especially the intrepid athletes. For two weeks every two years, the world's most-talented specialists converge in one location to spar against each other, representing their home country, to compete and hope for the gold medal. Their physical prowess and stamina, mental toughness and focus, grace, talent, and sportsmanship stir my soul. They command my utmost respect, and I just can't get enough of them.

Watching the Olympics this summer was extra significant for me for a couple reasons: I enjoyed viewing much of them alongside my two young sons, ages 4 and 6, and while doing so, I had an epiphany about a correlation I hadn't previously thought of: Quite a few of the Olympic Games events involve skill sets that we as park rangers might perform during the course of any given duty day.

For example, regarding the shooting events (several of which saw gold medals won by U.S. athletes), I told my boys that their mommy, who is also a ranger, and daddy get to shoot guns at work.

"Rangers are law enforcement officers, and we have to shoot straight and fast," I told them.

We also get an introduction to some of the techniques used in wrestling and the three martial arts recognized at the Olympics (karate, judo, and taekwondo) during our control tactics training.

"Never know when we might have to grapple with a knucklehead who doesn't want to go to jail," I explain to my boys.

As they watched athletes deadlift hundreds of pounds, I reminded them that Mommy and Daddy get to work out on duty, too, because rangers have to be strong for a thousand reasons.

Then there are the track and field events, so many of which center around running.

"You also have to run at work, right, Daddy?"

"Absolutely," I say. "Sometimes I have to run down a trail to rescue someone who's hurt, or climb a steep mountain with a heavy pack, and we might have to run down an escape route while fighting wildfires in case the fire sneaks up on us. I even learn much of my park's backcountry by trail running. Rangers run a lot, boys, and we have to be fast."

As we watched the triathlon, my sons, both of whom are right now discovering the unbridled joys of riding their bikes, could hardly believe it when I told them that I no-kidding actually had the privilege of doing singletrack mountain bike patrols on duty while

rangering at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

"You got *paid* to ride a bike, Daddy?!"

"Living the dream, boys."

The equestrian events at the Olympics certainly harken to some of the earliest National Park Service traditions. Think about it: Is there any image that better captures the heart and soul of the 1930s NPS than the iconic ranger on horseback? I reflect back on a career of adventure and smile at the fond memories created over the course of countless miles patrolled at four different parks on the backs of so many equine partners, all of whom were athletes in their own right: Amber, Squeaks, Fred, Gus, Comanche, Big Dopey Sarge (well, okay, Big Dopey Sarge was no athlete—in fact, he was confirmed as the slowest land mammal in North America—but he still put in his miles, albeit begrudgingly). And though I doubt any of these horses ever ascended to the level of Olympic dressage, I can at least give them credit for some fancy footwork while crossing many a mountain stream.

New to the Summer Games just this year were three rock-climbing events: speed climbing, bouldering, and lead climbing. As a longtime technical rescue instructor and search-and-rescue coordinator, I cannot overstate how satisfying it is to finally see the sport and art of climbing, so much of which can be applied to the rescue work and climbing patrols we do as rangers in the mountains, finally be recognized at the Olympic Games.

Several of the Olympic Winter Games events tap into traditional skill sets required of rangers, too, such as downhill and Nordic skiing (including biathlon, which combines skiing and shooting). I had the honor of serving with a team of U.S. park rangers to augment security measures at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City just five months after the 9/11 terrorist attacks on American soil. So many rangers utilize these winter travel techniques in a more routine, daily basis, though, while carrying out their patrols. (Now, if we could only figure out a way to get bobsled, skel-

eton, and luge recognized as official ranger duties ... that would be a hoot!).

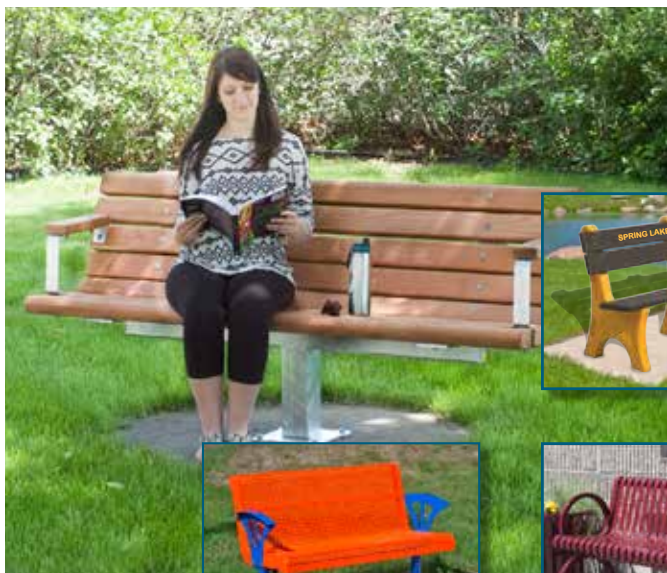
The highlight of this "Olympics/Rangering epiphany" experience came for me while watching the whitewater paddling events with my two boys. As athletes from all over the globe descended into the froth of gnarly waves and surf holes, close-up, slow-motion camera angles catching their flexed muscles and super-hyper-focused eyes, I explained to my sons that their daddy used to paddle kayaks, canoes, rafts, and even river paddle boards on duty through whitewater just like that when he rangered at three different river parks.

"Wow, Daddy, that's so cool! Were you ever good enough to win a gold medal?"

"No, boys, not me," I answered, "but with enough practice and dedication, I bet you could be."

— Kevin Moses

*Central District Ranger,
Shenandoah National Park*



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