

RANGER

The Journal of the Association of National Park Rangers

Stewards for parks, visitors & each other

Vol. 32, No. 1 | Winter 2015-16

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COVER: The view from the oft-visited porch at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, North Carolina — site of Ranger Rendezvous XXXVIII. Photo by Cadence Cook

In this issue: Rendezvous XXXVIII

With this issue of *Ranger*, your 2015 magazine team completes its first full year of working together. As Association of National Park Rangers President Erika Jostad mentions in her State of the Association address, our goal has been to retain the familiarity of your professional journal while adding some twists along the way.

One change that is self-evident can be fully attributed to *Ranger* Graphic Designer Sherry Albrecht. An experienced professional, Sherry has lived up *Ranger* and also the ANPR website. She’s planning more updates in 2016, and we’ll give ANPR readers the opportunity to weigh in on those updates.

Also, issue after issue, Editorial Adviser Kendell Thompson, Erika, Alison Steiner, Kevin Moses, Michelle Torok, Sue Consolo Murphy, Blanca Alvarez Stransky, Bob Krumenaker, Ben Walsh, Rick Smith, our Oral History Project reporters, and many other authors have provided you with valuable news and information about working in the national parks and participating in and discussing ways to further that work.

In this issue, we bring you coverage of Ranger Rendezvous XXXVIII — which will continue throughout the year — as well as ANPR and National Parks Conservation Association award winners, and additional articles and announcements of significance. I would like to point out three articles in particular: “Nate and Matt, rest in peace” and “No, national parks are not America’s best idea,” in The Professional Ranger section, and the Oral History Project article by Brenna Lissoway that features Bill Wade. In these pieces, Kevin Moses, Alan Spears and Bill Wade focus on three subjects that aren’t always openly addressed: mental health resources, how national parks are viewed by many Americans in the larger context of national history, and professional “insubordination,” if you will.

We bring you these types of articles to help advance discourse within ANPR, with NPS colleagues and even with park visitors, where appropriate. As the Southeast Region panel experts agree in “Parks rely on relationships to address challenges,” communication is everything.

— Ann Dee Allen, *Ranger* Editor

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Vol. 32, No. 1



Winter 2015-16

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

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

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

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FINAL DEADLINES

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



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Protection	Kevin Moses, BUFF
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Perspective: Cultural Resources	Alan Spears, NPCA
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ANPR officers met for a group photo at the 2015 Ranger Rendezvous. Pictured are Scott Warner, Kat Grubb, Lauren Kopplin, Erika Jostad, Ken Bigley, Colleen Derber, Tom Banks, Seth Tinkham, and Cadence Cook. Kate Sargeant was not present for the photograph. Photo by Cadence Cook

State of the Association

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
Erika Jostad, Denali National Park
and Preserve, President ANPR

2015

T

he State of the Association Address is a great opportunity to talk about where ANPR is as an organization and where we are heading. This year as I look back over the significant changes that have come to ANPR during my tenure, I have reason to be very enthusiastic about our accomplishments.

2015 saw the passage or implementation of two laws that are deeply important to ANPR members — laws that we have been supporting as an organization for many years. In August, the Land Management Workforce Flexibility Act was signed into law, allowing long-term seasonal NPS employees to compete for merit promotion (“status”) jobs. This is a tremendous win for seasonals and managers alike. These experienced, trained employees can now be hired into career positions. ANPR has been advocating for this change with the U.S. Congress and encouraging member support for much of the last decade. We celebrate this accomplishment and commit to our members that ANPR will serve as a portal for information when OPM guidance is given to the agency for implementation. This is expected by spring 2016.

This year, seasonal employees of the NPS were able to enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefit System (FEHB) for the first time using NPS contributions just like permanent employees. ANPR had advocated for this change and had offered a group health insurance plan to seasonal members who did not previously have access to FEHB. We are proud to have been part of this change.

WORLD RANGER CONGRESS 2016

Several years ago, ANPR won the bid with the International Ranger Federation to host the World Ranger Congress (WRC). This is the first time the event has been in the United States, giving members opportunities to be involved with planning, serve as WRC delegates and host attendees from other countries at their park units for shadow assignments. This is the largest event we have ever undertaken, and as such it is allowing our membership to

build relationships with the world ranger community and for ANPR to become more visible to rangers from all over the world.

The event was largely in the conceptual stage two years ago. Today we have a successful planning team comprised of dozens of members who have developed a program that includes pre- and post-conference field trips and shadow assignments. We continue to secure funding — approximately half the ANPR delegates have applied and been selected to participate on behalf of the Association, and there will be additional rounds of delegate selection in January and March (you are encouraged to participate!). We have developed partnerships in support of the WRC with the National Park Service, George Wright Society, 1% for the Planet, and National Parks and Conservation Association. All of this falls under the capable leadership of Bob Krumenaker, who is serving as the incident commander for the event.

SUCCESS STORIES

The ANPR **Mentoring Program** remains very popular. For the first time we have enough mentors to match with interested protégés. I have served as a mentor with this program and confirm what participants report: that it is really rewarding to help early-career members develop their career goals, learn about their fields and expand their networks.

Our **Oral History Project** has far surpassed its original goal of interviewing 50 ANPR members before the NPS Centennial. We have trained interviewers and continue to expand our list of interviewees. The project has served as an unexpected and welcomed mentoring experience for those involved. We are regularly publishing excerpts of interviews and developing media to share the lessons learned by seasoned NPS staff, which is the ultimate goal of this project.

The **Supernaugh Scholarship Program**, named in honor of the late Bill Supernaugh, continues to be meaningful in attracting and retaining the next generation of ANPR members-at-large and future leaders. Every year many of you generously donate money to sponsor members to attend their first Ranger Rendezvous and see what a great event and organization this is.

This year, this iconic publication, **Ranger** magazine, underwent a major change. Begun as a typed newsletter to keep a small membership apprised of the actions of members across the Service, *Ranger* was expanded over the years to also include columns speaking to specific disciplines within our membership and topics of interest to all employees of the NPS. In 2015 we began publishing the magazine under a new editor, Ann Dee Allen. She is the childhood friend of an ANPR life member and has continued to publish a journal that is familiar while incorporating a fresh perspective. Ann brought with her a design collaborator, Sherry Albrecht, who is contributing to a range of ANPR media. Editorial Adviser Kendell Thompson has been instrumental in ensuring that this transition was successful and continues to bring us a wide range of authors and topics.

At the same time that we hired a new editor for *Ranger*, we also hired a new **business manager** to provide member services and work with our volunteer treasurer to manage ANPR finances. We were tremendously fortunate to secure the services of former Board member Alison Steiner. She is a trusted friend of the organization and worked for many years to help develop the Oral History Project. Alison has moved some member services such as conference registration and renewals to a web-based platform accompanied by a sophisticated website. This change has helped ANPR reduce costs for business management while providing improved service in these arenas. Your current board has been paying close attention to the details of the Association's finances so that we will pass on an organization that is financially stable.

Challenges remain to attract and retain members in an age when volunteerism has declined. Yet, there will continue to be good people like you who believe that in order for the National Park Service to successfully preserve the country's natural and cultural resources, Park Service employees need proper training, strong professional networks, mentor relationships and avenues by which they can effect change, if necessary, at high levels. ANPR will continue to fill these roles and will be most effective when you step in to help.



Rendezvous

Living the Mission



The front porch at the YMCA facility was a popular place for Ranger Rendezvous presentations and conversations. Photo by Cadence Cook

First-time Rendezvous attendee Nick Mann and Rendezvous Coordinator Ben Walsh discuss local history on a walking tour of Asheville, North Carolina. Photo by Ann Dee Allen

Ranger Rendezvous participants enjoy a field trip to an iconic national park. Photo by Cadence Cook



Recap

The ANPR Board of Directors met October 21, 23, and 25, 2015, during the Ranger Rendezvous. These were the main discussion items and actions:

- The Board discussed selecting three or four places to **rotate Rendezvous** rather than selecting a new venue each year. This would save time and energy. Board members agreed that Estes Park, Colorado will be a permanent venue. Other possible venues include **Port Townsend, Washington; Portland, Oregon; San Francisco; and Santa Fe.**
- **Next year's Rendezvous** will be at Hotel Santa Fe from October 27-30, 2016. Lauren Kopplin and Tim Moore will work with Alison Steiner to coordinate Rendezvous.
- The Board discussed **outreach efforts**. Cadence Cook will reach out to universities and colleges, and outdoor, archeology, history and local major clubs.
- There has been tremendous growth in the **ANPR mentoring** program. Contact Katlyn Grubb if you are interested in participating as a mentor or a protégé.
- ANPR has **38 delegate spots** for the upcoming **World Ranger Congress**. Delegates are expected to go to the sessions and actively participate in coming up with resolutions and moving forward with initiatives that are important to rangers. There are two remaining rounds of delegate applications. Due dates are JANUARY 15, 2016 and MARCH 1, 2016.
- The **Land Management Workforce Flexibility Act** passed on August 7, 2015. The act allows seasonal employees who have worked 24 months to be eligible to apply for merit promotion positions. We are awaiting OPM guidance.
- All **oral history interviews** have been transcribed thanks to Centennial funds in the amount of \$5,000 given by Stephanie Toothman.
- Board Member for Special Concerns **Wendy Lauritzen has stepped down** from her position due to work conflicts. The Board agreed to let the position lapse for the time being.



ANPR ELECTIONS

The 30-day annual election by electronic ballot was held in December 2015. New Board members were seated for three-year terms on January 1, 2016.

Statements from the candidates were emailed to members on ANPR's email list and also posted on the website at www.anpr.org/candidates.htm.

The winners are:

President-elect

Jan Lemons

Fundraising

Nick Mann

Membership Services

Kate Sargeant

PARKS RELY ON RELATIONSHIPS TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES

By Ann Dee Allen, Ranger Editor

Ranger Rendezvous XXXVIII opened with three distinguished leaders discussing recent successes, challenges and partnerships in the National Park Service's Southeast Region. Panelists National Parks Conservation Association Senior Regional Director Don Barger, Great Smoky Mountains National Park Superintendent Cassius Cash, and Blue Ridge Parkway Superintendent Mark Woods shared their views about cooperative initiatives that have impacted parks in the region.

From the start, the keynote discussion focused on a central theme that re-emerged throughout the conversation: New approaches are needed to address the challenges that park professionals experience today and will face in the future, and those approaches involve collaboration and communication, both within NPS and with the American public and park visitors.

Cash opened the discussion by emphasizing the need to look at collaboration in a new way, especially when considering the complexity of some of the issues facing parks and the at-times formidable obstacles to overcoming those challenges.

Woods agreed, adding that in the midst of uncertainty, NPS leaders and staff need to stay focused: "In carrying out our stewardship responsibilities, we have to continually ask and challenge ourselves: are we fulfilling our mission?" It's essential to keep the public informed about park issues, Woods added, as that will help park leaders better fulfill the NPS mission.

Barger pointed out that the NPS Centennial provides an opportunity to create a

dialog about how the parks are faring: "We need a value-based, open conversation for NPS, the public and the U.S. Congress about the issues."

He cited a collaborative effort spurred by a surface mine application that was being developed adjacent to Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, which is located in portions of Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. An open pit proposed in parts of Kentucky and Tennessee would have impacted the Middlesboro, Kentucky, water supply and also the magnificent view from the park's Pinnacle Overlook.

Barger worked with city officials, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and the City of Middlesboro to jointly file a "lands unsuitable for mining" petition to protect the Fern Lake watershed adjacent to the park. After a two-year public engagement process, the petition was granted for the Tennessee portion of the watershed and, while not approved in Kentucky, resulted in additional restrictions on mining in that portion of the watershed, including a requirement for consultation with the NPS in the future. The protection of the area was so popular locally that Kentucky legislators introduced and passed legislation to add the watershed to the park.

When a subsequent mining application was filed in Kentucky, both within and outside the petition area, the NPS and NPCA appealed the decision, and it took two years to resolve the appeal by means of a settlement agreement. While the city's water supply was not threatened by this mining application, "the City of Middlesboro joined the NPS in the appeal to protect the viewshed — despite local pressure in favor of mining," Woods said.

Engage local leaders and residents

Development near non-urban national parks continues to be an issue for those parks, according to Woods. The situation is particularly acute for the Blue Ridge Parkway. Woods said the park works to engage real estate developers and local community elected officials and residents in understanding the impact of development on the park in terms of traffic; air, noise and water quality; wildlife; aesthetics; and park uses and regulations.

Cash concurred and noted that air quality is a major concern for Great Smoky Mountains National Park because of emissions from multiple sources across the region. The park began measuring air quality in the 1980s and created a record of unassailable data that documented the nature and degree of the damage caused by air pollution. Protection of park resources became a central component in the widespread public demand that has resulted in significant reductions in pollutants.

"The air in this region would not be of the quality it is now if not for the research and data generated by the NPS," Barger said, adding that NPS, NPCA and non-profit organizations in the region worked together to ensure that the air quality legislation designed to protect park resources was successfully enforced.

Barger noted that Great Smoky Mountains superintendents have been instrumental in the resolution of several major issues through collaborations with a large interest group of Tennessee government leaders, nongovernmental organizations and local organizations. The coalition helped to establish an agreement with Alcoa Aluminum



National Parks Conservation Association Senior Regional Director Don Barger, Blue Ridge Parkway Superintendent Mark Woods and Great Smoky Mountains National Park Superintendent Cassius Cash shared insights about the NPS Southeast Region at Ranger Rendezvous. Photo by Cadence Cook

“It’s important to lean on as many resources and organizations that you have related to the issues.”

Mark Woods, Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway

that enabled the acquisition of 10,000 acres of former Alcoa land to connect the Joyce Kilmer Slickrock Wilderness, Citico Creek Wilderness, Great Smoky Mountains and Cherokee National Forest.

“When you are engaged in these issues, it’s important to lean on as many resources and organizations that you have related to the issues,” Woods said. “I can’t emphasize enough how important those relationships are, and particularly for field staff.”

As part of that process, Cash said, it’s essential to let communities know how natural resources create economic vitality. For example: “We have long and enduring relationships with the City of Gatlinburg, and those relationships have helped in things like having the city do a traffic study related to development and to talk about wastewater issues.”

“We are in a time when we can say yes together and make the parks more sustainable,” Cash added. He said he worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 18 years and learned early on that sometimes the choice

can be to work on an issue in a meeting room vs. in a courtroom, and the former is preferable.


Explain the issues and impacts

Woods put the onus on park leaders and staff to help the public understand the issues they face. “Our parks offer incredible laboratories to reflect on what’s going on around us,” he said. “We have a responsibility to share that with our local communities. If we fail to make that connection to the larger issues for the visitor we’re not doing our job.”

Woods and Cash both remarked on the problem of poaching in their parks. The parkway has experienced large-scale poaching of galax, which is used in commercial floral arrangements. Woods said poachers remove quantities of galax from the parkway at a time, and the plants have even been shipped overseas.

Poachers target the Great Smoky Mountains for salamanders and ginseng, Cash said, but he is concerned that that’s only the start of what they may be targeting next. He stressed the importance of educating young people about protecting natural resources for the future.

On the positive side, Woods said, the more information the public receives about national park challenges and park responses to those challenges, the more support members of the public provide. Individuals have stepped up to support the parkway with checks for hundreds of thousands of dollars, and one local organization has contributed \$10 million to the parkway.

“The real concern is loss of capacity (financial resources), and that’s where partners come in,” Woods concluded. “From an interpretation standpoint, our role is to spark an interest and allow the visitor to experience the park on their own terms.” 

THANK YOU RANGER RENDEZVOUS VOLUNTEERS!

Rendezvous Coordinator: Ben Walsh

Program Team: Ken Bigley,
Kat Gruber, Lilli Tichinin

Communications Team:
Cadence Cook, Alison Steiner

Logistics Team: Colleen Derber

Logo/Program Design:
Jeaneen Zanollo

Registration Desk: Colleen Derber,
Wendy Lauritzen

Scholarship Winners Bucket Auction:
Katlyn Grubb

Trivia Night: Ben Walsh

Silent Auction: Katlyn Grubb

Donations/Sponsorships:
Seth Tinkham

Photo Contest: Liz Roberts

Exhibits: Alison Steiner,
Seth Tinkham, Katlyn Grubb,
Kate Sargeant

Merchandise Sales: Wendy Lauritzen

Hospitality Room: Tim Moore,
Nancy Ward, Lauren Kopplin

Photography: Ben Walsh, Liz and
Clair Roberts, Cadence Cook

and the award goes to...



Photo courtesy of Kevin Moses

Kevin Moses recognized with 2015 Rick Gale President's Award

In fall 2015 Kevin Moses was presented with the President's Award, named in honor of influential ANPR member Rick Gale. The honor is bestowed annually on a member who makes meaningful and lasting contributions to the Association.

Moses has been an annual member of ANPR for nearly 20 years, each year renewing his commitment to the organization. He has been a contributor to *Ranger* magazine for more than 15 years, and the quarterly visitor and resource protection column he authors speaks to ANPR's original core identity. Moses writes with true passion for the profession, inspiring the next generation of stewards.

He also demonstrates a dozen ways to contribute

to the organization. For example, Moses hand-crafts iconic wooden flat hat carriers that are part of the annual silent auction at ANPR's Ranger Rendezvous and hang proudly in dozens of homes and ranger stations across the country. He also has presented at Rendezvous and has even planned sessions for Rendezvous when he has been unable to attend.

Moses is currently working on a shadow assignment for a World Ranger Congress attendee at Buffalo National River in Arkansas, where he is Middle Buffalo District ranger and search and rescue coordinator. He embodies the spirit of rangeling and making personal connections — characteristics that are so valuable to ANPR.



Russell Galipeau, Don Barger and Kate Faulkner. Photo by Cadence Cook

Galipeau and Faulkner earn Stephen T. Mather Award

Ranger Rendezvous proves to be an outstanding setting for honoring people who make an impact in national park service and preservation, and the 2015 Rendezvous was no exception. This year, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) presented the Stephen T. Mather Award to Channel Islands National Park Superintendent Russell Galipeau and Chief of Natural Resources Management Kate Faulkner. Named after the first director of the National Park Service, the award is given to individuals who have shown steadfast leadership and persistent dedication to our national parks.

Ron Sundergill, Pacific Regional Director for NPCA, said the pair have each shown an unwavering commitment to protecting and strengthening Channel Islands. Their accomplishments include helping to restore and protect native species, eradicating threats to the Islands' ecosystem, and establishing full public access to the park by ending a trophy hunting operation that closed 90 percent of Santa Rosa Island for up to five months each year.

During his 34 years with the National Park Service, Galipeau has been a leader in the effort to re-establish and maintain the natural and cultural features of the national

parks. Prior to becoming superintendent of Channel Islands in 2003, he served in various roles at Yosemite, Wrangell-St. Elias and Everglades national parks.

Faulkner's career as a biologist and natural resources protector for the NPS has spanned 35 years of dedication to recovering and protecting native species and restoring disrupted ecosystems. Before joining the leadership of Channel Islands in 1990, she served as the lead natural resource specialist in arctic Alaska for Kobuk Valley National Park, Noatak National Preserve and Cape Krusenstern National Monument.

Supernaugh Scholarship winners

ANPR members and Ranger Rendezvous attendees generously donated a total of \$1,734 for Bill Supernaugh Memorial Scholarships to be provided to six people in 2015. The scholarships were established in 2006 to enable early-career employees, NPS volunteers and students to experience the annual Ranger Rendezvous

conference and learn about ANPR. Scholarships include a one-year ANPR membership and basic Rendezvous registration, lodging and partial transportation reimbursement. They honor former ANPR Board member, longtime mentoring program coordinator and *Ranger* adviser Bill Supernaugh.



Pictured at Ranger Rendezvous in Asheville, North Carolina, (left to right, starting in the front row) are Supernaugh scholars: Jen Chin, guide, Golden Gate National Park; Shannon Wilson, ranger, De Soto National Memorial; Thea Garrett, guide, Acadia National Park; Russell Hicks, student, Kansas State University; Jacob Hauser, student, Appalachian State University; Will Mundhenke, guide, Capulin Volcano National Monument. Photo by Cadence Cook



Great Smoky Mountains field trip. Photo by Cadence Cook

Association supports reauthorization of LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND



For 50 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has provided critical funding for land and water conservation projects, outdoor recreation access, and the continued preservation of our nation's historic, cultural and iconic landmarks. LWCF is paid for with non-taxpayer dollars. Congress made a commitment to the American public that a small portion of revenues from offshore oil and gas drilling would go to outdoor recreation and conservation, as an offset for the depletion of resources that belong to us all. The Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR) has joined with conservation organizations and concerned citizens in support of reauthorizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund. For more information please visit www.lwcfcoalition.org.



ANPR CALENDAR

WORLD RANGER CONGRESS
May 21-27, 2016
Estes Park, Colorado

ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE AND RANGER RENDEZVOUS
October 27-30, 2016
Sante Fe, New Mexico

The spring 2016 Ranger theme is the NPS Centennial

Please send your *Ranger* feature article ideas to kendellthompson@gmail.com and/or rangermag.editor@gmail.com.

Please send letters to the edi-

tor, completed announcements, photos and captions for All in the Family and all items for ANPR Actions & News, ANPR Reports and book review ideas on an ongoing basis (regardless of the deadline) to *Ranger* Editor Ann Dee Allen at rangermag.editor@gmail.com. Questions? Kindly email or call Ann at (414) 778-0026 Central time.

THANK YOU

FOR SUPPORTING RANGER RENDEZVOUS

EXHIBITORS



SPONSORS

◉ DIRECTOR LEVEL (\$500-\$2000) ◉



◉ CHIEF LEVEL (up to \$150) ◉

◉ SUPERINTENDENT LEVEL (\$150-\$500) ◉



Podcasts put a ranger in every ear



By Jody Maberry

Podcasting is on the rise. With smart phones, nearly everyone carries a podcast listening device. Podcasting has been featured in several publications, including *Entrepreneur* magazine. The podcast Serial has introduced millions of people to the format.

But is podcasting a fit for parks?

If a park can deliver personal educational content to an audience willing and eager to listen, why not take advantage of it?

Through a podcast, audio content can be consumed at home while planning a trip, in a vehicle on the way to a park, or on site.

Podcasts can play an important role in national parks by putting a park ranger in the pocket of every visitor. Here are several ways podcasts can enhance a visitor's experience:

1. Introduction to your park: Get the basics of your park out of the way by addressing the most common questions. Visitors learn what to expect, where to find more information and interesting statistics about the park and local community.

2. Guided hikes and auto tours:

A podcast episode guiding a visitor along the Hall of Mosses in Olympic National Park can be just as good walking with a ranger, except you don't have to share your snacks. The listener can learn about trees, wildlife, plants and historic points along the way. And a podcast episode can be as good as having a park ranger in the car.

3. Interpretive talks: Some of my favorite moments at parks have been interpretive talks by park rangers. Hearing the park ranger talk about the Cedar Tree House at Mesa Verde National Park helped me understand and appreciate the experience. Not everyone can attend a formal interpretive talk, nor can rangers talk to every park visitor. Podcast episodes allow great stories to reach more people. And interpretive episodes can allow you to go deeper into a topic than you could in a live presentation. A podcast episode could also complement a live talk with additional content.

4. Specific area highlights: In a large park, there can be enough stories or information about one



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specific area to keep a park visitor busy all day. Podcasts allow for in-depth audio exploration of one place. An episode can include interviews with experts on history, cultural resources, wildlife and natural features.

5. **Historical overview:** At a park like Grant Kohrs Ranch in Montana, a podcast episode can feature Native Americans of the area, information about the property and what has taken place since it became a unit of the National Park Service.
6. **Meet the rangers:** For many people, meeting a park ranger can be a highlight of their trip to the park. But a park visitor will never have the opportunity to meet every ranger. A podcast episode introducing the park staff can be a fun way to connect park visitors to park staff.
7. **Make visitors feel like insiders:** Many people consider a favorite park to be “their” park; they take ownership and pride in it. An episode could provide a behind-the-scenes look at park operations or offer the park superintendent’s insights.

Visitors are eager for content. We just have to give them something to listen to.

Jody Maberry is a former park ranger and the host of The Park Leaders Show. He lives in Port Townsend, Washington, in the shadow of Olympic National Park. He presented a workshop on podcasting at Ranger Rendezvous in 2015.



See You At RENDEZVOUS XXXIX

**Santa Fe, New Mexico
October 27-30, 2016**

ANPR is pleased to announce that the 39th annual Ranger Rendezvous will be held at the Hotel Santa Fe in New Mexico. This award-winning venue is close to downtown Santa Fe.

We hope you can join us in New Mexico!

Volunteers Needed

Please contact ANPR’s business manager at anprbusinessmanager@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer to help with Rendezvous planning.



National Park Service Training Announcement



Join us in West Virginia for our 20th annual

NPS Basic Technical Rescue Training—East (BTRTE)

04 – 08 April 2016

New River Gorge National River, WV

ZERO Tuition Costs
Earn EMT CEUs

Learn Lifesaving Skills
Make Professional Contacts

Build Confidence & Leadership
Complete a Position Task Book



Contact: 2016 BTRTE Incident Commander Ranger Kevin Moses, 870-688-0905 or kevin_moses@nps.gov

‘Selective Disobedience’

Bill Wade: An Interview
with Brenna Lissoway



John W. “Bill” Wade was raised at Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, eventually following in the footsteps of his ranger father in a career with the National Park Service. During his 32 years with NPS, Wade worked at such varied sites as Yosemite National Park, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, National Capital Parks, and the Albright and Mather Training Centers, ultimately retiring as the superintendent of Shenandoah

LISSOWAY: Is there anything about your time at Great Smoky Mountains that you would like to talk about?

WADE: I actually was, if you want to call it, guilty of monkey-wrenching there one time. It’s an interesting little story. On the road that runs between headquarters in Gatlinburg and up to Cades Cove, the road parallels and sometimes crosses what’s

National Park. Between domestic assignments, Wade completed international park assignments that included a Fulbright lecturer position in New Zealand and a project in the Caribbean. In this excerpt from interviews conducted in 2012 and 2014 for the ANPR Oral History Project, Wade discusses some of the moments in his career when he chose to challenge authority in the pursuit of resource protection.

called the Little River. And it’s a very, very nice river. It gets a lot of use both for fishing and recreational use, and some swimming and diving. There were all along the Little River nearly 30 of these little pullouts for one or two cars. Down by the river was a little wooden frame set on a post in the ground and a little box next to it. This was supposed to post the fishing regulations for the park and the creel census forms.

The fishermen were supposed to fill that out when they finished fishing and leave it there. It was supposed to help determine how many fish were taken. I watched the whole process for quite some time. First, we weren’t getting any creel census forms back to speak of. So I’m questioning in my own mind, what good is this? Secondly, whenever you’d go try to post the regulations, somebody would rip them off. Also, Smokies is a fairly rainy place and so we tried all kinds of different things — laminating them — but, pretty soon they’d crinkle up and it just looked like a mess.

I proposed taking them all out. I said, “what good are they doing us?” I tried several times to get the chief ranger to agree to take them out. They were kind of an eyesore. They couldn’t keep them up to date; they really weren’t serving much of a purpose. But, no, couldn’t take them out, (it was) tradition.

Several months after that, another ranger and I, one late evening, got a pickup during a slow period and went along and pulled every one of those things out, threw them in the back of the pickup and took them to a place where we left them where it was unlikely for anybody to find them. And you know the interesting thing?

Nobody ever said a word about them being missing. The chief ranger never commented. Nobody ever raised a question about it. It sort of solidified in my mind that sometimes you just have to be selectively disobedient. If it's in the best interest of the resource, just do it. So we did it. We didn't get in trouble. We didn't have to go put them back up. The resource and the whole scene along that road was better off as a result of it.

Do you want to hear the other selective disobedience story?

LISSOWAY: Yes.

WADE: (When I was superintendent of Shenandoah National Park) we were grappling with all of these air quality permits. We had this one air quality permit that was really close to the southern boundary of the park for a coal fire-powered generating plant. The modeling showed it was just going to blow right up into the park, so we did everything we could to try to get the state to modify the conditions. They would only go so far; that wasn't far enough for us. They weren't going to budge any more.

At the time, James Watt was the Secretary of the Interior, and he had a guy in the deputy assistant secretary for fish, wildlife and parks position who came out of the petrochemical industry in Louisiana.

According to the air legislation (the Clean Air Act), there is a federal land manager designation and it says that the federal land manager has the authority to appeal any state permit to EPA (Environmental Protection Agency). Interior had administratively assigned the federal land manager

designation to this deputy assistant secretary. I tried to get them to agree to issue the appeal to EPA. We're right down to the wire because there's a deadline under which you have to file the appeal. The last week or so, I'm on the phone constantly trying to get hold of this guy, or somebody in his office and talk to him. I'd already made the case of why I wanted to appeal it. No response. I mean, they were just stonewalling me.

Under my interpretation of the Clean Air Act, the way it's written, it literally says, I'm the federal land manager. So legally, I'm (the superintendent) the federal land manager. Administratively, this other guy was, and obviously, they didn't want to appeal it.

Last minute, last afternoon, nothing from them. So, I put the appeal together, gave it to a ranger and said, "You've got to get into the EPA office by 5 o'clock in the afternoon." The ranger said sometimes he was running lights and siren taking this appeal into EPA. We got it in there and, of course, the media went crazy. I understood later that the assistant secretary [of Interior] wanted to fire me. The director wanted to fire me. One thing led to another and because this permit appeal was obviously going to drag things out for a considerably longer period of time, the company that wanted to build this plant lost its financing. They simply had no way to build it. The issue just disappeared and the appeal never really had to be heard.

I did get a written reprimand from the regional director which I have proudly displayed next to being named the National Park Service superintendent of the year for natural resources the same year, and

the Mather Award from NPCA (National Parks Conservation Association) for doing that same act. So it worked out okay. That one, I felt, was worth falling on my sword. That was important enough to me to protect that park.

Bill Wade retired from the National Park Service in 1997 and moved to Arizona where he was a co-founder of the Coalition of National Park Service Retirees. He remains active as a domestic and international trainer and consultant on park-related issues.

Brenna Lissoway is the archivist for Chaco Culture National Historical Park.



Be a Mentor

Do you feel passionate about sharing your knowledge and experiences with the next generation of NPS employees? ANPR's popular mentoring program is looking for a good leader or two to guide its next steps. Please get in touch with Erika Jostad at PERRINCREEK@GMAIL.COM for more information if you want to help fill this important role.

— Erika Jostad, ANPR President

THE PROFESSIONAL RANGER

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Nate and Matt, rest in peace



Matt Werner



Nate Knight

In recent months and over a span of only three weeks, the National Park Service, its brother- and sisterhood of protection rangers, the Operational Leadership, NPS Structural Firefighting, and Field Training and Evaluation Programs lost two talented rangers to suicide.

On Tuesday, 22 September 2015, ranger Nate Knight, stationed at California's Point Reyes National Seashore, committed suicide. Then, just three weeks later to the day, on 13 October 2015, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area ranger Matt Werner also took his own life.

The deaths of these two fine rangers have struck harsh blows to their home parks and co-workers, the NPS ranger ranks, and the NPS as a whole. Both men were talented, squared-away, high-performance rangers by anyone's measure, setting and achieving high standards in an action-oriented career field. It seemed — on the surface, anyway — that both men had many reasons to live long lives.

Though I knew both of these rangers, I did not know either of them well, so I cannot say whether either offered any clues to their intentions in the years, months or

days leading up to their deaths. But I can say that my interactions with both men left me thinking that they'd be the last two guys I would have expected to take their own lives.

That's pretty scary.

How many other seemingly solid people do we know who might be having suicidal thoughts? For those of us in the protection ranger discipline, the number could be alarmingly higher than any of us wants to admit.

NSOPS keeping watch

In 2008, an organization called the National Study of Police Suicides (NSOPS) began monitoring law enforcement officer suicides nationwide. That year, 141 police officers across the United States took their own lives. In 2009, the number went up by two.

Finally, in 2012 NSOPS recorded a noticeable drop in the number: 126 total suicides — the first reduction in the five years since the study began. While this number was certainly encouraging, NSOPS was quick to point out that it was still unacceptable, noting that the 126 suicides

in 2012 were still higher than officer fatalities due to traffic accidents and felonious assaults combined in the same year (95, according to FBI data).

NSOPS attributes the drop in 2012 officer suicides to several factors, among them the higher number of police agencies instituting peer support programs and the increased willingness of officers to seek professional assistance — both when they're experiencing a problem and prior to the problems developing.

But there's more we can do to prevent these very preventable deaths.

Prevention and services are key

According to the national Officer Safety and Wellness (OSW) Group, an organization convened in 2011 by order of the attorney general, law enforcement agencies, including the National Park Service, need to start placing as much emphasis (a code word for: time, training, personnel and money) on keeping our officers mentally healthy as we do on keeping them physically healthy. We need to think about mental health the same way we do about body armor, PPE, seatbelts and control tactics training.

The OSW Group recommends three specific actions to accomplish this: 1) providing mental health services and support programs to officers experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression or suicide ideation; 2) de-stigmatizing officers seeking mental health services; and 3) providing officers with easy and confidential access to mental health and mentoring programs.

Share resources

As rangers, like most other law enforcement officers, firefighters and rescue professionals, we like to think of ourselves as tough, both physically and mentally. Because of this, maybe there are those among us who are struggling with suicidal thoughts but are afraid to talk about them for fear of being stigmatized. Or, perhaps some people won't talk about depression

because they believe it will be used against them in their mandatory background investigations.

We have to quell these worries and start having open, honest conversations with our co-workers, our fellow rangers, our friends. In the days and weeks following Nate and Matt's suicides, the NPS Law Enforcement, Security and Emergency Services (LESES) office released a list of mental health resources available to NPS employees.

The list includes: Responder 9-1-1, the Employee Assistance Program, Safe Call Now and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Each service is free, open 24 hours, strictly confidential and easily accessed. Each provides professional services at the click of a computer mouse or the dialing of a phone number (see the links and phone numbers for each of these resources at the end of this article).

The LESES office also provided a link to "Breaking the Silence: A National Symposium on Law Enforcement Officer Suicide and Mental Health," an excellent report produced by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Justice Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). I highly recommend that every ranger and ranger program manager in the NPS read this article to help get us talking openly about this hidden danger. Here's the link: [http://www.theiacp.org/Portals/0/documents/pdfs/Suicide Project/Officer Suicide Report.pdf](http://www.theiacp.org/Portals/0/documents/pdfs/Suicide%20Project/Officer%20Suicide%20Report.pdf).

In October 2014, I attended Operational Leadership for Supervisors training with Nate, which focused on keeping our employees safe from harm by instilling safe work practices and encouraging a climate of honest, assertive communication.

In the summer of 2015, Matt was honored with the Department of Interior's Valor Award for his part in a 2014 rescue that saved a human life.

It saddens me deeply that somehow we as an agency failed to keep these two rangers safe from the danger of suicide; that in a profession where life-saving heroics are fairly common, we failed to save the lives of two of our own.

May they rest in peace.

— Kevin Moses
Middle Buffalo District ranger and
BTRT-E incident commander

Mental Health Resources & Information

If you or someone you love is in need of help, please consider contacting these programs.

RESPONDER 911

An anonymous service available to NPS, USB, and FWS public safety professionals, RESPONDER 911 provides access to a clinical psychologist who has special insights into the experiences of law enforcement and emergency services personnel.

1-888-918-3332

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

A confidential hotline that provides emotional support to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress.

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

SAFE CALL NOW

A confidential 24-hour crisis referral service for public safety employees and their families.

1-206-459-3020

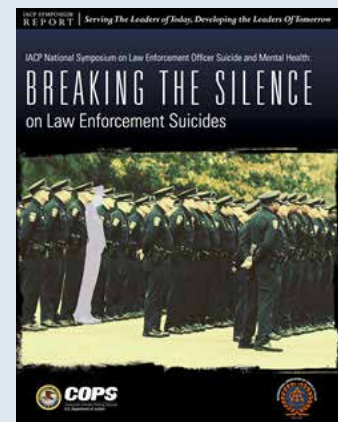
www.safecallnow.org

NPS EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Employee Assistance Program is a confidential counseling and consultation service for employees and their families. It assists with personal and professional concerns. In addition to psychologists, social workers and counselors, it offers financial advisors, child/eldercare specialists, attorneys and alcohol and drug counselors.

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"Perpetuating this culture of silence and denial around officers' mental health needs is unacceptable. It endangers every officer in the country!"

From: Breaking the Silence: A National Symposium on Law Enforcement Officer Suicide and Mental Health

THE PROFESSIONAL RANGER



Alan Spears presented a session on urban parks at Ranger Rendezvous in 2015.

Photo by Cadence Cook

PERSPECTIVE: **CULTURAL RESOURCES** **No, national parks are not America's best idea**

When I was a boy, the annual summer pilgrimages my family made to Gettysburg National Military Park ignited my lifelong passion for American history. As a high school student, I experienced my first clean-up event at Fort Dupont, a National Park Service site across the street from my parent's house in southeast D.C. For the past 15 years, I've worked for the National Parks Conservation Association, helping to fulfill our mission: to protect and enhance America's national parks for future generations. I think it would be fair to say that America's national parks mean a great deal to me.

But parks are not America's "best idea" and describing them as such may be preventing us from creating and sustaining the diverse constituency our national parks need to survive and thrive in their second century.

Any African American worth his or her salt will tell you that national parks don't crack the top 10 list of best ideas. The Emancipation Proclamation, the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution, the Voting Rights Act and Civil Rights Act of 1964 and 1965, respectively, all occupy a higher place in the order of best ideas than our national parks. Gay men and lesbians probably feel the same way about the recent and long overdue Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality. Asian Pacific Islander Americans might add to this burgeoning list the repeal of racist exclusionary laws. For women, it may be the passage of the 19th Amendment.

The "best idea" language has the potential to alienate more people than it attracts because it assumes we all regard national parks with the same unfettered and unequalled devotion. This is simply not the case. If asked to choose between the Grand Canyon or a landmark decision on Civil Rights that guarantees me equal protection under the law, *Brown v. Board of Education* wins with me hands down every time. And this isn't strictly a racial and ethnic thing, either. Are we really prepared to say that national parks rank higher than the Bill of Rights, the G.I. Bill and the space program?

Park enthusiasts moved to hyperbole by the majestic splendor of our National Park System often fail to see the arrogance at the heart of the "best idea" sentiment. It's the assumption that those who don't get national parks have failed to embrace a universal concept. That they (we) need to be converted into believers not for the sake of park protection but to improve shoddy lives not yet blessed by a visit to Old Faithful. We see this expressed most perfectly by contemporary relevancy and diversity doubters who proclaim that in a democracy there's no harm if black and brown people are staying away from national parks of their own accord. "If they don't get it (parks) they don't get it!" and perhaps don't deserve it.

There is more to our history

Two large challenges emerge to this reasoning. First, it takes a completely ahistorical approach to the development of the National Park System and our shared legacy as Americans. In 1916, the year the Organic Act was written and the National Park Service established, 55 African Americans were lynched. Discrimination against racial and ethnic minorities was the law

of the land. If you've ever wondered why black and brown people haven't been seen at the national parks party in representative numbers, it's because from the very start of the parks idea we've been preoccupied with other concerns.

Second, it ignores the current need our national parks have for broadening their base of political support. We need more wins on park funding, resource management and protection, and a stronger defense against harmful legislation and riders that, on a monthly basis, seek to undermine the health of our national parks. It is therefore critical to create and sustain the most diverse, informed and well-engaged constituency possible to influence our elected leaders to treat national parks with the respect they deserve. The best idea notion complicates that outreach by pro-

moting the argument that the people need parks more than parks (and park advocates) need the people.

Fortunately, champions from diverse and underrepresented communities are stepping forward to take their rightful places at the forefront of the environmental, conservation and preservation movements. Those who marched from Selma to Montgomery and their descendants are now preserving that hallowed ground. The people who led the rebellion at the Stonewall Inn, and their descendants, are leading the campaign to have that historic site given its rightful place in the National Park System. This is progress.

But please let's not attribute the rise of the underrepresented to a newfound devotion to America's best idea. Rather, I think that our national parks are like most

of the other laudable, lofty ideals created by Americans; an ever-evolving concept filled with great promise and in need of constant stewardship. If our job as citizens is to help create a more perfect Union, then it makes sense that we should all have a role in creating a more perfect National Park System. I think people of color and underrepresented groups are ready to take on a larger share of that responsibility, but only if we can have an honest discussion about when, where and why we enter the national parks movement, and where those magnificent sites fit into the long list of America's best ideas.

Alan Spears is the cultural resources director for the National Parks Conservation Association. He lives and works in Washington, DC. He can be reached at asp@npca.org.

ADMINISTRATION

Caveats on purchasing Centennial items

As the National Park Service (NPS) marks its Centennial, park purchasers should be cautious about using federal funds to purchase promotional items. Interest in procuring Centennial-related promotional items will continue to gain momentum throughout the year. Items such as pins, including the Centennial pin, and badges, T-shirts and other merchandise are all available as souvenirs. These items can enhance public relations, advertising, good will, community relations and employee morale, but park staff must be smart in determining the funding sources used to procure them and should make certain to follow Department of the Interior (DOI) and NPS procedures.

It is possible to purchase promotional items using federal funds, but park staff must have approval from a regional, associate or assistant director, as well as the bureau procurement chief. NPS policy requires that requests for the purchase of

promotional items be supported by written justification submitted from a regional or associate/assistant director to the NPS bureau procurement chief.

The following guidance provides NPS employees with information about seeking the approval and purchase of promotional items:

- NPS Acquisition Policy and Procedures Memorandum 1443.70-01 (December 19, 2014)
- Department of the Interior Policy Release 2012-10
- Executive Order 13589 (Promoting Efficient Spending).

Consider partner funding

Some parks may be in a position to avoid using federal funds altogether by working with park partners. The requirements of the NPS Acquisition Policy do not apply to purchases made by NPS partners; park staff are highly encouraged to work with partners to procure promotional items without using government funds.

Another caveat to remember is that once donated funds are transferred to the NPS they are treated in the same fashion as appropriated federal funds and the

Acquisition Policy does apply. Park staff must follow the policy and submit a justification for using this fund source to procure promotional items.

Exceptions to the rule

Some items are exempt from the promotional item policy. Informational and educational materials that convey significant information about the NPS and its programs or contribute to an educational program with specific learning objectives are not promotional items. Under these criteria, Junior Ranger badges and collateral materials are not considered to be promotional items.

The procurement of promotional items as related to the Centennial tells a cautionary tale. As outlined in Executive Order 13589, parks have the duty to use their taxpayer-funded budgets in an efficient and cost-effective way. Tapping into the ability of our partners to support us in promotional efforts makes a lot of sense when parks are faced with flat budgets and increasing costs.

— Michelle Torok,
Saguaro and Tumacácori, Arizona



**UPDATE:
Eighth World Ranger
Congress, 2016**

MAY 21-27

ESTES PARK, COLORADO

WorldRangerCongressUSA.com



Bob Krumenaker and Erika Jostad at Ranger Rendezvous in 2015. Photo by Cadence Cook

Experience the rewards of World Ranger Congress

WHEN PARK LEADERS SHOW HOST JODY MABERRY VOLUNTEERED TO INTERVIEW WORLD RANGER CONGRESS (WRC) CHAIR BOB KRUMENAKER AT RANGER RENDEZVOUS AND PUBLISH THE INTERVIEW ONLINE, THE PAIR ALSO ASKED *RANGER* EDITOR ANN DEE ALLEN TO PARTICIPATE AND DEVELOP AN ARTICLE FOR THE MAGAZINE. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE THREE-WAY CONVERSATION; ALLEN AND MABERRY CONDUCTED THE INTERVIEW WITH KRUMENAKER AS THE WRC EXPERT. KRUMENAKER IS THE SUPERINTENDENT OF APOSTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL LAKESHORE IN WISCONSIN.

Q. The World Ranger Congress Organizing Group has done an amazing job of planning for the 2016 Congress May 21-27 in Estes Park, Colorado. And you have provided readers with valuable information about the Congress in your articles published in every *Ranger* in 2015. In addition to all of the information available at www.worldrangercongressusa.com and www.internationalrangers.org/world-ranger-congress, and your articles and ANPR newsletter updates, what can you tell readers about the experience of attending the Congress?

A. The best way to summarize it is simply that the World Ranger Congress is one of the most rewarding things that a park ranger can do if their interest is beyond their own park boundaries. I think most park rangers like to see the context of the work that they do, and the Congress is an opportunity to meet and interact with — and develop professional and personal relationships with — people of like mind, passion and experience, from over 40 different countries. It is an amazing event that is life changing for the people who come.

Q. Can you tell us more about the relationship-building and networking aspects?

A. There are unstructured opportunities for people to get to know one another and develop relationships and find common ground, exchange business cards and memorabilia from their parks, and emails. People build relationships among rangers that extend well beyond the Congress itself, and that for me personally has been one of the great values of the two Congresses that I have attended.

For American attendees, we sometimes lose sight of how good we have it here. To sit down over a coffee or a beer with a ranger from Africa, or South Asia, or even Latin America, and talk about what they're going through is humbling for us. And it's inspirational because it gives us reason to do what we do to protect the most important places in the world.

Q. How would you describe the more structured aspects of the WRC?

A. The participants are formal representatives of their ranger associations, which means that we go not just for ourselves but for the associations that we belong to. It's a mix of plenary sessions where we have inspirational speakers on topics that we hope are of interest to rangers from around the world.

We will also have a great deal of time where delegates talk with each other in formal settings. There'll be concurrent sessions — four or five or more at a time — where in one room we're talking about wildlife conservation, in another room we might be talking about working with indigenous peoples, in another room we may be talking about climate change and how rangers face these issues.

Q. Are there opportunities for learning in the field, and for socializing?

A. Certainly! We have one day of field trips, which I'm sure will be fun but they're also thematically oriented to the World Ranger Congress theme of connecting parks, rangers and communities.

There will be really fun events such as a U.S. Western culture night, which we think the rest of the world will really enjoy. Another of the great traditions of the World Ranger Congress is almost like the Olympics. It's a flag ceremony and a procession where rangers wear their uniforms from their home countries and it's just fantastic. And Shelton Johnson, the ranger from Yosemite that does an unbelievably powerful story about Buffalo Soldiers, will be one of our speakers.

Q. This being an international meeting, are there any plans for translation?

A. The official language of the International Ranger Federation is English. However, we're really hoping for a large contingent of people from Latin America and so we have made a commitment to simultaneous translation in Spanish for all of the plenary sessions and some of the concurrent sessions. We hope to have simultaneous French translation as well.

If people are interested in coming but not necessarily as a delegate and they've got language skills, we'd like to hear from them



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION FOR THE
WORLD RANGER CONGRESS
IS AVAILABLE AT

www.worldrangercongressusa.com/registration.html

In an effort to keep representation from North America balanced with that from other continents, each of the eight North American ranger associations (including ANPR) has been allocated delegate slots in proportion to its membership.

ANPR members who would like to attend WRC need to complete the ANPR Board application form at <http://tinyurl.com/WRCApplication>. The form includes an explanation of the criteria that the Board will use to select attendees, as well as information on how to register once selected.

If you are not immediately selected as a delegate, don't give up. As more foreign delegates register, more ANPR members will be able to attend. Participant registration is \$650; accompanying guests can register for \$325.

When you register, you can also reserve one of several lodging and food packages at the Congress venue, the YMCA of the Rockies, as well as trips to some of the national parks and other protected areas of the American West.





EXPERIENCE WRC AS AN IRF DELEGATE

Jeff Ohlfs, a veteran global traveler along with his wife, Deb, has never missed a World Ranger Congress. Every WRC has allowed the pair to make many friends over the years. "It provides a chance to meet your peers, to know that you're not alone in what you're doing, and to know that we are lucky with the resources available to us in the U.S. for education and safety," he said.

The chief ranger at Joshua Tree National Park in Twentynine Palms, California, Ohlfs has a collection of more than 850 ranger patches that he plans to expand when he attends the Congress this spring. He will most likely acquire a few more ranger uniforms to add to his world ranger uniform collection, too.

Besides scoring great trades, Ohlfs has met inspiring "colleagues" at WRC. "Juan was the only national park ranger in Uruguay," he explained. "I learned that he made his own uniform and his own patch. He wrote books, had them printed, and sold them to help fund his program. He stayed away from his family for long periods of time. We don't have to make sacrifices like this in the U.S."

"My life is better for having attended, met these people, and for having them in my life," said Ohlfs, who has visited his friends in their parks and hosted them in the U.S. "I will maintain friendships with many of these people throughout my life."



A field trip to Loch Lomond in Scotland during World Ranger Congress in 2006.

Photo by Jeff Ohlfs

continued from page 21

because we are going to waive the registration fees for people who come primarily as (informal) translators. So that's a great incentive for early career people who are multilingual.

Q. Will there be any opportunities for people who cannot attend to gain access to some of the learning opportunities?

A. We're working on trying to live stream some or all of the plenary talks and are expecting that we will have digital feeds, whether on Twitter or other social media, to try to create some connec-

tion and some buzz. We'll have a YouTube channel where the plenary talks will be available. We welcome people who have those digital media skills who are interested in what we're doing to be partners with us and help us with that.

Q. Are there other ways that people and organizations can help?

A. We have something we call the Ranger Relief Program, where right now we're soliciting from people in developing countries to ask what do you need that we might be able to help you with, whether it's clothing or equipment. On the Congress home page,

CONTACT US

For more information about the WRC topics mentioned in this interview, please use the email addresses below. Additional contact information and details about the World Ranger Congress can be found at www.worldrangercongressusa.com.

SPONSORSHIPS

Bruce McKeeman
bruce.wrc8@gmail.com

TECHNOLOGY

Judy Chetwin
judy.wrc8@gmail.com

TRADE SHOW

Joe Evans
joe.wrc8@gmail.com

TRANSLATORS

Yvette Ruan
yvette.wrc8@gmail.com

www.worldrangercongressusa.com, there is a section where you can see information about this program.

The World Ranger Congress is not a government-sponsored event and therefore the entire cost of the Congress is borne either by the fees that are paid by the delegates or by the sponsors and donors. One opportunity for generous people or organizations would be to fund scholarships for people who would not be able to come otherwise. That does not have to come through the World Ranger Congress organizing group, although we're glad to accept donations for that purpose.

Q. Those sound like good ways to support individuals. Are there forms of support that can help ensure that this Congress is a great success?

A. There are many opportunities for people, nonprofit organizations, conservation groups and certainly businesses who believe in the conservation mission to contribute and be part of the World Ranger Congress. One way of doing it, particularly attractive I would think to vendors as well as some nonprofits, is that we're going to have a trade show.

There are also opportunities to sponsor specific elements of the Congress. If you are interested, in return for your generosity there'll be recognition which will be proportional to your contribution. So an organization or an individual could sponsor a coffee break and there will be a banner and potentially a moment where you could get some recognition for that. You could sponsor the bus for a field trip and we'd put a banner on the bus. Or you could sponsor a speaker.

If people want to target specific things, we have a list. If they want to talk to us to find out what's the right opportunity for them, they can do so.

Q. It's understood that the WRC involves scores of dedicated people who are working on personal time to ensure that everything will be top-notch and go smoothly, and that Congress planning and volunteering follows NPS policies.

A. One of the things that's interesting is that many of us who are involved in the Congress are government employees, and we don't do any fund-raising as

government employees. So we want to make it clear that that part is either handled by nongovernmental employees or government employees not doing this as part of our jobs — that we're not doing it on work time. We want to uphold the highest ethical standards.

Q. Do you have any parting thoughts?

A. The Congress will be an amazing event where we bring three to four hundred people together who share the same vision, to share their experiences, and to do some business for the International Ranger Federation. I'm looking forward to it tremendously.

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ANPR REPORTS

Kudos List

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

- Kimberly Cook
- Kendell Thompson
- Ed Rizzotto
- Bob Krumenaker
- Brian Spang
- Nicholas Mann
- Maggie Wittenburg
- Charles Jacobi
- Cadence Cook
- Matt Hughes
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- Brian Tennesen
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If you don't receive email updates from ANPR, please let us know. Email ANPR's business manager at anprbusinessmanager@gmail.com, and we'll add you to the list.

Welcome to the ANPR family!

Here are the newest members of the Association of National Park Rangers (updated 11/17/15):



Jacob Hauser and Russell Hicks were among the new members who attended Ranger Rendezvous in 2015. Photos by Cadence Cook

Springfield Branch Library
Springdale, UT
Lauren Alexander Santa Claus, IN
Paula Alexander Santa Claus, IN
Christopher Beaver Madison, WI
Kirsten Bendik Athens, GA
Thomas Bohannon Frederick, MD
Rebecca Burghart Alamogordo, NM
Erin Burke St Louis, MO
Bruce Bytnar Raphine, VA
Jessica Camacho El Paso, TX
Carlotta Caplenor Knoxville, TN
Maria Carrillo Camarillo, CA
Stephanie Coley Rockport, IN
Mark Colgan Arlington, VA
Jessica Coronel Pico Rivera, CA
James Cox San Francisco, CA
Kristin Dillon Exeter, ME
Andrew Dougherty Effingham, IL
Layne Elliott Bloomington, IN
John Henry Ellis Yreka, CA
Joseph Emmi Baldwinsville, NY
Lindsay Foreman Asheville, NC
Steven Gang Dayton, OH

Pedro Garcia Sarasota, FL
Sawyer Grooms Bayfield, WI
Jill Hamilton-Anderson
Council Bluffs, IA
Katie Mary Ann Harrison
Charlotte, NC
Jacob Hauser Boone, NC
Lola Henio Ramah, NM
Russell Hicks Manhattan, KS
Thomas Hobbs Seattle, WA
Laurie Humphrey Miami, FL
Elizabeth Jordan
Yellowstone National Park, WY
Robert Kays Winters, CA
Conor Kendrick Des Plaines, IL
Heather Kisthart Gardiner, MT
Josh Knox Holyoke, MA
Aleks Kuchenbrod Richland, IN
Jan Lemons Paicines, CA
Emily Levine Somerville, MA
Nicholas Mann Knoxville, TN
John McDougall Berkeley, CA
Mario Medina Sugar City, CO
Alisabeth Merlo Olympia, WA

IN MEMORIAM

Andrew (Andy) John Ferguson

Andrew (Andy) John Ferguson of Baker, Nevada, who devoted his career to the National Park Service after serving with VISTA, the Peace Corps, and the Bureau of Land Management, passed away on May 11, 2015. Ferguson grew up in California in the northern Sierra Nevada mountains and began his NPS career at Capitol Reef National Park in Utah.

NPS moves took him and his wife Carol to parks in Texas, Arizona, Nevada, Georgia and Ohio. His most recent assignment had been at Great Basin National Park in Nevada. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Carol, his daughter Heather and grandson Toby, and many other family members and friends. Ferguson was a life member of ANPR.

All in the Family



Meghan Doermann connects youthful visitors to Chesapeake & Ohio Canal through the Buddy Bison program. Photo courtesy of NPS.

Ellyse Deldin has been hired as the permanent visitor use assistant at the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona. She has been a seasonal employee for nine seasons and has worked as a VUA at Grand Canyon and also Death Valley National Park in California and Nevada, and a wilderness ranger and trail-head ranger at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in California, and an interpretation ranger at Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado.

Meghan Doermann, a 2014 Supernaugh Scholarship winner, has been hired as the permanent visitor use assistant at Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park in Maryland. She works in the fee division as well as the education division, and particularly enjoys

working with young park visitors through the Buddy Bison Program (see photo). Doermann had previously worked at the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Ken Mabery has become the superintendent of Colorado National Monument following several months of managing the park and serving as acting superintendent. He is the former superintendent of Scotts Bluff National Monument in Nebraska. Mabery also served at Fort Necessity National Battlefield and Friendship Hill National Historic Site in Pennsylvania and at Capulin Volcano National Monument in New Mexico.

Jim Syvertsen, a 2014 Supernaugh Scholarship winner, is now a permanent law enforcement ranger at



Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska. He worked seasonally at Yellowstone National Park and Sequoia and Kings Canyon

National Parks as both a ranger and for the Sierra Nevada Inventory and Monitoring Network. Syvertsen has been involved with the Operational Leadership program nationally and was a keynote speaker at the Rendezvous XXXVII, sharing lessons learned in risk management.



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Dyed in the Green

George Mercer. Self-published. 2015. ISBN:978-0-9879754-0-9. Paperback. 345 pages.

By Rick Smith

A heavy fog hung over the Highlands as the beam from the Cheticamp Island lighthouse sliced through the night air. The foghorn reverberated through the mist, sending most of its warning inland toward the mountains instead of seaward into the Gulf.

Ben Matthews lay in bed staring at the ceiling. The room was a clutter of moving boxes and paper. His uniform lay draped across a small wooden chair, topped by a new stetson that proudly carried his park warden badge. The alarm clock, sitting temporarily on the cardboard wardrobe, posted its time: 2:00 a.m.

From Dyed in the Green by George Mercer

D*yed in the Green* is set in the 1980s and features protagonist Ben Matthews, a newly transferred assistant chief warden at Cape Breton Highlands National Park in Nova Scotia. It is the first novel in what author George Mercer, a retired Canadian National Park warden, promises to be a series of books. Since the principal issues faced by Matthews and his staff relate to poaching, a problem especially acute in the developing world, Mercer is dedicating some of the proceeds of sales of this book to the International Ranger Federation, Thin Green Line Foundation and North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association.

Although they have law enforcement responsibilities, Matthews and his colleagues do not carry weapons and depend on the Mounties for assistance. (This changed in 2008 when the Warden Service was restructured, creating a small group of armed wardens.) Matthews has two principal problems. One is John Donald Moores, a notorious local poacher who has everyone covered by his aggressiveness. The other is the park superintendent, who is not eager to offend the local communities by cracking down on the poaching of deer and moose in the park. This proves to be a fatal combination for young warden Michel Aucoin, who is killed by Moores on poaching patrol.

Bringing Moores to justice proves difficult. He not only has a good lawyer, but through contact with the superintendent's nephew, has influence over Matthews' boss. He also has a contact in a Halifax RCMP lab who tampers with DNA that was collected after the murder. During the preliminary hearing charging Moores and his cousin, Gerald Moores, with the murder of Aucoin, the judge sets the two suspects free, since the Crown cannot produce this key piece of evidence.

I am not going to reveal what happens beyond here as some *Ranger* readers may wish to find that out by reading the book. I will say, however, that I found Matthews' tour in Cape Breton similar to what rangers in the U.S. face when they move to small, tight-knit communities. There is often some wariness among the locals who work in the park and certain hostility from those who see the park as a place where they can break the law with impunity. It helps that Matthews' girlfriend, Kate Jones, is a seasonal warden in the same park and they have each other for comfort.

At the end of the book, Jones accepts a permanent job in another park and Matthews transfers to Wood Buffalo National Park, the setting for the next book in the series. Like many couples in ranger/warden occupations, work pulls these two apart. It will be interesting to read how Matthews



fares without Jones in his next assignment.

Someone asked me if the series is going to be the Canadian version of Nevada Barr's novels about American ranger Anna Pigeon. I don't know. Matthews' demons are mostly external, at least in this book, whereas Pigeon's are often internal.

The book is well written, with the appropriate amount of suspense and danger to the characters involved. It's worth reading, especially for the descriptions of Cape Breton, which certainly must be a beautiful place. Mercer has a good eye for landscape detail and the ability to transfer what he sees onto the pages of a novel. I enjoyed reading this novel.

Mercer told me that the book is available in many Canadian park bookstores, as well as from his website, www.georgemercer.com. It's also available on Amazon, where the prologue and first chapter can be sampled.

Rick Smith, an ANPR life member and former president of ANPR and the International Ranger Federation, retired from the National Park Service after a 31-year career. His last position was as associate regional director of resources management in the former Southwest Region. He and his wife, Kathy, live in Tucson, Arizona.

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(updated 1/4/2016)

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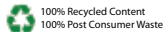


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LANDSCAPES



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