

# Your American West

**Western**  
National Parks  
Association

California condor at Pinnacles National Park



## Seeking Greater Insight

Actually being in parks matters. It gives every visitor the chance to create a unique connection to the physical spaces and the stories they hold.

WNPA has long been committed to research

**We at WNPA, in partnership with researchers in the parks, work hard to expand the visitor experience and to tell the stories of our national parks.**

that unearths—in some cases literally—the natural and cultural histories of our partner parks. Greater insight enriches the park experience,

deepening visitors' connections to their national heritage.

Our efforts to connect people to parks start with funding scientific exploration. Since 1982, WNPA has provided more than \$1.9 million in research funding within our 67 partner parks. We proudly support historical, social, and environmental research

with grants awarded to qualified individuals and institutions. They use these funds to conduct projects that help create a better understanding of national parks. WNPA-funded research yields a plethora of new educational materials—such as guidebooks, signs, maps, fact sheets, films, and activities—that tell more accurate and complete stories about the parks' history, nature, and indigenous peoples.

WNPA supports research across a variety of disciplines. Scientists at Pinnacles National Park are monitoring the endangered California condor in an ongoing effort to understand the effects of lead poisoning. Recently in Channel Islands National Park, researchers found historical Chinese abalone fishing camps and are documenting that little-known chapter of history. Saguaro National Park, in an effort to become more accessible to new visitors, is implementing a research project to understand why underrepresented audiences do not take advantage of free entrance passes.

Imagine visiting a park without a story. The new stories uncovered as a direct result of research tell us where to look, what to seek, and why it all matters. Without research, perhaps many of us wouldn't make meaningful connections to parks. We at WNPA, in partnership with researchers in the parks, work hard to expand the visitor experience and to tell the stories of our national parks.



Archaeologists at Channel Islands National Park



Great Basin NRA

## Research Snapshot

### **Aztec Ruins NM**

Ceramic provenance and raw materials study

### **Bighorn Canyon NRA**

Cultural interpretations of tipi rings

### **El Morro NM**

Investigating evidence of the Vázquez de Corona

### **Gila Cliff Dwellings NM**

Flora species at Gila Cliff Dwellings

### **Great Basin NP**

Recent and historical influence of anthropogenic activities

### **Montezuma Castle NM**

Removal of nonnative slider turtles and effects on native Sonora mud turtles at Montezuma Well

### **Navajo NM**

Footprints of the Ancestors: Community-based research at Keet Seel

### **Nicodemus NHS**

Collecting and sharing the history of Nicodemus

### **Wupatki NM**

An inventory of scorpions

# Research Matters

Supporting science in parks has always been an important part of the WNPAs mission. Throughout our history, we've funded a broad range of research projects, all of which help advance the management, preservation, and interpretation of our national parks.

For us, though, supporting research is more than just a way to amplify the efforts of our NPS partners. It's a means to help reveal and share the important stories that parks hold. We are committed to supporting meaningful inquiry that helps shape the national park experience for every visitor.

One of the key goals of our research program is interpretation—turning research

findings into relevant narratives that engage, inform, and entertain. Some of these efforts are highlighted here. They also come to life across WNPAs programs, including Insider Tours, lectures, workshops, and other special events.

For our national parks to flourish, each new generation must be able to connect with the public lands that are part of our natural and cultural heritage. We invite you to learn more about WNPAs-funded historical, cultural, and environmental research projects at [wnpa.org](http://wnpa.org).



**Carol Schwalbe**  
WNPA Board Member and  
Research Committee Chair

*Carol B. Schwalbe*



WNPA volunteer Linda Harvey helped make our new Just For Kids program a success this year

## Special Recognitions

### \$20,000 Donated to WNPAs

WNPA is creating an urban gateway to nature in the heart of downtown Los Angeles. Opening in late 2015, our innovative orientation center will connect thousands of commuters, tourists, residents, and schoolchildren to parks, public lands, and green spaces throughout southern California. We are honored to recognize park advocate Vera Campbell for her significant gift in support of this new project. We are grateful for her invaluable vision and generosity.

### Award Honoree

WNPA volunteer Linda Harvey was recognized at the National Philanthropy Day celebration on November 21, 2014. The award pays tribute to outstanding volunteers who have made significant contributions to nonprofits serving southern Arizona. Linda has been instrumental in leading WNPAs outreach and education efforts. Thank you, Linda!

### In Memoriam

Longtime WNPAs volunteer, David Beverage passed away in November. A passionate supporter of national parks, David generously donated his skills to build WNPAs online ordering program. In his honor, his wife, Sue, has asked that donations be made to WNPAs. David will be missed.

## Community Support

### Smith & Dale

WNPA would like to thank our community partner Smith & Dale Philanthropic Counsel. The firm loaned its extensive experience to our fundraising efforts and helped us plan a meaningful evening for our guests at the 2014 Annual Dinner.

Partners Deborah Dale, CFRE, and Angie Smith believe that enthusiasm and expertise can lead to success for any organization. They specialize in working with organizations and companies seeking to improve and expand their fundraising efforts and philanthropic reach.

Smith & Dale shares our passion for supporting community involvement and is committed to helping us tell the story of America through our national parks.

For information regarding partnership opportunities, please contact Amy Reichgott at (520) 789-7406 or [amy.reichgott@wnpa.org](mailto:amy.reichgott@wnpa.org).

### Other Partners

Many community partners help WNPAs fulfill its mission. Their support allows us to extend the reach and impact of all our programs, products, and services.

**Arizona Daily Star**

**COMCAST**

**The Fairfax Companies**

**CliftonLarsonAllen**

**Smith & Dale**

**Nextrio**

**The Mahoney Group**

**Lovitt & Touché, Inc.**

**Duffield, Adamson & Helenbolt, PC**

**Holualoa Companies**

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## Details

Western National Parks Association is a 501(c)(3) corporation—the official nonprofit partner of 67 national parks in the western United States.

Headquarters & National Parks Store located at:

12880 N. Vistoso Village Dr.  
Tucson, AZ 85755  
(520) 622-1999

[wnpa.org](http://wnpa.org)

# Experience the West

## Featured Events & Activities at the National Parks Store in Tucson, Arizona

WNPA's National Park Stores host a variety of events, from arts and crafts shows to hands-on workshops to Insider Tours. These activities help connect people to national parks and nurture understanding of each park's unique culture, history, and beauty.

Visit [wnpa.org](http://wnpa.org) or call 520-622-6014 for a full list of activities or to sign up for tours and workshops.

### Trunk Show: Mata Ortiz Pottery & Oaxacan Woodcarvings

**December 20–31, 10AM–5PM daily except Christmas Day**

Don't miss this opportunity to purchase some remarkable last-minute holiday gifts! A large selection of Mata Ortiz pottery and Oaxacan painted woodcarvings will be on display and for sale.

### Navajo Rugs

#### Beginner's Weaving Workshop

**January 9–11, 10AM–2:30PM daily**

Join Navajo weaver Barbara Teller Ornelas for a hands-on weaving workshop. Barbara has a wealth of experience and loves to share her culture and stories as she teaches students the basics of her craft.

\$545 WNPA members/\$590 nonmembers. Price includes all materials, lunch, and handbook. Limited to 15 participants. Looms are provided and pre-warped. Tickets must be prepaid and are nonrefundable.

#### Show & Sale

**January 17, 10AM–5PM**

Explore hundreds of authentic Navajo rugs in an array of designs and prices. Fine silver and turquoise jewelry and handcrafted baskets will also be available. Talks describing styles, selection, and care of your new rug or necklace will be at 11AM and 2PM, and weaving demonstrations will take place throughout the day.

### Tohono O'odham Native Basketry

#### Beginner's Basketmaking Class

**February 25, 10AM–4PM**

Fred and Della Cruz are a Tohono O'odham husband and wife team known for crafting beautiful baskets, as well as intricate human and animal figures. Participants will learn how to weave baskets, while delving into the tools, materials, designs, techniques, and customs associated with this distinct art form.

\$110 WNPA members/\$130 nonmembers. Price includes all materials and lunch. Limited to 15 participants. Tickets must be prepaid and are nonrefundable.

#### Show & Sale

**February 28, 10AM–5PM**

Browse a wide assortment of antique California and contemporary baskets. Learn more about the items on exhibit from talks with Terry DeWald, a highly respected authority on southwestern Native arts, at 11AM and 2PM. Tohono O'odham weavers Fred and Della Cruz will demonstrate their expertise in basket weaving throughout the day.

WNPA workshop attendee learns to weave the Navajo way



Aztec Ruins National Monument



### Insider Tour

Chaco Culture National Historical Park

May 17–22, 2015

Discover what remains of an ancient realm by visiting Chaco Canyon, Aztec Ruins, and Salmon Ruins with renowned archaeologist Gwinn Vivian. Camp under the stars, hike in the canyon, and study the monumental ruins built by the Ancestral Pueblo peoples. Gwinn will explore the many theories that surround this complex and mysterious culture, as well as the connection between Chaco culture and astronomy.

\$1,490 WNPA members, \$1,535 nonmembers. Includes transportation, meals, catering by camp cook, lodging, and entrance fees. Tickets must be prepaid and are nonrefundable. Limited to 9 participants. Register today!

**"I can't imagine a better guide to tour Chaco Canyon with than Gwinn Vivian, who was not only knowledgeable, but humble and interested in our views."**

-Insider Tour participant



# People & Happenings



## Solving Mysteries

### An Interview with Renowned Archaeologist Gwinn Vivian

Introduction by Susan Cross,  
WNPA Education & Outreach Manager

*A year ago I met Gwinn Vivian to plan a WNPA tour to Chaco Canyon. The first thing that struck me was the charming sparkle in his eyes and his spritely energy. Since then I've had the privilege of spending a week exploring Chaco with Gwinn. His acceptance of our amateur theories, gentle teaching style, and unending enthusiasm for all things Chaco made that a week of pure archaeo-magic. Gwinn unselfishly shared his lifetime of Chacoan expertise with us without a shred of academic arrogance. I welcome any opportunity to be immersed in the enchanted landscape of Chaco in the company of Gwinn—remarkable scholar and now a friend.*

—Susan Cross

Gwinn Vivian, former WNPA board member, will give a talk on Chacoan roads December 10 and will lead a WNPA Insider Tour to Chaco Canyon next May.

#### Why is research so important for national parks?

When exploring Chaco with groups I am consistently impressed by their depth of knowledge of Chacoan prehistory and the questions they ask. Our understanding of Chaco today is largely the result of investment by the National Park Service in excellent research over many decades. And the source of funding for some of that research comes from organizations such as WNPA. For example, we now have much better information on early excavations at the Chetro Ketl great house as a result of research funded by WNPA. This is information I can share with groups when walking through that site. And that sharing always leads to more discussion and good questions.

#### Knowing that some mysteries will never be solved, why is it important to keep asking questions and searching for answers at Chaco?

By continuing to ask questions and seek answers about Chaco I hope that we make the "Mystery of Chaco" even more mysterious. Let's face it—we all like mysteries and we all like to try to solve them. But, more seriously, posing questions about Chaco moves us toward not only a better understanding of Chaco, but also to understanding and hopefully helping to resolve some wider social and environmental issues. For example, water was never abundant in Chaco, and Chacoans had succeeded in dealing with water shortages for several centuries. But a larger population and a long-term drought in the mid-12th century pushed them to their limits and they were forced to move to better-watered areas. Water scarcity and possible megadroughts are problems we should be paying more attention to today.

#### So what do you think happened to the Ancestral Pueblo people living at Chaco?

I believe the Ancestral Pueblo population living in Chaco was composed of two language groups—one living in hundreds of small house sites in the canyon, the other in about a dozen great houses. They coexisted for at least three hundred years, but when they were forced by persistent drought to abandon Chaco they moved in different directions. If I am correct, the Keresan-speaking small house site dwellers shifted to the south and east, establishing pueblos such as Acoma near Mt. Taylor and several pueblos, such as Zia, Santo Domingo, and Cochiti, in the Rio Grande Valley and its tributaries. Tanoan-speaking great house groups moved to the north and then shifted east also arriving in the Rio Grande Valley where they settled such pueblos as San Juan, Nambé, and Tesuque. All of these pueblos are vibrant communities today.

#### Tell us a little bit about your current research.

I am continuing to investigate and document the multiple farming strategies Chacoan people developed and utilized to produce sufficient food in an area marked by no permanent streams or rivers and a total annual precipitation of about nine inches. Strategies used by historic and some recent Puebloan groups, particularly the Hopi, provide a guide to what may have worked in Chaco. For example, the Hopi have long depended on Ak-Chin farming, where fields are planted in alluvial fans near the mouths of desert drainages that receive occasional floodwater following summer storms. Unfortunately, this type of farming leaves almost no archaeological clues, so we must indirectly postulate its use prehistorically. In Chaco we are fortunate to have what I have termed an "advanced form of Ak-Chin," wherein floodwater was diverted to fields by masonry dams and channeled by masonry gates into gridded fields. Aerial photography in Chaco, including some taken by Lindbergh in 1927, has revealed evidence of those grids.

#### After spending so much of your life at Chaco, what draws you back year after year?

I keep going back because, despite some surficial changes such as the new visitor center, there is so much about Chaco that has not changed. I always tell visitors that they must look beyond archaeological sites such as Pueblo Bonito and spend time "seeing" the country in which the great houses and small house sites were built. It is only by beginning to "know" that landscape that we can truly appreciate the long human occupation of Chaco Canyon and the land surrounding it.

# New & Notable Releases

## WNPA is Committed to Developing Innovative Products and Publications for Our Partner Parks

WNPA supports 67 parks across 12 Western states. Each park has a unique story to tell and WNPA works to capture and share every park's story in new and compelling ways. We are dedicated to revitalizing our older publications by revising outdated content and employing contemporary design to meet the needs of today's park visitor. Below are a few of our reimagined projects.

### Guides

#### ***The Promontory Trail: Driving Tour Guidebook, Golden Spike National Historic Site***

Navigate Golden Spike's Promontory Trail from the comfort of your car with the help of this guidebook. Complete with maps and historic photographs, the guide allows visitors to fully experience this site while embarking on a 10-stop driving tour along the original transcontinental railroad bed.

#### ***Backcountry Trail Guide, Chaco Culture National Historical Park***

The backcountry hiking trails within Chaco Canyon are outlined here with user-friendly maps, notable sites and views, historical information, and other points of interest.

#### ***Bear Gulch Trail Guide, Pinnacles National Park***

This trail guide, now with a cleaner map and more attractive design, leads visitors through each bridge stop along Bear Gulch Creek with story-like observations and sketches.

### Cookbooks

#### ***Authentic Southwestern Cooking, by Lynn Nusom***

With over 50,000 copies sold, this is one of WNPA's best-selling publications. It has been redesigned for easier use in the kitchen and now features an attractive, durable cover that lies flat while reading.

### General Interpretive Publications

#### ***Petroglyph National Monument***

Full of stunning photographs, this revised publication showcases the only US national park dedicated to the protection and preservation of petroglyphs.

### Reenactment Scripts

#### ***The Last Spike is Driven: A Reenactment Script for the Golden Spike Ceremony, Golden Spike National Historic Site***

What better way is there to experience history than to relive it? The ceremony that marked the completion of the first transcontinental railroad is reenacted every summer at the park. This appealing new version of the reenactment script tells a historically sound, yet theatrical account of this momentous event in American history.

A selection of WNPA's most recent reimagined publications





# In the Parks



With funding from WNPA, scientists at Pinnacles National Park are studying the effects of lead poisoning on the critically endangered California condor.

## Saving the California Condor

### Preserving Biodiversity in Pinnacles National Park

Since 2007, WNPA has funded research projects at Pinnacles National Park relating to the primary threat to the successful recovery of the California condor—lead poisoning. California condors experience more frequent exposure to lead bullet hazards than most wildlife because they feed on carcasses of animals shot with lead ammunition.

The objective of this ongoing research is to gain a greater understanding of the true impact of lead on wild condors and to provide important information for evaluating the health of the condor population in Pinnacles. Areas of interest include the effects of lead exposure on the condor hormonal stress response and how an altered stress response relates to reduced reproduction and survival for this critically endangered species. In the spring of 2014 University of California, Santa Cruz, researchers tested various methods of extracting and analyzing stress hormones from condor plasma and fecal samples, and monitored the condors in the field as they attempted to reproduce.

The research conducted at Pinnacles National Park is vital to the future management and recovery of the California condor in western North America. The information provided by this latest study will help park visitors understand the risks of lead exposure to condors and many other scavenging birds, and can help them make choices beneficial to condor survival. The foremost goal is to establish a healthy wild population of this magnificent bird. WNPA is committed to assisting the research efforts of those in the field in order to achieve this goal.

Pinnacles National Park





## People to Parks

### Drawing New Visitors to Saguaro National Park

For several years, Saguaro National Park has been issuing free entrance passes inviting new audiences to come to the park. These passes aren't being redeemed, and because Saguaro National Park is committed to better engaging its local communities, they are conducting a WNPA-funded research project examining visitation and the success of outreach programs, supervised by NPS staff member Estee Rivera Murdock. The goal is to get new, underrepresented audiences to take advantage of free park admission and other program opportunities.

The research will help determine what kinds of incentives best encourage new audiences to bring their families to the park and guide Saguaro National Park in the development of a 4-year community engagement plan. By providing local communities with the motivation to make their first visit, Saguaro National Park is opening the door to increased future visitation and stewardship.

## Unearthing the Past

### Channel Islands National Park Archaeological Survey

Channel Islands National Park does a wonderful job educating visitors on the natural and cultural history of the islands. An integral, yet

poorly understood component of the park's interpretive story is the history and impact of Chinese abalone fishermen, who exploited the abundant black abalone stocks of the Channel Islands beginning in the mid-19th century, when the last of the native Chumash inhabitants were relocated to coastal towns.

WNPA funded a successful archaeological survey of historical abalone camps conducted



Graduate students from San Diego State University excavate a historic black abalone shell midden on Santa Rosa Island

by Dr. Todd Braje of San Diego State University. In the summer of 2012 Braje's survey was extended to Santa Rosa Island, where 14 new processing camps were recorded. This important work on the islands' archaeological record provides a key to understanding the lives of some of the earliest immigrant Chinese fisherman in California.



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# Membership Matters

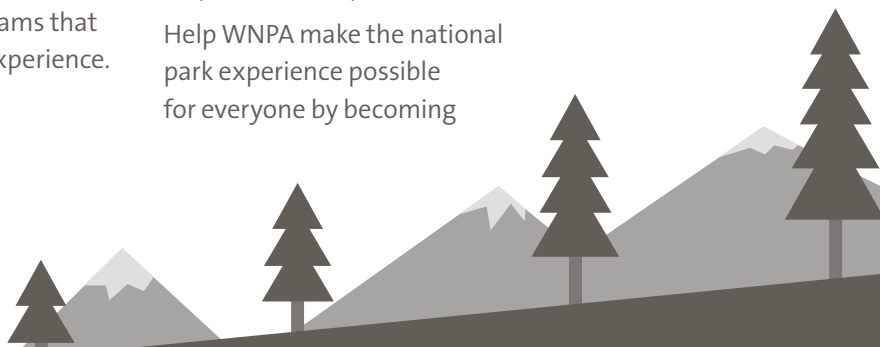
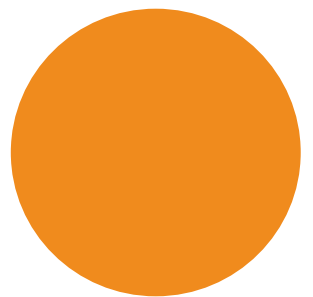
For over 75 years, WNPA has worked to connect new generations to parks. It's our mission to help connect young people with the wonder and mystery of nature, creating advocates who want to preserve and protect these special places. As a nonprofit education partner of the National Park Service, we support 67 parks across the West, developing products, services, and programs that enrich the visitor experience.

National parks are at risk of becoming irrelevant to future generations. Park visitation is declining—more and more people know less and less about national parks. Connecting urban populations, particularly youth, to the magnificence of national parks is essential to their preservation, and your support of WNPA helps make that possible.

Help WNPA make the national park experience possible for everyone by becoming

a member or making a donation to our Park Smart campaign. Consider creating a lasting legacy of your own by putting WNPA in your will or estate plan.

For more information, please visit us at [wnpa.org](http://wnpa.org), or contact Amy Reichgott, Development Manger, at 520-789-7406 or [amy.reichgott@wnpa.org](mailto:amy.reichgott@wnpa.org).



**PARK  
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