

YOUR AMERICAN WEST

WNPA

The Garden Sessions:
How It All Started

PRODUCTS

New and improved
products and
publications for
our partner parks

RESEARCH

Ant Atta Mexicana
at Organ Pipe Cactus
National Monument

Park Treasures

Springtime brings with it a sense of discovery. Flowers bloom, critters emerge from the winter doldrums, and things heat up. Our theme this month is “Off the Beaten Path.” What a great time to get out and explore the amazing out-of-the-way places you can find in our partner parks.

For WNPA, “off the beaten path” can also be in a large urban area. We began the year with a bang by participating in the Rose Bowl’s Post Parade: Showcase of Floats. WNPA was invited to partner with the NPS to promote their centennial, set up a WNPA mini-store, and highlight the “Find Your Park” and Junior Ranger programs during the showcase. Approximately 115,000 visitors attended the event, and WNPA staff had the opportunity to speak with many

people that had never been to a park and were excited to learn about all of the parks and other public lands that they can access. This was the start of our year-long celebration of the 2016 National Park Service Centennial. The NPS Urban Agenda to reach new audiences and bring parks to larger metropolitan areas is taking us places we have never been before.

All of the parks we serve are treasures. There may never be a better, more economical time to hit the backroads and visit one of our more remote partner parks. There is so much to discover when you take the road less travelled!

Nancy R. Laney

WNPA Board Chair



Nancy R. Laney with Sunny the Saguaro (from Saguaro National Park) at the Tucson Festival of Books



Maggie and Tanner Hammarstrom

Randy Metcalf

Special Recognitions

Three Generations Connected to WNPA

Tanner Hammarstrom is excited about archaeology. The 13 year old insisted his family visit the 2,500-year-old footprints recently discovered at a construction site in Tucson, Arizona. WNPA’s newest volunteers, Tanner and his mom, Maggie, also attended one of WNPA’s Emil W. Haury lectures on the complex topic *Excavations at Point of Pines Pueblo Revisited*. You could say that Tanner was born to be an archaeologist.

He was named for his great great aunt, Clara Lee Tanner, one of the University of Arizona’s first three archaeology MA graduates and renowned authority on the arts and crafts of southwestern American Indians. He is the third generation of his family with a connection to WNPA.

Maggie Hammarstrom is a Lovitt and Touché Account Manager and dedicated advocate for her company’s support of WNPA. Maggie is also the daughter of science writer Carle Hodge. Hodge wrote for *Time*, *Arizona Daily Star*, *Arizona Republic*, and *Arizona Highways*, among

others. He was also the author of WNPA’s popular book *Ruins Along the River*. WNPA is thrilled that the Hammarstroms continue to value our national parks.

Community Support

HF Coors

HF Coors—dinnerware made in Tucson, Arizona—has a unique connection to national parks. In 1936, Mary Jane Colter, architect of Grand Canyon landmarks, created Mimbrenño-style drawings for dinnerware pieces on the Santa Fe Railway’s elite dining car operated by the Fred Harvey Company. The dining car provided a 5-star experience for travelers and the train introduced thousands to the wonders of the West. Today, HF Coors manufactures reproductions of these Mimbrenño pieces and helps share the story of the Harvey Girls. WNPA is excited to welcome Community Partner HF Coors. Check out the *New & Notables* section for more information on HF Coors products in WNPA park stores.

Community Partners

Community partners help WNPA fulfill its mission. Their support allows us to extend the reach and impact of our programs, products, and services. For information on partnership opportunities, please contact Amy Reichgott at (520) 789-7406 or amy.reichgott@wnpa.org.

Arizona Daily Star



Bon Voyage Travel

CliftonLarsonAllen

HF Coors

Holualoa Companies

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The Mahoney Group

On the cover: Author Susan Lamb and friend explore Santa Cruz Island while researching for the upcoming edition of WNPA’s *Channel Islands National Park*.

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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 & The National Parks Store located at:

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

wnpa.org



A cleft in the rock leads to the Pueblo Alto Complex and areas that provide a bird's eye view of Chaco Culture NHP.

Off the Beaten Path

Centennial Road Trips

Whether you're roughing it or taking the blue highways, 2016 is a great year to get on the road and into the wild. While national park visitation has been on the rise, increased visitation is primarily at the larger parks (Great Smoky Mountains, Yellowstone, Yosemite, etc.) Unfortunately, some of the lesser-known

Whether you're roughing it or taking the blue highways, 2016 is a great year to get on the road and into the wild.

parks are hosting fewer visitors. What can you do? Find your adventure clothes, avoid the big city crowds, and visit a park you've never seen, like Chaco Culture

National Historical Park, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Capulin Volcano National Monument, or Channel Islands National Park.

Those are just a few of WNPC's 67 parks that await you. Yes, some of our partner parks are off the beaten path (or if you're Channel Islands, off the beaten pier), but that's what makes them unique. For instance, Channel Islands NP is considered the Galapagos of California—wildlife found on these islands is found nowhere else on earth! Another plus, many of our partner parks are located on, or along, a scenic highway or byway. For instance:

- Chaco Culture NHP hosts tours, talks, and night sky programs. To get to Chaco, drive the Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway.
- The Pacific Coast Highway will lead you to Channel Islands NP. You can hike, camp, snorkel, kayak, bird-watch, and revel at the most well-preserved archaeological sites on the Pacific coast, with more than 10,000 years of continuous human occupation recorded.
- Take the Organ Pipe Parkway to Organ Pipe Cactus NM, situated just north of the Arizona/Mexico border, between Yuma and Tucson.
- Capulin Volcano NM, located in northwest New Mexico, is working on obtaining its official Dark Sky Certification. A dark sky preserve is an area, usually surrounding a park or observatory, that is kept free of artificial light pollution to promote astronomy.

Gas prices are almost half of what they were two years ago, and there's no telling how long that will last. This may be the best time to hit the road. Don't let Mark Twain and Jack Kerouac (or the Griswolds and Thelma & Louise) have all the fun. Get out there and hit the road!



Spotlight

Little Volcano on the Plains

Capulin Volcano's volcanic rock is currently dated at between 56,000 and 62,000 years old. The volcano has been an icon on the staked plain for thousands of years of human history. To celebrate the NPS Centennial, Capulin Volcano National Monument will host a series of events featuring the multicultural heritage of the park, including lectures on African American Cowboys, female ranchers, Hispanic vaqueros, and American Indians. The park is moving toward designation as an International Dark Sky Park, and they are hoping for a ceremony on August 9, 2016. If that happens, it'll be just another feather in the Capulin Volcano's caldera!

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument



Experience the West

Featured Events & Activities

WNPA's 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 or call 520-622-6014 for a full list of activities or to sign up for tours and workshops.

Park Store Events

Mexican Arts Trunk Show

San Antonio Missions NHP: April 15–17

White Sands NM: July (exact day TBD)

Finely crafted Mata Ortiz pottery, colorful Oaxacan woodcarvings, and richly textured Zapotec rugs return to the San Antonio Missions in Texas and White Sands in New Mexico.

Hubbell on the Road

Trunk Show: May 10, 12–8 PM, Kanab, UT

Reception: May 11, 3–6 PM, Mt. Carmel, UT

Hubbell Trading Post NHS is taking its renowned Navajo Rugs & Jewelry Trunk Show on the road in Utah. If you're near Kanab, check out the show at the Kanab Library. Then attend the reception at the Maynard Dixon Gallery in Mt. Carmel.



"The camels are coming"—Learn about the U.S. Army Camel Corps at El Morro National Monument.

Insider Tours

Arizona State Museum

Behind-the-Scenes Tours,

July 28 and August 4

\$85 members/\$95 nonmembers

Enjoy a special behind-the-scenes tour of ASM. WNPA provides transportation, lunch, and museum fees for a curator's tour that takes us inside the vaults and into other areas normally off limits to the public.

El Morro, September 9–11

\$645 members/\$690 nonmembers

In the shadow of El Morro's quessa, hear the stories of the August 1857 U.S. Army Camel Corps.

Canyon de Chelly & Hubbell

Trading Post, October 25–27

\$695 members/\$740 nonmembers

By jeep, bus, or on foot, this tour in Canyon de Chelly features breathtaking views, storytelling and music, a stop at Hubbell Trading Post, and a behind-the-scenes curator's tour of the Hubbell Home.



Hubbell Trading Post
National Historic Site



Exquisite pottery and playful woodcarvings available at San Antonio Missions NHP and White Sands NM.

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

LBJ Hereford Plush

A plush toy cow with a brown body and white face and legs. It has small horns and a pink nose.

Made in the USA by HF Coors.

Patio

Quarai is a large complex of pueblos for the past and still lives in the heart of the Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument. The complex is a series of interconnected pueblos, each with its own unique history and architecture. The complex is a series of interconnected pueblos, each with its own unique history and architecture. The complex is a series of interconnected pueblos, each with its own unique history and architecture.

Kiva

The kiva is a circular structure used for religious and social gatherings. It is a central feature of the pueblo complex. The kiva is a circular structure used for religious and social gatherings. It is a central feature of the pueblo complex. The kiva is a circular structure used for religious and social gatherings. It is a central feature of the pueblo complex.

Quarai Trail Guide

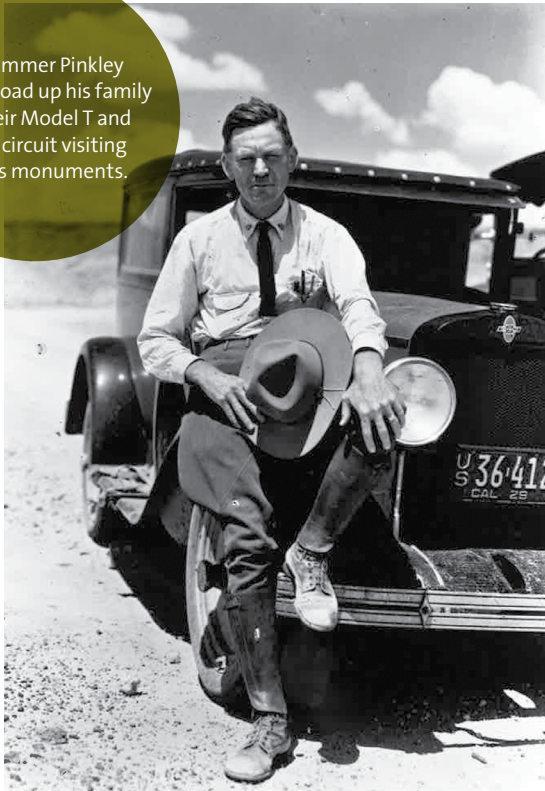
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument

Artist's conception of a kiva



People & Happenings

Each summer Pinkley would load up his family into their Model T and make a circuit visiting all of his monuments.



WNPA: The Garden Sessions

How It All Started

In 1938, the National Park Service saw an increase in visitation and discovered park visitors were eager to better understand the parks. NPS budgets did not allow for interpretive services, such as publications, but beginning in 1936, the NPS authorized its director to establish agreements with cooperating associations to help perform those interpretive functions. Around this time, the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument staff would gather in Superintendent Frank “Boss” Pinkley’s garden (located at the monument) after work to discuss improvements and innovations. During those garden sessions, Dale King, junior naturalist ranger, persuaded Pinkley to establish a cooperating association. Thus, Southwest Monuments Association (precursor to WNPA) was born.

These Garden Sessions resulted in the organization that would evolve into WNPA. Beginning with just 18 monuments, the

Southwest Monuments Association would use the proceeds from book sales to create public awareness of these beloved national landscapes. Funds would be put toward new publications and interpretation that created deeper connection to cultures both past and present. Today, WNPA services 67 national parks. Our mission remains the same: WNPA educates visitors about nature, history, and culture in our partner parks. We forge partnerships with other organizations like Parks in Focus and NatureBridge to have a multiplier effect, leveraging WNPA’s resources with others to reach new audiences. We fund research grants that create a deeper understanding of our national heritage. We have expanded our publications department to include products and programs. We work with others who believe that our parks matter. When you purchase a product from our park store, join us as a member, and make a donation to WNPA, you are supporting our continued mission to preserve the legacy of our nation’s great history so that future generations might continue to learn from and value the stories captured in each national park.

National Park Week

April 16–24, 2016

Save the dates! National Park Week takes place April 16–24, and entry to all NPS sites is free. So take your child or grandchild, get them certified to be a Junior Ranger, or volunteer with them on Earth Day (April 22). It’s a great way to enjoy an affordable vacation, and every 4th grader can get their free park pass, which provides free entry for the 4th grader and their family at any national park. Check out www.everykidinapark.gov, complete an activity, print out your pass, and visit other great national parks during the rest of this Centennial year!



Geoff Gallice

Spotlight

Ants & Grants

For decades, WNPA has funded research projects in our partner parks. One of our current grants is the 30-year population recensus of the Ant *Atta mexicana* at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. This project began as research on the Mexican leaf-cutter ant in the 1980s. The unique natural history of the Mexican leaf-cutter ant as an indicator species for climate change makes them an important insect to watch, and the only leaf-cutter ant colony north of Mexico is located at Organ Pipe Cactus.

In the Parks



The Oldest Lumber Store is the Forest

Chaco Culture National Historical Park

An estimated 240,000 wood beams were used to construct the ancient pueblos at Chaco Culture National Historical Park. You wouldn't expect to drive to the local lumber store today and find that many beams. Wood for these beams had to be felled and transported by hand. Adding to the intrigue, the area around Chaco Canyon is almost completely treeless. Where did the trees come from?

With funding from a WNPA research grant, a team from the University of Arizona has released their findings. Using tree-ring samples collected over 100 years ago by A.E. Douglass at archaeological sites, and comparing those samples with logs from the Chuska Mountains, Christopher Guiterman, a graduate student in natural resource studies, analyzed and compared the older samples to those at Chaco.

The researchers discovered a new source of wood at Chaco Canyon. Earlier studies determined the wood for the beams came from the Chuska Mountains (50 miles to the west). The new research indicates that the earliest wood beams came from the Zuni Mountains (50 miles south of Chaco Canyon).

Part of the grant money was used to digitally catalog the Chaco Canyon timbers. That aspect of the project will allow that these trees rings, along with the other two

million in the UA collection, can be shared online. The research team of Christopher H. Guiterman, Thomas W. Swetnam, Jeffrey S. Dean, and Pearce Paul Creasman were able to determine where the beams came from.

For more information about WNPA's support of research, visit www.wnps.org/#research, where you can also watch our newest video about Emil Haury.

Island Hopping

Channel Islands National Park

Celebrate the NPS Centennial on Channel Islands' five islands. To see coastal southern California as it once was, pack your bags, swimsuit, and sense of adventure, and make your way to Ventura California, where the visitor center is located. Air or sea transportation is required to reach the islands (Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, Santa Barbara, and San Miguel).

Centennial activities include a special opening at the Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center for the Native Plant Garden's new artwork and signs on April 9th, Junior Ranger Day on April 16th, and Bioblitz and Kids to Parks Day on May 21st. On August 25th, in honor of the NPS Centennial, Channel Islands will host an outdoor screening of the documentary *West of the West: Tales from California's Channel Islands* in Ventura Harbor Village. The park's "From Shore to Sea" Centennial lecture series has been extended to feature special speakers the second Thursday of every month, January through December, including World Oceans Day on June 5th, featuring Gary Davis, former Chief Ocean Scientist for the NPS and current WNPA board member.



Spotlight

Those Sly Foxes... What Do They Say?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced February 12th that it proposes to delist three fox subspecies on the Northern Channel Islands due to recovery. This is the fastest recovery ever of a mammal in the United States under the Endangered Species Act. The San Miguel, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz Island fox subspecies were listed as "critically endangered" in 2004.

Channel Islands National Park, Santa Cruz Island



12880 N. Vistoso Village Drive
Tucson, AZ 85755

Western
National Parks
Association

Membership Matters

“The more research that’s conducted in the parks,
the better job of managing them we can do.”

—Cecil Schwalbe, Ecologist Emeritus, US Geological Survey

For decades, WNPA has funded scientific research in our national parks, helping them to discover critical information. Our Research Program uniquely addresses one of our parks’ most serious needs, the ability to gather important data. Research grant requests can be submitted for any research project that includes natural, cultural, historical, social, and archaeological fields of study. WNPA supports studies on everything from endangered foxes to park visitation among diverse populations. Our park partners research varied topics including: Lesser long-nosed bats

at Saguaro National Park, Chaco’s ancient ruins, and climate change via sediment from Ford Lake at Mojave National Preserve.

Your support makes it possible for WNPA to fund vital research in national parks. This research helps scientists and other experts better understand the amazing resources in the parks we serve. Research findings are presented to the public through lectures, Jr. Ranger events, and outreach programs.

Become a member of WNPA or consider putting us in your will or estate plan. For more information about charitable giving, visit wnpa.org or contact Amy Reichgott, Development Manager, at 520-789-7406 or amy.reichgott@wnpa.org.



A lesser long-nosed bat feeding on the nectar from a night-blooming saguaro flower.

USDA