

YOUR AMERICAN WEST



WNPA

New Partner
Parks: Guadalupe
Mountains and
Carlsbad Caverns!

PARKS

Citizen science at
Lake Mead and
fee-free days

PRODUCTS

A new partnership
with CamelBak

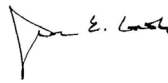
Summer of the Centennial

It's summertime, and many national parks are enjoying their peak season. With the NPS's 100th birthday (August 25!) fast approaching, it's time to get out and visit a national park or two. Take a close look at a map and you'll find many of WNPAs partner parks sit close to urban centers. Sites like Saguaro National Park, Chamizal National Memorial, and Lake Mead National Recreation Area all exist near major urban centers.

Speaking of urban areas, WNPAs is proud to announce our new facility, Gateway to Nature: Western National Parks Center, in Los Angeles, California, will open later this summer or early fall. This facility will also feature a retail operation that carries many of WNPAs signature NPS products. Establishing an urban presence in Southern California has been a priority for the organization, not only for our outreach efforts, but also to further the NPS's Call to Action to "better

connect urban communities to their heritage, parks and recreational assets, waterways, and neighborhood ecosystems." Join us in August for the ribbon cutting ceremony in downtown Los Angeles at El Pueblo de Los Angeles on Saturday, August 27, from 10 AM to 2 PM.

More importantly, just get out and visit national parks. Whether they are near or far, national parks offer something for everyone, and more than a few opportunities for adventure. Did you know that a crashed B-29 rests on the bottom of Lake Mead and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places? Yet one more example of all there is to discover in our national parks. Have a great summer!



James E. Cook
Executive Director



WNPA Executive Director Jim Cook, WNPAs Program Manager Jilly Canizares, and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti

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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.

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wnpa.org

Special Recognitions

In Memoriam, Bunny Fontana, Former WNPAs Board Member

Former WNPAs Board Member Bernard "Bunny" Fontana passed away on April 2, 2016, at the age of 85. Bunny was a noted scholar and writer whose career spanned six decades. Bunny was known as a cultural anthropologist, field researcher, archaeologist, historian, and writer, but Bunny's desire was to be remembered as a good father. His work on behalf of Mission San Xavier del Bac, including cofounding Patronato San Xavier, transcends his personal wishes, as those efforts awakened interest in the Mission and the Southwest.

"I will always remember the field trips that I was fortunate to take with Bunny Fontana in the 1990s. As we drove through the desert landscape, he would share fascinating stories about the places we passed, making that history

really come alive for us. He was a true scholar and a gentle man who made a tremendous difference in our community. He will be missed."

Nancy R. Laney
WNPA Board Chair



Community Support

Parks. People. Purpose. Forward Together

When you walk into a WNPAs Park Store, you may be greeted by one of over 100 WNPAs field staff. These friendly faces are dedicated to providing park visitors with exceptional service and enriching their park experiences. They work together with the NPS helping to move park

service goals forward. This July, WNPAs will welcome about 150 conference attendees to Tucson for our first WNPAs & NPS joint training. We look forward to strengthening participant's understanding of shared objectives.

WNPA thanks our newest Community Partners for their support of Forward Together: Arcadia Publishing and The History Press, Impact Photographics, A Wild Soap Bar LLC, AdventureKeen, Camelbak, Deneen Pottery, Hogeys, Jabebo, Sunday Afternoons, Finley-Holiday Films, and Wild Republic.

Community Partners

Community Partners help WNPAs 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


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The Mahoney Group
Wild Republic

On the cover:
View of downtown Los Angeles from Los Angeles State Historic Park. Courtesy California State Parks 2016.

El Capitan, Guadalupe
Mountains National Park



New Partner Parks

Guadalupe Mountains and Carlsbad Caverns!

WNPA is pleased to announce the addition of two new partner parks to our roster: Guadalupe Mountains National Park and Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Both offer unique scenery, historical and cultural sites, and are located conveniently close to each other via a short drive down US Route 62 on the Texas/New Mexico border.

Guadalupe Mountains includes Guadalupe Peak, the highest point in Texas (8,751 feet) and El Capitan—an iconic peak along the southern terminus of the Guadalupe escarpment. El Capitan was long used as a landmark by travelers along the Butterfield Overland Mail stagecoach line. Renowned for its rugged hiking trails and spectacular views, Guadalupe Mountains National Park encompasses just

Please join WNPA in welcoming Guadalupe Mountains and Carlsbad Caverns to our family.

under 135 square miles, or 10 percent, of the Guadalupe Mountain range, which began as an ancient reef along the margins

of a shallow sea during the Permian Period (298.9 to 252.17 million years ago).

Archaeological evidence has shown that people lived in and around the Guadalupe Mountains over 10,000 years ago. Projectile

points, baskets, pottery, and rock art have all been found in the region to support this. The first Europeans (Spaniards) arrived in 1600 CE.

Carlsbad Cavern is the highlight attraction at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, and Jim White Sr. is credited as being among its first explorers. His efforts helped make the park the national treasure it is today. Slaughter Canyon Cave and Spider Cave are also open to guided tours. In addition to those caves, Carlsbad Caverns contains the second-deepest limestone cave in the United States: Lechuguilla Cave; to protect its fragile environment, Lechuguilla Cave is not open to the public.

Another reason to go batty over this park is the bat flight programs between Memorial Day and October at sunset. After a short presentation by park rangers, visitors observe thousands of bats depart the natural entrance at Carlsbad Cavern on their nightly quest for food. On July 17, 2016, the park will offer a special “Dawn of the Bats” program that will allow visitors to arrive early and witness the bats return home after their nightly binge-eating session.

Please join WNPA in welcoming Guadalupe Mountains and Carlsbad Caverns to our family. The stores at these two locations will be opening soon, and the WNPA home-office team is excited to begin creating new products and publications for our two new partner parks!



Spotlight

I Stand with Saguaros

Spend an hour with a saguaro cactus. How hard could that be? Saguaros are generous with their time, and you can approach them with an open heart, if not with open arms. I Stand with Saguaros was created as a theater project by Kimi Eisele and Borderlands Theater as a campaign to befriend, support, and connect with the saguaro cactus (*Carnegiea gigantea*). Phase one of this project is complete, but there are more activities to come, including a “dance hall” of 100 bodies in celebration of the NPS Centennial and live performances in November 2016. For more information, visit www.standingwithsaguaros.org

Remember: you can always stand with a saguaro! Be sure to post a photo on social media with the hashtag #istandwithsaguaros.

Carlsbad Caverns National Park



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.



Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Perseid Meteor Shower Friday & Saturday, August 12 & 13

A night of fun events under the stars, starting the night with a little hike to get orientated with the night sky, and ending with all sitting under the stars spotting the meteors. Park rangers from Lake Mead will provide interpretive programs, and WNPA will provide telescopes to look at objects in the night sky. This is a fun overnight trip so all that join will be able to sleep under the stars, including the rangers!

Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site

Hispanic Heritage Day Saturday, September 17

The rich and colorful history of Mexico's frontier comes alive with period adobe work, music and dance, cooking, trading, storytelling, livestock use demonstrations, and other special programs and exhibits.

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.

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.



Explore areas of the Arizona State Museum normally off-limits to the public.

2016

National Park Service
CENTENNIAL

National Park Service Birthday

Fee-Free Days August 25–28

NPS sites that charge an entrance fee will offer free admission to everyone. Other fee-free days this centennial year:

September 24—National Public Lands Day

November 11—Veterans Day

New & Notable Releases

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

WNPA supports 71 park partners across twelve western states. Each park has a unique story to tell. We work to capture and share every park's story in new and compelling ways. Below are a few featured products and publications.



Chaco Puzzle

Puzzle hounds rejoice! Chaco Culture National Historical Park has a new, 500-piece puzzle featuring Chetro Ketl, one of Chaco's great houses, which experts estimate to have taken 500,000 hours to build. This puzzle is challenging, but it shouldn't take you that long!

Island Fox

Get cuddly with the Channel Islands National Park plush fox. The island fox lives on six of the eight Channel Islands and is found nowhere else on Earth. In 2004, four of the six subspecies had declined in population by 95 percent and were listed as federally endangered species. Successful recovery efforts have brought the fox back from the brink of extinction. Take your own island fox home today!

Hydration, Hydration, Hydration!

Many of WNPA's park partners exist in climates where hydration is critical. The next time you hit the trail, be sure it's with CamelBak gear that will keep you hydrated while you enjoy your favorite national park. Multiple colors, styles, and sizes of hydration packs and bottles make WNPA's partnership with CamelBak fashionable and environmentally responsible.



Find Your Park Shopping Bag

Do away with plastic bags with this colorful, stylish, and educational Find Your Park shopping bag. Featuring a map of WNPA's park partners across twelve states, this bag will help get your groceries from the store to the car in an environmentally responsible manner!



People & Happenings

An Urban Gateway to Nature

Bringing the Parks to the People

To help fulfill the NPS Urban Agenda to make parks more accessible to city dwellers, WNPA will soon open the Gateway to Nature: Western National Parks Center in Los Angeles. The center will help connect a new generation to nature and develop opportunities for all Americans to explore our parks and public lands, and will also operate as a WNPA park store.

“The orientation center at El Pueblo will engage a large urban audience in multiple important histories, while guiding visitors to both local and national sites for further discovery,” says Christopher Espinosa, El Pueblo General Manager. El Pueblo is the area where 44 settlers of American Indian, African, and European descent established a farming community in September 1781. Since that time, Los Angeles has grown into one of the world’s largest metropolitan areas. El Pueblo de Los Ángeles Historical Monument celebrates the birthplace of modern Los Angeles and attracts over two million visitors a year.

Join us for the ribbon cutting at our new facility in Los Angeles, and also to celebrate LA’s 235th birthday on Saturday, August 27, from 10 AM to 2 PM at El Pueblo de Los Ángeles Historical Monument, 130 Paseo de La Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012.



Future site of WNPA orientation center



Carlsbad Caverns National Park

The NPS Turns 100!

Celebrating America’s Best Idea

In the words of Wallace Stegner, America had one of its greatest ideas 100 years ago. That’s when the U.S. Congress established the National Park Service with the National Park Service Organic Act. President Woodrow Wilson signed the bill on August 25, 1916. The act established the NPS to “conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

On August 25, 2016, the NPS will host a multitude of centennial events and Founder’s Day celebrations at national parks across the country. Channel Islands National Park will host an outdoor screening of the documentary *West of the West: Tales from California’s Channel Islands*, along with live music, yoga, and food trucks. Great Basin National Park will host a time capsule burial, and Carlsbad Caverns National Park will celebrate with a fee-free day, along with coffee with a ranger at 9:30–10 AM!

For more information visit www.findyourpark.com or www.nps.gov.



Spotlight

New Hydration Partner!

WNPA is pleased to announce its new partnership with CamelBak Products, LLC, that will provide fashionable and unique hydration products in WNPA’s Park Stores. “We are excited about our partnership with WNPA as it helps to further our goal of eliminating bottle water sales,” said Jeremy Hancock, CamelBak Western Sales Manager.

The company started in 1988 when inventor Michael Eidson stowed a medical IV pack in a tube sock and clamped the end with a clothespin for a 100-mile bike race in Texas. Hands-free hydration was born, and CamelBak has never looked back! Look for their hydration products in WNPA’s Park Stores.

In the Parks



BioBlitz: Go Forth and Identify

Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Success! That's how Lake Mead National Recreation Area's first BioBlitz can be summed up. On March 19, 150 volunteer participants made 532 observations of 116 species, using the iNaturalist app to track and virtually collect data. A BioBlitz is an intense period of biological surveying in which volunteers attempt to record all the living species within a designated area. The NPS is hosting a series of BioBlitz events during the centennial year to discover and document biodiversity.

The term "BioBlitz" was coined in 1996 by U.S. National Park Service naturalist Susan Rudy while assisting with the first BioBlitz at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. From 2006 to 2016, National Geographic and the National Park Service teamed up to organize a BioBlitz in one national park every year. WNPAs funded BioBlitz mini-grants for University of Arizona graduate and undergraduate students to study biodiversity at Saguaro National Park.

WNPA supplied a \$2,500 grant to Lake Mead to kick-start their BioBlitz. The staff established two locations for the event, one at Boulder Basin and a second at Pyramid Canyon Park (Lake Mohave location). At the top of every hour and half hour, volunteers accompanied Lake Mead's ranger "experts" to find species of plants, insects, wildflowers, and soils.

Trailblazers Find Your Park

Chamizal National Memorial

Chamizal National Memorial is located in one of the largest international metroplexes on the US-Mexico border (El Paso, Texas; Portales, New Mexico; Ciudad Juarez, Mexico) and in one of the poorest neighborhoods in the nation. With partial-grant funding from WNPAs, Chamizal's Trailblazers Find Your Park program introduces inner-city youth (third and fourth graders) to the NPS, as well as other public lands, and demonstrates how the students can utilize them. The program serves many local residents who are first-generation Americans and diverse military personnel from Fort Bliss and around the world.

In its third year, this partnership between Chamizal, El Paso Parks & Recreation, Texas State Parks, and the Chamizal Project is free, and up to forty kids participate annually. Activities include family orientation, a hike in the Guadalupe Mountains, and day trips to White Sands, Carlsbad Caverns, Franklin Park, Chamizal, Rio Bosque. Participants are also enrolled in a camping academy that teaches kids how to shelter, how to pack a bedroll, and how to tie knots.

Chamizal National Memorial stands as a testament to peace and goodwill between the people of the United States and Mexico. It is also a reminder of the settlement of a 100-year border dispute, which ended in 1963 with the Chamizal Convention (treaty), signed into effect by President John F. Kennedy and Mexican President Adolfo Lopez Mateos.



Spotlight

The Challenge of Diversity & Outreach

One question looms large during the NPS Centennial: How do we keep national parks relevant? A survey revealed the demographics of visitors does not match the overall diversity of the country. If you're within Tucson city limits, you're no more than twenty miles away from Saguaro National Park, but the park's visitation doesn't indicate the local diversity.

A WNPAs research grant helped fund a multi-agency study for the City of Montrose, Colorado, that cited potential reasons for the lack of diverse visitation to public lands. Economic factors, lack of exposure, differing priorities, lack of knowledge of public lands, and cultural factors were the most commonly cited reasons.

While encouraging diversity is essential, it's important to make sure those outreach efforts are effective. To help gauge the usefulness of outreach, WNPAs is presently funding a grant for Saguaro National Park to study the efficacy of its outreach programs. This grant funds an intern position to distribute passes to Saguaro and track the number of passes redeemed. WNPAs research continues to examine and measure the challenges of diversity and how to effectively reach out to underserved populations.

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Membership Matters

“The work [WNPA] is doing with places like LA and Tucson, those activities are directly supporting [NPS] efforts to engage with diverse communities in urban areas. You couldn’t be doing anything more important for the future of conservation and preservation.”

—Peggy O’Dell, Deputy Director, NPS

Innovation is at the heart of WNPA’s work. We are constantly asking how to best serve our park partners. Helping provide new opportunities to introduce youth to the stories of America is one of our most important roles.

On May 6, WNPA was honored to have Peggy O’Dell join us in San Antonio, Texas. It was serendipitous that as she delivered the thoughts above, our partner park, San Antonio Missions, was

putting her words into action. With the help of WNPA, 160 diverse high school students attended a concert titled “John Muir: University of the Wilderness.” Your support makes this type of original programming possible.

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.



Students enjoy the “John Muir: University of the Wilderness” concert at Mission San Jose (San Antonio Missions National Historical Park).