



Teacher E-Newsletter

Spring is a great time to visit the Chamizal!



Students enjoy a hands-on activity while learning more about Chamizal National Memorial and the National Park Service.

America's Best Idea - The National Park Service, pg. 8

Chamizal National Memorial is proud to host a series of free events that bring together award winning documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, NPS leaders from around the country, and with local students and teachers to discuss careers in the park service.

Teacher Workshops, pg. 6

Chamizal National Memorial is CPE certified with the state of Texas. Texas educators can now earn continuing professional education credit by attending teacher workshops at the Memo-

rial. Upcoming sessions include *Plan a Fieldtrip! Social Studies for Kinder & First Graders* in April, and Science workshops in June.

Theater Programs, pgs. 2 & 7

The Memorial is working to bring elementary school students to the park to see *'Tis Shakespearish*, a professional presentation of a compilation of Shakespearian works by the Outrageous Fortune Theatre Company.

The Armchair Explorer Series and First Fridays Film Fest continue with their year long schedules.

In the Classroom, pg. 5

Whether you check out an outreach trunk or invite a ranger into your classroom, learning more about the National Park Service and Chamizal National Memorial can be fun and easy while meeting several TEKS.

The Memorial is hosting a series of events in conjunction with the soon to be released Ken Burns PBS documentary *The National Parks - America's Best Idea*

Local History, pg. 4

Chamizal National Memorial preserves a unique aspect of the nation's cultural legacy. On an international scale, the park commemorates what two nations can accomplish when they work together.

Earn CPE credits by attending any of the Memorial's upcoming Teacher Workshops.

Meet the Rangers, pg. 3

In this column, different rangers from the park's Interpretation, Education and Arts Division will introduce a little about themselves, what they do at Chamizal and how they got here.

Partner Focus, pg. 2

In each issue, the park features an educational partner that can help extend your visit to the Memorial. In this issue, the El Paso Museum of History soars with its *El Paso Aviation* exhibition.

Junior Ranger Day, pg. 6

In celebration of the Park Service's National Junior Ranger Day, Chamizal is hosting a fun half-day event complete with puppets and a family discovery booklet.

Partner Focus



Things will be flying at the El Paso Museum of History. NASA has permanently loaned the museum a Talon T-38 jet trainer. This particular jet was used from 1965 to 1973, training many astronauts who have become household names. Special hands-on programs that teach math and science to TEKS standards focusing on the "Forces of Flight" will be available for groups coming to the museum. Students will learn about rockets, their design, and why keeping data is so important. The special exhibit, *El Paso Aviation*, will run through the summer.

To celebrate its centennial, the YWCA will open a special exhibit on April 23rd. Find out how the YWCA has touched all of us in one way or another. Look for special programming associated with this exhibit this coming summer.

School programs with hands on components will soon be coming on line at the Museum. Programs that align with TEKS will be available for grades K-12 in such areas as Urban Archaeology, Culture and Custom in the Colonial Southwest, a Comparison of English and Spanish Colonialism, Being Self Sufficient, Astronauts and Rockets, and more. Each title will have grade specific programming.

Admission to the museum is free. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Sundays from noon to 5:00 pm.

For more information on visiting the El Paso Museum of History, contact Sue Taylor, Senior Education Curator, at 351-3588 or taylorst1@elpasotexas.gov.

'Tis Shakespearish

An education partnership program with the Outrageous Fortune Theatre Company

May 13: 10:00 am & 1:00 pm

May 20: 1:00 pm

This modern play, written by UTEP professor Dr. Joel Murray, is a compilation of various characters and scenes from well-known Shakespeare plays such as Macbeth, Romeo & Juliet, Hamlet, and A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Throughout the presentation there is student participation, and a Q & A session at the end. Students and teachers alike will enjoy the fun romp-through of some of the bard's most popular plays. Elementary TEKS aligned lesson plans for pre- and post-visits are available!

These student presentations are sponsored in part by the City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Department, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

Free Admission and Transportation Funds Available

Call (915) 532-7273 x112 for reservations and information. Visit the park's website to learn more about Chamizal National Memorial.

Lesson plans are available at www.nps.gov/cham/forteachers/curriculummaterials.htm



OFTC's Layle Chambers is surrounded by students. OFTC's performance style has audience members up and participating in all the fun.

Meet the Ranger

by Becky Wiles

If you would have asked me in college, “What do you want to do when you grow up?” being a park ranger was about the furthest thing from my mind. Actually, I had no idea what I wanted to do post college. While wandering aimlessly around a career fair during my senior year, I spotted a Peace Corps booth. After two adventurous years in Ecuador as a Peace Corps Volunteer, I returned home still not knowing what I wanted to do.

While visiting a state park one weekend, I noticed a sign outside the visitor center that announced the park was looking for park guides. Curious, I asked the ranger inside, “What is a park guide?” She immediately radioed the ranger in charge and told him that there was someone interested in the position. Bewildered, I looked around, and I realized I was the only person in the room—backtracking on my question was useless.

In short order, Ranger Mark sat me down and started describing the park guide job. About five minutes into his pitch, I realized that I would like the job and decided to start selling my skills. Seven days later, I was working



at Bodie State Historic Park in California as a seasonal park guide. I’ve never looked back.

In the intervening nine years, I have worked at Bodie State Historic Park, as well as Año Nuevo State Reserve also in California, Clearwater National Forest in Idaho, Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, and of course, Chamizal National Memorial. I’ve been at Chamizal for a little more than one year.

I cannot say which park is my favorite because they are all so different and present a unique piece of our

collective natural and cultural story. Highlights include walking home at night along the deserted streets of Bodie—a ghost town—and not feeling that I was truly alone. Standing on top of the Grand Teton at 13,770 feet overwhelmed at the beauty sprawled before me and realizing I was earning a paycheck for this duty. Being too engrossed in a bloody battle between two male elephant seals at Año Nuevo to realize that several females took refuge behind me, I was left in between the male and his harem. Luckily, the male was too busy to notice as well. Cracking a joke during an intermission talk at Music Under the Stars and having nearly 5,000 people laugh with me. So many great memories, and I am sure many more are waiting to be made!

I feel lucky for having fallen into such a rewarding career and even luckier to have a chance to work at Chamizal National Memorial. Between the great *mole*, long stretches of sunny weather, and the friendliest people I’ve meet, I am sure when I look back on my career in several decades, El Paso and Chamizal will stand out as some of my fondest memories.

VIP Under the Stars

If you like the Chamizal, music, and people, then VIP Under the Stars is for you. Sign up to join our new Volunteers-in-Parks (VIP) Under the Stars program.

We are looking for people who enjoy the Music Under the Stars concerts and would like to get more involved with their community. Keep reading for the inside scoop on VIP Under the Stars.

Benefits



The perks of being a VIP Under the Stars include learning about the Chamizal story, which includes a border dispute that lasted for 100 years and was ultimately resolved peacefully; gaining the basics of being a park ranger; meeting great folks from around the community; and giving back to your national park. Plus, if you volunteer for 10 or more hours, you will be invited to our annual VIP bash, which recognizes all the hard work our VIPs have done throughout the year.

Requirements

Volunteers commit to attending a three-hour training that will cover topics from communication/public speaking skills to the key historic events of the Chamizal dispute. We’ve scheduled the training for the second week in June (exact dates still to be determined). In addition to the fun and informative training, VIPs commit to volunteering at a minimum of two Music Under the Stars concerts (think about all that great music!). The time commitment for each concert is 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

How

If you would like to be a VIP Under the Stars this

summer, please email Chamizal National Memorial’s VIP Coordinator at: rebecca_wiles@nps.gov or call 915-532-7273 ext. 125.

See you under the stars this summer!



The Chamizal Residents and the Chamizal Convention of 1963

In the early 1960s the Chamizal dispute and Cordova Island problems had been going on for decades with no resolution. The Chamizal tract was originally a tract of land that belonged to a Mexican landowner named José Ponce de León. His property bordered the Rio Grande, the international border between Mexico and the United States. But a huge flood in 1864 as well as other smaller floods altered the course of the Rio Grande and thus altered Leon's Chamizal tract—it went from being exclusively on the Mexican side to being exclusively on the U.S. side of the river. So did the U.S. own the Chamizal tract or did Mexico? This question was a chronic thorn in the relationship between the two countries for almost a century.

Meanwhile, Cordova Island was essentially a Mexican enclave inside the U.S.—it was a Mexican piece of land surrounded on three sides by the United States. Cordova Island was covered in desert shrubs and did not have a definitive international border. As a result, the island was a “no man's land”; drug traffic, illegal immigration, booze, and blood were the signatures of the island. After many years, however, the Chamizal Convention (treaty) of 1963 finally ended the Chamizal dispute and somewhat curbed the Cordova Island problems.

The Chamizal Convention of 1963 can best be explained by using the analogy of a sour lemon versus a glass of sweet lemonade. Indeed, the Chamizal Convention had some sweet-tasting lemonade: it gave the Chamizal tract back to Mexico, it cemented and straightened the Rio Grande through El Paso-Ciudad Juarez so that the river would never change course again, and it readjusted the international boundary at Cordova Island. In doing all of this, the Convention significantly improved the relationship between the U.S. and Mexico. However, the Convention also forced approximately 5,600 U.S. residents to relocate off the Chamizal tract. Moreover, the Convention created a title dispute between the Mexican government and the Garcia family that continues to this day. This essay will focus on the lemon side, or sour side, of the Chamizal Convention of 1963.

The Chamizal Convention officially gave the Chamizal tract back to Mexico, but what happened to the U.S. citizens that were living on the Chamizal tract at this time? In simple terms, these 5,600 residents were relocated and compensated by the U.S. Government. The Chamizal residents were assisted in their relocation efforts financially. For example, the federal government paid the residents for the work time that they lost due to moving. Moreover, for the residents that were still paying mortgages on their house, the government took their mortgages and paid the rest. There was also a “Chamizal Neighborhood Center” set up during the relocation process that was run by city officials. This center was established so that the Chamizal

residents could get information and ask questions about the relocation process. Finally, the Chamizal homeowners received compensation for their home and property. The federal government hired real estate appraisers to decide how much each home was worth (Nestor Valencia, Interview with Michelle Gomilla, Chamizal Oral History Project, UTEP, 1994).

Yet although the government did compensate the Chamizal residents for the time off from work that they needed to move

and for the move itself, there were difficulties for all of the Chamizal residents. First, the residents had to pack up all of their belongings and leave the homes they had lived in for a long time. Second, the children had to switch schools, which meant having to adapt to a new environment and make new friends. Third, Chamizal residents that attended church on the Chamizal tract had to find a new church to attend. Fourth, the Chamizal residents and other El Pasoans who worked at the many industries that shut down had to find new jobs. Lastly, the Chamizal residents had to find new places to live. Many of the Chamizal residents moved into houses

in other parts of El Paso while some left Texas altogether. Still many others moved in with family members or friends.

Now let's look at the title dispute between the Mexican government and the Garcia family. Jose Ponce de Leon owned the Chamizal tract from 1827 to 1866. As noted earlier in this essay, the flood of 1864 altered the course of the Rio Grande and thus altered the Chamizal tract from being exclusively on the Mexican side to being exclusively on the U.S. side of the river. Leon gave the Chamizal tract to his grandson, Pedro Ignacio Garcia, in 1866. Garcia watched as U.S. citizens began settling on his property. Eventually he filed a complaint with the Mexican government, claiming that U.S. citizens were trespassing and moving onto his property. It took 99 years—from 1864 to 1963—for the Chamizal tract to finally go back to Mexico by way of the Chamizal Convention of 1963. It would be logical to assume that when the Chamizal tract went back to Mexico, it went back to Pedro N. Garcia, (descendant of Pedro Garcia, the original title holder) the person that held official title to the land. However, Victor M. Guzman, Garcia family member and Chamizal historian, notes that the Mexican government has been using the land for development, and the Garcia family has not been compensated to this day.

Indeed, history is rarely black and white; it's often a shade of grey. The fact that the Chamizal Convention of 1963 had both a lemonade side and lemon side to its story is a case in point. The 5,600 Chamizal residents and the Garcia family of Ciudad Juarez were the people that were affected by the Convention in a negative way.



Home on the Chamizal Tract, circa 1963.
Photo courtesy of William E. Wood

Explore Chamizal National Memorial in a brand new way!

Check out an Outreach Trunk!

Each outreach trunk is designed to accommodate a classroom of up to thirty 3rd-5th grade students. Reservations are free and are required to accommodate high demand. Call (915) 532-7273 or e-mail cham_education@nps.gov for more information.

Celebrating Diplomacy combines TEKS from social studies, language arts, fine arts and math through a series of fun lessons that explore our bicultural community of the El Paso/Ciudad Juarez region. Activities range from reading a recipe and making guacamole, designing papel picado, to writing comparison sheets on books included in the trunk, and singing folk songs.

This trunk can be checked out for use on your campus for up to three weeks.

Every Student is a Scientist combines science and math TEKS through a series of activities that are designed to be completed at the Chamizal. The trunk contains just about everything you would need to gather and analyze field data: compass, digital sound recorders, thermometers, stop watches, clipboards, etc. This trunk is only available for use at Chamizal National Memorial. Call the park's education staff at (915) 532-7273 x112 to receive a copy of the suggested curriculum for this trunk.



Encourage your students to learn outside by checking out an outreach trunk.

NPS Rangers on Campus & in the Classroom

Invite a ranger from Chamizal National Memorial to come speak to your class and present a TEKS-aligned program focused on the park and the National Park Service. Call the park's education staff to arrange for a program that supplements lessons being taught in the classroom.

Rangers are also available on a limited basis to participate in read-along programs, judge science fairs, and speak at career day events.

Please call (915) 532-7273 x130 or e-mail cham_education@nps.gov at least three weeks in advance to schedule the visit.



On View

The Memorial's three gallery spaces exhibit artists whose work not only reflects the history and landscape of our border region, but also ties directly to the park's mission of commemorating the amicable resolution of a long standing dispute between the U.S. and Mexico.

Visit our website for more information on these and other exhibitions at the Memorial: www.nps.gov/cham/historyculture/chamizal-national-memorial-galleries.

LOS PAISANOS GALLERY

Works by Hector Bernal
April 25 through June 27

ABRAZOS GALLERY

Favorite Works by Francisco Romero
on view through April 18

BORDERLAND GALLERY

Socorro Middle School Student Exhibition
on view through May 30



Hector Bernal

Earn Continuing Professional Education credits by visiting Chamizal National Memorial

Teacher workshops at the Memorial are designed with you in mind. Each workshop focuses on a particular grade level and subject area. Many are designed to be hands-on and interactive among the participants, and all are free of charge.

Workshops are open to public, private and home-school teachers. Each of the sessions will be hosted in the park's Los Paisanos Gallery. Call (915) 532-7273 or e-mail cham_education@nps.gov to register for these no-charge programs.

Plan a Fieldtrip! A workshop for kinder and first grade teachers

April 24 9 - 11:30 am

Have fun integrating Social Studies TEKS with hands-on art projects and children's books. Participants will also learn how

to plan for and prepare students for a fun learning visit to the Memorial.

Chamizal National Memorial is a CPE provider for the state of Texas. Credit hours earned through the Memorial can be applied toward your yearly CPE requirements.

Call the park's Education Department to register for this free program at (915) 532-7273.

Learn more about the Memorial and the National Park Service by visiting our website at www.nps.gov/cham.

Junior Ranger Day 2009

Sunday, April 12
11 am to 2 pm



Join the staff of Chamizal National Memorial at the park on Easter Sunday to celebrate National Junior Ranger Day.

Free family activities will be available during this three-hour event.

11:00 am - 1:30 pm

Free Family Guides to explore your park

11:30 am

Puppet Show with marionettes

1:45 pm

Swearing-in of Junior Rangers



Armchair Explorer Video Travel Series

Travel by video each month to an exciting national park site. See the wonders and hear the stories behind some of our nation's most intriguing parks, memorials, monuments, battlefields, and other special places that make up the nearly 400 sites managed by the National Park Service.

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, National Park Service Historic Photograph Collection



April 15
National Parks of Hawai'i

May 20
Death Valley National Park

June 17
Grand Canyon National Park

July 15
Independence National Historical Park

August 19
Big Bend National Park

September 16
Yosemite National Park

October 21
Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park

November 18
Carlsbad Caverns National Park

December 16
The Solar System
(a special presentation)

Time:
10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Free Admission!



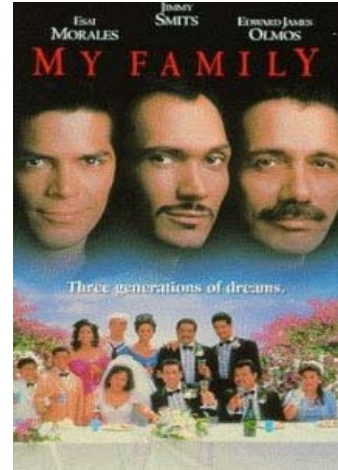
Grand Canyon, NPS photo

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, National Park Service Historic Photograph Collection



First Fridays Film Fest

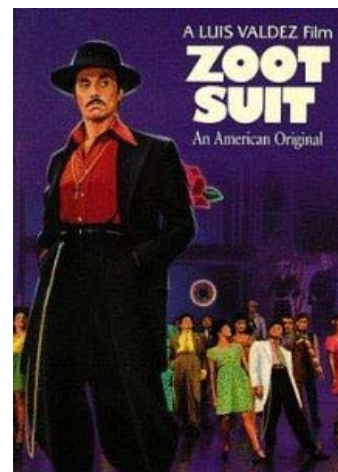
Chamizal National Memorial announces the continuation of a new film festival. On the first Friday of each month, the park will present films about El Paso, both modern day and historical; the border, with its colors, tastes, sights, and sounds; and the Chicano experience. All screenings begin at 7 PM in the Theater. Admission is nicely priced – FREE!



April 3 – “My Family/Mi Familia” (1995)
Starring: Jimmy Smits, Edward James Olmos, & Esai Morales. *Rated R.*



May 1 – “Rio Bravo” (1959)
Starring: John Wayne, Dean Martin, & Ricky Nelson.
Rated PG.



June 5 – “Zoot Suit” (1981)
Starring: Daniel Valdez, Edward James Olmos, & Charles Aidman. *Rated R.*

National Park Service and KCOS partnership

The National Park Service at Chamizal National Memorial presents these programs in collaboration with the National Park Foundation and KCOS - El Paso, Texas PBS affiliate. The events are held in collaboration with the soon to be released Ken Burns PBS documentary *The National Parks - America's Best Idea*.



NPS: Looking to the Future

Wednesday, May 27th
7:00 - 9:30 pm

free public evening event

Chamizal National Memorial is proud to host an event that brings together award-winning documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, local community members, and National Park Service leaders from across the country.

Audience members will be asked to take part in a discussion about the future of the agency with NPS representatives. A special screening of the new Burns documentary will be shown before the discussion session.

To find out more about these free programs, visit www.nps.gov/cham or call (915) 532-7273x112.

Public History and the Hispanic Heritage

Wednesday, May 27th

4:00 - 5:30 pm

Area history teachers and professors are invited to meet with Ken Burns and leaders in the National Park Service to discuss the public history presented in national parks across the country. This event will also focus on how the presence of prominent National Park Service leaders of Hispanic heritage currently affect, and will continue to affect, the public history presented in national parks. One of the main challenges faced by this federal agency is determining how the National Park Service will remain responsive and relevant to an ever-diverse U.S. public.

Dr. Jeffrey P. Shepherd from the Department of History at the University of Texas at El Paso will moderate the discussion and Q&A sessions.

While this is a free program, space is limited and reservations are recommended. Please call Chamizal National Memorial's education staff at (915) 532-7273 x112 to reserve your spot.



Explore Chamizal National Memorial in a brand new way!



★ Chamizal National
Memorial

Go on-line to
begin the adventure!
www.nps.gov/cham



Join Chami the Ground Squirrel and his friends as you make your way through three different adventures. You'll collect passwords along the way while learning more about Chamizal National Memorial and the National Park Service.

Each of the three adventures introduces you to the people and stories surrounding a 100-year rift between the United States and Mexico. You'll also discover how these two nations worked together to find a way to fix the problems peacefully.