

PARK PASSION

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING IN YOUR NATIONAL PARKS • APRIL 2019



IN OUR BACKYARD

Those of us who reside in the Pacific Northwest know just how very fortunate we are to have three iconic national parks quite literally in our backyard. We value them, treasure them, volunteer to take care of them and give to them through Washington's National Park Fund. We know and value the economic impact they have on the great state of Washington. We feel a sense of pride – and ownership – knowing they'll always be there. We believe this too. We believe that Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks will always be there.

One thing rings true. **OUR BACKYARD ROCKS!** Continue to partner with Washington's National Park Fund as we help to fill the gaps in funding. Together, we have a profound and lasting impact on Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks.

LAURIE WARD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A RANGER

BY LAURIE WARD

There's something special about park rangers. Hardworking, dedicated, smart, scrappy, resourceful and dedicated...many view their jobs as a calling.

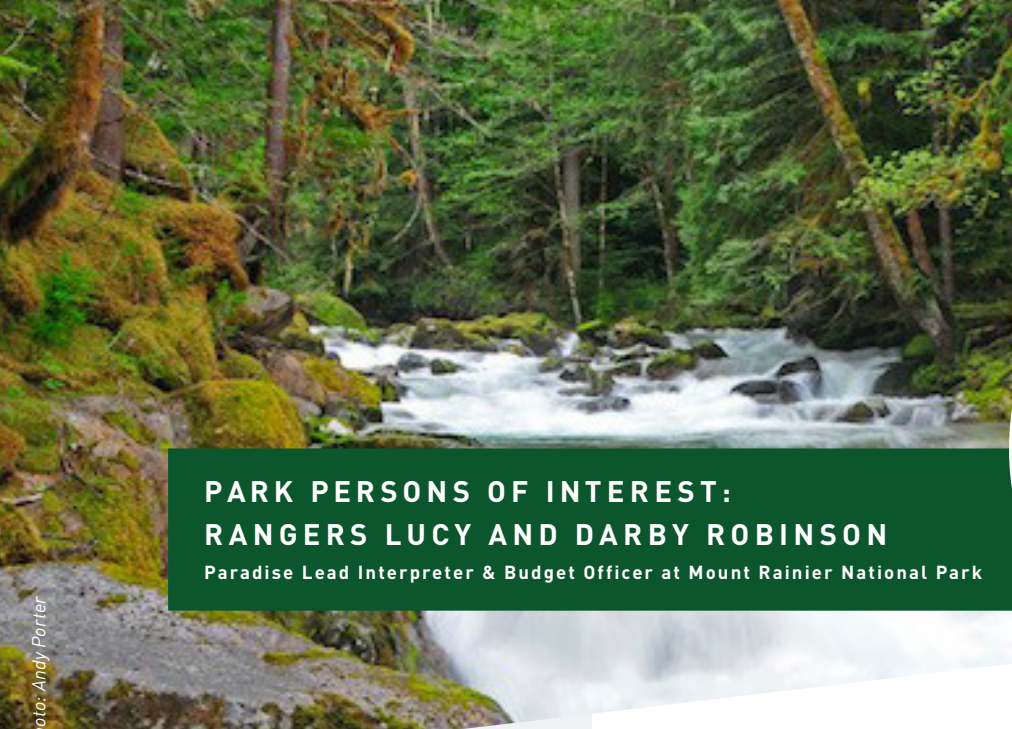
One of the main responsibilities of park rangers is safety. Seemingly small tasks such as completing registration forms at park offices become crucial links should a search and rescue mission become necessary. Park rangers are always alert to what's going on around them including changing weather patterns, declining trail conditions and high wind gusts. Beyond their daily exchanges with visitors, rangers provide guided tours, place badges on Junior Rangers, enforce laws and provide emergency roadside service. They're often called upon to serve as conservationists, ecologists, environmentalists and even botanists. They work to protect natural resources from vandals who attempt to destroy park property, pollute lakes and rivers, harm wildlife and leave campfires unattended.

At Washington's National Park Fund, we get to work with park staff throughout the year. Superintendents serve as

CONTINUED INSIDE

OUR MISSION is to raise private support to deepen the public's love for, understanding of, and experiences in Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks. **OUR VISION** is for our three parks to be strong and vibrant, youthful and everlasting.

Photo: Andy Porter



**PARK PERSONS OF INTEREST:
RANGERS LUCY AND DARBY ROBINSON**
Paradise Lead Interpreter & Budget Officer at Mount Rainier National Park



TRAILBLAZERS



"I view the people who work for and donate to Washington's National Park Fund as extensions of the park staff. They help us connect people to their parks. Everyone can be part of protecting these parks."

– Lee Taylor, Acting Superintendent, Olympic National Park



DID YOU KNOW...

There are more than 300 glaciers in North Cascades National Park. This is equal to one third of the glaciers found in the lower 48 states in the U.S.



BY JUDY WAGONFELD

The National Park Service (NPS) has no dating site. If Rangers Lucy and Darby Robinson had relied on one they might not have met. After all, Lucy loves mountains; Darby loves water. Not a match.

However, both grew up as "Park Brats," kids of passionate, dedicated park employees. Although briefly sampling other careers, the NPS culture exerted its magnetic force. Two years ago both landed at Mount Rainier.

Darby describes Lucy as a "spreadsheet ranger." As Rainier's Acting Budget Officer, Lucy interfaces with field staff and management. Hovering like a bird over fledglings, she monitors expenditures, matching priorities and funding.

Alternatively, Darby serves as the maestro of Paradise. As its Lead Interpreter, he organizes meadow walks, snowshoe hikes, and programs on geology, flora and fauna, photography and astronomy. In 2018, Darby saw a need to engage children and families. Developing participatory programs at Paradise, he filled classes and revitalized the Junior Ranger Program boosting engagement to 12,000.

Without question, these two employees are a perfect match for each other and Mount Rainier.

Read more about their history and goals at www.wnpf.org/to-the-parks-our-blog

BY KELLY SANDERBECK

"I'm stunned that someone as outdoor oriented as you doesn't know about Washington's National Park Fund!" So came Mason White's introduction to WNPF just last year from a colleague on the Washington Trails Association (WTA) board. With his decades of volunteer trail work as well the highly-specialized skill as a crosscut saw certifier he was 'onboard' to support the parks in whatever way possible. He and his wife Pam joined the Over the Top Society, attended the auction last spring and he's even offered up a unique experience for this year's event: 'What's It Like to Scout a Trail?' The outing will lead a few folks (in very good physical shape) out on a trail at the beginning of the season to document its condition and recommend maintenance for the year. No chain saws or other equipment in this venture, so participants should be prepared to do some climbing up and over, repeatedly!

"The auction was GREAT FUN as promised. I had no idea what to expect, but the presentations were highly professional, entertaining and educational at the same time. And all the flat hats in attendance were a special bonus."

Read more about Mason's adventures on the trails at www.wnpf.org/to-the-parks-our-blog

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A RANGER

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Advisors to our Board and CEO. Park staff give educational programs at events. As official partners with Washington's National Park Fund, they share experiences about the impact your hard-earned dollars have on their projects on a regular basis.

As we prepare for the busy summer season in our big backyard, thank a ranger. Extend a handshake as you cross paths. It matters.

FOUNDATION FOCUS: **PUGET SOUND ENERGY**

Puget Sound Energy Foundation recently funded the purchase of six Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) for staff and volunteers working in backcountry at Mount Rainier National Park. The PLBs allow the park's dispatch office to track both staff and volunteers – including in areas with no radio coverage – while traveling in the backcountry in real time. They prove to be invaluable when rangers/volunteers rescue someone in need due to a fall, wildlife encounter, extreme weather event or other hazards. Thanks goes out to our good friends at Puget Sound Energy!

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

The ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS who are building, expanding and creating stronger awareness of Washington's National Park Fund. Your support is resulting in funding of programs/projects within our national parks. Thank you all!



get in touch

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Photo: Andy Porter



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Save the date for National Parks at Benaroya! Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Washington's National Park Fund, Anthony Spain and the Northwest Symphony Orchestra, and The Musical Mountaineers will return to Benaroya Hall to celebrate Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks through musical performances and big screen visuals.

EVENTS | FOR A FULL LIST OF EVENTS, VISIT [WNPF.ORG](http://wnpf.org)

APRIL 20-28

NATIONAL PARK WEEK '19

Saturday, April 20th marks the beginning of National Park Week with free entrance to your favorite parks for the day!

JULY 25

RAMROD

Ride Around Mount Rainier in One Day is the Pacific Northwest's premier one-day endurance cycling event benefiting Mount Rainier. Riders enjoy views of Mount Rainier while climbing 10,000 ft.

MAY 16-17

FIRESIDE CIRCLE AT PARADISE INN **SOLD OUT**

Stay at Paradise Inn at Mount Rainier National Park before it opens for the season! You'll get to be the first visitors to see and enjoy the benefits of the recent remodel.

JULY 26-28

WOMEN'S ONLY WEEKEND (WOW), MOUNT RAINIER

Come together with park-focused women for three days of stewardship at Mount Rainier. Camp, volunteer, hike and more!

JUNE 1

NEIGHBORHOOD FIRESIDE CIRCLE: WEST SEATTLE

Join together with fellow park supporters to learn more about our beloved National Parks.

AUGUST 4

RIDE THE HURRICANE

Ride Hurricane Ridge Road in Olympic National Park and take in the gorgeous vista before enjoying the ride back down.

JUNE 29

COMMUNITY FIRESIDE CIRCLE: SEQUIM HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

Meet Olympic peninsula residents and park supporters at this annual rooftop event.