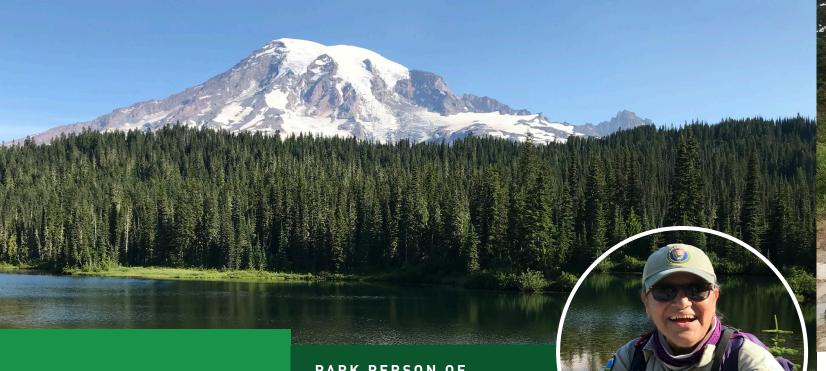


and Olympic National Parks

LAURIE WARD

Many of us love our glaciers. They form the backdrop to our favorite mountain vistas and provide the stark and complex pathways to some of our favorite climbs. Less obvious but more importantly, they are frozen reservoirs, tucked away in the mountain heights, feeding cold and abundant water to our rivers during dry Northwest summers — the life blood of salmon and other aquatic species.

When my colleagues and I completed a study of mountain glaciers ten years ago...the results were both startling and sobering. Olympic glaciers were shrinking at an alarming rate. Five years later, in 2015, I realized that in the span of my 35-year career here at Olympic National Park, we had lost nearly half of the glacial ice cover and witnessed the



FOUNDATION FOCUS:

## SNOQUALMIE INDIAN TRIBE

Thank you to the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe for their recent grant to support a North Cascades National Park project "Growing the Future: Community Resilience through Food Sustainability Project." This partnership will teach students in the Darrington and Lummi school districts the skills to contribute to and maintain gardens used for tribal food sustainability and tribal food sovereignty for the Lummi and Sauk-Suiattle people on their tribal homelands. Through this project the local tribes, gateway communities and the National Park Service will strive to build community relationships as they all work together, create an ethno-botanical garden in the park and share with students and the public native plant uses and their meanings.

PARK PERSON OF INTEREST: NORMA COLON

Volunteer Meadow Rover

BY MARTHA CRAIG

Norma Colon was heading to Fort Lewis, eager to begin a new chapter in her life, when she looked up and fell in love with a mountain. Since that momentous first sighting, not only has she camped and hiked around Mount Rainier many times, she has served there collecting wildflower data on Mount Rainier for the MeadoWatch Program and, since 2016, as a volunteer Meadow Rover. During the summer months, Norma packs her radio, maps and extra water, and hikes the trails near Longmire or White River, greeting visitors and helping to ensure that their visit is safe, comfortable and memorable. "Sometimes people forget to bring water, they're wearing flip flops or are otherwise unprepared. I check their plans, let them know if a trail might be difficult, offer them water, etc.," says Norma. As someone who emigrated from El Salvador, Norma has a special message for Spanish-speaking friends: "Te quiero animar a que vengas a visitar el parque de Mount Rainier." ("I encourage you to visit Mount Rainier.")

Read more on our blog: wnpf.org/to-the-parks-our-blog

#### fun fact

Within Mount Rainier National Park, Native Americans from the Nisqually, Puyallup, Squaxin Island, Muckleshoot, Yakama and Cowlitz tribes have an ancestral history that archaeologists have traced back up to 9,000 years! The artifacts found within the park boundary presents evidence that these native tribes have been benefiting from the natural resources that Mount Rainier provides.



#### **JILLIAN & JOEL KOSIC**

BY KELLY SANDERBECK

As Joel headed out of the tent one night in Olympic National Park for, shall we say, a typical nighttime routine, he saw what looked like glowing lights suspended above him. What he didn't envision was an eye-to-eye stare down with a huge cougar that was lounging in a tree! He backed toward the tent and woke his wife, Jillian, with "It's a cougar! It's a cougar!" According to her, he then promptly went to sleep. She, of course, was up for the next few hours...

Captivating, and exuding creativity, Jillian and Joel are game for life's full range of experiences – from flavor-shifting cooking experiments to road trip explorations. Jillian -- WNPF Board Member and Over the Top Society donor with Joel -- grew up in the Pacific Northwest with a life filled with the outdoors. "My earliest memory of the national parks is going up the Carbon River with my Dad and brother. Just remembering the trip evokes the blue-purple of the glacier and looking for snakes while on the rocks eating lunch."

They met in Sydney (Joel is a native Australian) when she was studying abroad. "We dated for the six months I lived there, took a quick excursion to Fiji, and then I moved back to the US and Joel followed. 12 years later, here we are...!" Read more at our blog: wnpf.org/to-the-parks-our-blog

#### ALEJANDRO JIMENEZ VAZQUEZ

**Alejandro** creatively touched hundreds

as he presented a virtual field trip on the animals of Mount Rainier National Park. In addition to presenting in Spanish, he shared his artistic abilities. Beautiful!

To learn more, enjoy a recording of his Virtual Field trip: wnpf.org/field-trips

#### TRACKING THE FUTURE OF OLYMPIC GLACIERS

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

disappearance of over one hundred glaciers. Important questions came to mind. Why were these rates faster than in other mountains? How fast were these changes occurring? How long would these glaciers last? How vital are these glaciers to the rivers below them?

Fortunately, six years ago
Washington's National Park Fund
stepped in with funding, and has
continued to fund this work ever since.
We measure the amount of snow that
falls on our glaciers each winter and
how much remains in the fall. We are
starting to understand how these
glaciers are responding to each year's
weather and how much water they
contributed each year to the Park's
rivers. We are starting to understand
what the future holds.

To learn more about this project, check out a recording of Bill's Virtual Field Trip: wnpf.org/field-trips

"North Cascades National
Park is excited to partner
with Sauk-Suiattle Tribe,
Lummi Nation Tribe,
Darrington School District,
Glacier Peak Institute and
Washington's National Park
Fund to plant gardens and
build relationships."

-Denise Shultz, Chief of Visitor Services, North Cascades National Park Service Complex

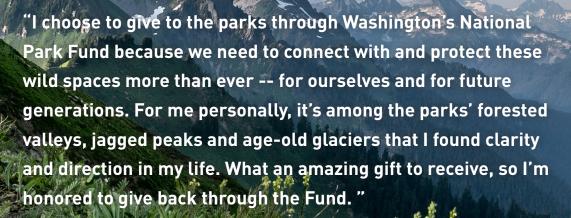


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### A LITTLE EVERY MONTH GOES A LONG WAY TO HELP YOUR NATIONAL PARKS

Parks for all Seasons, our recurring gift program, helps to ensure that Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks are there for us to enjoy now and for generations to come. Whether you give \$10 or \$10,000, your monthly donation provides a solid foundation of support for our parks so we can continue our vital work throughout the year.



-Scott Kranz, Outdoor Photographer, monthly donor since 2020

North Cascades by Lindsey Allison Ganahl

# MAKE EVERY REAL-LIFE PARK EXPERIENCE EPIC

Join us for our Virtual Auction to support Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks! Save the dates: Monday, August 3rd through Friday, August 7th

More details coming soon at wnpf.org/spring-dinner-and-auction

**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.