BELIEVING IN ALL THAT LIES AHEAD

You care deeply about Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks. You may be concerned about their well-being and viability over the next 100 years. At Washington’s National Park Fund, we care just as deeply. And we are hopeful for the future.

Today we’re creating a strong and bold vision for strengthening our parks as we move into and through the next 25 years. We’re working closely with the Superintendents to form plans for major improvements on all levels.

You’ll be pleased with the direction we’re taking...strong and bold indeed!

On a national level, we remain hopeful that leaders will, in time, come together for our national parks in the U.S.

“Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.” Helen Keller

Remain hopeful with us!

LAURIE WARD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

25 years. That’s how long Washington’s National Park Fund has been serving as the exclusive philanthropic partner to Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks. Thanks goes out to Dan Evans, Melinda French Gates, Bill Briggle, and Lou Whittaker for having the vision and foresight to get things started.

To celebrate our 25 years, we’ll be featuring our National Parks – both in Washington State AND across the country – at Benaroya Hall on Wednesday, October 24. Beautiful visual images will be the backdrop to Northwest Symphony Orchestra’s performance. Our local Musical Mountaineers will perform as well, and our Superintendents will be on site to extend their thanks for the 25 years of support.

Tickets – available on Benaroya Hall’s site – are reasonably priced starting at $28. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m.

We hope to see you there!

P.S. Thanks to you, these past several years have been especially productive. We’ve given more than $5.5 million since 2011 and have grand vision for all that lies ahead.

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.
BY NICKY DUCOMMUN

WNPF is participating in the Give Jefferson Campaign, Oct 1 – Dec 31, to raise funds for projects in Jefferson County on the Olympic Peninsula. Our project, “Investigating Climate Change in Olympic National Park,” is featured at www.givejefferson.org and enables the park to place a Geoscientist-in-Parks intern in the shoreline area of Kalaloch. This young person will investigate climate change on coastal areas and present an interpretive program for visitors. If you’re one of our Jefferson County supporters, please check out the campaign, with a goal of $12,100 of the total $26,000 to fully fund the project, and donate to help start someone’s career and benefit the park!

PARK PERSON OF INTEREST: DENISE SHULTZ
Chief of Visitor Services at North Cascades National Park

BY JUDY WAGONFELD

Chatting with Denise Shultz [Chief of Visitor Services at North Cascades National Park] feels akin to hiking uphill and repeatedly reaching false summits. Listing responsibilities she and her team of six manage, Denise kept saying “and” until, as an interviewer, I had to catch my breath. Let’s see - budget, grants, visitor center, web pages, interpretive waysides, volunteer coordination, campground fees and reservations, bookstores, two lodges and… Well you get the idea.

Denise never expected this. With her partner she had traveled on a sailboat and later in a motorhome, working odd jobs. Her mother laughingly called her a bum.

“When I was 37 I realized I needed a job with benefits,” she says. Six months after landing a position at the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument Bookstore, the park superintendent suggested she return to school and become a ranger.

“I was in the right place at the right time,” she muses. Completing her Associate Degree, she joined the Park Service. But there was a big problem. She had terrible stage fright and panicked before every interpretive talk. To learn more about how she solved her fears and landed at North Cascades, go to: www.wnpf.org/to-the-parks-our-blog/

giveJefferson.org
give where you live!
With a quiet demeanor often breaking into an infectious grin, Cristi Lien sat down to remember her life with her late husband Carsten, a major activist and seasonal ranger for Olympic National Park. She had never heard of the Fund until she joined her friends at the 2014 Spring Dinner & Auction.

Married to Carsten for 36 years, they met in a photography class – one of the passions they shared. Her most memorable experiences were with him as “he lit my fire and introduced me to the wilderness.” Their 25 years of family vacations in the parks explored mostly the Olympics, and her favorite is the Bailey Range for its pure wilderness.

When he passed away after 20 years with Parkinson’s, his obituary read: “I have lived the perfect Northwest life.” With work at REI (often said to be his favorite), University of Washington, Stanford Research Institute and Ballard High, he also squeezed in time as a ski instructor and writer. Their home in Wedgwood was originally a 12-acre estate, divided into 2-acre lots. For Carsten, it was a mini Olympic National Park, full of native plants and not a blade of grass.

Read more about Cristi and Carsten at www.wnpf.org/to-the-parks-our-blog/

Friends have donated more than $200,000 for the renewal of a dilapidated cabin at Mount Rainier. Volunteers and rangers will SOON have a warm place to rest after intense mountain searches.

Thank you.

MR. DANA VISSER, BOARD PRESIDENT

A profound sense of humor…a solid leader…the backbone for our Spring Dinner & Auction. Here’s our flat hat salute to Dana Visser for his two years as Board President. Thank you, Dana!

DID YOU KNOW?

The highest crater lake in North America is located at Mount Rainier, UNDER 100 FEET OF ICE -130 FEET LONG, 30 FEET WIDE, AND 16 FEET DEEP.

[Source: SoftSchools.com; Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology]
OCT 24 | NATIONAL PARKS AT BENAROYA HALL
Join Washington’s National Park Fund to celebrate our 25th birthday with a concert by Northwest Symphony Orchestra, featuring visual presentations of our national parks. Tickets available at www.seattlesymphony.org.

JAN 31 | PICNIC WITH THE PARKS!
Over the Top Society member “picnic” with park leadership. Are you a member yet? Call us! (206) 623-2063

NOV 11 | FEE-FREE DAY AT THE PARKS
The National Park Service invites the public to all national parks without entrance fees this Veterans Day – an added incentive for the holiday weekend.

APRIL 13 | SPRING DINNER AND AUCTION
Save the date for this very special annual event at the Seattle Center Fisher Pavilion! Bid on outdoor clothing and gear, unique experiences, and more to benefit our national parks.

NOV 23 | #OPTOUTSIDE
Skip the lines and choose a life outdoors. Head to your nearest national park to celebrate #OptOutside with REI.

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR “SEE YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION!”
Join us in the parks to learn about priority park projects you’ve helped to fund. Hear directly from our Ranger Rockstars and join us for a short hike! We’ll visit Olympic National Park in the spring, Mount Rainier National Park in the summer, and North Cascades National Park in the fall of 2019. Specific dates are coming, so keep an eye on our website.

Tuesday, November 27, 2018
Save the Date! #GivingTuesday is a global day of giving following Black Friday and Cyber Monday to celebrate end-of-year giving.

FOR A FULL LIST OF EVENTS, VISIT WNPF.ORG