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People also helped the parks directly by rebuilding the trails, tracking butterflies, donating gear, volunteering with search and rescue, and serving as Meadow Rovers.
Folks often compliment us for the work we do but it’s not about us. It’s about YOU and all that you do to show your love and support for the parks.
These parks are yours…and the gratitude? It’s all ours!

LAURIE WARD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

O U R M I S S I O N 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. O U R V I S I O N is for our three parks to be strong and vibrant, youthful and everlasting.

HIKE 13 MILES, SPEND 16 DAYS IN OLYMPIC’S BACKCOUNTRY…DO SOME GOOD

BY LAURIE WARD

Dodger Point Lookout in Olympic National Park. Been there? Then you know that to get there, you hike up the Elwha Valley for 13 miles on the Long Ridge Trail.
Downed trees? Washed out bridges from avalanches? You fix them along the way!
That’s precisely what a small army of volunteers accomplished during the summer 2017. Why?
Because they were determined to preserve the historic Dodger Point Lookout. Trees were cleared,
YOU, RANDY!

Summit of Rainier.

Mount Rainier.

Now, retiring after 40 years including seven strong and fair leader, as Superintendent at always there for us. RANDY KING:

HATS OFF TO Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks National Park Fund and

Mount Rainier to show even MORE love for the parks. But in 2018 you are adding a fundraising climb of Not only have you been active supporters for years, Seattle Cider Company.

and

Two Beers Brewing

A huge thanks to Two Beers Brewing and Seattle Cider Company.

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PEOPLE ARE WONDERFUL, BUT KEEPING THEM ON THE TRAIL AND BEING DIPLOMATIC ABOUT IT IS CERTAINLY A LEARNED SKILL.

That is always a challenge as people see things they want to inspect, take photos of, or just think it’s okay to walk anywhere.”

Russ, the quieter of the two, prefers hard-core hikers to tourists. But Russ and Janice both enjoy pointing out interesting sites, banks of wildflowers, and herds of goats to park guests. Last year they had to stop visitors as a young scraggly bear crossed the trail. “We enjoy talking to visitors from other parts of the country—like the men who flew into SeaTac, rented a car, and drove up to Sunrise during a snow storm [dressed in boots and shorts].”

One time, several women came with cupcakes, candles and matches—asking the Ashlemans to sing Happy Birthday. Russ admits to being “not much of a singer.”

Not many people cite the weather as a reason to love Mount Rainier.

BY JUDY WAGONFELD

Of course, that’s only one of a diverse range of qualities that took hold of Ranger Jared Infanger’s heart during a six-month Historical Architect Internship at the mountain. “It sounds cliché, but in 2012 I really connected with the park and landscape, the buildings’ magnificence, its history and its natural resources.”

When funding ran out and a full-time job opportunity failed to appear, he had to leave. But he remained smitten thinking of the mountain’s stunning ice cap. Sunrise, the clouds, the flowers and the lush greenery, the broad open views from Paradise and saw the mountain. It always be happier.

“Yesterday, I was driving to Paradise and saw the mountain. It always surprises me.” Still, the weather has become both a friend and a trial to him. It serves as a constant reminder for him to prevent deterioration in historical buildings, landmarks and artifacts, and to fix it when it occurs.

Read a more in-depth profile of Jared Infanger at wnpf.org/to-the-parks-our-blog/

Every Friday you find Russ and Janice Ashleman at Sunrise. They volunteer as Meadow Rovers, rising at 4am to arrive at the park by 8am! “PEOPLE ARE WONDERFUL, BUT KEEPING THEM ON THE TRAIL AND BEING DIPLOMATIC ABOUT IT IS CERTAINLY A LEARNED SKILL.

Mike 13 MILES, CONTINUED

trails were restored, and the bridge was replaced. “The Long Ridge Trail to Dodger Point Lookout is in the best shape I’ve seen in my 51 years of hiking there!” says lifetime volunteer, Chris Scranton.

Once volunteers got to the lookout, preserve it they DID. With skilled park staff guiding the way, they rebuild the foundation, replaced windows, fixed jammed doors and gave the outside a lovely coat of fresh paint (or two or three). All of this was accomplished over the course of 16 days.

And who paid for all of this? Donors to WNPF’s Spring Dinner and Auction AND a grant from our friends at REI and Horizons Foundation. To learn more, check out the article on our blog: wnpf.org/dodger-point-lookout-completed/

Thanks everyone who gave! Thanks everyone who volunteered! Together, great things happen. While these parks are YOURS, the gratitude is ALL OURS!

Russ and Janice both hope for more funding for the parks, especially for building and infrastructure.

“THERE IS A HUGE NEED IN THIS AREA AND YOU CAN SEE IT EVERY DAY IN AGING FACILITIES.”

They do appreciate the trail work done by Washington Trails Association and NW Youth Corps, and would like to see research on the herds of goats at Sunrise. Each Spring, when not volunteering, you can find them hiking all over England. One of their favorite spots is Lundy Island, which is full of cormorants, puffins, one farmer and NO NEWS!

Thank you, Russ and Janice—our parks are so lucky to have you! Read more at wnpf.org/to-the-parks-our-blog/
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By Kelly Sanderbeck

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