

PARK PASSION

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING IN YOUR PARKS • JANUARY 2018



2017 WAS ANOTHER BANNER YEAR.

Together we contributed more than \$700,000 to Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks!

You helped accomplish this when you gave \$100 per month to Over the Top Society, bought national park license plates, or raised funds to climb. Many also attended our Spring Dinner and Auction, procured auction items, and served as table captains.

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



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,

HIKE 13 MILES, 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.

Trailblazers

BY KELLY
SANDERBECK

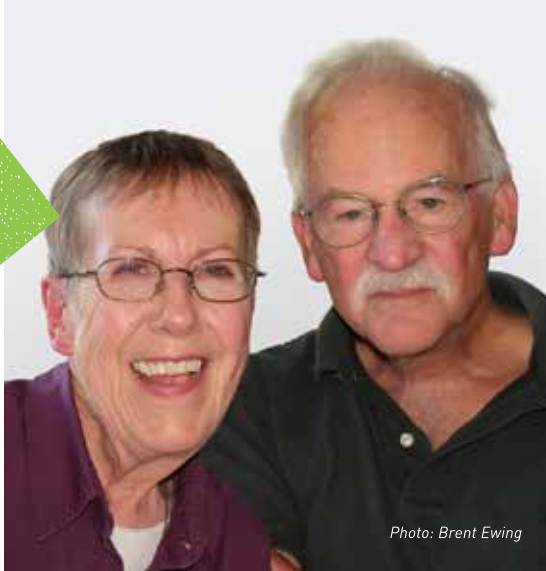
Every Friday you find Russ and Janice Ashleman at Sunrise. They volunteer as Meadow Rovers, rising at 4am to arrive at the park by 8am!

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

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."



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/

HIKE 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 rebuilt 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!



FOUNDATION FOCUS:

Ruth Foundation of Milgard Foundation

A special thanks goes out to our friends at the Ruth Foundation in Tacoma. They've recently shown their love of critters and wildlife by supporting the fisher reintroduction project within Mount Rainier National Park and North Cascades National Park.

Together with Washington's National Park Fund, they are helping to restore these incredible creatures—members of the weasel family—to the land they once called home.



Get in touch

Washington's National Park Fund
wnpf.org • (206) 623-2063
fund@wnpf.org



“

RANDY KING:

strong and fair leader,
kind and sincere,
always there for us.
Summitter of Rainier.
Now, retiring after 40
years including seven
as Superintendent at
Mount Rainier.

HATS OFF TO YOU, RANDY!”

—Everyone at Washington’s
National Park Fund and
Mount Rainier, North Cascades
and Olympic National Parks



Photo and inset photo Scott Eklund



Photo: Mitch Pittman; inset photo, National Park Service

PARK PERSON OF INTEREST: JARED INFANGER HISTORICAL ARCHITECT, MOUNT RAINIER

BY JUDY WAGONFELD

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

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 lush greenery, the broad open views from Sunrise, the clouds, the flowers and the mountain’s stunning ice cap.



Luck returned his way two years later in 2015 with a permanent position as the park’s Historical Architect. And he couldn’t 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/

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

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





Photo: National Park Service



1904 Third Avenue, Suite 400
Seattle, WA 98101

President Lyndon B. Johnson signs legislation establishing the **NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMPLEX**. The beauty of its landscapes has inspired many artists over the years, including Beat poets and writers Jack Kerouac, Gary Snyder and Philip Whalen—all who served as fire lookouts in the park.

HAPPY 50TH NCNP!

EVENTS

FEB 8 **INSPIRATION PARTY**
Interested in hosting a table at our annual Spring Dinner and Auction? Join us for dinner at Capital Grille to learn more!

FEB 23 **PICNIC WITH THE PARKS!**
Over the Top Society members "picnic" with park leadership. Are you a member yet? Call us!

FEB 15 **TACOMA COMMUNITY FIRESIDE CIRCLE**
Join friends and community members for a ranger talk in a generous park supporter's humble abode!



APR 7 **SPRING DINNER & AUCTION**
Join us at the Seattle Center Fisher Pavilion for our celebration of milestones and to support youth programs and our parks!

Bid on outdoor clothing and gear, unique experiences, and more!

Get tickets at wnpf.org or **(206) 623-2063**

APR 21 **BEER AND GEAR SALE AT TWO BEERS BREWING**
Score some deals on great gear (and beer)! The great outdoors are calling you!

APR 21-29 **NATIONAL PARK WEEK**
On Saturday, April 21 entrance to the parks is free. We will see you there!

APR 28 **CAR SHOW FOR THE NATIONAL PARKS**
Join us to see top industry professionals and their prized work showcased at The Shop in Seattle.