

# PARK PASSION

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING IN YOUR NATIONAL PARKS • JULY 2021



Photo: Mitch Pittman

## FINALLY: SUMMER OF 2021

The parks are open and visitors are coming in record numbers to our big back yard, and with that comes the increased need for amplified education.

Let's all pay special tribute to the good peeps at Recreate Responsibly ([recreateresponsibly.org](http://recreateresponsibly.org)). Thanks to the RR movement, progress remains focused: Build an inclusive outdoors. Know before you go. Practice physical distancing. Plan ahead. Play it safe. Explore locally. Leave no trace. Also, keep in mind the impact wildfires have had on our big backyard. Know and respect fire restrictions... keep campfires small and douse completely. No drones in wildfire zones. Give firefighters plenty of space.

And a tip of our own? Drop off a plate of cookies and jug of cold milk at your nearby fire station. We're all in this together.

**LAURIE WARD**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER



## WHO'S READY FOR SUMMER IN THE PARKS?

BY ALEX DAY

Here at Washington's National Park Fund (WNPF), summer is a special time. The weather is warm, our tents have seen a few outings, and we're all hitting the trails. Participants in our fundraising climbs are spending long weekends backpacking through the parks. In a lot of ways, it's the busiest time of the year for us—and for Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks.

We're thrilled to watch so many critical park projects take off—projects that wouldn't have been possible without the support of our friends and fellow park-lovers. From citizen scientists monitoring marmots in Olympic to expanding and equipping the Search and Rescue efforts in North Cascades and restoring Paradise's subalpine meadows in Mount Rainier, your support is having a huge impact on our parks.

We're proud to have helped make these projects possible, and we know you will be, too. Learn more about all of the important work happening in the parks right now that WNPF funds at [wnpf.org/projects](http://wnpf.org/projects).



**WE'VE GONE  
DIGITAL!**

You can now access all of our issues of *Park Passion* online. Prefer to be notified via email when a new issue is out, rather than receive it in the mail? Let us know by emailing [marketing@wnpf.org](mailto:marketing@wnpf.org)!



FOUNDATION FOCUS:

# ICICLE FUND SUSTAINS NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

WNPF would like to thank Icicle Fund for a \$7,500 matching grant for *General Operations: Sustaining North Cascades National Park*. Icicle Fund values “meaningful impact in North Central Washington as you connect people to this beautiful region through engagement with its environment, the arts, and/or history,” which is just what our efforts will do. When matched with donations from our virtual auction (thanks to all of you!), we are able to fund additional important work. From citizen scientists studying butterflies to learning about bears and more, our projects share the wonders of North Cascades National Park with visitors.



Our flat hat salute goes out to the Seattle-based Good and Well Supply Company. Not only do they give back to Washington's National Park Fund, but their good smells ARE well done. Thanks, gang!



## PARK PERSON OF INTEREST: LISA TURECEK

Chief of Facility Management at Olympic National Park

BY ALEX DAY

### What's the Deal on Dark Skies?

*“For me, it right-sizes me in the context of our universe. It makes me realize how big our universe is. I like to reflect [that] I might be observing lights and stars that no longer even exist. It just gives us a feel for the magnitude and extensiveness of the universe.”*

Lisa Turecek, Chief of Facility Management at Olympic National Park, joined us for a Virtual Field Trip on the importance of Dark Skies and the park's efforts to become certified with the International Dark Sky Park certification program. She shared steps we can all take to reduce light pollution so that future generations will be able to enjoy the incredible night skies in our parks just like we do today. Missed out? You can watch the recording—and sign up for upcoming Virtual Field Trips—at [wnpf.org/field-trips](https://wnpf.org/field-trips).

Washington's National Park Fund is proud to support dark skies in Olympic National Park—and you can help! Right now, we're raising funds for a seasonal park ranger for summer 2022 who will focus entirely on educating visitors and sharing a love for the skies above. Help us make this project a reality at [wnpf.org/donate](https://wnpf.org/donate).





## MEET THE GONZALEZ FAMILY: ELIZABETH, ERIK AND EMILIO

BY KELLY SANDERBECK

You'd never imagine that a 15-year-old would willingly leave his friends, school and extended family to move nearly 1,000 miles away, to a remote corner of the Pacific NW... that he'd only visited once. But, Emilio Gonzalez is not typical; nor is his mom, Elizabeth, the Administrative Manager at WNPf. She manages accounting, human resources, our database of park projects affectionately known as 'Big Betty', and is liaison for the parks for grants and payments.

Two years ago, the family sat down to discuss a relocation from their home in California. Without flinching Emilio said: "So I would have to make new friends? That's OK. Let's go!"

Because Emilio was painfully bullied as a young child, the family ventured to national parks. After all, nature had healed him. "He could relax there and be a kid, with river walking, hiking or exploring. He wanted to go every weekend. Even though it wasn't close, we'd make the trip as it healed him. I'm still amazed at how powerful nature can be; it literally changed his life."

Read more at our blog: [wnpf.org/to-the-parks-our-blog](https://wnpf.org/to-the-parks-our-blog)

"The first trip I ever took was a marvelous one, a climb of Mount Deception, which is the second-highest mountain in the Olympics, and I was hooked from that point on. I got to the top of the mountain, and all I saw were all these other mountains to climb."

*—Honorable Dan Evans,  
former Governor and Senator,  
founder of WNPf*

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**Have you ever  
wondered what it's  
like to summit a  
mountain in Olympic  
National Park?**

Save the date for our Virtual Field Trip on August 11, when Nate Brown, adventure photographer and the man behind the Olympic Mountain Project ([natebbrown.com/olympicmountainproject](https://natebbrown.com/olympicmountainproject)), will take us on a trip to the top of some incredible peaks.



## OUR 2020 ANNUAL REPORT IS HERE!

Read it online at [wnpf.org/projects](https://wnpf.org/projects)



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## MISSED OUT ON STORIES FROM THE FIELD?

We heard the stories of several of our Parks Everlasting Society friends who have chosen to give a legacy gift in support of Washington state's national parks. It's not too late! Consider becoming a part of this special group today, and you will be joining the dozens who are leaving their mark on the places that mean the most to them. Learn more at [wnpf.org/parks-everlasting](http://wnpf.org/parks-everlasting).



Photo: Lindsey Allison Ganahl

## EVENTS

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

### SUMMER CLIMBS: JULY 16 – AUGUST 27

#### CLIMB FOR A CAUSE

From July 16 - August 27, seven teams of community members will be climbing iconic peaks in Washington's national parks to raise funds and awareness for WNPf. Learn more at [wnpf.org/climb-for-a-cause](http://wnpf.org/climb-for-a-cause).

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 28 VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP: A GEOLOGIST'S VIEW OF GLACIERS ON MT RAINIER

Join Claire Todd, professor at Pacific Lutheran University, for a Virtual Field Trip to Mount Rainier. Tour the surface of Emmons Glacier and hear an eye-witness account of South Tahoma glacier's 2015 debris flows. Sign up at [wnpf.org/field-trips](http://wnpf.org/field-trips).

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 1 RIDE THE HURRICANE

Ride your bike up to Hurricane Ridge Road in Olympic National Park and take in the gorgeous vista before enjoying the ride back down. Learn more at [ridethehurricane.org](http://ridethehurricane.org).

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4 THE GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT ANNIVERSARY (FEE FREE DAY)

Entrance fees to all National Park Service sites will be waived to celebrate the anniversary of this landmark conservation legislation which supports the maintenance backlog for critical facilities and infrastructure in our national parks.

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11 VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP: OLYMPIC'S PEAKS

Nate Brown, adventure photographer, will share stories about his goal to summit 30 peaks in the Olympics. Sign up at [wnpf.org/field-trips](http://wnpf.org/field-trips).

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25 HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE! (FEE FREE DAY)

The National Park Service will be celebrating its 105th birthday by waiving entrance fees to all NPS sites!

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 PACIFIC RUNDERLAND 5K & KIDS RUN

Run or walk through Roegner Park in Auburn to support Washington's National Parks! Sign up at [pacificrunderlandevents.com](http://pacificrunderlandevents.com).

**OUR MISSION** is to raise private support to deepen everyone'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.