

# YOUR AMERICAN WEST



## PARKS

[National Park Week](#)

[Junior Ranger Day](#)

[Park Rx Day](#)

## EVENTS

[Festival of the Sea](#)

[Hubbell Trading Post](#)

[Rug Shows](#)

## PRODUCTS

[Tucson Festival](#)

[of Books 2017](#)

[Commemorative](#)

[T-Shirts](#)

# Letter from the Executive Director



From left to right:

Jim Cook | WNPA  
Lisa Madsen | Public Lands Interpretive Association  
Congressman Tom O'Halleran | (AZ-01)  
Howard Weiner | Grand Canyon Association  
Pepe Marcos-Iga | WNPA

Hand in hand—that is how Western National Parks Association works with the National Park Service. Our relationship is one based on shared values with the aim of providing educational opportunities as exceptional as the parks themselves. When you visit a park, a variety of new adventures await, including guided activities led by National Park Service (NPS) rangers, cultural festivals manned by dedicated volunteers, and scenic hikes accompanied by engaging signage and informational displays.

The National Park Service develops programs that attract a diverse array of people. WNPA supplies our seventy-one park partners with the resources they need to provide visitors with informed and memorable experiences.

At WNPA, we believe that learning does not end when the school bell rings or the diploma is hung

on the wall. Parks give everyone the chance to expand their knowledge base. Nature, history, culture, and recreation are all available in our parks. If you want to play a Native American ball game, investigate desert plants that attract wildlife, or explore Spanish contributions to Southwest culture, the parks are for you. WNPA is honored to contribute to our parks and the amazing programs they deliver throughout the year. We invite you to take advantage of these opportunities. Learn something new in the parks here in the West and across the U.S.

**James E. Cook**  
Executive Director

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## Executive Director

**James E. Cook**

## Details

Western National Parks Association is a 501(c)(3) corporation—the official nonprofit partner of seventy-one park partners in the western United States.

The headquarters and The National Parks Store are located at 12880 N. Vistoso Village Dr. Tucson, AZ 85755 520-622-1999

[wnpa.org](http://wnpa.org)



## Special Recognitions

### The Moth Has a Name

Meet.... *Givira delindae*

Congratulations go out to White Sands National Monument volunteer scientist Eric Metzler, and to Steve Mix! Steve won WNPA's 2015 eBay auction for the naming rights of a new, satiny-white winged moth discovered at White Sands. A fan of butterflies and moths himself, Steve worked with Eric to choose an official moth name that acknowledges Steve's

supportive and encouraging mother, Delinda. Steve presented his mother with the news of her namesake on Valentine's Day.

Our sincerest thanks go out to Eric Metzler, who has spent nearly a decade cataloguing over 600 species of moths at White Sands. His unique way of giving back helped WNPA gain worldwide publicity and provided a legacy for Delinda Mix.

News of the *delindae* is now official, and you can read more about it in the open access journal, ZooKeys, [here](#).

## Haury Family Leaves Legacy

WNPA is deeply grateful to the Haury family for their integral support of our parks. Their recent gift in honor of Dr. Emil Haury, noted archaeologist and one of WNPA's founders,

will ensure ongoing funding for WNPA's annual Haury Award over the next decade. Since 1984, WNPA has presented this award in recognition of outstanding contributions to research in our national parks.

## Community Support

### Bon Voyage Travel

Bon Voyage Travel has been planning unforgettable vacations for over forty years. The agency specializes in personalized journeys including land tours, cruises, luxury travel, family groups, and adventure travel. With numerous awards and accolades to their credit, an expert team of seventy-five advisers helps travelers plan and save on unique trips to the world's most stunning destinations, including our incredible national parks. WNPA is pleased to recognize Bon Voyage Travel as a Community Partner. They help make the

national park experience possible for everyone.

For information regarding partnership opportunities, please contact Amy Reichgott at 520-789-7406 or [amy.reichgott@wnpa.org](mailto:amy.reichgott@wnpa.org).

### Community Partners

Community Partners help WNPA fulfill its mission. Their support allows us to extend the reach and impact of our programs, products, and services.

**Arizona Daily Star**

**COMCAST**

**Bon Voyage Travel**

**CliftonLarsonAllen**

**Enchantment Resort**

**HF Coors**

**Holualoa Companies**

**Splendido**

**The G2 Gallery**

**The Mahoney Group**



photo courtesy of Randy Metcalf



photo courtesy of Randy Metcalf

# Learning in the Parks

In this issue, we are putting the focus on how parks provide opportunities for lifelong enrichment. Walk the halls of the Brown v. Board of Education National

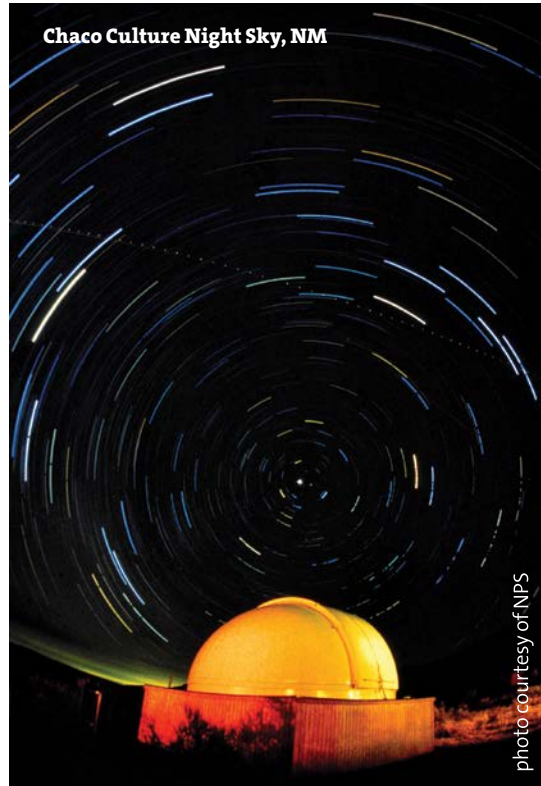
Education doesn't stop when you leave the classroom—abundant opportunities to learn can be found in all different kinds of environments! The national parks are great resources for everyone to discover more about history, culture, nature, and the environment

These learning opportunities take many shapes. Students can take part in programs designed to encourage them to get in touch with nature. The National Park Service offers lesson plans for teachers, loans materials to enrich classroom curriculums, and provides opportunities for field trips. Rather than just reading about wildlife, children can see it, touch it, smell it, possibly even taste it (with caution, of course!). But learning isn't just for students. Many parks, including Bandelier National Monument, Chaco Culture National Historical Park, and Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, offer night sky stargazing programs and moonlit nature walks for the whole family. Several WNPA park partners have even been

**Learning and growing are lifelong endeavors, and the national parks are a wonderful resource for furthering education.**

designated as official "Dark Sky" parks because of their exceptional night-sky viewing conditions. A recent WNPA park partner addition, Carlsbad Caverns National

Park, has a special "Bat Flight Program," where visitors can learn from a ranger about Brazilian free-tailed bats, then watch in wonder as the bats exit their cave homes to forage for their nightly feeding.



Chaco Culture Night Sky, NM

photo courtesy of NPS

Historic Site in Kansas; experience history come to life at Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site; witness the cultural richness of Tumacácori National Historical Park. All of the parks offer unique ways to expand our knowledge. The possibilities are endless!

Learning and growing are lifelong endeavors, and the national parks are a wonderful resource for furthering education. Visit a national park near you and learn something new!



Junior Ranger day at Tumacácori National Historical Park



# Experience the West

## Featured Events & Activities

WNPA's Park Stores host a variety of events. These activities help connect people to national parks and nurture understanding of each park's unique culture, history, and beauty.

### The National Parks Store, Tucson, AZ

#### Events

##### Noctrane: Progressive Bluegrass Ensemble

Saturday, May 13, 2 PM

Noctrane explores the dynamic rhythms and sonic landscapes of bluegrass, jazz, and roots music. The ensemble's performances are a blend of original compositions and bluegrass and jazz classics. \$12 members/\$15 nonmembers

Visit [wnpa.org](http://wnpa.org) or call 520-622-6014 for a full list of activities or to sign up for lectures and workshops.

### Tumacácori National Historical Park, Tumacácori, AZ

#### Events

##### Art in the Park

April 14–23

Over the course of National Park Week, Tumacácori will celebrate artistic expression of all kinds with an exhibition on display in the breezeway of its historic visitor center.

For more information about this and other events at Tumacácori during National Park Week, visit [www.nps.gov/tuma](http://www.nps.gov/tuma) or call 520-377-5060.

### Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, Mosco, CO

#### Events

##### Ranger-Guided Full Moon Hikes

July 7, September 8, and October 5

Explore Great Sand Dunes by moonlight and view the moon from the dunes.

##### Ranger-Guided Wilderness Night Hikes

July 21, August 18, and October 20

Join park rangers on a hiking adventure into Great Sand Dunes Wilderness. Discover how plants, animals, the night sky, and people all interact with one another.

For more information about events at Great Sand Dunes, visit [www.nps.gov/grsa](http://www.nps.gov/grsa) or call 719-378-6395.

### San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, San Francisco, CA

#### Events

##### Healthy Parks, Healthy People Walks

Multiple Days

Park rangers and staff from San Francisco Maritime will lead simple stretches and free walks. Open to people of all ages and abilities. Walking route or exercise activities change monthly.

##### Festival of the Sea: High Tech on the High Seas: The Evolution of Maritime Culture and Technology

August 19, 9 AM – 5 PM

Experience maritime heritage with rope-making demonstrations, sea shanty performances, and fun displays.

For more information about this and other events at San Francisco Maritime, visit [www.nps.gov/safr](http://www.nps.gov/safr) or call 520-377-5060.



Terrence Emerson, shutterstock.com



photo courtesy of Teiyanknei Dale

## Spotlight

### Hubbell Trading Post Takes Rug Show to New Venues

Back in Mr. Hubbell's day, he took Navajo rugs and other Native craft items across the country, bringing Southwest Native American culture to fascinated audiences from New York to Los Angeles. Every year, WNPA continues that tradition by taking Hubbell Trading Post on the road to a variety of venues. This year, two new venues have been added: Sedona Arts Center and Bandelier National Monument.

### Upcoming Hubbell Trading Post Navajo Rug and Jewelry Trunk Shows

Petroglyph National Monument, New Mexico  
May 20–21, 10 AM–4 PM  
Rug talks at 11 AM and 2 PM

Sedona Arts Center, Arizona  
First Friday Art Walk  
June 2, 5 PM–8 PM reception  
June 3, 9 AM–4 PM; Rug talks at 10 AM and 2 PM

Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico  
August 18–20, 9 AM–5 PM  
Rug talks at 10 AM and 2 PM

# New & Notable Releases

## WNPA Is Committed to Developing Innovative Products and Publications for Our Partner Parks

WNPA supports seventy-one park partners across twelve western states. Each park has a unique story to tell. We work to capture and share every park's story in new and compelling ways.

### Trail Updates at Chaco Culture National Historical Park

The trail guides at Chaco Culture National Historical Park are getting a facelift! Be on the lookout for a fresh new design. These interpretive guides walk you back in time to see the artifacts of architecture, art, and daily life left behind by the ancient peoples who once occupied this land. Of special note, Chaco has added a twelfth stop to the Casa Rinconada hiking trail. Stop #12 offers a second vantage point from which to view the park's Great Kiva: one of the largest ancient communal gathering places to have been excavated worldwide. This new stop complements the existing kiva viewpoint, Stop #11, from the opposite side. It allows visitors to see the kiva's architectural features from a second perspective while also offering views of the New Mexico skyline. Updated guides will be available exclusively at the WNPA Park Store at Chaco.

### Tucson Festival of Books 2017 Commemorative T-Shirts

In celebration of our annual participation in the Tucson Festival of Books, WNPA collaborated with the NPS this year to build our National Parks Pavilion around the theme Healthy Parks, Healthy People. Buy one of our commemorative soft cotton T-shirts

in the National Parks Store or online at [store.wnpa.org](http://store.wnpa.org), and take a walk on the wild side!



Get your Healthy Parks Healthy People shirt, available in gray or blue, today!



### Navajo Flags Available at Canyon de Chelly National Monument and Online

Navajo Nation Souvenir Flags are now available for purchase at Canyon de Chelly National Monument Park Store, as well as from WNPA's online store. These custom 4" x 6" flags are based on the flag adopted by the Navajo Nation in 1968 and tell the story of the Navajo Nation through elements of the tribal seal and other sacred symbols. Available in limited supply!



# People & Happenings

## Tucson Festival of Books

A celebration of all things literary, the Tucson Festival of Books has again provided an ideal venue for WNPAs and our park partners to connect with urban audiences. TFOB has been our largest outreach event for six years running. This year's festival took place over the weekend of March 11–12. Our National Parks Pavilion featured a Healthy Parks, Healthy People theme.

Over two days, rangers and volunteers representing thirty-two parks engaged approximately 2,300 kids and families in educational activities. WNPAs's Junior Ranger



Jamboree, a scavenger hunt designed to encourage dialogue and learning, was a big hit. It involved meeting rangers from each park and finding out what makes their parks extraordinary. Other highlights included vinegar and baking soda volcano eruptions and meeting a real-life Sunny the Saguaro, Saguaro National Park's mascot. Throughout the weekend, thirty-three lucky fourth graders were given free annual park passes as part of the NPS [Every Kid in a Park](#) program. Another 1,300 festival-goers attended nature- and environment-themed author presentations in the National Park Experience program tent.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the festival a huge success.

## WNPA Engages Tucson Youth

**“It was inspiring to see all those kids being educated.”**

**—Dick Honn, WNPAs volunteer**

February was a big month for WNPAs's youth outreach efforts. About 1,200 children visited our volunteers at SCI Fest, located at the Children's Museum Tucson. Kids had a chance to watch a model volcano explode and were encouraged to visit their volcano-related parks in Arizona ([Chiricahua National Monument](#) and [Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument](#)). WNPAs was also on hand to provide information on STEM-based careers for 500 teens gathered at the Metropolitan Education Commission conference with the National Park Service.



Our vinegar and baking soda volcano was a big hit at SCI Fest



# In the Parks



## Brown v. Board of Education Youth Leadership Academy

“Does segregation of children in public schools solely on the basis of race . . . deprive the children of the minority group of equal educational opportunities? We believe that it does.” More than fifty years ago, the Supreme Court ruled that “separate but equal” was anything but, and today, the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site serves as a monument to this landmark case. In 2013, the Youth Leadership Academy (YLAC) was created at this site to help encourage today’s youth to get involved in the discussion about race relations and reconciliation. Though 1954 was not all that long ago, many teens today struggle with relating to the historical importance of the issues that the Brown v. Board of Education site preserves. Making connections from events of the past to issues of today, such as the school-to-prison pipeline, gives teens better context and understanding of their significance.

Beginning with just three participants in its first year, the YLAC has since grown to a stellar thirteen participants in the 2016–2017 cohort. Recently, four participating students achieved incredible things: one received a \$1,000 scholarship; another took second place in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Living the Dream Student Poetry Competition; and a third qualified for regionals in forensic debate. Most recently, one YLAC member was named “Youth of the Year” in Topeka, Kansas! These students are a credit to the success of YLAC, and we applaud their wonderful achievements.

## Step into the Past at Bent’s Old Fort

Adobe work, frontier cooking, and beaver trapping: these are everyday tasks at Bent’s Old Fort National Historic Site. At the fort, visitors interact with living historians who demonstrate what life was like at this Santa Fe Trail trading post in the 1840s. On March 18, Frontier Skills Day allowed participants to get a feel for the everyday experiences of people back then. Visitors lived a day in the life of traders, carpenters, blacksmiths, and hunter/trappers. They walked a mile in the shoes of a person from the 1840s for the experience and the learning. A longer immersive opportunity is available June 7–11. Please visit the park’s website ([www.nps.gov/beol](http://www.nps.gov/beol)) for more information and registration details.



## Spotlight

### Celebrate Parks!

It’s that time of year again! National Park Week, which extends from April 15–23, 2017, celebrates our wondrous national parks and all they have to offer. On the weekends of April 15–16 and 22–23, admission to all parks is free! Special Junior Ranger Day events will be held throughout the week; check the websites of parks near you to learn more. April 23 is the second annual Park Rx day, shining a light on how parks improve health and well-being for everyone. Get outside, enjoy some fresh air and physical activity, and celebrate.

Children learn about life in the 1840s at Bent’s Old Fort

## O’odham Tash at Tumacácori

The O’odham people believe that the world was sung into existence, so a song and blessing was a fitting start to the first ever O’odham Tash (O’odham Day) at Tumacácori National Historical Park on March 5. This special day celebrated the O’odham people’s legacy and rich cultural heritage. Visitors had a chance to observe traditional O’odham crafts such as basket weaving, painting, and carving and witness a thrilling game of toka. This traditional women’s game was meant to “prepare women for childbirth,” according to basket weaver and Tumacácori employee Rhonda Wilson.



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# Membership Matters

“She [Luci Baines Johnson, daughter of LBJ] can weave a tale much as her father did.”

—Valerie Schafer, WNPA Senior Field Operations Manager

Each spring, 400 teens descend on Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park to experience “Reflections of the 60s.” Before seeing speakers like Robert Stanton, the first African American director of the NPS, and Luci Baines Johnson, daughter of former U.S. President LBJ, many of these Texas high school students have no idea what life was like just fifty years ago. With interactive activities like a lunch counter sit-in, the program helps youth understand the complexities and conflict of the 1960s, a decade of change. Students dress in their best tie-dye and are challenged to put themselves in the shoes of those who struggled for civil rights and equality.

Your support makes it possible for our national parks to bring history to life. Become a WNPA member or consider including us in your will or estate plan. For more information, visit [wnpa.org](http://wnpa.org) or contact Amy Reichgott, Development Manager, at 520-789-7406 or [amy.reichgott@wnpa.org](mailto:amy.reichgott@wnpa.org).

Actor Xavier Carnegie takes students through an interactive training for a lunch counter sit-in.

photo courtesy of Charlotte McDaniel

