

SPRING / SUMMER 2016



TETON STEWARDS

NEWSLETTER of the GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION



Photo: Brad Schwarm/Alpenglow Tours

CELEBRATING *the* CENTENNIAL: *the* NATIONAL PARK SERVICE *turns* 100!

In 1872, almost by accident, Congress established Yellowstone National Park as the world's first national park. The idea was novel, land set aside not for private commercial development and exploitation, but rather for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. Over time, the national park idea grew and with it came national treasures like Yosemite, Mount Rainier, Mesa Verde, and Rocky Mountain national parks.

In those early years dreams were big, but organization was loose, budgets were exceedingly thin, and national park system cohesiveness was nonexistent. That began to change when, on August 25, 1916, the work of caring for these places was moved to a new agency created by Congress for that specific purpose. The National Park Service was given the mission to not only conserve and protect parks, but also to leave them "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." We celebrate the 100th anniversary of that momentous occasion this year.

Continued on next page



The early days in Grand Teton National Park. Photos: Jackson Hole Historical Society

One of the crowning achievements of the National Park Service's first 100 years was the establishment of Grand Teton National Park. It wasn't easy. It took two acts of Congress, one presidential executive action,

the same as it was almost a century ago. We are still negotiating to complete the park, we still depend on the advocacy and engagement of our stakeholders, and philanthropy is still central to our success.

As the centennial year moves into full swing, we are committed to connecting with and creating the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates. As the world in which we live changes faster than ever before, we must adapt,

Today we are grappling with the impacts of record-breaking visitation and devising creative strategies to protect park resources and the visitor experience.

the advocacy of countless interested citizens, some skilled negotiating, and perhaps most importantly the incredible philanthropic efforts of John D. Rockefeller Jr. to make it all happen. But it was all worth it.

Today the National Park Service continues its legacy of preserving Grand Teton National Park for future generations while providing for its enjoyment in the present. In many ways, the job is

However, the job has changed in many ways, too. In the early days we promoted the park to increase visitation and support. Today we are grappling with the impacts of record-breaking visitation and devising creative strategies to protect park resources and the visitor experience. While early park managers focused on the idea of creating a strictly natural park, today we place equal value on our cultural resources and the legacy of those who came before us.

be nimble, be strategic, and think creatively. So, too, must we remember our roots and stay true to the national park mission that was set out so eloquently 100 years ago. It's been an amazing first 100 years of service to the American people, here's to the next century being even better!

By Andrew White
Assistant Public Affairs Officer
Grand Teton National Park

Message from President
LESLIE MATTSON

How do you celebrate **100** years
of the National Park Service?
What kind of gift does *one* give?

In 2011, we decided to do something special for Grand Teton in honor of the NPS's 100th anniversary. Working with the park, we chose a major renewal at one of the most beautiful spots in the world—

Jenny Lake. With the help of park staff and other talented organizations, including Hershberger Design and The Sibbett Group, we envisioned a first-class visitor experience that includes improved trails, new bridges, and a transformed interpretive area in the frontcountry, all while maintaining and honoring the classic Jenny Lake feel.

While much of the area will be under construction over the next two summers, some segments have opened and you can see the transformation. The craftsmanship is impressive; the stone features and well-worn paths look as if they have been there forever. And if you

see the trail crew in action, thank them for their effort. Trail building is backbreaking work. I marvel at their ability to haul, shape, and artistically place rocks every day.

Grand Teton National Park Foundation has also seized the opportunity to make an additional centennial gift to Grand Teton—to purchase 640 acres of state-owned land near Mormon Row. Our private fundraising efforts, along with matching federal funding, will ensure it becomes a part of Grand Teton forever. The sale of this state parcel will also inject \$46 million of critical funding into Wyoming's public school system. See our feature for the full story; it will be an incredible outcome for both the park and Wyoming school children. We have an unprecedented partnership with National Park Foundation



Photo: Flo McCall

to jointly raise \$23 million in seven months. It's an ambitious goal but this moment in time will not come our way again.

While our gifts cannot be wrapped in beautiful paper and topped with a bow, they are offerings of the best kind—they share experiences, knowledge, and beauty with others and will benefit the park long after the centennial festivities wind down. Thanks for all you have done to make this happen. It's going to be a special year in Grand Teton National Park!

Leslie Mattson

Leslie
President

CENTENNIAL SUMMER at JENNY LAKE: What to Expect

The summer of the National Park Service centennial will mark the third year of construction for *Inspiring Journeys: A Campaign for Jenny Lake*—our gift to Grand Teton National Park in celebration of this historic milestone.

Construction in 2014 and 2015 improved backcountry trails, and we are pleased to share that the newly restored path between Hidden Falls and Inspiration Point will open to the public in early summer. We look forward to visitors hiking this route and seeing first-hand the incredible impact of the project on this iconic trail.

This summer it will be increasingly obvious that construction is underway at Jenny Lake. Frontcountry work will begin around the visitor plaza so parking will be limited. Temporary visitor services, trail reroutes, and closures will be in place. The ranger station, visitor center, general store, Jenny Lake Boating, Exum Mountain Guides, multiuse pathway, and the Jenny Lake Campground will all remain open. Signs will be in place to help visitors navigate through the project area.

Frontcountry construction will include new water and wastewater infrastructure, which began last fall and will continue through early summer. Once the underground work is complete,

landscape and hardscape work will begin in the central plaza area. Crews will rebuild asphalt trails, create new lake overlooks, and construct drystone walls between the core visitor plaza and the lake.

Backcountry improvements will focus on Hidden Falls and the South Cascade Creek trail, both of which will be closed for the season. Visitors will not be able to hike to Hidden Falls this summer—trail crews will work to create a sustainable viewing space and restore damaged areas at the base of the falls. Improvements to the West Boat Dock will begin in the fall after the busy summer season.

For the most up-to-date information on closures and access at Jenny Lake, please stop by a park visitor center or ask a ranger. We appreciate everyone's patience during this time of renewal and are delighted to share that all work will be complete before the 2018 summer season. We look forward to sharing project updates with you as work progresses.



Hiking tips

Come Early or Come Late

Late morning through early afternoon will be crowded. Avoid peak visitation for minimal hikers and easier parking.

Fewer People, Dramatic Scenery

Consider exploring other lakeshore hikes in the park. Rangers will happily recommend favorites and help you plan an unforgettable day.

Ask a Ranger

Stop by a park visitor center or ask a ranger for the most up-to-date information about trail closures and reroutes at Jenny Lake.



Last summer, crews completed 1,500 square feet of stone masonry dry-stacked walls, 32 drains, 254 stone steps, and 628 lineal feet of single tier wall during the complete reconstruct of nearly one-half mile of trail leading to Inspiration Point. Conditions before construction (left) contained trip hazards and was unstable. The reconstructed trail (right) is wider, long-lasting, and has a more predictable walking surface.

Celebrate the Centennial by supporting *Inspiring Journeys!*



Gifts of all sizes are welcome and needed. Commitments of \$25,000 or more will be recognized in the Jenny Lake visitor plaza.

Join us today at
www.gtnpf.org/donate
 or call Leslie Mattson at
 307-732-0629.



New Public-Private effort Aims and Complete Grand

Here in Grand Teton, there is a historic parallel between 1916 and 2016.

While August brings a celebration of the vision that created the National Park Service 100 years ago, we also have our eyes on a December 2016 deadline—a chance to protect one square mile in the heart of Grand Teton National Park from potential development. Such an effort continues the tradition of public-private partnerships that were central

to the establishment of Grand Teton. John D. Rockefeller Jr. recognized the role of philanthropy in the permanent protection of critical lands for the public. This 2016 deadline to purchase one of two large inholdings is an opportunity to permanently preserve the park's remaining highest-value wildlife and scenic lands. With your help, private

funding can once again play a leading role in Grand Teton's history.

The parcels at stake within Grand Teton's boundaries are unique. They are owned by the State of Wyoming and held in a trust required to generate revenue for public education. The State of Wyoming has a constitutional obligation to earn



to Secure High-Stakes Land Teton National Park

Photo: Bob Woodall/FPI, Inc.

income from trust assets, primarily by using the lands commercially, making their inholdings subject to potential development. That reality makes securing the 1,280 acres the current land-protection priority for the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service. Each inholding, the 640-acre Antelope Flats parcel valued at \$46 million, and the 640-acre Kelly parcel, is part of that state trust. While Grand Teton National

Park lands were protected for the public with a specific mission so, too, were the state school trust lands. They simply have different equally important mandates.

The good news is that securing the Antelope Flats parcel would not only be a tremendous win for the park, but also for Wyoming. The money generated from the sale will help Wyoming's school trust meet its fiduciary mandate and trust

What are State School Trust Lands?

The state school trust consists of land assets and funds generated from the land assets. By state constitutional mandate, the assets must generate income for the beneficiaries—Wyoming's public schools. The trust lands are used commercially, producing income from leases for development such as wind turbines, oil and gas, livestock grazing, timber harvesting, or land sales to fund public education throughout the state. Wyoming's state school trust is very large, totaling 3.5 million surface acres and 3.9 million mineral acres.

Continued on next page



The Antelope Flats parcel provides vital habitat for many species of wildlife. The Jackson Hole elk and bison herds' seasonal migration routes pass through this tract of land. It is also adjacent to the most productive sage grouse lek in the region and provides important breeding, nesting, and brood rearing habitat for many birds. A former wolf den is near the parcel, and it contained the pack's rendezvous site that was utilized by both pups and adults for an entire summer. Pronghorn are also common there, as are badger, coyotes, fox, and dozens of bird species.

obligations, generating vital income at a time when decreasing energy revenues have hurt the state's economy. If successful, protection of the Antelope Flats parcel could create the momentum for a future transaction to emerge in 2017 for the Kelly parcel.

Recognizing the importance of the state school trust lands to the integrity of Grand Teton, efforts are underway to secure the necessary \$23 million through the National Park Service's annual appropriations process in Congress this year. This money will match \$23 million raised privately for the purchase of the Antelope Flats parcel. The state has the legislative authority to sell the land before calendar year-end. Grand Teton National

Park Foundation and Washington DC-based National Park Foundation have launched a campaign to raise \$23 million in private funds before the end of 2016.

Securing these two parcels will be capstone conservation achievements for the National Park Service and will also convert key Wyoming school trust land assets into cash at a critical time for Wyoming. Each of us has the opportunity to be a modern-day John D. Rockefeller Jr. and help complete the vision of a park unobstructed by development and protected for the enjoyment of future generations, all while helping Wyoming's public school system. Will you join our effort to purchase the Antelope Flats parcel during this centennial year?

Be part of one of America's greatest conservation achievements. Contact Leslie Mattson at 307-732-0629 or leslie@gtnpf.org.



Wildlife Photos: Brad Schwarm/Alpenglow Tours



History of State School Trust Lands

In the West, when a territory chose statehood, the federal government deeded land to the new state. This land was bound in a public state trust to be leased or used to generate income for public education, state government, and other public needs.

In order to deed school trust lands uniformly, the federal government generally gave states two square miles per every 36 miles of land. A square mile is called a section. A township makes up 36 sections, or 36 square miles. States received two sections in each township as part of the land trust mandated to serve the public beneficiaries in perpetuity.

The two school sections in Grand Teton National Park illustrate this distribution of two land sections per township. Wyoming became a state in 1890. At this time, the school lands were deeded throughout Wyoming, and the state's school trust formed. Grand Teton National Park was created in 1929 and the boundaries were finalized by 1950. Since the state school trust lands fell within the new boundaries, they became inholdings within the park.



Message from
Grand Teton National Park Superintendent
DAVID VELA



Photo: NPS

We are in the midst of Celebrating
100 Years of the National Park Service.
What a great time to be involved with America's Best Idea!

It is an honor to serve as Grand Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway superintendent during this special time. The mission of our agency states, *The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.*

As I reflect on the mission and our centennial celebration, I can't help but think of my five grandkids. Being a grandparent is truly one of life's many blessings. Melissa and I adore our grandkids, and the opportunity to protect Grand Teton and all that it has to offer for their and our nation's benefit is of great importance to me. I am also truly honored to achieve these interests in partnership with our friends at the Foundation.

Let's take time to celebrate our accomplishments and the significant contributions that have been made over the past 100 years. More importantly, let's embrace the opportunity to inspire a new generation of park enthusiasts and stewards. I believe that through thoughtful, strategic, and collaborative efforts, we will effectively achieve our mutual interests as we engage in a second century of service.

The passion that exists for Grand Teton National Park is incredible. We all have our own personal connections to the park, other national parks, and public lands in general. Our centennial celebration is a time to reflect on that connection and provide an opportunity for those who do not know us to find and make a meaningful connection of their own.

As a superintendent and a grandparent, I will continue to share the story of the National Park Service and the grand treasures that it contains for current and future generations of park visitors, supporters, and stewards. With your continued support, we will engage and inspire youth and diverse communities to experience their birthright and opportunities in caring for their national parks in a second century of stewardship.

Thanks for your passion, energy, and support of Grand Teton National Park. Happy 100th birthday to the National Park Service, and thanks for what you do in providing timeless memories for all who come to enjoy and experience this magnificent place.

CLAY JAMES *Remembered*

1939 – 2015

Clay James and his wife, Shay, settled in Jackson in 1984 when he accepted a position as general manager of Grand Teton Lodge Company. Clay worked for the organization for 32 years and retired as the president in 2006. During his tenure, Clay started the Dollar-per-Night program, encouraging guests to donate \$1 per night of their stay to the Foundation. This idea has generated nearly one million dollars for special projects in Grand Teton, and the concept has spread across the country.

Clay also played an invaluable leadership role in two of the most significant additions to this park in decades. In 1997, he joined a small group from the local community to create Grand Teton National Park Foundation, with the goal of building a new visitor center for the park. Clay's passion for Grand Teton, his understanding of how things are accomplished in national parks, and his persistence and patience made the Foundation's vision a reality—the



Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center opened to the public in 2007. During this time, Clay also began working for the Rockefeller estate as project manager for the transition of the JY Ranch to the park service. The project was completed in 2007, and the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve opened to the public in 2008. Clay was honored to help with the transfer of this exceptionally generous gift from Laurance S. Rockefeller and considered it a highlight of his career.

Clay James left a remarkable impact on Grand Teton National Park, the Foundation, and countless individuals and organizations in the Jackson Hole valley. His vision and commitment to preserving this special place for the enjoyment of future generations was extraordinary. Although he is deeply missed, Clay's legacy will continue to impact Grand Teton National Park and its visitors well into the future.

Photo: Jonathan Adams

HORACE ALBRIGHT SOCIETY

Creating Conservation Legacies Today



THINGS CHANGE. SO SHOULD *your* CHARITABLE ESTATE PLAN.

Your will or trust, life insurance policy, and retirement accounts can provide incredible benefits to the organizations you care about. It's easy. Ask your financial advisor about tax advantages that come with including the Foundation in your plans for the future.

Contact Kim Mills at 307-732-4192 or visit www.gtnpf.org to discover ways you can support the Foundation without impacting the way you live today.

Photo: Diana Stratton



Mailing: PO Box 249
Moose, Wyoming 83012

Physical: 25 South Willow Street, #10
Jackson, Wyoming 83001

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PD
PERMIT #81
JACKSON WY

Printed on recycled paper



Board of Directors

Barbara Carlson	Adrienne Mars
Max C. Chapman, Jr.	Richard W. Mithoff
Natalie Clark	Mark Newcomb
Nancy S. Donovan	Hugh O'Halloran
Lisa Claudy Fleischman	Trina Overlock
Bill Givens	Tom Saylak
Barry Gold	David Viehman
Jeff Hanson	Rob Wallace
Christine A. Hartley	Lisa Wan
Debbie Hechinger	Jeff Willemain
Jane B. Hill	Gerald T. Halpin
Molly Kelly	Chair Emeritus
Neal Manne	

Inspiring Journeys Campaign CoChairs

Barbara Carlson
John V. Faraci
Katherine L. Mead

GTNPF Staff

Leslie A. Mattson President	Elise Delmolino Manager, Annual Giving
Mark Berry Vice President	Maddy Jacobson Development & Communications Associate
Steve Cain Development Officer	Diane McGee Operations Manager

Resource Council

Don Alsted	Ed Riddell
Debbie Barker	Lee Riddell
Andrea Bent	Catherine Marcus Rose
Dennis Butcher	John Rutter
Colby Cox	Ann Ryan
John Gerber	James E. Ryan
Ron Harrison	Robert B. Smith
Sandy Hessler	Susan Thomas
Jean Hocker	John Townsend
Renny Jackson	John Turner
Latham Jenkins	Kelly Walker
Chuck Koob	Celia Wallace
Charlotte Krugh	Kevin Warsh
Alison Lee	Bill Waterman
Phil Leeds	Shawn Whitman
Craig Pattee	Scott Williams
Glenn Ray	Terry Winchell

Kim Mills Director, Communications, Corporate Relations & Estate Planning	Cathy Wikoff Director, Foundations & Special Gifts
Leslie Muzzy Administrative Assistant	Margaret Creel Intern
Mary Patno Accounting Manager	

Grand Teton National Park Foundation

Post Office Box 249 Moose, Wyoming 83012 t (307) 732-0629 f (307) 732-0639

www.gtnpf.org