



TETON STEWARDS

NEWSLETTER of the GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION

FALL & WINTER 2013 / 2014



Photo: Diana Stratton

Foundation *makes* Major Capital Investment *at* Iconic Jenny Lake

With the August 8 public announcement by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, the Foundation's newest initiative is moving from planning phase toward reality. *Inspiring Journeys: A Campaign for Jenny Lake* is a collaboration between Grand Teton National Park and Grand Teton National Park Foundation. The project will address deteriorating conditions and inadequate facilities in order to better connect people to this magnificent place, inspiring generations of future visitors to become park lovers and supporters. *Continued on next page*

The Foundation's \$13 million campaign, along with \$3 million in park-funded work, will provide a far-reaching \$16 million transformation at Jenny Lake. Fundraising will be completed by August 25, 2016, the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. The Foundation has raised more than \$5 million toward the goal.

Over the years, many of the facilities at Jenny Lake have been loved to death as millions of visitors seek the area's famous views. "Foundation supporters are keenly aware that the park has a long list of needs and shrinking funds to address them,"

"Over the years, many of the facilities at Jenny Lake have been loved to death as millions of visitors seek the area's famous views."

Foundation President Leslie Mattson says. "If we want to see a holistic improvement project, private philanthropy will need to lead the effort." As with the Foundation's role in providing most of the funding for the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose, Foundation involvement at Jenny Lake will allow for a higher quality and more impactful project.

Past efforts have provided for some of the site's needs, but significant opportunities exist to improve the experience and convey the importance of protecting park resources to a multitude of visitors. "At its core, *Inspiring Journeys* is about trails. The popular hiking destinations at Jenny Lake are an incredible introduction to wilderness for hundreds of thousands of visitors each summer," Mattson says. "Visitors are currently

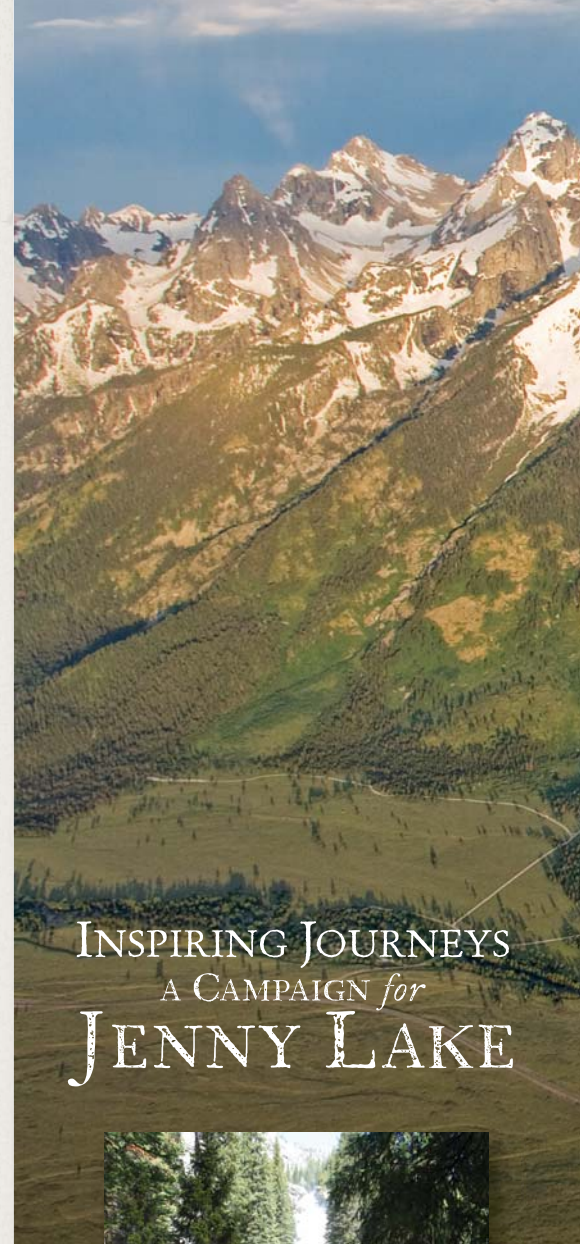
confronted with crowding and poor conditions on the trails and at the most popular hiking destinations—generally not the desired first impression of our national park."

Inspiring Journeys aims to reverse years of accumulated trail damage, providing a safer and more inspiring experience for hikers of all abilities and more meaningful wilderness experiences for generations of park visitors. By encouraging one-way hiking on a series of loop trails, the perception of crowding is decreased. The project will also make much needed improvements in and around the existing Jenny Lake Visitor Center.

"Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said that park partners should provide a margin of excellence for our national parks rather than a margin of survival. And that is precisely what the Foundation will accomplish through this *Inspiring Journeys* campaign designed to improve the Jenny Lake area and highlight the centennial," Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott says.

More than ever, national parks should model excellent stewardship of our wilderness, wildlife, and recreational resources. *Inspiring Journeys* will ensure that a Jenny Lake experience remains among the finest offered in all of our national parks.

Want to learn more about our centennial project? Contact Leslie Mattson at 307-732-0629.



Conceptual rendering of improvements at Hidden Falls

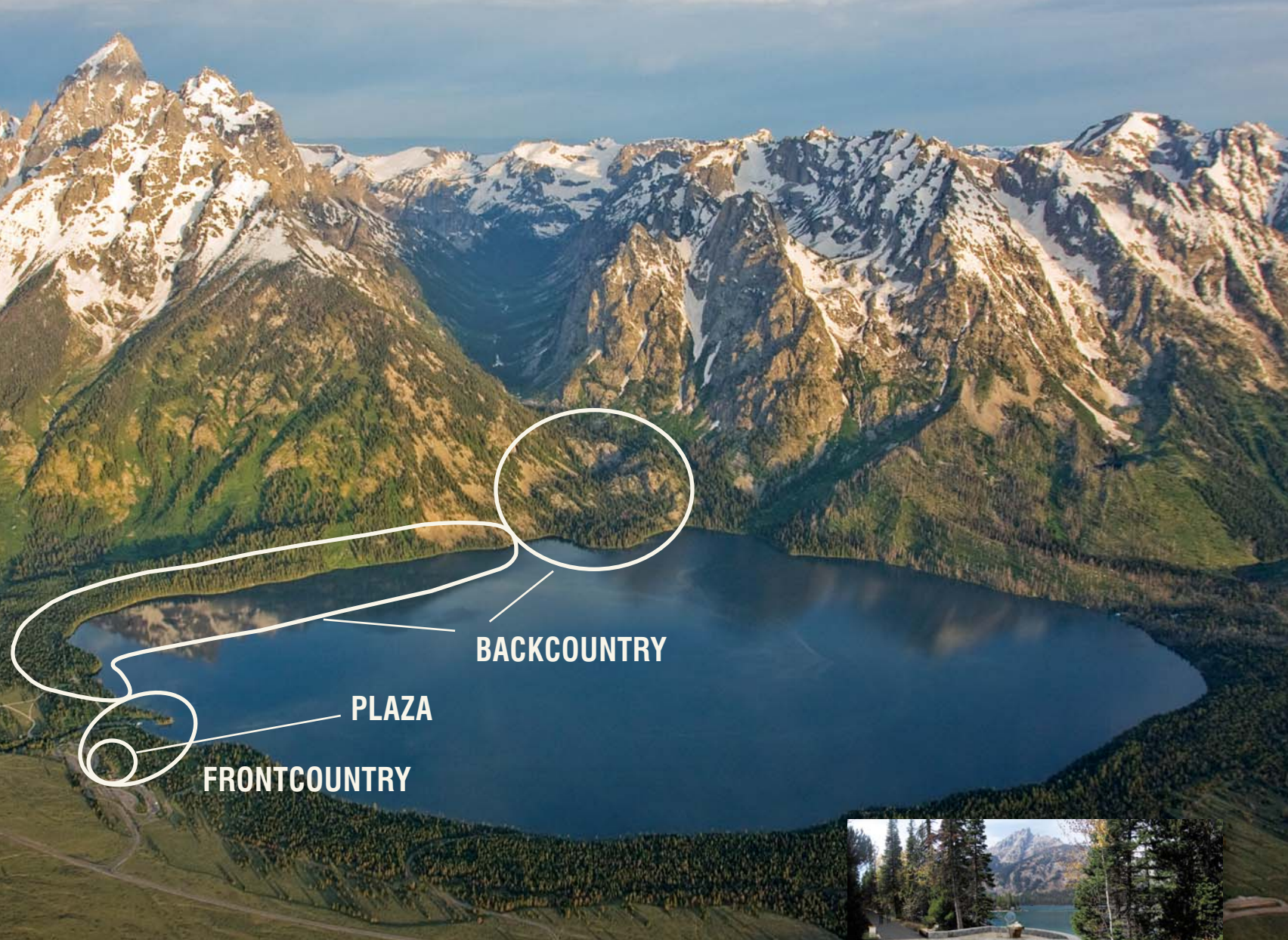


Conceptual rendering of new Chasm Bridge

GTNPF 2013 Highlights



- Raised \$4,035,043
- 1,220 donors supported our work



Conceptual rendering of primary frontcountry overlook at Jenny Lake

BACKCOUNTRY improvements will provide a well planned, artfully constructed, and intuitive network of trails, connecting more durable and better defined gathering areas at key destinations.

- Reorganizes trails and wayfinding
- Replaces bridges
- Improves west boat dock
- Improves Hidden Falls and Inspiration Point
- Improves overall trail conditions and repairs damaged areas

FRONTCOUNTRY improvements will enable people of all abilities to engage with the place physically and intellectually and will educate and prepare visitors who desire to experience the wilderness on the west side of Jenny Lake.

- Creates fully accessible trails, overlooks, and lake access points
- Improves the east boat dock area
- Adds interpretive exhibit, trip planning, and wayfinding elements

At the **INTERPRETIVE PLAZA** visitors will be welcomed and will connect with Jenny Lake through interpretive features and displays, learning many stories unique to Grand Teton National Park.

- Creates an outdoor visitor center
- Includes interpretive and interactive features and displays
- Provides a welcoming front door for Jenny Lake visitors
- Doubles number of restroom facilities



- Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced *Inspiring Journeys*, a \$16 million campaign to transform the Jenny Lake area; more than \$5 million raised to date



- Design plans for the Jenny Lake restoration were finalized and construction began



Message from President LESLIE MATTSON

On August 8th, a gorgeous summer morning, I joined Grand Teton Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to publicly announce the Inspiring Journeys campaign, the Foundation's signature project for the National Park Service's 100th anniversary in 2016. With Teewinot Mountain towering in the backdrop and a crowd of over 150 Foundation friends, park staff, and reporters gathered before her, the secretary congratulated the Foundation on our past and current successes, such as the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center and our annually funded youth programs. Her enthusiasm for the campaign was a fantastic affirmation of the energy and excitement that has been brewing about the project internally over the last two years and a spirited celebration of public-private partnerships such as ours. It is with immense pride and pleasure that we share news of the campaign with you now.

Our goal to raise \$13 million will enable a complete transformation of the visitor experience at Grand Teton's

most visited site (and certainly one of its most beautiful destinations). We have raised over \$5 million to date. There's a buzz generating within our community of Grand Teton supporters, locally and across the country. As project plans take final shape, I recall the remarkable impact private philanthropy has had in this park in the past and look to the future with anticipation. First-time visitors will arrive at an entrance that is welcoming, intuitive, and informative, and they will remember the experience—and the place—forever. Long-term sustainability and maintenance requirements for trails continue to drive erosion and way-finding solutions in the backcountry.

I hope you share my excitement that this special project is underway and you will join us in our efforts to enhance and improve Jenny Lake. I also encourage your continued support for our annually funded programs that enable youth engagement as well as natural and cultural resource protection in Grand Teton.

Together, let's honor the magnificence of Jenny Lake's breathtaking trails, sights, and shores.

Leslie Mattson

Leslie
President

As this newsletter was going to press, I learned from Superintendent Scott of her upcoming retirement, which you'll read about in her column. Our organization has valued her leadership and support of our partnership. Mary became superintendent of Grand Teton National Park in May 2004, and I joined Grand Teton National Park Foundation in July 2004. For nearly 10 years we have worked together to ensure Grand Teton National Park is the best it can be. The board and staff join me in thanking her for her dedication, camaraderie, and sense of humor. We wish her well and congratulate her on her retirement.

LESLIE MATTSON



Mary Gibson Scott and Leslie Mattson share a laugh during Secretary Jewell's remarks

- Vernon Collection exhibit funded by donor gifts was added to Moose visitor center



- Private gifts supported species research and habitat restoration; preserving wildlife and educating visitors



HANDS-ON SUPPORT

FOUNDATION FRIENDS DEEPEN CONNECTIONS to GRAND TETON *through* VOLUNTEERISM

Each year, individuals known as VIPs (Volunteers-In-Parks) contribute their time and expertise to help achieve the National Park Service mission. Read how four GTNPF friends are giving back to Grand Teton in more ways than one.

In 2008, **Lee Kintzel** read about Grand Teton's Wildlife Brigade, a group of volunteers that facilitates safe interac-



tions between visitors and wildlife. The Brigade had no open spots when she inquired about getting involved, so she instead accepted a position at the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve. Since then, she's spent several days a week each summer as a volunteer ranger, helping staff tackle noxious weeds and trail maintenance, manage parking, and provide first-rate visitor services.

If you've ever ridden the park's bike path, you've probably encountered the smiling face of a bike path patrol volunteer some

where along the route. If you ride on Saturday mornings, it very well could have been **Roger Kintzel**. Having just completed his 3rd season on the patrol, Roger describes his role as an ambassador as incredibly gratifying. "We give directions, help fix flat tires, and make recommendations about other activities in Grand Teton—for a local, that's a beautiful way to experience the park."

As a volunteer based out of the Jenny Lake Ranger Station and a Medic 1 ambulance driver, GTNPF resource council member **Scott Williams** saw a side of park services few will ever encounter. In addition to ambulance driving (and achieving the required certification), Scott spent time manning the ranger station and visitor center at Jenny Lake as well as backcountry



patrolling. He worked 3 to 5 days each week this summer and logged over 400 miles on

Grand Teton trails. "The Jenny Lake Rangers are such a highly-skilled, athletic, and adaptive group of people who are doing a great public service—it's great to be a part of that environment."

Volunteer interpretative ranger and GTNPF resource council member **Sandy Schultz-Hessler** spent 1 or 2 days each week this summer at the Jenny Lake Visitor

Center and on surrounding trails. "I had some time and I love the parks. It seemed like a great way to pass on that love to others who come here."

Sandy answered her fair share of questions about boat docks and bathrooms, but her favorite activity was inducting kids into the Junior Ranger Program.



- 24 Youth Conservation Program teens worked 6,541 hours on trails and historic sites, gaining in-depth park knowledge and life-changing experiences



- 10 co-eds worked in GTNP through NPS Academy; internships for 174 diverse students in parks across America have given career-minded young adults an insider's view of the NPS



Photo: Diana Stratton



What do you give the person who has **everything**?



Give a bear box to protect one of
Grand Teton's most magnificent species!

\$1,500 funds a bear-resistant food storage box in Grand Teton National Park, with a 3 x 5" stainless steel plaque to honor your special person. They'll receive an irresistible teddy bear and information about why bear boxes are so important, wrapped in a festive box and tied with a bow.

The bear box will be located at one of the park's picturesque campsites for you to visit next summer. It's sure to bring a smile to friends and family who care about protecting incredible wildlife and making the park a safer place for visitors and bears alike. The Foundation has funded nearly 250 and hundreds more are needed.

Contact Elisabeth Rohrbach at 307-732-0629
for your bear box today!



INTERIOR SECRETARY CELEBRATES PARTNERSHIPS *and* ENCOURAGES YOUTH

After announcing the *Inspiring Journeys* campaign and praising public-private partnerships, an emotional Sally Jewell appealed to the audience to "get more young people out here because that's going to be our future." While in the Tetons, Jewell attended the graduation ceremony for NPS Academy, a Foundation-funded internship program for diverse college students. She had an opportunity to talk with students and

encourage them to continue their work in national parks and assured them that youth programs are among the Department of the Interior's highest priorities.

"It [the Tetons] gets into your blood, but if we don't give these young people a chance to get it into their blood, they're not going to be in Congress advocating for the Tetons or for our great public lands."



Photo: Flo McCall

To watch Jewell's announcement, visit
www.gtnpf.org



- Local Latino students—the largest group yet—discovered park resources/recreation and developed leadership skills through Pura Vida



- Funded 32 bear boxes for picnic and camping sites, GTNPF funded 244 to date; goal is 1,000

Message from Grand Teton National Park Superintendent MARY GIBSON SCOTT

Grand Teton National Park protects some of the most spectacular scenery, wildlife, and critical habitats found anywhere in the world. On a beautiful August morning, we celebrated the wonders of Grand Teton with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and launched *Inspiring Journeys*, a campaign to renew the Jenny Lake area that lies at the heart of this amazing national park. With the vision of the past, combined with the passion of the present, we've begun a joint quest to revitalize this most popular area. *Inspiring Journeys* promises to awaken

preservation through foresight, commitment, and philanthropy. We are excited to begin this ambitious project through the help of our Foundation partner and its many dedicated patrons.

I must also emphasize, that following the 16-day government shutdown in October, park staff were greatly relieved to welcome back all visitors who sought to enjoy the park's splendor and wildlife. Closing the gates at Grand Teton and the JDR Memorial Parkway because of a lapse in federal funding—and turning away people who came from far and wide to experience these



Grand Teton Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott received George B. Hartzog, Jr. Environmental Award recognition from former NPS Director Fran Mainella at a recent Clemson University ceremony.

Photo credit: Clemson University
Pictured L to R, Gary Everhardt (former GTNP superintendent & 9th NPS director), Superintendent Scott, Fran Mainella (16th NPS director) and Ron Walker (8th NPS director)

“My sincere thanks to all of you for your support of Grand Teton.

It has been an honor to serve as superintendent.

Roger and I will remain in the valley, the place that has become our home.”

imaginations and kindle a determination to protect and preserve this park's treasures in the vein of past visionaries and park champions such as John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Laurance S. Rockefeller, Horace Albright, the Muries, and other influential stewards. Through a variety of improvements, we will expand visitors' abilities to experience the scenery and discover the enduring inspiration that only extraordinary places like Jenny Lake can provide. The culmination of this coincides with the NPS' 2016 centennial: our keynote celebration of a proud conservation legacy and tradition of

special places—was very difficult. In every way, it ran counter to our very nature, which is to welcome visitors to America's national parks and to help deepen their appreciation and commitment to their preservation.

On a personal note, this is my last column for the Foundation's newsletter. After 9 ½ years as superintendent, it is time to move on. The partnership between the Foundation and the park has matured and grown these last few years—from executing the vision for the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center and its new auditorium wing, to the

Youth Conservation Program, Pura Vida, wolf monitoring, bear boxes, and so much more. My sincere thanks to all of you for your support of Grand Teton. It has been an honor to serve as superintendent. Roger and I will remain in the valley, the place that has become our home.



- Moulton Barn turned 100; donors funded stabilization work and celebrated one of Wyoming's most beloved buildings



- TravelStorysGPS, a mobile giving app, continued to connect visitors to park stories and conservation



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Photo: Bob Woodall