



TETON STEWARDS

NEWSLETTER of the GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION

S P R I N G / S U M M E R 2 0 1 3



Photo: McQuiston Books and NPS

Dakota Sioux beaded buckskin dress, c. 1875, with Sioux necklace.

The David T. Vernon Collection

LIVING HISTORY COMES HOME

Grand Teton National Park, known for craggy peaks, wildlife, and adventure sports, also ranks among the country's top spots for Native American art and artifacts. When Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott first arrived in 2004, she was amazed to discover the incredible David T. Vernon Collection, one of the most diverse Indian art collections in the world. Nearly a decade later, painstakingly restored objects and their fascinating stories have been unveiled and are captivating visitors and collectors around the globe. Not only is this priceless gift from Laurance S. Rockefeller

Continued on next page

quickly becoming a well-preserved representation of social and cultural objects used by tribes across America, much of the collection is also completely new to the public—offering pieces that were stored for half a century and never displayed.

“Objects of art that affect you emotionally and spiritually are not only beautiful, but they also connect you to a living culture,” Scott says, explaining that the 1830-1940 collection features some pieces that can be traced to individuals, which is rare. Experts have long known this collection’s importance due to the breadth of tribes and cultures it represents, but research continues to reveal an unexpected link to the Tetons. “We know it’s irreplaceable and unique in the National Park Service—that’s what makes it so special. These objects magically carry you back to the time of their creation, and you can’t help but wonder about the person who created an individual item. There’s a real presence and power to each piece.”

Since 1972, a portion of the Vernon Collection has been displayed at the Colter Bay Visitor Center. In recent years, the park has worked to restore and conserve the objects and to ensure they remain in the park as was the intention of Mr. Rockefeller. “When I arrived, I saw a deteriorating collection that had not been treated, preserved, or humidified since 1972,” Scott says. Despite the park’s efforts to preserve it, more was needed.

With tribal help, the park determined which objects were most vulnerable and sent them to the Western Archaeological and Conservation Center, an NPS conservation and curatorial facility in Tucson, AZ. In fall 2011, the second half of the collection was transported to AZ, and the following summer, 38 treated items that represent local tribes were returned to a renovated exhibit space at Colter Bay. In spring 2013, three museum-quality display cases were installed in the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center with funding from Grand Teton National Park Foundation, Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., and Grand Teton Association to showcase additional treated objects.

The Vernon Collection forms a collective memory of tribes and traditions that are very much alive today and highlights the importance of preserving and sharing our country’s cultural history for all time. A discussion about where to create a permanent museum to house the entire collection is underway along with ongoing consultation with all tribes represented by the pieces. The permanent exhibit will include continued dialog with tribal representatives to assure the stories of the objects and associated tribes are properly displayed and interpreted. It is a next step in the superintendent’s greater mission to give these pieces the environment they require and the respect they deserve. “We hold this collection in public trust to ensure its permanent preservation for future generations.”



Southern Cheyenne, c. 1880 Photo: NPS

Colorful Moccasins, Blankets, and More in Moose

Eight years, 304 items treated to date, and a total cost of nearly \$1 million to treat, photograph, and build specialized mounts for the entire collection, Grand Teton continues to prepare for the day when the full 1,429-object collection returns home. The Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center is the second site to showcase newly restored items in museum-quality cases funded by Grand Teton National Park Foundation, Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., and Grand Teton Association. The facility will house 48 never-before-seen pieces that demonstrate the collection’s vast scope. Representing approximately 100 tribes, 17 of which are historically affiliated with the Tetons, the collection’s story evolves as new data unfolds.

The NPS Western Archaeological and Conservation Center has been consumed with cleaning, stabilizing, and repairing a wide variety of Vernon items “that are breathtaking as art but also functional and spiritually meaningful,” Scott says. Much like the people and the traditions this collection celebrates, the objects tell important stories that guarantee the tribes’ rich history lives on.

Message from President LESLIE MATTSON



Window seats on a flight into Jackson Hole rarely disappoint.

If skies are cloudy, the prospect of fresh snow and powder skiing supersedes any longing for a sight of the Teton Range; if the weather is clear, passengers are greeted by world-class blue skies and Cathedral peaks. I was treated to the latter a few months ago as I returned to Jackson. Seated among a sea of ski vacationers who had never been to the area before, I marveled at the passengers' collective reaction to the scene outside. It takes only a few seconds to feel a connection to Grand Teton, even from the seat of a plane.

In 1997, Grand Teton's then superintendent, Jack Neckels, along with Emeritus Board Member Jerry Halpin gathered a small group of people together with the goal of deepening those initial, innate connections

to Grand Teton. With incredible vision and purpose, Grand Teton National Park Foundation's founding board members set out to raise funds for a state-of-the-art visitor center that would provide a way for visitors to learn about the park and explore its features in an exciting, accessible way. I joined them in 2004, and together, we raised \$17.1 million in private funding for the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center and its auditorium. Today, the center is acclaimed as one of the most successful private-public partnership projects ever completed in a national park.

The same enlightened guidance from our current board and resource council and the dedicated support of our constituents has helped us leverage that initial effort into so much more for Grand Teton.

On average, we gift approximately \$3 million to the park each year for projects that enhance the visitor experience and preserve these landscapes for generations to come. From the seat of a plane, from the top of the Grand, or from the banks of the Snake River, Grand Teton is to each of us, our own.

Leslie Mattson

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Leslie" in a cursive script.

President

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Contact Kim Mills at 307-732-4192 or visit www.gtnpf.org/horace.php to discover the benefits of charitable estate planning.



Photo: Christian Beckwith

Remembering Jarad Spackman

1972-2013

Jarad Spackman, a former Foundation resource council member and a generous supporter, died as the result of an avalanche in Grand Teton National Park on March 1, 2013. Jarad, his brother, Brandon, and father, Dave, worked together as the Spackman Group in Sotheby's International Realty and were among the most successful and respected real estate teams in the country.

Growing up in Jackson Hole, Jarad developed a passion for mountains and the skills and strength to explore them as few people do. Jarad's mountain adventures often included Stephanie, his wife of 9 years, Brandon, and many friends who always felt fortunate to be with him in his element. He climbed and explored around the globe but the Tetons were his home and special to him. Jarad remarked earnestly on the beauty of the place only minutes before his untimely death, according to his climbing partner.

The Foundation offers a hearty “thank you, Jarad,” for sharing his talents and passion on behalf of the park we all love. We are deeply inspired by and benefit from his commitment to Grand Teton and extend our sympathy to Jarad's family and many friends.

UNDERSTAND THE TETONS IN A WHOLE NEW WAY!

TRAVELSTORYSGPS shares vivid and engaging stories about the history, geology, animals, and activities in Grand Teton National Park.

Four channels transform your trip into a multidimensional, entertaining, and enjoyable experience, guaranteed to leave you with memories for a lifetime.

Visit www.gtnpf.org/TravelStorysGPS.php for directions to download.



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Message from Grand Teton National Park Superintendent MARY GIBSON SCOTT



In early March, we hosted our third NPS Academy class, thanks in large part to generous gifts from Grand Teton National Park Foundation donors and our key partners: The Student Conservation Association (SCA), Teton Science Schools, and Grand Teton Association. Once again, 30 bright and eager college students from diverse backgrounds came for an introduction to National Park Service (NPS) careers. They also obtain internships and gain a path to permanent employment. This program has now expanded to NPS' Alaska and Southeast regions engaging a total of 173 students to date. How fitting to launch such a program here in 2011, when coincidentally, the SCA also began at Grand Teton in 1957.

Legacy is one of three significant NPS Academy themes. Students are challenged to think about their personal legacy—what they want their life's work to mean and how to make the world better. Grand Teton's legacy arose through a synergy of ideas that took shape in the shadow of the remarkable Tetons. Victories in land conservation

culminating in the Wilderness Act of 1964 happened through critical work by the Muries, and the value of heritage preservation through philanthropy grew via commitments by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and his son Laurance.

Grand Teton's legacy includes other extraordinary elements. Few national parks contain such distinctive qualities as:

- *The towering Tetons, a premiere mountain range for writers, artists, and photographers plus a mecca for world-class climbing.*
- *The Snake River headwaters, designated as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in 2009.*
- *The Murie Ranch, birthplace of the modern conservation movement and designated a National Historic Landmark in 2006.*
- *Triangle X Ranch, the only working dude ranch in the NPS and legacy of the John S. Turner family for over 85 years.*
- *The Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve, an incomparable gift from Mr. Rockefeller that opened to the public in 2008.*
- *The David T. Vernon Collection, 1429 priceless American Indian artifacts from approximately 100 tribes.*
- *The iconic Moulton barn and Mormon Row, a vestige of early Jackson Hole history.*

Grand Teton also lies at the heart of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, a 22-million-acre expanse with wilderness and charismatic fauna such as moose, grizzly bears, and wolves. And outdoor pursuits abound, providing adventure, rejuvenation, and solace to visitors from around the world.

A connecting thread in all of these unique features is the power of the Tetons to inspire. In appreciation for these treasures, we must work to ensure this landscape remains protected and accessible for future generations who will carry on in our footsteps. Thanks for helping us preserve the irreplaceable qualities of this truly special place with its incomparable legacy.

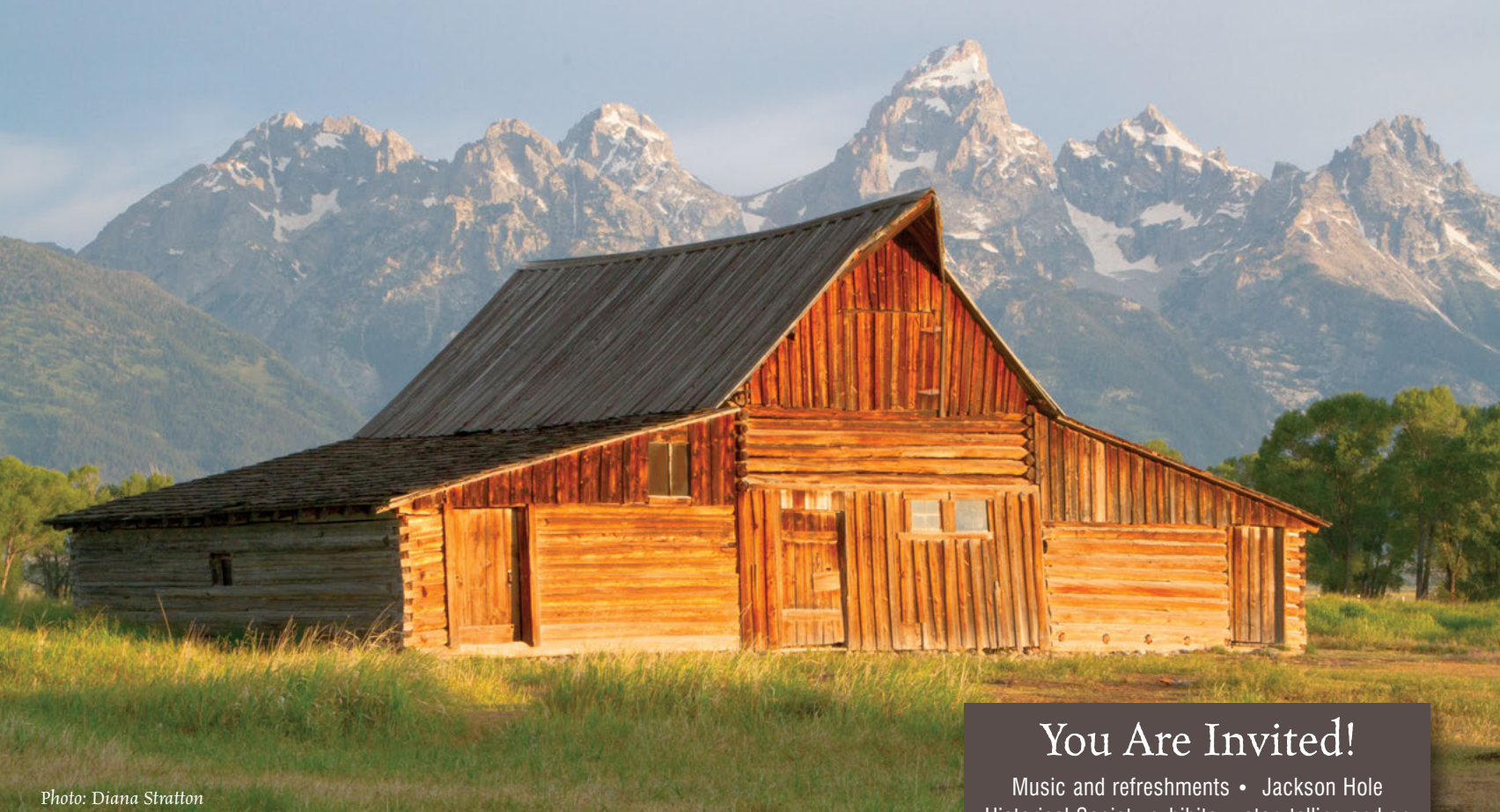


Photo: Diana Stratton

FROM FUNCTION to FORM: T.A. MOULTON BARN CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

To select a single image that captures the extent of Grand Teton's splendor seems a nearly impossible task. Ansel Adams' Snake River photograph or a view of the skeletal Patriarch Tree might come to mind, but a drive along Teton Park Road yields dozens of noteworthy vistas. What's true about all of Grand Teton's signature landscapes is that they provide the viewer with a sense of wonder, a sight to remember, and in the case of the T.A. Moulton barn at Mormon Row—a reason to celebrate. This July, photographers, historians, and visitors alike will have the opportunity to publicly gather to honor the 100th anniversary of the iconic barn that continues to serve as a reminder of the bleak, extreme, isolated lifestyle of the area's original homesteaders.

Often referred to as “the most photographed barn in the country,” few structures tell the tale of the Teton valley's history in as striking a setting. The area around the Moulton barn was homesteaded in the early 1900s by Thomas Alma Moulton and his wife Lucille alongside others farther down the lane known today as Mormon Row. Construction of the barn began in 1913, although Thomas and his sons continued to make additions over a span of twenty years. Most of the homesteads on Mormon Row were sold to the Snake River Land Company by 1950 and became part of Grand Teton National Park. Even so, descendants of the original homesteaders have maintained close ties to the area and the legacy for which it stands. Jerry Moulton, grandson of

You Are Invited!

Music and refreshments • Jackson Hole Historical Society exhibits • storytelling and an oral history booth • silent auction and raffle
• walking tours • and more

July 20, 2013

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Remarks by national park and state officials, 12:30 p.m.

Thomas Alma Moulton, describes the area as an important symbol of Moulton family heritage and the valley's rich cultural history. Jerry and other members of the Moulton family are the driving force behind the upcoming celebration, collaborating with Grand Teton National Park to plan activities for the barn's centennial party. The celebration will be preceded by a volunteer-driven work week led by conservator Harrison Goodall. The team hopes to accomplish much-needed preservation work on the barn and surrounding fences.

For more information visit www.themoultonbarn.com or to contribute funding to Moulton barn restoration work, contact Leslie Mattson at leslie@gtnpf.org.



Photo: Diana Stratton

Celebrate Summer

Give a Bear Box and
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 a park campsite with a picnic table, ideal for a picturesque lunch before or after a hike. The Foundation has funded nearly 250 boxes and hundreds more are needed. Help preserve Grand Teton's bears while giving a meaningful gift.

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



In Focus:

Pro Tips for Classic Teton Shots



Photo: Ed Riddell

The iconic Teton Range inspires infinite possibilities for dramatic photographs that capture the big sky for which the mountain west is famous and revered.

The Teton Range is dwarfed by soaring cirrus clouds on a late June morning as the weather builds toward afternoon thunderstorms. Ed Riddell, one of the area's most loved photographers, shares guidelines for capturing this classic Teton image.

How to Find It

Driving from town to the park, spot a dirt road on the left about a half-mile before Moose Junction. Park in the lot immediately off the highway and walk north toward the Tetons to a small bluff. There you'll find a clear view of the entire Teton Range.

When to Shoot

This shot works best during the first half of summer when snow remains on the mountains, helping to define their shape and texture. This photograph can work almost any time of day, however, the more striking the cloud composition, the better.

Composition is Key

Use a wide angle lens to capture this shot. Tilt the camera so that the mountain range is along the bottom of your frame. Tilting a wide angle lens upward gives great emphasis to the scope and sweep of the sky.



Ed has been photographing the Tetons since volunteering in GTNP in the 70s. He served on GTNPF's founding board for almost 12 years. See Ed's work at www.edwardriddell.com and join his photo workshop in Yellowstone 9/26-9/29. For details visit www.riddellphotoworkshops.com



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Photo: Diana Stratton