



Washington's National Park Fund News



July 2015

Whew! It's been hot out there. The unusually hot summer has certainly had an impact; from wildfires to wildflowers, melting snow to marmots, our national parks persist. Thankfully.

And now that it's a bit cooler, we hope you find yourself out wandering the trails. Maybe best to take a day away during the week as they're ALL experiencing record numbers of visitors. Go on...take a hike!

As the national park system approaches its 100th anniversary, Washington's National Park Fund is so grateful that you are part of the growing and ongoing force for good for these iconic lands. Thank you.



Over the Top!
5:30-9 p.m., Wednesday, September 16th
Georgetown Ballroom



Georgetown Ballroom, photo courtesy Red Box Pictures.

Through the support of individuals, foundations, and corporations, priority projects at Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks are funded each year. **Because of you**, important programs for visitor experiences, youth and family programs, science and research and volunteerism and stewardship are supported.

Each year, though, some of these projects have been left only partially funded. With your help on Wednesday, September 16, we can change that. Let's take funding for priority park projects **Over The Top!** Superintendents and rangers will give firsthand accounts while explaining specific proposals in detail. Then we'll have a unique opportunity to contribute to move these projects from wish to reality! Heavy appetizers, signature drinks, wine and beer will be served.

YOU can make such a difference! Join us! The fun starts at 5:30 p.m, Wednesday, September 16th at [Georgetown Ballroom](#). Tickets are \$50 per person and on sale now at [Over the Top](#). You can also reach out to WNPF's Events Coordinator, Ashley Stokes at (206) 623-2063 or ashley@wnpf.org.

Come from work or a day of hiking; dress is casual.
Relax and enjoy other friends of our national parks. Mingle with national park and Fund staff and WNPF board members.
You'll walk away knowing exactly how your support is impacting Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks.

This promises to be a memorable evening.

[Buy Tickets](#)

Your Impact!

Improved greenhouse operations at Mount Rainier National Park



Randy King, Superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park, and Josh Drown, a Horticulturist at Mount Rainier National Park. Ashley Stokes photo.

Did you know? The greenhouse Randy and Josh are standing by was generously donated in 1994, and is used on a variety of restorative projects throughout the park. When an area is disturbed by human contact, such as during construction, trail maintenance, or the rehabilitation of old campgrounds, Josh goes in and collects seeds at the site to be germinated and replanted after the project is completed.

"Our operations primary function is to provide plant materials and seed for restoring vegetation in areas disturbed by human activities," Drown said. "The subalpine areas of the park are our main focus as they are the most fragile and least able to recover naturally. Typical sites include old social trails, old abandoned campgrounds and

construction projects. Seeds are collected as close to the site as possible to preserve the genetics of the site and to ensure plant materials used for replanting are genetically adapted to the site conditions."

This year, 50,000 plants are being grown from hand-collected seed of common herbaceous, perennial wildflower species for planting at Sunrise. The site is an old drive-in campground that was abandoned in the 1970s and has not recovered on its own as the soils are heavily impacted from vehicles and subsequent erosion problems.

With the help of funding contributed by WNPF donors, the circa 1994 greenhouse facility is being refurbished. Updates include:

- newer, more energy efficient greenhouse covering
- modern, user-friendly environmental control system with an energy efficient design
- vent installation to provide passive, energy-efficient ventilation and improve the plant growing environment.

Past WNPF donor assistance has funded the purchase of a hydroseeder for seeding roadside disturbances, a landscape trailer for hauling plants and equipment to project sites, a water tank trailer for delivering water to project sites, a storage building for the greenhouse operation and materials used to rehab the "hoophouse", a secondary greenhouse/coldframe structure.

Current priority requests are for funds to purchase irrigation equipment for the greenhouse and for a tractor needed for a variety of uses from moving potting soil to mowing the field to prevent weed seeds from contaminating greenhouse materials.



Want to see for yourself? Visit Rainier shares a collection of top 10 [wildflower hikes](#). Bring a wildflower guide book and enjoy!



[Learn more about wildflowers in the North Cascades](#)

Like this image? [Laurel Mundy](#) was the 2014 artist-in-residence for North Cascades National Park.



Trust the folks at [Washington Trails Association](#). You can't go wrong finding wildflowers at Hurricane Ridge in Olympic National Park! Lupines, Sean Munson photo.

Thank you Microsoft climbers!



Our first 2015 Microsoft Climb Team of the season (shown above) returned triumphantly after conquering the 9,135 feet of Mount Shuksan on June 27th. Washington's National Park Fund staff and friends summited July 7th! We would like thank these amazing climbers for their accomplishment - and raising more than \$16,000 for [North Cascades National Park Service Complex](#)! All of this would not be possible without the support of friends and family who contributed to their climb effort, and our amazing friends at IMG [International Mountain Guides](#) who ensure a fun and safe journey for our team.

THANK YOU CLIMBERS! You can learn more about [fundraising climbs](#) of Rainier and Shuksan on our website.

Buy the August issue of [Seattle Met](#) and your purchase will help Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks!

The August issue of *Seattle Met* goes on sale this Friday, July 24th. Once again, our wonderful *Seattle Met* friends will donate 50 cents from the sale of each rack issue to Washington's National Park Fund!

Seattle Met is available at more than 900 newsstands, specialty grocery stores, and local retailers throughout metropolitan Seattle. Retailers include: QFC, Whole Foods, Fred Meyer, Safeway, Albertson's, and Barnes & Noble, as well as key airport locations and many more.



Over the past three years, Seattle Met has donated more than \$26,000 to Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks through WNPF!

Thanks Nicole, Libby and everyone else at Seattle Met! You guys ROCK!!

Fresh, sustainable food services in Olympic National Park



[Click here to watch video](#)

Kudos to our friends at Aramark for ongoing efforts to reduce waste, source locally, and continually deliver delicious menu choices for visitors to its three properties in Olympic National Park.

"Visitors are staying active," said Aramark's Paula Beck, Director, Sales & Marketing, Olympic Peninsula & Togwotee Mountain Lodge. "Our guests look for great-tasting, nutritious menu choices. That's why our team of talented chefs incorporates wholesome, fresh options into our destination dining menus."

Aramark strives to source products within a 450-mile radius of the national park. Partnering with local farms and businesses, the goal is to provide the freshest possible product to guests, ensure consistent food quality and cut down on transportation costs and emissions. Buying local ingredients and cuisine allows visiting guests to enjoy a richer cultural experience, reduces the environmental footprint and supports local economies.

Each destination strives to follow the Environmental Working Group's Shopper's Guide to Pesticides and Produce when ordering organically grown items, and all vendors that provide food are Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certified.

"Aramark is a long-time supporter of Washington's National Park Fund. They manage to set the pace when it comes to sourcing locally and reducing waste while serving up some wonderful items! We're grateful to them for their ongoing commitment to WNPF," Laurie Ward, Executive Director, stated recently.

Thank you for driving your support!

Last month you did it! Your commitment to our license plate program took National Park plates up and over the top: 5,008! And it continues to go up, up, up.

[When you purchase one of these plates](#), \$28 comes back to Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. Since its inception, nearly \$900,000 have been raised for the parks through our license plate program. **THANK YOU!**



Bits and Pieces

Calling all volunteers! Washington's National Park Fund is looking for passionate parks people to distribute information at park entrances on [fee free days](#). Dates include Tuesday, August 25, and Saturday, September 26. Information is distributed at the Nisqually and Paradise entrances at Mount Rainier National Park, and Heart of the Hills at Olympic National Park. Time frame: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Give back to your parks by stepping

up now. For more information, please contact [Laurie Ward](#).

[Microsoft, Point B and REI climbs of Mount Rainier](#) are set to launch later this month and early next. Join board members, staff and friends as we send off these supportive friends...then welcome them back down. For more information, contact [Laurie Ward](#). And if you know board president, Mr. Bret Wirta, send a little encouragement his way as he prepares to climb with the good folks from Point B!

[Funding priorities](#) for 2015 include support for interns and other critical volunteer positions, restoration and repair projects, youth programs, and scientific research. Your support matters!

[RAMROD \(Ride around Mount Rainier in a Day\)](#) is set to take place on Thursday, July 30.

[Time to blaze a trail:](#) The National Park Service turns 100 on August 25, 2016. One centennial goal? Greater connection with millennials and racial and cultural minority groups. Read [Glenn Nelson's recent New York Times piece](#) on this subject.

Thank you to [Stoup Brewing](#), [Peasant Food Manifesto](#), REI's Mount Rainier Climbing team and RAMROD team, and everyone who came out for a great #ClimbForCause Fundraiser on July 14th!

To make a donation to
Washington's National
Park Fund today,
[click here!](#)

Have you checked out the [WNPF blog](#)? To The Parks!

[Share with a Friend](#)

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1904 Third Avenue, Suite 400
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 623-2063

For more information about Washington's National Park Fund,
please feel free to contact:

Laurie Ward, Executive Director
(206) 623-2063
Laurie@wnpf.org