



VIP2VIP



Season 7, Volume 4

Big Bend National Park's Volunteer Newsletter

February 20, 2008

Current Volunteers

Persimmon Gap

Sally & Bob Jones - Visitor Center (6th)
Mark Kirtley- Visitor Center (12th)

Castolon

Joyce Berke- Camp Host (2nd)
Aletha & Roy Ellis - Visitor Center (2nd)
Kathi Hambly - Horse Care (new)
Maryann & Ted Rowan - Visitor Center (2nd)

Rio Grande Village

Barbara & Bill Baldwin- Camp Hosts (16th)
Wanda & Mike Copeland - Backcountry (2nd)
Wyley & Mildred Mauldin - Visitor Center (new)
Pat & Marshall McCall - Visitor Center (new)
Pam & Mike Rash - Camp Hosts (new)
Lynn Williams - Maintenance (new)

Chisos Basin

Marty & Howard Benham - Camp Hosts (3rd)
Ed Davis - Camp Host (2nd)
Elaine & John Jonker-Visitor Center (new)

Panther Junction

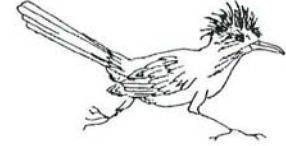
Jane Brown - Volunteer Program Assistant (new)
Claudia Hartley -Interp SCA (new)
Tim Hopp -Interp SCA (new)
Magan Lippman - Interp SCA (new)
Emily Mount - EMS & River (new)
Linda Richardson - Pre-K teacher (new)
Jennette Timmer -ScRM (3rd)
Bob Wirt- Resource Management (8th)

Part-time

Jim Bishop- BBNHA
Judy Brinkerhoff- Resource Management (4th)
Kim Cutler -Horses
John Davies- Visitor Protection
Angie Dean-Interp
Steve Harper- Resource Management (7th)
Deidre Johnson - Horse Care
Steve Wick- Resource Management (4th)
Reine Wonite- Administration

*Number in () indicates years of service at BBNP

VIP Award Ceremony January 8, 2008



Fran Smith made it happen!!



Good Company
Good Food
Great Awards!



We had a successful Volunteer Award Dinner on January 8. For the first time ever lasagna was served. Thanks to BBNHA for sponsoring the dinner. Fran Smith initiated the effort to supply the "Take Pride in America" service awards. Lapel pins, certificates, and special letters of acknowledgement were awarded to volunteers who reached significant milestones in 2007.



Volunteerism: the willingness of people to work on behalf of others without the expectation of pay or other tangible gain.



The Spotlight is on: Rio Grande Village

New Faces at the Village Article by Jane Brown.



Pat & Marshall McCall are originally from Virginia, but have lived in Wisconsin for many years. Marshall was first a Navy Recruiter then auto salesman and Pat worked for the local technical college as the Human Resource Director and later as a part-time teacher. They became full-time RV'ers in 2003, exploring state and national parks. This is their third visit to Big Bend and the first time that they have volunteered in a national park. This past fall, they volunteered at the LBJ State Park & Historic Site in Stonewall, Texas, where Marshall helped with maintenance and Pat worked in the Visitor Center, Park store, and her favorite—interpreter at the Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm. Past-times include walking big dog, Blackie, easy hiking, exploring back roads, oil painting (Marshall), quilting & computers (Pat), meeting locals, NASCAR and football, especially the Packers (Marshall) and reading (Pat).

Wyley & Mildred Mauldin come to Big Bend from Ransom Canyon, Texas, where they live when they are not travelling. Wyley spent forty-two years in the educational field working as a teacher, coach, administrator, and teacher educator in Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas and New Mexico. Mildred was busy raising five children, however she did return to college, got a degree in Education and taught second grade. Wyley volunteered once at Black Mesa State Park in Oklahoma, however this is their first *national* park experience as volunteers. In addition to travelling and camping, Wyley enjoys woodworking and photography. Mildred is in the process of completing scrapbooks for her thirteen grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. As she said, when she started the scrapbook project, it didn't look like such a big task, but it has grown by leaps and bounds with the arrival of new great-



Pamela & Mike Rash from Longview, Texas, have been coming to Big Bend since the early '70's. They enjoy the remoteness, the hiking, the weather and the friendships that they have made over the years. Mike spent many years as a scuba diver and owner of a scuba shop. He spent time in the Caribbean and Central America while diving and shooting underwater photography. Pamela, a bookkeeper by profession, now enjoys the grandkids, sewing, reading and traveling. When they are dry camping, they are the folks with the wind turbine and solar panels, not mounted on their RV. Mike is a good mechanic and creator of gadgets and can build all sorts of things.



Wanda and Mike Copeland returned in December for another season as backcountry assistants. Since they were here last, they took a Panama Canal Cruise for sixteen days starting in Galveston, Key West, Colombia, Panama Canal, Costa Rica, Cabo San Luca and San Diego, which they highly recommend. They also attended a Marine Corp reunion in Florida and were invited to a retirement party for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, D.C. Sounds exciting! They have been coming back to Big Bend for 25 years and they always find something new.





New Volunteers are popping up for Spring!

Elaine and John Jonker, Chisos Bain Visitor Center volunteers, are full-time RV'ers since retirement in Fall of 2005. They fell in love with Big Bend after a four day private canoe trip through Boquillas Canyon and some hiking excursions. They worked two seasons with Delaware North (concessioner) in Grand Canyon National Park at Desert View on the South Rim in a grocery/gift store. This is their first national park volunteer experience. The Jonkers enjoy hiking, biking and canoeing. They spent five weeks hiking the famous Wainwright Walk across northern England in September of 2007. This was an inn -to- inn self-guided walk.



Claudia Hartley (Interp SCA) is from Seattle, Washington. Her interest in conservation stems from the trailcrews she did through SCA in high school. She attends Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, in Environmental Studies, Latin American Studies and English. Running, dancing, hiking and adventuring are her favorite activities.



Emily Mount (EMS & River Patrol) spent her childhood in Colorado and graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Military History. She has worked seasonally at many national parks including Dinosaur, Grand Canyon, Haleakala, Hawaii Volcanos and Sequoia. Hobbies include playing the violin & guitar and back-packing.



Tim Hobbs (Interp SCA) is from the South Puget Sound region of Washington State and it is his first experience volunteering at a National Park. He is particularly fond of the solitude to be found at Big Bend. He loves to hike and travel. His family raises Thoroughbred race horses and he has worked as a Thoroughbred breeding consultant in Florida.

Magan Lippman (Interp SCA) from New Baltimore, Michigan attended Western Michigan University with a concentration in geography and Environmental Studies. She volunteered last fall at Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio (one of the most visited national parks in the U.S.). She enjoys watching movies and hiking in her free time.



Linda Richardson (Pre-school teacher) and her dog, Gracie, come to Big Bend from Nacogdoches, Texas. She has visited the park many times and worked at the lodge in the '60's. Retired from teaching, she has spent three summers working at the lodge in the Roosevelt area of Yellowstone National Park. Last summer found her at Kantishna, Alaska at the Denali Backcountry Lodge. Her hobbies include hiking, camping, and mountain bicycling.



Events in the Area



Dedication of Falcon Statue

Dedication of a life-sized, bronze peregrine falcon sculpture took place on February 15 at the Chisos Basin Visitor Center. Park Superintendent William E. Wellman opened the ceremony thanking the Friends of Big Bend for their generous donation. The sculpture commemorates the success of efforts to protect peregrine falcons, previously an endangered species. The Friends of Big Bend have assisted in the funding of yearly research and monitoring of the peregrine falcon within the park. The bronze falcon was created by Bob Coffee, renowned Texas artist and member of Big Bend Friends' Board of Directors. Bob has raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Friends of Big Bend from the sales of his bronze sculpture series "The Animals of Big Bend". A short talk about the peregrine falcon was given by Chief Interpreter David Elkowitz and questions were answered by Raymond Skiles. Refreshments were provided by Far Flung Outfitters.

TERLINGUA - Last Minute Low Budget Productions, a community non-profit theater, plans to produce "**The Foreigner**" by Larry Shue as its second production of 2008. This is a comedy that is set in a fishing lodge in rural Georgia. The play will be presented at the Theater behind the Terlingua Store (Dalea's) on Highway 170 between Terlingua and Study Butte. Show time is 8 p.m. (no matinees); show dates are Feb. 22-24 and Feb. 29-March 2. Ticket prices are \$8 for all performances and \$15 for the opening night gala on Feb. 22. For more information, call 432-371-2202. Under the direction of Joe Sirotnak (BBNP botanist), Jennette Timmer (volunteer in Science & RM) will be playing Catherine (spoiled Southern Belle), Scott Watkins (BBNHA) plays a preacher,

February 29-March 2 Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering Sul Ross State University Campus, Alpine. The Gathering exists to preserve the oral tradition of the West through poetry, music and story telling. Daytime sessions are free, donations accepted. Be sure to check the schedule of events at www.cowboy-poetry.org or call Betty Tanksley (432)364-2490.

Activities & Events

February 27 - Volunteer Potluck Dinner at the Picnic Ramada weather permitting; otherwise at the School gym. 6:30 pm

February 29-March 2 - Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Sul Ross State University

The play "The Foreigner" will be performed in Terlingua on February 22, 23, 24 and again on Feb. 29, March 1 & 2.

March 1, 2008. - Villa do la Mina Mine tour lead by Mary K. Manning. Meet in PJHQ back parking lot at 2:45pm to carpool. Bring a headlamp or flashlight.

March 1, 2008 Lajitas will be celebrating **Texas Independence Day**. Festivities start at 4 pm with a chuckwagon dinner. Live music and fireworks.

March 31, 2008 Award Dinner, San Vicente Gym, Panther Junction, 6:30 PM.

Ongoing:

Adult Bible Study - Sun. 9-10am or Tues. 7-8pm. San Vicente School. Contact Al Mayton 477-2295.

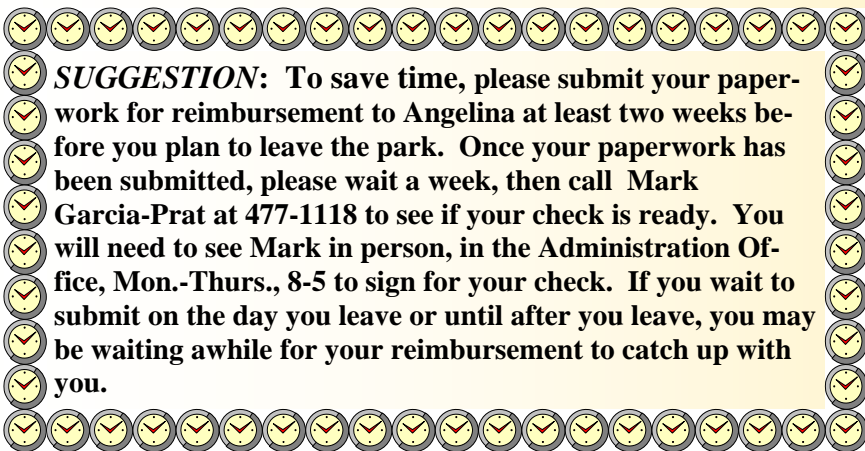
Spanish Classes - Mon (Chisos lodge) & Tues (BBNHA Interp library) 5:30-6:30pm Contact Howard Hurst 477-2642 for info.

Big Bend Community Choir- Wed nights, 5:30 pm, Music room at Terlingua School. For information call Patricia 424-3208.

Volleyball - Wed. nights, 7 pm at PJ Court.

Yoga - Thurs. nights, 6-7:15 pm at San Vicente School Gym. Drop-in class \$10 or monthly \$30. Instructor: Cynthia Hood (432-371-2877 or cynthiahood1@hotmail.com).

NOTE: Would you please check the bulletin board at PJ for details and updates?



SUGGESTION: To save time, please submit your paperwork for reimbursement to Angelina at least two weeks before you plan to leave the park. Once your paperwork has been submitted, please wait a week, then call Mark Garcia-Prat at 477-1118 to see if your check is ready. You will need to see Mark in person, in the Administration Office, Mon.-Thurs., 8-5 to sign for your check. If you wait to submit on the day you leave or until after you leave, you may be waiting awhile for your reimbursement to catch up with you.