

Mesa Verde Foundation

Stewards of an Ancient Treasure



FALL NEWSLETTER

2022

LETTER FROM THE MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT

As I write this, Mesa Verde lives up to its name – monsoon rains of summer have created a vibrant palette of green contrasting with the earthen tones of cliffs and slopes. Colorful wildflowers compete for visual attention here and there, pockets of red and violet. The many varieties of Park wildlife are active, taking full advantage of long days and abundant food, since the balance of daylight and warmth will soon shift toward autumn. As days and nights turn crisp, Mesa Verde will show more gold and crimson tones, a last splash of foliage fireworks before winter slows the pace of things.



Fall and winter are great times to visit the Park, which is open year-round. These months can offer a bit more solitude at viewpoints and overlooks, a chance to slow down and more fully experience Mesa Verde. The schedule and availability of services changes a bit, so be sure to check the website at www.nps.gov/MEVE for more detailed information and to learn about any weather-related or construction closures.

Even when visitation tapers off, Mesa Verde staff are always busy! This fall, we'll start some restoration activities along the Mancos River, creating features that mimic beaver dams. We'll also begin gathering trespass/feral horses for removal from the Park, using low-stress capture methods. Projects like these are key to improving riparian conditions, as well as protecting fragile cultural resources from livestock impacts. Staff archeologists will use off-season time to complete reports on summer monitoring and stabilization projects and to train on the use of some new technologies to enhance their future productivity.

Chapin Mesa Museum's major exhibit redesign continues, as does work on a temporary exhibition. When open again, the museum will have new ramps to improve access throughout the building. The Park's new film is in production and will be finished in 2023. The Mesa Verde Foundation, a great partner in caring for the park and enhancing visitor connections, has funded portions of all three of these projects. Come and see what's going on here; any time is a good time to visit Mesa Verde National Park!

Kayci Cook Collins, Mesa Verde Superintendent

**Get YOUR Mesa Verde
National Park license plate
and support the Park!**

Visit www.mesaverdefoundation.org/about/ for details.



Mesa Verde Foundation Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary

The Mesa Verde Foundation celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, in honor of which we hosted a reception in Denver for our friends and fellows. It featured a presentation by Kayci Cook, the Park's Superintendent, and highlighted photographs of Mesa Verde National Park by board member Todd Bacon. We also launched a 25th Anniversary Fundraising Campaign to raise \$25,000 in 25 days. We are delighted to report that we exceeded our goal and raised \$28,655 in 25 days! We want to thank everyone who supported this campaign. You are making a difference!

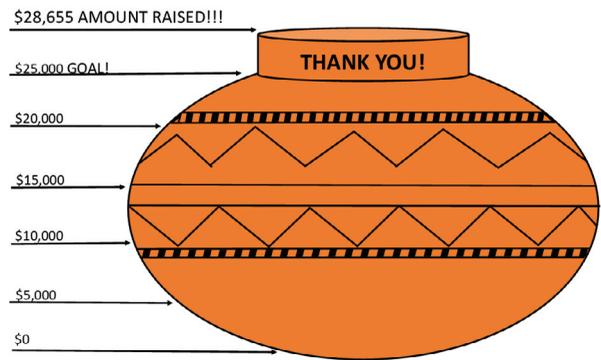
We are pleased with all we have accomplished over the past 25 years and look forward to continuing to make an impact over the next 25+ years in accordance with our Mission Statement:

Our purpose is to promote understanding and appreciation of Mesa Verde National Park and develop financial and other resources to support the Park in its mission of protecting its cultural, natural, aesthetic, and wilderness values.

The Foundation's prior accomplishments in support of Mesa Verde National Park include:

- donating the land and architectural design for the Park's Visitor and Research Center;
- providing funding for the stabilization of Cliff Palace;
- re-establishing an active horse patrol in the back country areas of the Park;
- installing new audio/visual systems at Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum and Morefield Campground;
- initiating and launching the Mesa Verde Colorado License Plate Program;
- supporting the repatriation of remains and sacred objects from Finland to Mesa Verde; and
- funding Conservation Legacy Interns at the Park.

We continue to make a difference by supporting current Park projects, including;



- managing the Mesa Verde Colorado License Plate Program;
- participating in funding the installation of two wheelchair-accessible ramps in Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum;
- purchasing bear-proof food lockers for Morefield Campground; and
- collaborating on the creation of a new visitor film, including providing funding.

Looking forward, we plan to champion as many Park projects as we can, in collaboration with the Park and its priorities and as our resources permit. In the coming year, our goals include providing support for:

- virtual tours of the Park's cliff dwellings and museum collection;
- graduate student engagement in exhibit design for the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum;
- transportation grants for primary and secondary school visits to the Park;
- more bear-proof food lockers for Morefield Campground;
- ancestral public lands interns for the preservation of cliff dwellings;
- priority research projects, *e.g.*, protection of sites and landscapes, fire suppressant impacts and artifact preservation analysis; and
- preservation of Ute Ethnographic objects and Chaco and Mesa Verde prehistoric vessels.

The Mesa Verde Foundation appreciates the value of Mesa Verde National Park and its treasures and will work for many decades to come to champion its educational programs, preserve the delicate remains of its cliff dwellings and archaeological sites, improve the way visitors interact with the park and the experiences they receive as a result, and protect and preserve its extraordinary collections of Native American artifacts.



MVF on Social Media



The Mesa Verde Foundation has been on Facebook and Instagram for quite some time. Crazy enough, the Foundation's Facebook page was created almost 10 years ago! Although we were not too active in those first few years, we certainly have stepped up the pace over the last several years. We love using social media platforms to share the current developments at Mesa Verde National Park, promote our events, and give updates on the different projects we work on to support Mesa Verde.

If you have not been following us on Facebook or Instagram, we wanted to take this opportunity to share some of our most popular and far-reaching posts.

Last fall, we reshared a video produced by CBS News about the history of Mesa Verde National Park on our Facebook page. As our most popular post EVER, this post reached nearly 50,000 people and was shared almost 200 times! Thank you to everyone who took the time to view, share and engage with this post. If you have not watched

Happy Sunday!

As you wrap up your holiday weekend, we are excited to share this incredible video about the history of [Mesa Verde National Park](#) in celebration of recently being named as an International Dark Sky Park.

[https://www.cbsnews.com/.../inside-the-history-of-.../...](https://www.cbsnews.com/.../inside-the-history-of-...)

The video is about 8 minutes long - take a look!



CBSNEWS.COM
Inside the history of Colorado's Mesa Verde National Park
 Colorado's Mesa Verde National Park was recently named an International Dark Sky Park for th...

48,305 People reached 3,220 Engagements [Boost post](#)

53 199 Shares

Like Comment Share

the video yet, you can still see it by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8Y-h1iXICM>.

We started our Instagram account about 5 years ago. We have enjoyed engaging with others who also love Mesa Verde National Park. We often share photos from the MVNP Instagram account and from visitors to the Park. We share many original photos, including the beautiful shots from our very own Board Member Todd Bacon.



mesaverdefoundation • Follow
 Mesa Verde National Park

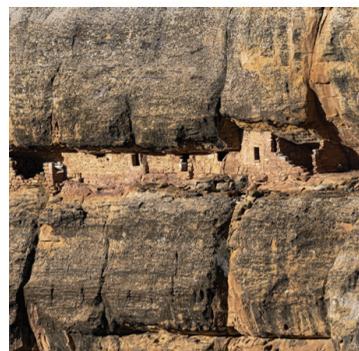
mesaverdefoundation Did you hear the news?? A wandering mountain lion recently tracked 558 miles to #MesaVerdeNationalPark...

According to the Durango Herald, "The young male was fitted with a GPS collar by the Pueblo of Santa Ana Department of Natural Resources on Feb. 12. Nicknamed "Squawks," the lion, estimated to be 1 to 2 years old.

Liked by ebswett and 127 others

JANUARY 5

Add a comment... Post



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mesaverdefoundation #WanderlustWednesday to help you get through the rest of this week!

Located halfway up the wall of Cliff Canyon, the House of Many Windows was built on a perilous 10' wide ledge around the year 1200. It consisted of 11 rooms.

The "windows" were mostly doors that would have been covered by rock slabs or animal hides to keep out the cold winter air. Access was via toehold stairways. The closest water was probably across the canyon floor below the Sun Temple.

Who's ready to move in?!

Liked by marioner222 and 161 others

JANUARY 13

Add a comment... Post

Two of our most popular Instagram posts are from last January. Each reached well over 2,000 people. The first featured news of a mountain lion in Mesa Verde while the other was a beautiful photo from Todd Bacon of the House of Many Windows!

Thank you to everyone who has followed, liked, subscribed, commented, and shared our social media posts. Your support is essential in helping us get the word out about our mission and projects that support Mesa Verde National Park. We look forward to continuing to keep you up to date with MVF on Instagram and Facebook!

Rare Rockefeller Book Donated to Mesa Verde

Park Superintendent Kayci Cook Collins is presented with a rare book on The David and Peggy Rockefeller Collection of American Indian Art by Director Todd Bacon (l) and Board Chair David Nagler (r).



At its June board meeting in Denver, the Mesa Verde Foundation Board of Directors presented Park Superintendent Kayci Cook Collins with a rare copy of *American Indian Art and Paintings by Taos Artists: The David and Peggy Rockefeller Collection* (privately published, 1988). This book had been a gift to Foundation board member, Todd Bacon, from his longtime friend, Brian Lindquist, personal assistant to David Rockefeller for the last twenty years of his life. Todd felt strongly that the book belonged in the archives of Mesa Verde National Park.

The book contains David's personal reflections, a lengthy introduction by the book's editor, Peter T. Furst, and many photographs of art from the Rockefeller collection. The written pieces provide a compelling look at the Rockefeller family's history in Mesa Verde and the Southwest.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., first came to Mesa Verde in 1924 with his three oldest sons: John III, Nelson and Laurance. Park Superintendent, Jesse Nusbaum, served as their guide. They visited Cliff Palace, Badger House, Big Juniper House and Spruce Tree House, along with several mesa-top sites. Nusbaum also took them to the fledgling museum, temporarily housed in the Fewkes log cabin.

When Rockefeller asked how much funding the museum was getting from the Park Service, Nusbaum replied, "not a cent," but added that a friend in San Francisco had pledged \$5,000. Nusbaum explained how much public understanding and enjoyment of the Park could be enhanced with a proper museum, finding a sympathetic ear with Mr. Rockefeller, who was taken by the architectural genius of the Ancestral Puebloans as well as the black-on-white pottery that he had seen. Rockefeller felt that funding the museum should be a federal obligation, but to show support for the initiative, he donated \$3,500 (worth \$56,500 in today's dollars) to help complete the museum by paying for materials to build display cases and further scientific excavations in the Park.

Two years later, Rockefeller returned to the Southwest with his wife, Abby, and sons Winthrop, Laurance and David. David was only 11 years old, but had clear memories of the trip. He recounted that the family traveled by private Pullman car that was hooked up to regularly scheduled trains and then left at sidings. Further exploration was done by automobile. The family visited the pueblos of Santa Clara, Taos and San Ildefonso.

At the suggestion of Superintendent Nusbaum, the Rockefellers hired Kenneth Chapman as their guide to the pueblos. Chapman, a founder of the Indian Arts Fund and a scholar of Puebloan pottery, took them to San Ildefonso to meet Maria Martinez, already famous for her polychromatic pottery. In *The Living Tradition of Maria Martinez*, Martinez recalls Chapman saying, “Maria, go ahead and bring out those nice pieces you have. This man has lots of money.” Those “nice pieces” to which Chapman was referring were the first black-on-black wares that Martinez and her husband, Julian Martinez, had made. Maria initially didn’t like them and was reluctant to bring them out. The Rockefellers subsequently bought several pieces, believed to be the first black-on-black pieces ever sold.

In Taos, the Rockefellers met several artists, including E. I. Couse and Joseph Henry Sharp. John was more taken by Chinese ceramics and Korean sculpture, but Abby had an eclectic eye. They ended up buying 18 paintings from Couse and other pieces by Sharp, Bert Geer Phillips and W. Herbert Dunton. Later, in continuing communications with Sharp, the Rockefellers bought several Navajo rugs from Sharp’s personal collection, along with some Nez Percé wallets and bags.

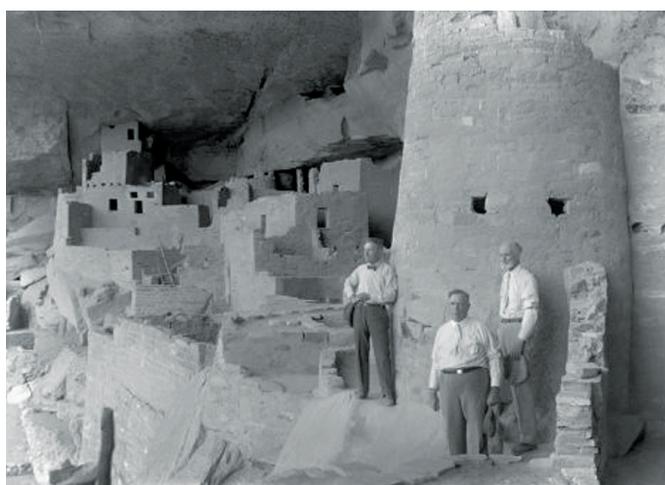
On their return visit to Mesa Verde, Rockefeller saw the progress made in the construction of the Chapin Mesa Archaeological Museum and viewed artifacts discovered thanks to his support for scientific excavations of Step House. He then pledged another \$2,500 for more museum cases and research.

In his conversations with Superintendent Nusbaum, Rockefeller expressed his idea of a research institution that would focus on the study of Indian pre-history and ethnology throughout the Southwest. He suggested that Mesa Verde might be a good site for such an institution, given its splendid setting and visitor draw. However, Nusbaum felt that Santa Fe would be a better location because it was

the capitol of New Mexico and already had museums and centers for art and archaeology. In 1927, a commission was established to study the idea, and a 50-acre parcel of land on what is now known as Museum Hill in Santa Fe was donated by wealthy New England spinster sisters, Martha and Amelia Elizabeth White.

With funds pledged by Rockefeller, the Laboratory of Anthropology was created and dedicated to the collection, study and preservation of the Southwest’s indigenous cultures. John Gaw Meem was hired as the architect in his first institutional commission. The lab opened in 1930, with Jesse Nusbaum leaving Mesa Verde to become its first director. Although the Laboratory ran into some financial challenges through the Great Depression and World War II, it is still going strong today as a highly respected research institute and library.

This synopsis of the Rockefeller family’s involvement with Mesa Verde and the Southwest barely scratches the surface of all the various ways that the family has contributed to Mesa Verde and the art and history of the Ancestral Puebloans and their descendants. The Mesa Verde Foundation is pleased to donate this important book on The David and Peggy Rockefeller Collection to the archives of the Park.



*John D. Rockefeller, Jr. (l) visits Cliff Palace in 1924.
Photo by Park Superintendent Jesse Nusbaum*

Amphibians in Mesa Verde?



Juvenile Tiger Salamander, Photo by D. Spear, NPS

*(below)
Woodhouse's Toad
Photo by
N. Brown, NPS*



Have the words “amphibians” and “Mesa Verde” ever occurred to you in the same thought? Probably not. However, according to Nathan Brown, Mesa Verde’s Biologist and Wildlife Program Lead, there are at least three kinds of amphibians in the Park, and possibly two more. In testing five water and spring sites in the Park in June, eDNA samples revealed the presence of Woodhouse’s toads, red-spotted toads and western tiger salamanders. There may also be New Mexican spadefoot toads and western chorus frogs. Leopard frogs, which are in a documented decline regionally, have not been seen in the Park in several decades.

In a concluding comment, Brown noted, “Obviously, we are concerned about our amphibians as the hydrologic footprint/precipitation levels decrease. We are in the 20th year of the worst drought in 1,500 years and fighting the effects of climate change.”



*Tadpoles
Photo by N. Brown, NPS*

“Conversations from the Mesa”

Mesa Verde Foundation Webinar Series

The Mesa Verde Foundation is very pleased with the success of the “Conversations from the Mesa” webinar series. This free series brings a Mesa Verde expert to you LIVE for regular presentations and question-and-answer sessions. Since its kickoff in 2021, the series has reached over 2,500 people!

If you haven't joined us for one of our webinars, you should! They are available on the Foundation's YouTube channel if you are unable to view them LIVE. Please consider becoming a subscriber so you don't miss anything.

Upcoming Webinar

**Tuesday, October 11th
4:00 p.m. (Mountain Time)**

“Preliminary observations of site and structural movements of Cliff Palace. A scientific and engineering perspective”

--Presented by William A. Dupont, FAIA, Conservation Society of San Antonio Endowed Professor, the University of Texas at San Antonio, and James A. Mason, Ph.D., P.E., Structural, geotechnical, preservation, and seismic engineer, Vanishing Treasures Program, National Park Service

Stay in touch with MVF!

In addition to our two newsletters each year, there are many other ways to stay in touch with the Mesa Verde Foundation on a monthly, weekly, and even daily basis! We post many times a week on Facebook and Instagram where we share photos and details about Mesa Verde Foundation news and events.



To follow us on Facebook, visit <https://www.facebook.com/MesaVerdeFoundation/> and click the “Follow” button towards the upper righthand corner of the page.



To follow us on Instagram, visit <https://www.instagram.com/mesaverdefoundation/> and click “Follow” towards the top of our profile.

Note that you will need a Facebook account and/or an Instagram profile to follow us on these platforms.



Additionally, we are excited to announce that we are posting all of the “Conversations from the Mesa” webinars on our YouTube channel! YOU can help us by visiting our profile and clicking “Subscribe.” To get our very own YouTube URL (such as www.youtube.com/channel/mesaverdefoundation/), we need 100 subscribers. As of this newsletter, we have 57, so please visit and subscribe to our YouTube channel to help us reach our goal!

To visit and subscribe to our YouTube channel, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2F0QahIhd5motOAObPM9uA>

Willa Cather, Mesa Verde

& Southwestern Literature

By Andrew Gulliford, PhD

Willa Cather is best known for her novels about pioneering the Great Plains, but she was also one of the first women to write about the Southwest. Inspired by a transformative trip to Arizona and Mesa Verde, she re-shaped Western writing and helped create Southwestern literature.

Authorized with the stroke of a pen by Theodore Roosevelt in June 1906, Mesa Verde National Park influenced many creative people. Pioneer archaeologist Jesse Fewkes designed the first National Park Service museum there. Superintendent Jesse Nusbaum helped design stone buildings in the Park's main area, now its own National Register District. In the winters, Nusbaum built Southwestern furniture in Santa Fe, where he influenced the city's distinctive Santa Fe style of flat roofs, projecting vigas and rooms with corner fireplaces. Designer and architect Mary Colter was inspired by Ancestral Puebloan towers at Mesa Verde and later designed The Watchtower on the Grand Canyon's South Rim.

Willa Cather's impact was different. She toured Mesa Verde and soaked up the stillness and the profound antiquity of the sites first named by the Wetherill brothers, early guides to the area when it was still Ute Indian land. She learned the oft-told tale of how Richard Wetherill and Charlie Mason, looking for lost cows as it began to snow on a December day, "discovered" Cliff Palace, though the Ute elder Acowitz had told them of the impressive ruins long before. Still, the discovery of what postcards would call "an ancient city of the silent dead" intrigued Cather, who knew she had to write about it, knew she had to fictionalize the story, and she did. In the process, she transformed writing about the West, which had almost exclusively been about gun-slingers, love-sick cowboys and conflict on the range.



Willa Cather at Cliff Palace, cropped

Cather was captivated by the ancient ones. Early on, she eschewed the hustle and bustle of the cattle towns, though they provided valuable markets for the Nebraska prairie farmers she would write about in *O Pioneers!* (1913) and immortalize in her book *My Antonia* (1918), which earned the Pulitzer Prize. Yet in addition to writing about her own pioneer experiences, she visited Mesa Verde. Less than a decade after Mesa Verde had been declared the first national park, Cather published *The Song of the Lark* (1915) about a fictional Swedish American opera singer Thea Kronborg, who sought rest in a remote place.

Cather's inspiration for *The Song of the Lark* came from Walnut Canyon National Monument, which she visited in spring 1912. Not her strongest book, yet in *The Song of the Lark* Cather's literary skills and descriptive style are on display. She revels in describing an Ancestral Puebloan village in one of the first such accounts in American literature. Kronborg finds an ancient site and carefully explores it. Cather writes:

From the ancient dwelling there came always a dignified, unobtrusive sadness; now stronger, now fainter—like the aromatic smell which the dwarf cedars gave out in the sun—but always present, a part of the air one breathed. At night, when Thea dreamed about the canyon—or in the early morning when she hurried toward it, anticipating it—her conception of it was of yellow rocks baking in sunlight, the swallows, the cedar smell, and that peculiar sadness—a voice out of the past, not very loud, that went on saying a few simple things to the solitude eternally.

Nebraskan Willa Cather was deeply moved by Ancestral Puebloan builders and inhabitants. She reflects that emotional response in her fictional character Kronborg's musing:

She found herself trying to walk as they must have walked, with a feeling in her feet and knees and loins, which she had never known before—which must have come up to her out of the accustomed dust of that rocky trail. She could feel the weight of an Indian baby hanging to her back as she climbed. The empty houses, among which she wandered in the afternoon, the blanketed one in which she lay all morning, were haunted by certain fears and desires; feelings about warmth and cold and water and physical strength.

Cather's train trip to the Southwest changed her life, and she, in turn, influenced Western literature.

The trip "began a love affair with ancient cliff dwellings and the desert," wrote Mark Athitakis in *Humanities*. Willa Cather arrived in Arizona after a busy six years, during which she had risen to the powerful position of managing editor of *McClure's* magazine, "a rare accomplishment for a woman in journalism at the time."

Living in Greenwich Village in New York City, she became overwhelmed by the vivid air and striking light in the Southwest. "I long to tell you about wonderful Arizona," Cather wrote a friend, quoting novelist Honore de Balzac, "I really learned . . . In the desert there is everything and nothing—God without mankind."

In the summer of 1915 Cather spent a week at Mesa Verde where, according to writer Athitakis, "she was again struck by the union of past and ancient civilizations, nature and culture." Cather's Mesa Verde trip served to inspire her to write about the national park and also to help promote her new book, *The Song of the Lark*. In a short essay, she described how the Park's ruins "stood as if [they] had been deserted yesterday; undisturbed and undesecrated, preserved by the dry atmosphere and its great inaccessibility."

Cather continued to write about the Southwest from a New Yorker's urban vantage point. A decade later she published *The Professor's House* (1925) with its lengthy fictional account of the Wetherill discovery. Instead of Richard Wetherill, the character is Tom Outland. He climbs up out of a canyon, which would have been Mancos Canyon, and he sees Cliff Palace for the first time. Cather writes:

Such silence and stillness and repose—immortal repose. That village sat looking down into the canyon with the calmness of eternity. The falling snow-flakes, sprinkling the piñons, gave it a special kind of solemnity. I can't describe it. It was more like sculpture than anything else. I knew at once that I had come upon the city of some extinct civilization, hidden away in this inaccessible mesa for centuries, preserved in the dry air and almost perpetual sunlight like a fly in amber, guarded by the cliffs and the river and the desert.

Like others of her generation, Cather falsely believed that Ancestral Puebloans had gone extinct, when in fact they had continued their migrations towards the upper Rio Grande Valley and the high mesas of Acoma, Hopi and Zuni. Their descendant communities thrive today.



Willa Cather at Mesa Verde, ca. 1915. From "The Bookman" (December 1915). Public domain.

Cather would go on to write about New Mexico in *Death Comes for the Archbishop* (1927). Though she lived back East, a part of her heart always stayed with Southwestern cliff dwellings and their sunlit, narrow ledges. Her writing helped to define the Southwest as an inspiration for other writers, artists and travelers eager to see what she had seen and to soak in some of that sandstone silence.

* * *

Andrew Gulliford is an award-winning author and editor and a professor of history at Fort Lewis College. He is also a board member of the Mesa Verde Foundation. He can be reached at gulliford_a@fortlewis.edu.

The Mesa Verde Foundation is pleased to welcome two members to its Board of Directors



Sid Barth lives at a lake community in Howard, Ohio, but she freely admits her heart and soul belong to the southwestern United States. Sid grew up in Denver and graduated from Colorado College with a degree in

Liberal Arts & Sciences and a concentration in communications. Her 40+ year career spanned a variety of positions in graphic services and communications, culminating most recently with a position as Communications Manager in Public Affairs with Marathon Petroleum Corporation (MPC) in Findlay, Ohio. In addition to extensive publications, her responsibilities included acting as liaison with the indigenous communities near MPC's Gallup, NM, refinery and serving as a member of the corporate Tribal Affairs Committee.

Sid and her husband Tim have three children, five grandchildren, a golden retriever grand puppy, and a Maltese-terrier mix. They spend a significant part of the year at their second home in Santa Fe, NM.



Past Mesa Verde Foundation Chair **Colin Waldon** has returned to the Board! Colin has lived in Colorado since 1957. He attended the University of Colorado, graduating with a BS degree in geology in 1967, and earned his master's in geology from

the University of Wyoming in 1972. Colin worked for Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and was a scientific member of the 1964 International Geophysical Year Expedition to the Indian Ocean. He joined Woods Hole again in 1966 for a five-month expedition to the southern Atlantic Ocean.

Colin was the Director of Planning and Zoning for Summit County, CO, in the 1970's. In the early 1980's Colin made a major life change to start a construction company in Denver with his brother. Colin has served on the Boards of Directors of the Santa Fe Conservation Trust, the South Suburban Park and Recreation Foundation in Denver, and the Mesa Verde Foundation. Colin married his wife Firth in 1966. They have two daughters, one granddaughter, and three grandsons. Colin and Firth live in Greenwood Village, CO.

Please join the Mesa Verde Foundation in celebrating two Mesa Verde National Park Rangers who have retired

Jessie Farias, Chief Ranger, retired in April 2022. After 35 years with the National Park Service, including the last 19 at Mesa Verde NP, Chief Ranger Jessie Farias Jr. hung up his flat-hat and retired on April 30, 2022. Jessie had also worked at Grand Canyon and Yellowstone National Parks. He and his family are planning to stay in the Dolores, CO, area.

David Franks, Education Ranger, retired in May 2022. For 21 years, Ranger David Franks was an integral part of not just the Interpretation team at Mesa Verde National Park, but every team in the Park. From

leading elementary school field trips to responding to medical emergencies, from shoveling snow on cold winter mornings to assisting archeologists in the backcountry, whatever the need, David was there to provide his support and infectious positivity. David continues to be involved in various service organizations in the Mancos, CO area.

Congratulations, Jessie and David! Thank you for your contributions to Mesa Verde and the National Park Service!

Fellows and Friends: Our Champions

Mesa Verde Foundation Fellows and Friends are the champions of our organization. They provide critical financial support to promote understanding and appreciation of Mesa Verde National Park. They help us meet our mission of funding capital improvements, special projects and educational endeavors for the Park's cultural and natural resources. Their annual commitments are essential in promoting, preserving and protecting the incredible treasures of the Park.

Friends of Mesa Verde Foundation Levels

Friend member benefits include discounts on MVF programs, invitations to MVF events and bi-annual MVF newsletters.

Mesa Verde Contributor \$100 - \$249

Mesa Verde Sustainer \$250 - \$499

Mesa Verde Partner \$500 - \$999

Fellows of Mesa Verde Foundation Levels

Fellow level memberships receive all Friend member benefits plus discounts on MVF tours, special MVF Fellows-only experiences, exclusive events and receptions in Denver, the Four Corners Region, Santa Fe and the Park and additional benefits for the following levels:

Spruce Tree Fellow \$1,000 - \$2,499: one set of eight unique 5x7 folded notecards by photographer Todd Bacon.

Balcony House Fellow \$2,500 - \$4,999: two sets of eight unique 5x7 folded notecards by photographer Todd Bacon, and a Mesa Verde National Park Annual Pass.

Cliff Palace Fellow \$5,000 - \$9,999: three sets of eight unique 5x7 folded notecards by photographer Todd Bacon, and one annual America the Beautiful Pass to all National Parks.

Mesa Verde Society \$10,000 and Up: four sets of eight unique 5x7 folded notecards by photographer Todd Bacon, one annual America the Beautiful Pass to all National Parks, complimentary behind-the-scenes tours/programs at Mesa Verde National Park and other venues, and special, one-on-one tours/receptions with Park Superintendent and other Park personnel or archaeologists.

If you are interested in setting up a monthly or quarterly contribution to the Mesa Verde Foundation at one of our Fellow levels, start by going to www.coloradogives.org. Once on the homepage, select "Donate" and then "Find A Nonprofit". Enter "Mesa Verde" in the search box, and click on the "Donate" button under Mesa Verde Foundation. Mark the "Other" option. At that point, you can customize your giving amount, frequency, start date, and much more. (Just like other sites, you'll need to create an account at Checkout.) Thank you for your sustained support of the programs and initiatives of the Mesa Verde Foundation!

Mesa Verde Foundation

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In Memoriam

Executive Director

Shannon Clifford, MSNPA



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ColoradoGivesDay.org **Dec. 6**