

Mesa Verde Foundation

Stewards of an Ancient Treasure

SPRING NEWSLETTER

2018



LETTER FROM THE MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT

As I walked to my office this morning, I noticed a slate gray sky and felt a cold wind blowing from the southwest. Another blustery spring day. I've seen more staff in the park than visitors over the winter, but that's starting to change.



Spring break is upon us. Daylight Savings Time is here, along with longer days. Both will bring warm weather and more visitors to Mesa Verde and soon the ratio of staff to visitors will change dramatically. We're looking forward to another year full of tours, special events and a few changes. We've moved our off site tour ticket sales outlet to the Durango Welcome Center on Main Ave. We feel it will provide convenient access to purchase tickets and park information for visitors in, and residents of Durango.

A new audio-visual system was installed in the Chapin Mesa Museum. Funding for the improvements came

from a \$1 per night optional charge to guests staying at the Far View Lodge. Funds collected by our concessioner, Aramark, were sent to the National Park Foundation and then to the Mesa Verde Foundation (MVF) under the Guest Donation Program. The program allows us to use these funds to improve the visitor experience. This upgrade has resulted in high definition video and multi-channel stereo sound. Improvements to the system at the Morefield Amphitheater will be completed later this year.

These improvements will enhance the enjoyment of our visitors watching the orientation video, and other videos currently in production. I'll talk more about those in a future column. For now, it's time to turn off my computer, put on my jacket and brave the fierce spring winds on my way home. Thank you for your support of a wonderful park,

Cliff Spencer
Mesa Verde Superintendent

MESA VERDE FOUNDATION BREAKFAST IN DENVER

May 10, 2018, 7:30-9 am, History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway, Denver Colorado

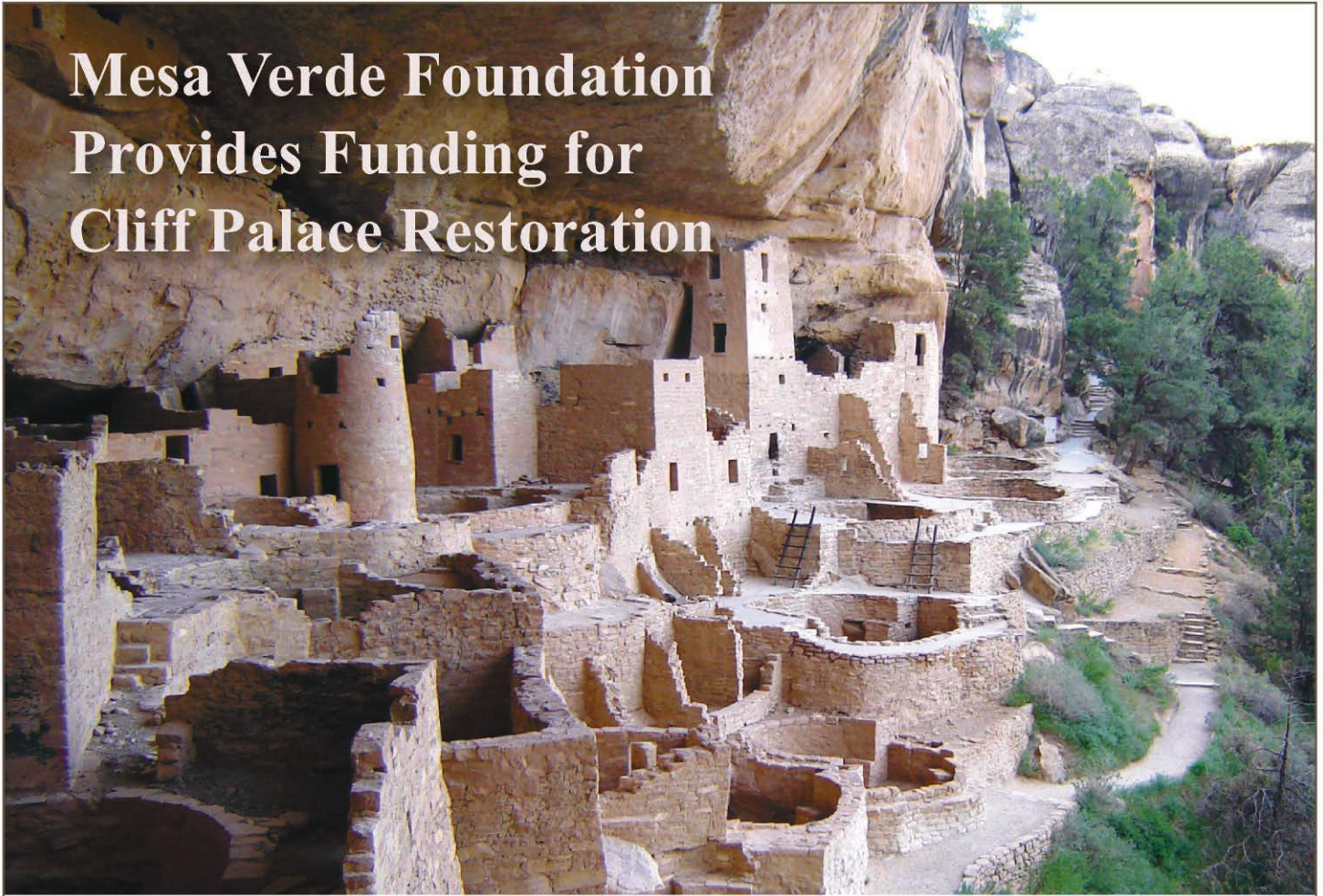
The MVF Board of Directors invites you to enjoy a complimentary gourmet breakfast, a viewing of Mesa Verde artifacts from History Colorado's collection, and a short film about the creation and development of the park.

Superintendent Cliff Spencer from Mesa Verde National Park will be the keynote speaker and select artifacts from History Colorado's Wetherill

collection will be in view. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet the MVF Board members and learn about how you can help us in our work to support the treasure that is Mesa Verde National Park.

Please make your reservation by contacting Janet McFarland Burlile at (303) 321-3120 or janet@mesaverdefoundation.org.

Mesa Verde Foundation Provides Funding for Cliff Palace Restoration



As the largest and most famous cliff dwelling in Mesa Verde National Park, Cliff Palace is as iconic as the Park itself. Each year, thousands of visitors view Cliff Palace in awe from one of the nearby overlooks or take a ranger-led guided tour of this magnificent Ancestral Puebloan ruin. In 2011, during a tour, a ranger noticed that a wall in Kiva F, the 13th-century structure located on the southern part of the cliff alcove, was leaning into the structure. Although after initial examinations National Park Service archaeologists thought the issue was localized in Kiva F, further examination revealed a much larger problem. After months of careful study, archaeologists found that the south half of Cliff Palace was suffering from localized deterioration of individual structures and features, as well as systemic structural issues. Cliff Palace was built on a combination of bedrock on the north side and loose soil and rubble on the southside. As a result, the structures built on the sandy substrates

has begun to slide, causing structural damage to the prehistoric structures. After conducting numerous studies and examinations, a team of archaeologists and stabilization experts began stabilization work in 2015. Since work began, Cliff Palace has been closed each fall to allow for this critical work to be completed.

The Mesa Verde Foundation is proud to support these efforts by providing funding for the stabilization work. We recently transferred \$70,000—the result of donations from a number of donors—to support the work during fall 2018. To learn more about Cliff Palace and the work of the National Park Service to preserve and stabilize it, visit nps.gov/meve/learn/historyculture/cp_preservation_currentneeds.htm. If you are interested in supporting this important work with a gift, please contact the Mesa Verde Foundation at janet@mesaverdefoundation.org or (303) 321-3120.



2018 Tours Announced

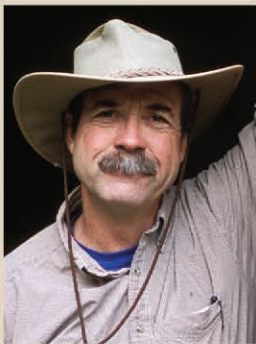
Mesa Verde Foundation is happy to announce its 2018 tour schedule. We strive to provide exciting and educational tours for those interested in experiencing more of Mesa Verde National Park and the greater Ancestral Puebloan region. This year, we will once again hold a fall tour of Mesa Verde and, back by popular demand, we will offer an exclusive horseback tour of the park.

Mesa Verde National Park on Horseback September 6-8, 2018

Join the Mesa Verde Foundation on an exclusive horseback tour of Mesa Verde National Park, one of 12 original UNESCO World Heritage sites, which is home to thousands of ancient artifacts and remnants of Ancestral Puebloan tribes. Guests will arrive on September 6 to enjoy a wine and cheese reception in Durango. At the reception, participants will have the opportunity to get acquainted with other riders and to prepare for this riding adventure. On September 7, participants will ride eight miles roundtrip into Navajo Canyon with its stunning views of cliff dwellings. Riders will enjoy a gourmet lunch at Spring House and the opportunity to view this archaeological site before the return ride. The trip will conclude with a tour of Skyhorse Saddlemakers on September 8. Participants should be experienced and may either bring their own horse or lease one for the tour. Hotel accommodations, horse boarding or rentals and some meals are the responsibility of individual participants.



Cost: \$500 members/\$550 non-members

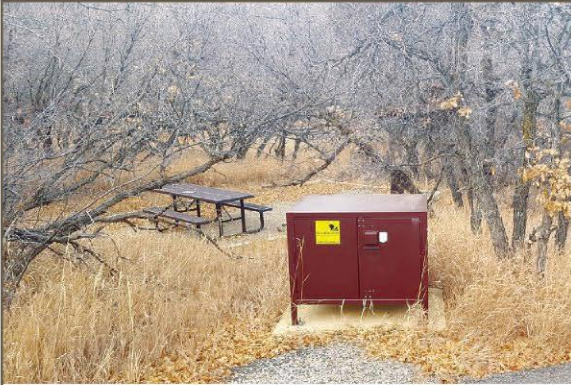


Fall Tour of Mesa Verde National Park September 28-October 1, 2018

Join Dr. Andrew Gulliford, Professor of History and Environmental Studies at Fort Lewis College, for a three-day tour of Mesa Verde National Park, one of 12 original UNESCO World Heritage sites, home to thousands of ancient artifacts and remnants of Ancestral Puebloan tribes. During this three-day tour, you will visit cliff dwellings and learn about the history of Ancestral Pueblos, who lived at Mesa Verde. The tour will include tours of some of Mesa Verde's most iconic sites with Dr. Gulliford, lodging (based on double-occupancy), six meals and an exclusive reception at the Superintendent's House in the park. The tour includes moderate to more challenging hikes with options for those wanting a less rigorous experience. Transportation to the park, park entrance fees, and select meals will be the responsibility of tour participants.

Cost: \$995 members/\$1,075 non-members

Space is limited, so make your reservation today. For more information or to join a tour, please visit mesaverdefoundation.org or contact Janet McFarland Burlile at janet@mesaverdefoundation.org.



More Bear Lockers Needed for Morefield Campground

Last summer, Mesa Verde National Park staff and visitors reported an increased number of bear sightings in the park. More sightings no doubt mean an increased risk of interactions between people and bears.

Morefield Campground, the park's only campground, is in the middle of prime black bear habitat due to the abundance of vegetation that provides forage for bears throughout the summer. In the past 25 years, there have been numerous occasions where bears have frequented the Morefield Campground and put campers, staff and the bears themselves at risk. When campers leave their coolers and food containers unattended in campsites while visiting the park, they may be cited for leaving unsecured food available to bears.

Food storage using approved bear-proof lockers has been proven to be highly effective in reducing the

habituation of bears to human food. Currently, Morefield Campground has only 17 food storage lockers for its 329 campsites. Providing additional food storage lockers will reduce access to food

for bears and other wildlife, resulting in safer camping conditions for visitors, less property damage to camper equipment, and a reduced chance that a bear will have to be removed and relocated, or worse, euthanized.



The Mesa Verde Foundation is launching a campaign to purchase additional bear-proof food storage lockers for Morefield Campground. You can help by making a gift of any amount. Gifts of a \$100 or more will receive all the benefits of being a Friend of Mesa Verde Foundation. Those who contribute \$1,500 will receive their name or group's name engraved on a 2"x3" plaque affixed to one of the new bear-proof storage lockers.

Help us protect the bears and become a Friend of Mesa Verde Foundation!

For more information on the bear-proof storage locker campaign, contact Janet McFarland Burlile at (303) 331-3120 or janet@mesaverdefoundation.org or visit www.mesaverdefoundation.org



*Black bears at Mesa Verde National Park.
All photos © NPS.*

Mesa Verde Foundation Assists with Upgrading Audio Visual Presentations at the Park



As mentioned in the Superintendent's column, audio visual presentations at the Chapin Mesa Archaeological Museum and Morefield Campground are being upgraded to give guests a much-improved experience. The Mesa Verde Foundation has worked closely with project managers and vendors to help see these projects come to fruition.

Funds were provided through the Guest Donation Program, which comes from guests who stay at Far View Lodge and opt to contribute \$1 per night's stay. Improvements are completed at Chapin Mesa Archaeological Museum and guests are already raving about the new experience. The campground project will commence later this spring in time for the summer camping season.



The Mesa Verde Foundation is working to go green and will be converting its newsletter to an electronic version in 2018. Please be sure your email address is on file by emailing info@mesaverdefoundation.org.

**Exclusive
Concert!**



At City Winery by Kim Thompson

MICHAEL MARTIN MURPHEY ~IN THE PARK~

On June 23, 2018, forty guests of the Mesa Verde Foundation will enjoy an exclusive concert by the original Cosmic Cowboy—Michael Martin Murphey. Before the concert, guests will enjoy dinner at the Superintendent's House while chatting with Mr. Murphey and taking in stunning panoramic views of Chapin Mesa. The Superintendent's House is a private residence that originally housed the Park's Superintendent and today is used for private events and use by park service staff.

Following dinner, guests will be treated to an intimate concert with Michael Martin Murphey at the Chapin Mesa Amphitheater. Transportation from Durango to the park will be available. Tickets to this exclusive event are \$1,000/person and proceeds will support the Mesa Verde Foundation's mission to provide support for improvements, projects and educational endeavors at Mesa Verde National Park.

For more information or to make your reservation, contact Janet McFarland Burlile
janet@mesaverdefoundation.org or
(303) 321-3120

WELCOME MESA VERDE FOUNDATION'S NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At its most recent Board meetings in November 2017 and February 2018, MVF elected six new Board members. We are pleased to welcome Marilyn Alkire, Doug Bacon, Jerry Burk, Mark Epstein, Elaine Gunnell and Marion Swett Robinson.



Marilyn Alkire returns to the Mesa Verde Foundation board having served from 2006-2016. Marilyn is a native Minnesotan, who moved to Colorado in 1974 where she attended law school at the University of Denver College of Law. Marilyn practiced environmental and natural resource law for a number of years, as an associate, and then partner, at Holme Roberts & Owen. After retiring, she focused her passion for the environment through support for national parks. She has served on the boards of the Yellowstone Association and the Western National Parks Association, which represents over 60 national parks and monuments, as well as the Mesa Verde Foundation. She served as board chair for both the Mesa Verde Foundation (2009-2012) and the Yellowstone Association. Marilyn and her husband Alan Shaw are avid outdoor enthusiasts. They live in both Castle Rock, Colorado and Big Sky, Montana and spend a substantial amount of time every summer fly fishing at their fishing homes in Craig, Colorado and Ft. Smith, Montana.



Doug Bacon is the CEO of TGI Direct, a marketing support services firm based in Flint, Michigan that provides consulting, project management, manufacturing and distributions services. Doug earned a BS from the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado. He was formerly a professional mountaineer working for the largest college accredited non-profit, private outdoor school in the country—The National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). Doug also enjoyed a brief stint as a national park ranger. He has and does serve on several boards, and committees. Doug lives in Hartland Michigan with his wife Indy. They have two grown children, two grandkids, a wonderful daughter-in-law, and a beautiful chocolate lab.



Jerry Burk is a tax and estate attorney at Burk & Burk, Attorneys at Law in Centennial, Colorado. Jerry received her CPA from the State of Colorado in 1976 and graduated from the University of Denver Law School in 1982. Jerry's passions are her family, travel, her horses and dogs, and of course, Mesa Verde National Park. Jerry lives in Parker, Colorado with her husband Gene.



Mark Epstein was co-founder and principal consultant of the Convergent Group, where he served in a variety of roles from Principal Consultant, President, and to President and CEO of Graphic Data Systems, a Convergent Group member company. Mark resides in Durango, Colorado, where he is an active member of the community and volunteer for a variety of organizations. Mark has been a member and mentor for the SCAPE (Southwest Colorado Accelerator Program for Entrepreneurs) since 2011. From 2013 to 2014 he was a member of the Board of Directors of Character.Org, a non-profit dedicated to improving our society by teaching what it means to be a person of moral and performance character. In 2013, Mark retired as Vice-President of the Board of Directors and co-founder of Mountain Middle School, a start-up charter middle school in Durango that opened in August 2011. Mark is married to Alison and has three children. In his spare time, he plays banjo in a semi-professional bluegrass band—The Badly Bent.



Elaine Gunnell, a graduate of Clarion State College and native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, relocated to Denver in 2001. Her career history spans academia and the private sector. A Deanship at Carnegie Mellon University and twenty years in the rail transportation industry, managing international

and domestic system integration projects, prepared her for her latest career—that of a community volunteer. Since relocating to Colorado, she has served on boards of various nonprofits. Elaine is passionate about her adopted state, the national parks, all things western, and her family.



Marion Swett Robinson grew up in Rochester, New York and currently lives in Darien, Connecticut and Durango, Colorado. Marion received a BA from Wellesley College, an MBA from Stanford Business School and MA from Stanford University. Marion’s business

career spans a variety of financial institutions, including Bankers Trust Company, Nomura Securities and, currently, Atrevida Partners (investment advisor and hedge fund manager). She has served on a number of non-profit boards and industry associations. Her interests include travel (including in an RV), classical music (especially opera) and western landscape and plein air art. She first visited Mesa Verde National Park in the 1950s on a family camping trip in a station wagon and is delighted to have the opportunity to serve its interests.

Mesa Verde Foundation Board of Directors

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 Jim Wilkins, Immediate Past Chair
 David Nagler, Vice-Chair
 Tom Sickler, Vice-Chair
 Mary Beth West, Secretary
 Colin Waldon, Treasurer
 Marilyn Alkire • Doug Bacon
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 Marion Swett Robinson
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Executive Director
 Janet McFarland-Burlile

Become a Friend of Mesa Verde Foundation Today!

Friends of Mesa Verde Foundation Levels

All levels receive a MVF decal, discounts on MVF Programs, invitations to MVF events, Quarterly MVF Newsletter, listing in MVF Annual Report

Mesa Verde Contributor	\$100 - \$249
Mesa Verde Sustainer	\$250 - \$499
Mesa Verde Partner	\$500 - \$999

Fellow level memberships receive the Basic member benefit plus discounts on MVF Tours, Annual Mesa Verde Wall Calendar, *Mesa Verde: The First 100 Years* book (one-time gift), invitations to special MVF Fellows tours, exclusive events and receptions in Denver, the Four Corners Region, Phoenix, Santa Fe and the Park.

Spruce Tree Fellow **\$1,000 - \$2,499**

Balcony House Fellow **\$2,500 - \$4,999**

Spruce Tree and Balcony House Fellows receive Basic member benefits and Fellow level benefits plus a Mesa Verde National Park Annual Pass.

Cliff Palace Fellow **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Cliff Palace Fellows receive basic member benefits and Fellow level benefits plus an Annual America the Beautiful pass to all National Parks.

Mesa Verde Society **\$10,000 and Up**

Mesa Verde Society members receive Basic member and Fellow level benefits plus an Annual America the Beautiful pass to all National Parks and complimentary behind-the-scenes tours/programs at Mesa Verde National Park and other venues (museums, archaeological sites, etc.), and special, one-on-one tours/receptions with Park Superintendent and other Park personnel or archaeologists.



Mesa Verde Foundation

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Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

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Mesa Verde Friends and Fellows Contact Form

Please print clearly!

- New Friend or Fellow
 - Friend or Fellow Renewal
- Check here if new address

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please make check to Mesa Verde Foundation and mail with your completed form to:
 6650 W 44th Ave, Ste #1, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033 or visit mesaverdofoundation.org to join online!
 If you have questions, please call (303) 321-3120. All personal information is kept confidential and will not be sold, distributed, or used by any other party than MVF.