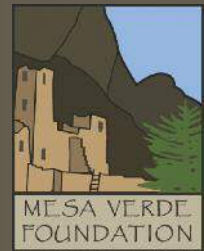


Mesa Verde Foundation

Stewards of an Ancient Treasure

SPRING NEWSLETTER

2019



LETTER FROM THE MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT

Winter arrived in Mesa Verde with a vengeance. Several strong January storms combined with warm days caused a significant rock fall at mile 2 of the entrance road. The rocks, some as large as a small SUV, damaged the road surface and more than 80 feet of guardrail. This forced us to close the park for most of the shutdown. Heavy snow continued into February, which caused us to close the road for 14 days, as the plows could not keep up with the accumulating and drifting snow. The silver lining to all this weather is that we should enjoy a spectacular spring and a (hopefully) mild fire season.



There is plenty of good news for 2019. First, Cliff Palace will open for tours April 14, weather permitting. The stabilization work that began in 2015 is near completion, so tours will begin six weeks early.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the designation of Yucca House as a National Monument.

In addition, legislation has been introduced to enlarge the boundary of Yucca House to accept a donation of land by a local landowner. This land contains archaeological resources that enhance those on the original monument and will provide for a new entrance and parking area. Yucca House is located 10 miles south of Cortez and is managed by Mesa Verde.

We've also begun planning to revise the exhibits in the Chapin Mesa Museum. Mesa Verde staff will collaborate with our affiliated tribes and the University of Colorado Museum Program to update the exhibits and make them accessible.

Each year brings new challenges and opportunities. The staff at Mesa Verde work hard each day to meet those challenges and seek opportunities to enhance the experiences of the more than 500,000 visitors we welcome each year. We invite you to pay a visit this year.

Cliff Spencer
Mesa Verde Superintendent

Mesa Verde Foundation Breakfast in Denver

May 9, 2018, 8:30-10 am, History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway, Denver Colorado

Join us for a complimentary breakfast where Mesa Verde National Park Museum Curator Tara Tavis will present the *Treasures of Mesa Verde* and Superintendent Cliff Spencer will provide an update about the park. We will ask guests to consider supporting Mesa Verde Foundation's work, and although there is no obligation to give, we hope you will consider supporting this wonderful cause. 100% of donations raised that day will go for our tax-exempt purposes.

The program will begin promptly at 8:30 am. Check-in and coffee will start at 8:00 am.

Please RSVP at
(303) 321-3120 or
info@mesaverdefoundation.org.





A MESA VERDE LICENSE PLATE

Support our National Park

The following article first appeared in the Durango Herald on February 9, 2019 and has been updated to reflect the current status of our License Plate Program.

Instead of fake news, how about real news? Instead of political posturing and name calling, how about a project to unite us as a region and a state? How about a Mesa Verde National Park license plate?

We learned a hard economics lesson this summer when the Durango Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad quit running because of the 416 Fire. Stores, restaurants, and motels suffered. We are a tourist town, no doubt about it, so why shouldn't Durangotangs, and the rest of the state for that matter, support a Mesa Verde license plate? I think we will. We're almost there.

We have obtained the 3,000 petition signatures required to get the Colorado State Legislature to approve a brand-new license plate to promote the world's first cultural park set aside by my hero President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906. A successful tourist season at Mesa Verde means 600,000 visitors with a regional economic impact of close to \$70 million dollars. That's why the Mesa Verde Foundation is acting to get approval for a shiny new Mesa Verde license plate. Proceeds from the sale of this special Colorado license plate will directly benefit the park.

Rocky Mountain National Park has a similar benefit license plate as do the state's colleges and universities. We have license plates for adopting shelter pets, for breast cancer, and hunting and fishing conservation. We have license plates for our franchised sports teams, for wildlife, for rivers, for state parks. Why not have a license plate for Colorado's oldest national park? What a great idea!

And besides, I like license plates. In 43 years of marriage, we have most of the license plates my wife and I have ever purchased—or at least the colorful ones.

Using baling wire to attach them to our backyard fence, we have a potpourri of plates. My wife, Stephanie Moran, came west from New Jersey and we have her vintage Jersey license plate, which is now faded yellow and black with the motto "The Garden State." We met in San Francisco. When she drove to Colorado to be with me to see if our relationship would "work out," she came over Donner Pass in a 1968 VW bug, which we christened "Grumpy" because of its mechanical attitude. Sometimes it ran. Sometimes it didn't. The car is long

gone, but we still have the California license plate.

We have a Garfield County license plate from 1976 when I started teaching 4th grade in Silt, Colorado when it still had dirt streets and wooden water lines. We have a bland, fading Ohio license plate from our years of graduate school and the birth of our first child. On the fence are two New Mexico license plates from our time in Silver City when I directed a university museum and our second son was born.

My academic career took me to Middle Tennessee State University so on the backyard fence we have a decade of Tennessee license plates. The plates include a state park plate with wild purple irises, the standard Tennessee plate that has a design like a soccer ball in the middle, and my vanity plate 63 BIRD for the 1963 Thunderbird I owned and proudly drove with the mammoth 350 horsepower engine, the tilt-away steering wheel, and the taillights modeled on the after burners of F-1 jets. Sold the car. Kept the plate.

And like so many other Colorado exiles, when life and careers force us away from the state we love and we finally get to come back home, we have a few of the traditional Colorado license plates with snowclad mountains sprawled across the top. Back in Colorado, within two days of coming home, we ditched the out of state license plates on our vehicles to purchase the green and white ones so we could become “locals” once again.

License plates. We pay for them. We put them on our cars and trucks. Then after a while the plates wind up on fences, barns, sheds, and all variety of objects d’art. They sell in antique stores. They become collectible.

In Durango at 1008 Oak Drive, Paul and Julie Booth nailed license plates all over their shed. “The shed’s old and the wood’s not good. So it’s a protective thing, but it looks cool. At night it lights up when you shine a light on it because of the reflective paint,” explains Paul. So far, their shed boasts license plates from 15 states. “It’s a great idea. I like the aesthetic. It gives the shed personality,” laughs Julie. “When friends come over, it’s a conversation piece,” smiles Paul.

So how exciting will it be to have Mesa Verde license plates? Native Americans agree. “Our forefathers settled in Mesa Verde. Although we are currently living in New Mexico, we still have connections to Mesa Verde in many ways,” explains Zia Pueblo elder Peter Pino. “Our forefathers and us, as direct descendants, would be honored to have a license plate acknowledging and showcasing Mesa Verde for all the world to see.”

States Mesa Verde Foundation Executive Director Janet McFarland Burlile, “Providing support to care for and improve the park is a priority. Revenue generated will support the park directly. A bill has been introduced in the Colorado Legislature and will be voted on this spring.”

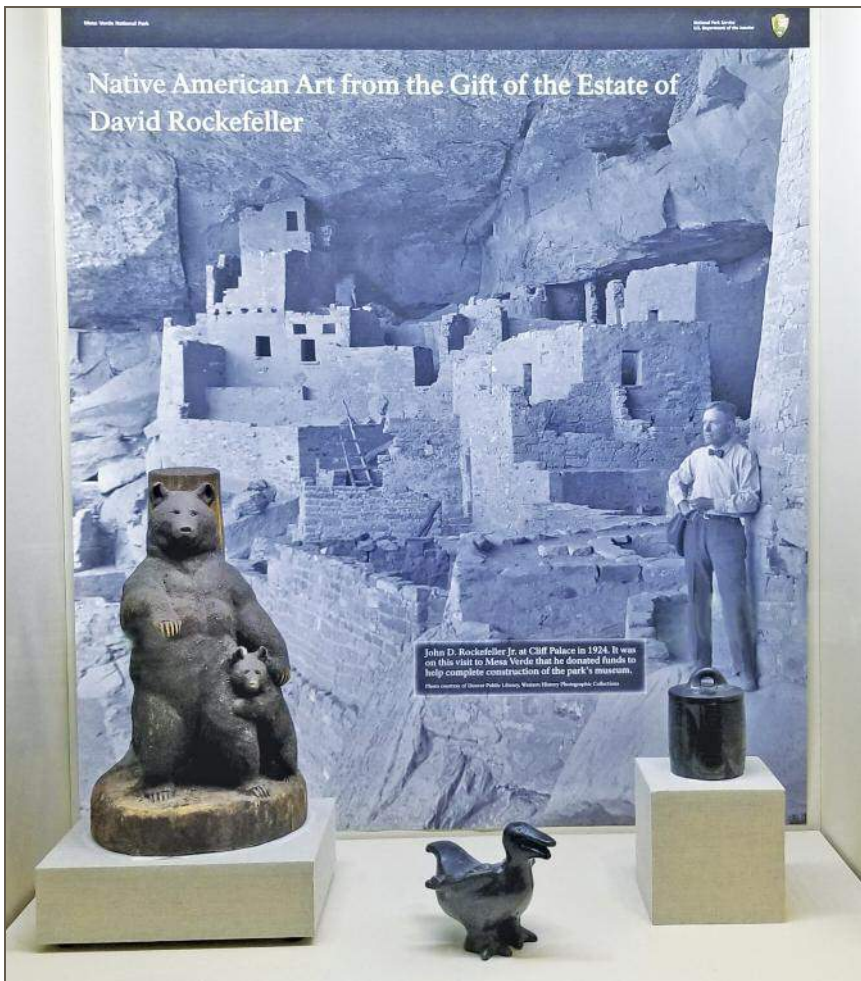
“We have obtained the 3,000 petition signatures required to get the Colorado State Legislature to approve a brand-new license plate to promote the world’s first cultural park set aside by my hero President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906.”

Mesa Verde license plate bill sponsors include State Representative Chris Hansen, Democrat, House District 6, and State Senator Don Coram, Republican, District 6 representing Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, San Juan, and San Miguel counties.

“I would support a license plate for Mesa Verde,” says Colorado State Representative Barbara McLachlan. “It has such a rich history, and I am proud it represents the beauty and significance of Southwest Colorado.” The City of Durango also likes the idea. In September 2018 the City Council approved “a resolution supporting the creation of a Colorado Specialty License Plate for Mesa Verde National Park.”

The draft design is a beautiful license plate showing off both our Colorado mountains and the unique Ancestral Puebloan architecture of cliff dwellings. I’ve signed the petition. My Fort Lewis College students have enthusiastically signed the petition. This is a project we can all support. I can’t wait to get my Mesa Verde license plates and put them on my bumpers. It will be a long time before they hang on the back fence.

Andrew Gulliford is a professor of history and Environmental Studies at Fort Lewis College and an award-winning author and editor. Reach him at andy@gulliford.com.



Mesa Verde Receives Gift of the Estate of David Rockefeller

*We are grateful to
Dr. Tara Travis,
Curator of Collections,
for contributing this article.*

The Estate of David Rockefeller donated items from the Collection of David and Peggy Rockefeller to Mesa Verde National Park. The acquisition is comprised of more than 100 works of art representing Native American Culture, by Native American artists, including pieces by tribal community members traditionally associated with Mesa Verde National Park. The works of art were primarily acquired by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and Abby Aldrich Rockefeller in the 1920s and 1930s, including works purchased during two trips to Mesa Verde National Park and the western U.S. in 1924 and 1926. Later works in the collection were added by their son David Rockefeller and his wife Peggy.

In 1924, Mr. Rockefeller and his older sons John D. Rockefeller 3rd, Nelson and Laurance visited Mesa Verde National Park. The group spent more than three hours at Cliff Palace with Superintendent Jesse L. Nusbaum, inspected the artifacts on exhibit at Fewkes cabin, and observed the unfinished walls

of a new museum. Mr. Rockefeller pledged \$3,500 toward completion of the first unit of the new museum, materials to construct exhibit cases, and funds to further scientific excavations. In 1926 he returned with his wife Abby Aldrich Rockefeller, Laurance, and their two younger sons Winthrop and David. The Rockefeller family toured the museum, examined artifacts from the funded excavations at Step House, and contributed an additional \$2,500 for museum cases and research.

Some of the works of art include a Navajo (Diné) rug with the woven initials J.D.R.; early examples of San Ildefonso black-on-black pottery purchased by John D. Rockefeller Jr. from Maria Montoya Martinez (Poveka) and her husband Julian Martinez; wood sculptures of wildlife by Blackfoot artist John Louis Clarke (Catapuis); and paintings by Taos School artists Eanger Irving Couse and Joseph Henry Sharp. Of special interest is a watercolor painting by Jemez Pueblo painter José Rey Toledo purchased from the Fred Harvey

Store, Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona, during David Rockefeller's entomological expedition in the summer 1934.

Mesa Verde National Park is one of two institutions to receive a gift of Native American art from the Estate of David Rockefeller, along with the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. This donation has helped bring to light the historical relationship between Mesa Verde National Park and the Rockefeller family. This connection, fostered during the family trips to the Park, resulted in one of the first private/public partnerships in the NPS, and a multi-generational commitment to the NPS that continues today. "We recognize the value of this collection resides not only in the objects, but in the contributions the Rockefeller family has made to the NPS over the decades," said Cliff Spencer, Superintendent at Mesa Verde.

The family's art collection was displayed in the "Rest House," located on the Rockefeller family's property on Mt. Desert Island in Maine. Since the works resided in a family residence, very few people have seen this collection. Therefore, the park is gratified to know that the objects will be viewed by future park visitors; since many of the works are coming back to the area where they originated. The park plans several exhibits to highlight the objects and the family's connection to Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum in the hopes of reinforcing the connection of the people, the landscapes, and traditions of contemporary tribal communities with the Ancestral Pueblo people of Mesa Verde.

Much has transpired since this amazing gift arrived at the loading dock at the Visitor and Research Center. First there was the visit from the Dennis Carr, the Carolyn and Peter Lynch Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston. Over lunch at Spruce Tree Terrace we were able to discuss the

significance of the donation to our respective institutions and brain storm about the potential for future collaboration. Before unpacking, an NPS conservator was brought to assess the conservation needs of the donation and provide recommendations for unpacking, storage and future treatments. This was followed by the processing, inventory and cataloging work.

Our first exhibit consisted of three objects that were placed in the repository windows during initial unpacking. A month later a second small exhibit

went up in one of the large cases opposite the repository windows at the VRC. A blown-up image of John D. Rockefeller Jr. during his 1924 visit to Cliff Palace serves as a backdrop for rotating art works. Currently on display is a mother bear and cub sculpture by John Lewis Clark, a San Ildefonso black-on-black jar and a blackware duck figurine.

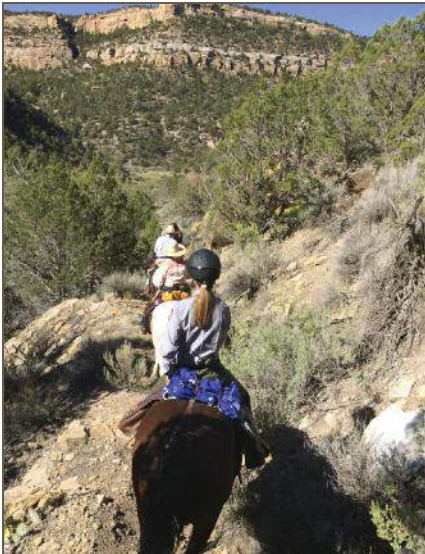
Also underway is a collaborative project with the CU Boulder Museum and Field Studies program to prepare a new

exhibit plan for the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum. We look forward to hearing from all of you at the Mesa Verde Foundation as we engage in this new era for one of the oldest museums in the National Park Service. Thanks, in part, to the generous donation of John D. Rockefeller Jr. back in 1924.

Additionally, the Mesa Verde Foundation has received a generous gift from the Estate of David Rockefeller to support the display, conservation and care of the Collection of David and Peggy Rockefeller at Mesa Verde National Park.

Dr. Tara Travis is the curator of collections at Mesa Verde National Park.

“We recognize the value of this collection resides not only in the objects, but in the contributions the Rockefeller family has made to the NPS over the decades”



Mesa Verde Foundation Rides Again with Horseback Tour of the Park September 12-14, 2019

The Mesa Verde Foundation is offering an exclusive horse-back tour of Mesa Verde National Park. The park does not have a horse concession for tourists within its boundaries. However, the Foundation has received permission for a one-day horse-back tour in the park. Participants will ride up to eight miles roundtrip for stunning views of cliff dwellings from a perspective not seen by regular park visitors. The ride will travel through stunning vistas, across mesas, and will pass by many archaeological wonders of the park. Guests will arrive on September 12 and 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 13, participants will ride up to eight miles roundtrip for stunning views of cliff dwellings. Riders will enjoy a gourmet lunch and the opportunity to view archaeological sites before the return ride. The trip will conclude with a tour of Skyhorse Saddlemakers on September 14.

Participants should be experienced and are welcome to bring their own horse or lease one for the tour. Mesa Verde Foundation has made arrangements for horse rentals through Rimrock Outfitters in Mancos. The cost of leasing a horse is approximately \$200 for the day. There is no stabling of horses in the park, but arrangements can be made to keep horses overnight in Mancos. Hotel accommodations, horse boarding or rentals and some meals are the responsibility of individual participants. The ride will go, rain or shine. All proceeds support Mesa Verde Foundation and Mesa Verde National Park.

Cost: \$600 / \$550 Mesa Verde Foundation Members, limited to 20.

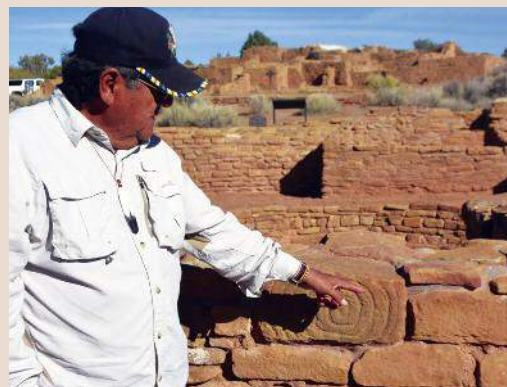
Register before May 1 and receive a \$50 discount on your fees!

To register for either tour and for more information, contact Mesa Verde Foundation at (303) 321-3120 or info@mesaverdefoundation.org

Special Fall Tour of Mesa Verde National Park, Including Mug House October 4-7, 2019

Join Dr. Andrew Gulliford, Professor of History and Environmental Studies at Fort Lewis College, and Peter Pino, former Governor of the Pueblo of Zia, Tribal Council Member and Kiva Leader, who will lead a four-day tour of Mesa Verde National Park.

This year's tour is very special. It will include a visit to **Mug House**, a massive, multiroom dwelling (94 rooms and eight kivas) at the farthest end of Wetherill Mesa rarely seen by the public. Every few years the park allows small group visitation and Mesa Verde Foundation is pleased to offer this special opportunity to our supporters. The discoverers of Mug House found many artifacts, including three mugs tied together with a yucca cord, giving Mug House its name. During the four-day tour, the group will visit iconic cliff dwellings and learn about the history of Ancestral Puebloans who lived at Mesa Verde from both traditional and scholarly perspectives. The tour will include a stay at the Far View Lodge within the park, six meals and an exclusive reception at the Superintendent's home in the park.



Cost: \$1,200 / \$1,100 Mesa Verde Foundation Members, single supplement \$65, limited to 20.

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Space is limited, make your tour
reservation today!



Guests enjoying the 2018 Fall Park Tour with
Peter Pino and Dr. Andrew Gulliford.

Become a Friend of Mesa Verde Foundation Today!

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

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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.

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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.

Join Today!

<https://www.mesaverdefoundation.org/become-a-friend/>