



# FRIENDS *of* FLAGSTAFF N A T I O N A L MONUMENTS

## MONUMENTAL NEWS

ISSUE 4, FEBRUARY 2015

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### Green Star Awards Program

Flagstaff Area National Monuments recently introduced the Green Star awards program to recognize the efforts of staff committed to sustainability and to inspire others. Recent winners include Jay Dennis, an electrician in the Facilities Division and Erin Gearty, an archeological technician in the Resources Division. These awards demonstrate the range of activities that can contribute to sustainability and encourages all divisions to think of how they can be more sustainable in their jobs and adapt resources to climate change.

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### The Friends Board

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- Robert Breunig
- Carl Taylor
- Eduardo Tapia-Castro
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Erin Gearty (left) and Jay Dennis (right).



## Proposed Increase in Fees

Along with other units of the National Park Service, the three Flagstaff Area National Monuments are considering an increase to their entrance fees. The last increase in fees at the national monuments was in 1997, 18 years ago.

The Flagstaff Area National Monuments retain 100% of the fees collected and use them to enhance visitor services, restore and rehabilitate monument facilities, provide additional interpretive programs, and increase resource protection. Projects completed with fee revenue include: renovation of the historic Ranger Cabin at Walnut Canyon, stabilization of archeological sites at Wupatki, and a new ADA accessible trail at Sunset Crater Volcano. Revenue generated from the proposed fee increase will be used to upgrade visitor center exhibits and redesign the Lenox Crater Trailhead. Additional revenue for Crack-in-Rock hikes will be used to cover costs for these overnight experiences.

The proposed timeline for increasing fees is October 2015.

While no decision has been made regarding the proposed fee increases, the price of interagency passes will remain the same for now. An interagency pass is your ticket to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites, including entrance fees at national parks and US Forest Service sites. Do you buy a Red Rock Pass in Sedona each year? One pass could cover both the Red Rock Pass *and* all your national park entrance fees! These interagency passes include: the America the Beautiful Annual Pass, the Lifetime Senior Pass, the Lifetime Access Pass, and the America the Beautiful Annual Military Pass. A great way to painlessly contribute to the operation of the monuments is to purchase your pass at one of the local visitor centers, allowing revenue from the pass to remain in the Flagstaff Area National Monuments. For specific information about passes go to [www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm](http://www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm).

The Friends group is very excited that The National Park Foundation is sponsoring the Every Kid in a Park initiative. This program will provide an opportunity for every 4th grade student across the country to experience his/her public lands and waters in person during the 2015-2016 school year. For more information go to [www.nationalparks.org/ook/every-kid-in-a-park](http://www.nationalparks.org/ook/every-kid-in-a-park).

Interagency  
America the  
Beautiful  
Annual Pass  
\$80



Interagency  
Senior Pass,  
Lifetime  
\$10



Interagency  
Access Pass,  
Lifetime  
Free



Interagency  
America the  
Beautiful  
Military  
Annual Pass  
Free



FLAG  
Annual Pass  
\$25, proposed  
increase to  
\$40



Proposed options for increase in fees:

*Option 1 –Per person fee structure:*

- Walnut Canyon would change from \$5 to \$8 for a seven day pass.
- Sunset Crater Volcano/Wupatki would change from \$5 to \$10 for a seven day pass.

*Option 2 –Institute a per vehicle fee:*

- \$20 per vehicle for Walnut Canyon and \$20 per vehicle for Sunset Crater Volcano/Wupatki.
- \$15 per motorcycle fee.

*Proposed fee changes common to both options:*

- FLAG annual pass would increase from \$25 to \$40.
- Crack-in-Rock overnight hikes at Wupatki would increase from \$50 per person to \$75 per person.



Movin' in the Monuments 2014.  
Photos courtesy of Eduardo Tapia-Castro.



Wupatki National Monument.  
Photos courtesy of Kim Watson.



## Development Committee Fundraising Priorities

The Friends of Flagstaff National Monuments is working with the National Park Service to assist in several important projects not funded through federal sources. If you would like to support any of the following projects, please contact Kim Watson at [friendsofthemonuments@msn.com](mailto:friendsofthemonuments@msn.com).

### Movin' in the Monuments

The highly successful program, Movin' in the Monuments, promotes healthy lifestyles for youth and their families in the Flagstaff area. Using the backdrop of all three Flagstaff Area National Monuments, this program creates connections and opportunities for outdoor recreation that contribute to families' and youths' physical, mental and social well-being. Movin' in the Monuments has greatly increased outreach to areas such as the Sunnyside and Southside communities. This program has reached over 450 people, including 325 children, with 20 different events.

Collaborators with the national monuments are the Friends of the Flagstaff National Monuments, the Flagstaff Unified School District, the National Park Foundation, and the Coconino National Forest. The initial funding source provided by the National Park Foundation is no longer available. To continue this program will require a new, non-federal funding source to be used primarily for transportation and to provide healthy snacks for participants.

For additional information please contact the Friends of the Flagstaff Monuments at [friendsofthemonuments@msn.com](mailto:friendsofthemonuments@msn.com).

### Wupatki Excavation Project

A recent investigation by park archeologists helped preserve a 900 year old storage cist threatened by erosion in Wupatki National Monument. Archeologists excavated the storage cist and recovered valuable information about the prehistoric occupation near Wupatki Pueblo. However, funding is needed for analysis of the recovered artifacts (ceramic vessels, shell bracelet fragments, ochre, and soil samples) to provide park staff with updated, science-based understanding of the past, as well as to create an interpretive exhibit highlighting the discovery for park visitors.

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### Walnut Canyon Rock Art Project

Approximately 20 rock art sites are known to exist within Walnut Canyon. This project will provide detailed documentation of the five rock art sites that remain

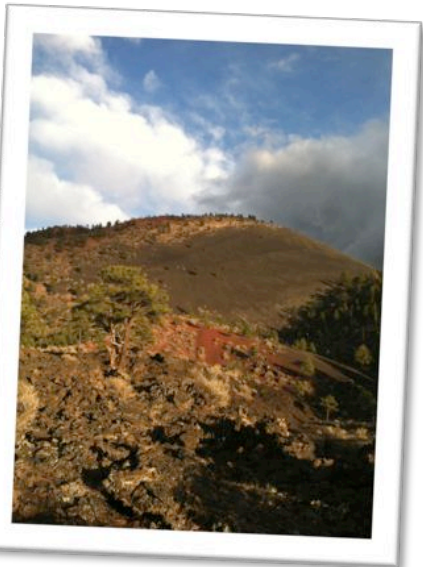
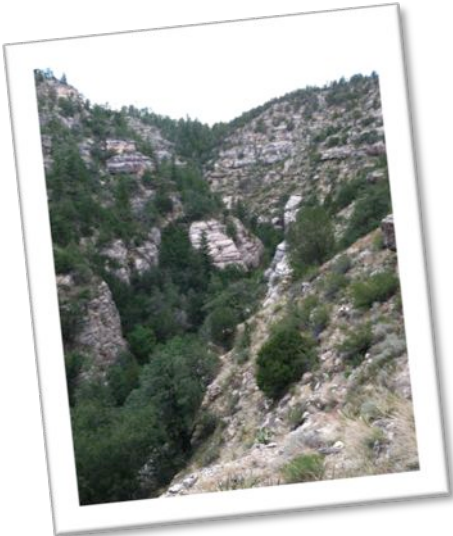


# Development Committee Fundraising Priorities

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Walnut Canyon National Monument.  
Photos courtesy of Marge Ullmann.



Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument.  
Photo courtesy of Marge Ullmann.

undocumented, as well as intensive 3-D imaging of select rock art panels throughout the monument. Tasks and products include archival research, scaled mapping and drawing, high resolution digital photography, 3-D imaging, completion of data collection forms, final report preparation, and interpretive media.

For additional information please contact the Friends of the Flagstaff Monuments at [friendsofthemonuments@msn.com](mailto:friendsofthemonuments@msn.com).

## **Mexican Spotted Owl**

The Mexican spotted owl is the only federally listed Threatened species known to occupy the Flagstaff Area National Monuments. Nesting locations of breeding pairs are currently monitored by park staff through tracking of animals in critical canyon habitat. However, a different approach to providing individual bird identification may reduce these intrusive techniques. Genetic analysis of naturally molted feathers collected from owl roost sites provide a “DNA fingerprint” for each animal. In building a genetic database of owls found within the canyon, researchers can track owl population trends, new owl immigration, and breeding family trees. This pilot project could expand in future years to include feather analysis of golden eagles, peregrine falcons, and other raptor species of special conservation concern.

For additional information please contact the Friends of the Flagstaff Monuments at [friendsofthemonuments@msn.com](mailto:friendsofthemonuments@msn.com).

## **Sunset Crater Volcano Exhibit Upgrade**

An interactive display designed to take the user on a 360 degree virtual tour of the eruptive sequence and surroundings of Sunset Crater Volcano is in need of an upgrade. The exhibit was a critical component of the Sunset Crater Volcano Visitor Center rehabilitation project completed in 2003. The current system is inoperative and, due to rapid changes in technology, is difficult to support. To bring this very popular and educational aspect of the visitor experience to full operation will require new software and hardware.

For additional information please contact the Friends of the Flagstaff Monuments at [friendsofthemonuments@msn.com](mailto:friendsofthemonuments@msn.com).

# Green Star Awards Program

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Dennis researched and produced several energy saving projects, including solar energy systems for several of the monuments' facilities, LED lighting at the Wupatki Visitor Center, and new exterior light fixtures that support a night sky initiative.

Gearty uses an electronic tablet to record data in the field (saving a 1,000 sheets of paper a year), received a microgrant to work on vulnerability assessments for archeological sites, and presents the impacts of climate change on cultural resources to the public through both formal programs and informal contacts.

The Green Stars, and all of the nominees every quarter, highlight the commitment of Flagstaff Area National Monuments to sustainability and the variety of ways in which to meet this goal.

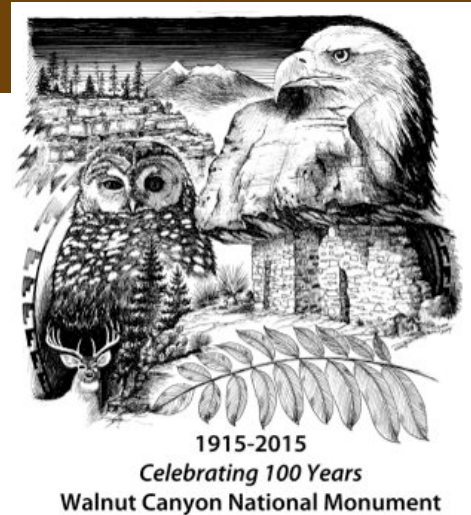
## Centennial Celebrations Walnut Canyon (1915) and the National Park Service (1916)

Walnut Canyon National Monument will celebrate 100 years on November 30! The canyon was first protected in 1898 within the San Francisco Mountains Forest Reserve, becoming part of the Coconino National Forest in 1908. With a firm push from local citizens for better protection in 1915, it was proclaimed a national monument under the Antiquities Act, signed into being by President Woodrow Wilson.

The US Forest Service managed Walnut Canyon until 1934, with an on-site ranger presence starting as early as 1904. The historic Ranger Cabin at Walnut Canyon still holds the memories of several forest rangers, their wives, and thousands of visitors.

Walnut Canyon National Monument was transferred to the National Park Service (NPS) in 1934, following a decision that the NPS was better equipped to manage the increasing number of visitors (approximately 10,000 annually by 1934) and to protect the canyon's archeological sites.

The NPS celebrates 100 years on August 25, 2016. Events



and various initiatives are already underway nationwide. The National Park System now contains over 400 units and preserves incredible examples of the natural and cultural history that shaped our nation.

The Friends group will send out occasional e-mails in the coming months to keep you informed of special events in observance of these anniversaries. If you have not recently visited your backyard national parks, now is a good time! The Island Trail at Walnut Canyon is 100% open after major improvements, and the new Bonito Vista Trail at Sunset Crater Volcano offers another vantage point for viewing the Bonito lava flow.



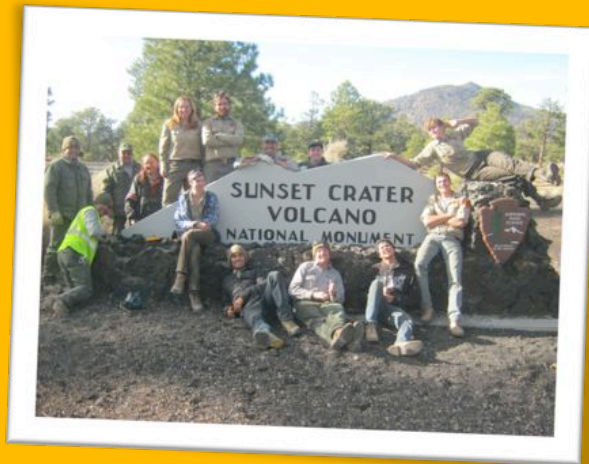
## Sunset Crater Volcano Gets New Sign

If you look closely the next time you visit Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument, you might notice a change to the sign at the eastern park boundary.

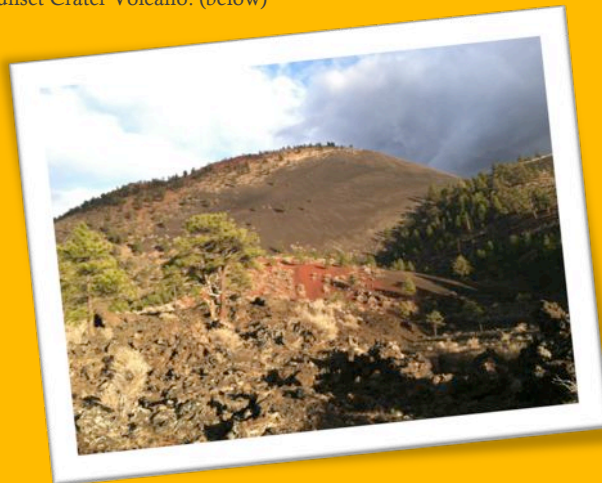
For years park employees have dealt with confused visitors arriving at the entrance gate looking for a different kind of crater – one they could look down into rather than up at. They were often convinced that the rangers were wrong...that Meteor Crater was indeed just down the park road. Similarly folks have arrived at Meteor Crater looking for the big cinder cone volcano with the reddish color at the top.

In an attempt to alleviate the confusion, the name of Sunset Crater National Monument became legally known as Sunset Crater *Volcano* National Monument in 1990. Park staff recently replaced the aging entrance sign at the eastern park boundary with one that reflects the correct nomenclature.

Visitors to both places are still sometimes confused, but Northern Arizonans are proud to have both of these world class craters in their own backyard.



Sign installation crew takes a break. (top)  
Sunset Crater Volcano. (below)



## Become a Friend Today!

For more information about the Friends of Flagstaff National Monuments contact:

Kim Watson at [friendsofthemonuments@msn.com](mailto:friendsofthemonuments@msn.com).

For hours of operation, ranger programs, and more information about the Flagstaff Area National Monuments visit these websites:

Wupatki National Monument: [www.nps.gov/wupa/](http://www.nps.gov/wupa/)

Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument: [www.nps.gov/sucr/](http://www.nps.gov/sucr/)

Walnut Canyon National Monument: [www.nps.gov/waca/](http://www.nps.gov/waca/)

To unsubscribe to the Friends newsletter, add a recipient, or correspond on other matters, please send e-mail to:

[friendsofthemonuments@msn.com](mailto:friendsofthemonuments@msn.com).

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Sunset Crater Volcano got a foot of snow in early January, creating a winter wonderland landscape.