



Photo by Rodger Slott

Fall 2011

The Star-Spangled Banner

Mount Rushmore National Memorial

The Mount Rushmore Society—through the Mount Rushmore Bookstores, the Mount Rushmore Audio Tour, the Mount Rushmore Institute and other activities—is dedicated to the preservation, promotion and enhancement of Mount Rushmore National Memorial and the values it represents through a partnership with the National Park Service.

www.mountrushmoresociety.com

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Mount Rushmore Society Sponsors Naturalization Ceremony at Rushmore

By Diana Saathoff, Executive Director

On a warm July 14th day, more than 100 individuals from 36 different countries became citizens of the U.S. at a memorable naturalization ceremony held at Mount Rushmore and sponsored by the Mount Rushmore Society.

Representatives of the U.S. District Court, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services the U.S. Marshals Service and the Department of Homeland Security participated in the event. During the ceremony, Walter Lesnevich of Lesnevich & Marzano-Lesnevich, LLC, a law firm in New Jersey, presented *Immigration: The Promise Continues*. He shared his own grandfather's journey to the United States and described the legacy that he gave to his children and children's children by coming to the States.

More than 80 members of the Dakota Choral Union performed three

patriotic songs. Mount Rushmore National Memorial's Superintendent Cheryl Schreier, Mount Rushmore Society President Ruth Samuelson and students from West Middle

School made special presentations to the new citizens.

As a memento of the special occasion, the Society presented each new citizen with an American flag and a copy of the book, *Carved High*.



The ceremony was attended by more than 300 family members and friends of the new citizens, as well as hundreds of visitors who happened to be visiting the Memorial during the festivities.

The Society is honored to be part of this ceremony, which is symbolic of the values of the four presidents on Mount Rushmore. Plan on attending next year's Naturalization Ceremony to experience the joy that new citizens like these express in making the U.S. their home!



Ruth Samuelsen (l) enjoys lunch with Patty Ressler of Black Hills Parks & Forest (BHPF), Linda Tokarczyk of Devils Tower Natural History Association, Laura Jones, Diana Saathoff, John Schelten of BHPF, Bob Mudlin, Debbie Ketel, Nancy Gowen and Colleen Hennessy of BHPF.

Partners and Projects

By Ruth Samuelsen, President

In my job and life outside the Mount Rushmore Society, I get a lot of questions like, "What does the Society DO"? In retrospect, looking at the last few months we do a lot!

PARTNERSHIPS:

We have formed a loosely organized group of park partners, including Devils Tower Natural History Association, Badlands Natural History Association and Black Hills Parks & Forest Association (BHP&F). BHP&F supports Custer State Park, Jewel Cave National Monument, Wind Cave National Park and U.S. Forest Service Lands.

Our purpose is to *steal Information shamelessly and share Information willingly.* We gathered on April 29 to tour the Mount Rushmore Bookstores and to share ideas over lunch at Carvers Cafe. On June 4, we travelled to BHP&F Board Member John & Pat Schelten's lovely country home near Hot Springs for a potluck and further networking. We hope to get together at the Association of Partners for Public Lands conference in March for further planning, sharing and "*stealing.*"

We also partnered on July 14 with the entities listed on p. 1 and the National Park Service (NPS) to sponsor

the Naturalization Ceremony for 104 new citizens from 36 countries. It was an amazing event!

PROJECTS: Yes, we have Projects!

Staff, NPS staff and volunteers helped clean up, weed and rototill the planters in Mount Rushmore's parking garage. If this sounds like a small job, you should have been at the Weed & Feed (see photo p. 3, 7). There are more planters than you can imagine!

Second, we are developing an informational video on the Society. This will be used for staff training and to promote membership in our stores and in the community.

Next, we are working with the NPS on planning, funding and construction of a Kids' Exploration Area. See p. 4.

We are also partnering with the Game Fish & Parks Foundation, Black Hills National Forest and NPS on a connector trail between the Mickelson Trail and Mount Rushmore.

Many other projects will be discussed at the annual board retreat to be held in October. Stay tuned for more!

Thank you for your membership and support. We will continue to promote the themes of the mountain through our partnerships and projects.

Rushmore FAQ:

Why do I have to pay to park at Mount Rushmore?

I'm sure you all know this answer, but many folks have the impression that tax dollars paid for the parking facility, and parking at Mount Rushmore should be free. In truth, it is owned by the Society, and the parking fees go toward repayment of the construction loan.

Who We Are:

Mount Rushmore Society President:
Ruth Samuelsen

Mount Rushmore Bookstores Chair:
Nancy Gowen

Mount Rushmore Institute President:
Jim Nelson

Parking Committee Chair: Andy Knight

Marketing & Membership Chair:
Judy Allen

Compliance & Governance Committee:
Gene Lebrun

Executive Director: Diana Saathoff

Finance Director: Lynn Bauter

Retail Manager: Laura Jones

Parking Division Manager: Bob Dominicak

Communications Director/Newsletter:
Debbie Ketel

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Administrative Assistant: Jana Young

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bookstores@mtrushmore.org

Mount Rushmore Society Picnic

By Judy Allen, Membership & Marketing Chair

More than 90 Mount Rushmore Society members, potential members and staff gathered for the annual membership picnic held at the park on August 28. The event included a scrumptious meal by Xanterra Parks & Resorts, a dramatic presentation by “Bess Truman” portrayed by Carol Saunders and a quiz featuring questions that new citizens have to answer as part of the immigration process.

Congratulations to Sid Goss who came in first and Bonita Ley who was the runner-up in the quiz! Congratulations are also in order to Al Johnson who won the big

door prize of the evening—two tickets to the upcoming Truman dinner (see p. 4). Current Society members were encouraged to bring potential members to the outing. Approximately 10 potential members attended and heard about the many programs the Society supports at Mount Rushmore.

Of course, it is never too late to become a member of the Society. Membership brochures are available at the Mount Rushmore Society office, the Mount Rushmore Bookstores, by calling 605-341-8883 or online at www.mountrushmoresociety.com.



Bess Truman, portrayed by Carol Saunders gives insight into the first lady's life and relationship with Harry Truman. Discover more about the president at *An Evening with Harry Truman*. See p. 4.

If you travel to Mount Rushmore in September, you may be given a comment card. If so, please let us know how we are doing in the parking garage, the Mount Rushmore Bookstores and the Mount Rushmore Audio Tour. We will share results in the future.

Take Note of the Following Dates:

September 5 | Labor Day

September 11 | Patriot Day

Winter Hours Begin mid-September

Park Service Visitor Facilities open 8 am - 5 pm; Sculptor Studio closes

September 16-22 | Constitution Week

September 24 | National Public Lands Day

September 29-30

Truman re-enactor Raymond Starzmann will give presentations on the life of President Truman at area middle schools and West Hills Village.

October 1

An Evening with Harry S. Truman will be held at Mount Rushmore. This is the Society's annual fund-raising gala dinner. See ad on p. 4.

October 6-10 | Society Board Retreat

October 11 | Native American Day

October 31

Carving ended on the mountain 70 years ago today.

November 11 | Veteran's Day

November 25 | Thanksgiving Day



They are hunkered down and hard at work! The volunteers above weeded, dug, pulled and rototilled to spruce up the planters located in the parking garage area in July. They were able to clear the path for future planting and overall “beautification” of the large planters.

Pictured from the top: Society Board Member Bill Honerkamp, Diana Saathoff, NPS employee Valerie Gibeau, Society Board Member Kay Jorgenson, Ruth Samuelsen and Presidential Parking President Bob Mudlin.

New Website

Please check out our new and improved website at www.mountrushmoresociety.com. You can order products, register for events, become a member and find out more about the organization and what's happening at Mount Rushmore National Memorial.



Annual Dinner to Support Shelter for Kids' Exploration Area

By Amy Bracewell, Mount Rushmore National Memorial Education Specialist

The Mount Rushmore Society is hosting *An Evening with Harry S. Truman* on October 1, 2011 at the park. (See ad this page). The funds raised will directly support the planning and construction of an overhead shelter for the Kids' Exploration Area located by the Avenue of Flags.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial created the Kids' Exploration Area in 2007 as an opportunity to reach out to the park's younger visitors. The area provides an informal, open house environment for children and families to explore park topics through hands-on materials and activities. Rangers present programming on a wide variety of topics including animals, plants, the presidents, the U.S. flags and more.

Since rangers are encouraged to develop new topics and activities to present at the Kids' Exploration Area, we are always coming up with new ideas. New activities added for 2011 included animal pelts for kids to touch and feel and a colonial ink and quill opportunity for visitors to try for themselves.

Hands-on activities provide a tangible experience for kids at the park and create a lasting memory of their visit to Mount Rushmore. As the Junior Ranger motto states, the park hopes the Kids' Exploration Area will encourage young visitors to "Explore, Learn and Protect."

The Kids' Exploration Area is located just off of the Grand View Terrace along the slate-covered access road. The area is currently housed under a temporary tent that is erected every summer. Other special events have also utilized this space in past summers including cultural demonstrations by the Sons of Norway and the Germans from Russia. Improvements to the site, including the construction of a permanent shelter, will provide a



Kids experience touch and feel animal pelts in the current Kids' Exploration Area which will soon have a shelter covering it, thanks to the Mount Rushmore Society, which is dedicated to raising funds for this project. National Park Service photo.

more adequate space for interpretive programming as well as providing a permanent home to the Kids' Exploration Area.

TSP Engineering of Rapid City has been selected as the architect for the project and will begin the design

phase to determine the best structure possible. A design will be selected this winter with hopes of construction and completion of the structure by late spring 2012.

We will update you on this exciting project in future newsletters.

An Evening with Harry S. Truman

Call 341-8883 OR REGISTER ONLINE TODAY for this annual Presidential Dinner at Mount Rushmore National Memorial's Carvers Cafe.

October 1, 2011

5 pm Social

6 pm Gourmet Dinner and Program with President Harry Truman re-enactor

Online Auction!

Bid beginning September 19 at www.mountrushmoresociety.com to take a sneak peak at our silent and live auctions and put in YOUR bid. Some items worth over \$1,000! Do not have to be present to win. Go online for details.

Proceeds from the dinner will support the construction of a shelter for the Kids' Exploration Area.
www.mountrushmoresociety.com



Maureen McGee-Ballinger stands beside an earthlodge at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. She will be joining Mount Rushmore as the new director of interpretation and education in September. National Park Service photo.

Park Hires New Interpretation Director

By Cheryl Schreier, Mount Rushmore National Memorial's Superintendent

Maureen McGee-Ballinger of North Dakota has been selected as Mount Rushmore National Memorial's new director of interpretation and education.

"I am thrilled and honored to be selected as director of interpretation and education at Mount Rushmore National Memorial," explains Maureen. "The towering granite sculptures are not just faces of men, but the personification of ideals."

Maureen is currently the chief of interpretation and cultural resources at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site (KNRI) in Stanton, ND. She has a solid background in interpretation and park management, and she is passionate about the National Park Service, park resources, visitors, employees and park partners.

While at KNRI she has coordinated very successful events, including Culture Fest, Lifeways of the Northern Great Plains' curriculum-based education programs, Winter Outbound in partnership with the North Dakota State Historical Society, Kids Camp, photography classes and National Junior Ranger Day. She has coordinated programming for underserved groups,

including the visually impaired and autistic students and families. Maureen also facilitated a new EduTech distance-learning program with KNRI's Education Specialist Craig Hansen.

In addition, Maureen worked closely with KNRI's Friends Group and the Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association. She supervised a seasonal museum technician and managed the park's museum, curatorial and archeological functions. She served as the park's public information officer as well.


Maureen graduated from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville with a bachelor of science in government. As she prepared for law school, her career focus changed

when she discovered National Park Service career options while volunteering at Yellowstone National Park. She has since worked as an interpretive park ranger at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, Independence National Historical Park, Mount Rainier National Park and Everglades National Park.




"At the Liberty Bell, I witnessed the global impact of symbols crossing linguistic and national boundaries. Mount Rushmore has become one of those symbols—an icon of freedom. I am honored to be given the opportunity to help preserve, protect and provide for the education and enjoyment of the public at a site that speaks beyond words," she adds.

While at the Everglades, Maureen served as a supervisory park ranger-interpretation in several districts, served as acting chief of interpretation and conducted extensive work with incident command teams, maintenance, planning, compliance, contracting, supply and curatorial divisions following the 2005 impacts from Hurricane Katrina and Wilma in the Flamingo District.

Maureen has her masters in resource interpretation from Stephen F. Austin University in Texas.



National Public Lands Day
A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

September 24, 2011

This special day in September celebrates service and recreation on public lands while educating volunteers about the effects of climate change on our parks. NPLD engages a diverse audience of adult and youth volunteers to get to the outdoors and improve their lands, whether at the grandest national park or at an urban park in their neighborhood. Make sure to visit one of the National Public Lands pictured above or any other site in South Dakota (or the nation) on this special day.

This advertisement sponsored by the Badlands Natural History Association, the Black Hills Parks & Forest Association and Mount Rushmore Society

Rapid City Wins Title of "Most Patriotic"

By Diana Saathoff, Executive Director

Rapid City was selected as a finalist in the nationally sponsored Rand McNally and *USA Today* "Best of the Road" contest. Through a voting process, thorough review and beautiful images, Rapid City qualified in the category for "Most Patriotic Best Small Town in the United States." Other categories included "Most Fun," "Most Beautiful," "Friendliest" and "Best for Food." Vying for "Most Patriotic" title rights with Rapid City were five other small towns: Williamsburg, VA; Clarksville, TN; Peachtree City, GA; Ft. Leonard Wood, MO; and Emporia, KS.

On July 10, the Road Rally Rand McNally judges known as Captain and Clark (Christopher Staudinger and Tawny Clark) visited Rapid City and the surrounding Black Hills as their last stop on their journey. According to the Rapid City Convention & Visitors Bureau

(CVB), "From their spectacular time in the Black Hills, to a special dinner with military dignitaries or their encounter with the Mount Rushmore mascots, Rapid City welcomed and embraced the Road Rally Team."

Society staff worked with the CVB and partners Xanterra and the NPS to host the judges for a memorable, heart-pounding patriotic event at Mount Rushmore during their stay. The judges had a tasty meal in the Carvers Café with past Mount Rushmore worker Nick Clifford, Carolyn Clifford, Xanterra General Manager Russ Jobman and myself. Following dinner, the judges had a special tour of the park and participated with nearly 2000 guests in the Amphitheater for the Evening Lighting Ceremony.

When one of the judges asked, "Do you do this every night?"

Saathoff replied, "Weather permitting, this program happens every night throughout the summer with similar crowds." The judges were moved to tears when the flag-folding ceremony concluded.

According to the judges, what made Rapid City stand out as "Most Patriotic" is being home to Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Crazy Horse Monument and Ellsworth Air Force Base.

"Rapid City was the first town we visited that would talk about the mistakes America has made as a nation and focused on how we have grown from them," say Staudinger and Clark. It's "a place where people from across the world and country can learn about America's past, become inspired by its present, and find hope in its future."

Products for Fall 2011

By Laura Jones, Retail Manager



NEWLY REDESIGNED ORIGINAL PUBLICATION: Mount Rushmore At a Glance Packet

A packet of six pamphlets which detail the central characters, resources and history of Mount Rushmore. Pamphlet titles include: *The Borglums: Gutzon, Mary, Lincoln & Mary Ellis*; *The Presidents: Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt & Lincoln*; *The Central Characters: Robinson, Rushmore, Williamson, Norbeck, Boland & The Workers*; *The Granite Mechanics: Geology & Sculpture Maintenance*; *Natural Resources: Trees, Plants & Wildlife*; and *The Three Studios of Gutzon Borglum*. Each four-color pamphlet is 8 to 12 pages and gives the basic facts about Mount Rushmore.

Packet: \$9.99 | Individual Pamphlets: \$2 each

New Presidential Legacy Collections Now in the Bookstores

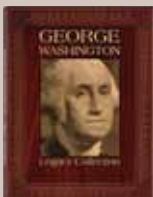
The George Washington Collection features seven coins, including an uncirculated 2007 presidential \$1 coin. Also included are six historically significant coins all showcased in a beautiful legacy tri-fold detailing the historical events of George Washington's life. **Retails at \$25.95**

The Abraham Lincoln Collection features nine coins spanning more than 100 years of Lincoln history on U.S. coins in a beautiful tri-fold. **Retails at \$21.90**

Items for your Junior Rangers

These cute hats and vests flew off the shelves this summer! Make sure you purchase yours for your little rangers. **Hats come in Medium or Large at \$11.95 and Vests come in Small, Medium, Large, XL, XXL at \$29.95.**

Order the products above at www.mountrushmoresociety.com or by calling 1-800-699-3142.





Membership & Marketing Chair Judy Allen participate in the Weed & Feed alongside park employees like Kevin Chase above.

Parking Update

By Bob Dominicak, Parking Division Manager

Mount Rushmore saw a dip in visitation this summer, with total vehicles down 12% the end of July. This is comparable to what other Black Hills attractions and parks are experiencing due to the economy and the flooding in South Dakota and Iowa that either scared visitors away or detoured them around our state.

The economy and natural disasters aside, we are concentrating on improving aspects of the parking garage for the next summer season which

should bring even more visitors to our state. Reconstruction of the mid-level parking entrances and exits is complete. The spring pavement marking was completed, as well as new signage at the garage.

We have a contract with Wyss Associates to develop a landscape plan for the planters that our Weed & Feed team (see p. 3 and the picture above) tackled in July. We hope to have them looking good for summer 2012!



Executive Director Diana Saathoff pitches in to direct traffic at Mount Rushmore during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally held in August, which brings thousands of motorcycles to the Black Hills and Mount Rushmore. This year, more than 24,000 motorcycles went through the Mount Rushmore entrance.

Check out Mount Rushmore's new webcam at www.sdpb.org/webcams/mtrushmore.aspx.

Because They Cared: A Spotlight on Volunteers

This month we celebrate Board Member Judy Olson Duhamel.



A longtime Rapid City resident, Judy Olson Duhamel has made her mark on the Black Hills, on South Dakota and Mount Rushmore.

First and foremost, she has impacted her family. Married to Bill Duhamel, they have 11 children and 24 grandchildren between them. Staying active in their lives, including cooking for large family gatherings, has always been her first priority.

Serving Rapid City, Judy was a teacher and administrator in the Rapid City School District for many years. She then served our state as a South Dakota senator from 1988 to 1992, as well as chairwoman of the South Dakota Democratic Party for eight years.

In 1997, she became a lifetime member of the Mount Rushmore Society to support the Shrine of Democracy. She has been a board member for more than four years and has helped with numerous events that supported the themes of Mount Rushmore and raised awareness for the organization. For instance, she was on the planning committee for the first Mount Rushmore Institute forum, the Naturalization Ceremony and has volunteered for our annual presidential dinners since the beginning.

We thank Judy for her invaluable service, her creativity and ability to get others involved in the Mount Rushmore Society.

Mount Rushmore Society
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Abraham Lincoln re-enactor Fritz Klein signs autographs on July 3, 2011, at Mount Rushmore in between presentations on Lincoln's presidency. He was one of the four presidential re-enactors, entertaining visitors at the park for the Independence Day Celebration. National Park Service photo.

July 4th Weekend Brings the Presidents to Life

Many thanks go to the following sponsors who supported Mount Rushmore's Independence Day Celebration so that visitors could experience presidential re-enactors, cultural events and patriotic tributes during this special time.

