

Friends of Fort Davis

The Friends of Fort Davis Board of Directors have been busy this year supporting various activities at the fort. We are the welcoming group for the Lantern Tours, held each Columbus Day weekend and we help with the Children's Christmas Education Day, held each December. A lot of our projects have been put on hold due to staff changes and the park headquarters renovation and remodel.

In addition to our support of these activities and other projects, we continue to be involved in various restoration and preservation projects. However, after many years of restoring various buildings, like the Enlisted Men's Barracks and the Post Hospital, our emphasis has now shifted to more preservation and less restoration.

Next year, we will continue with our projects related to increasing the interpretive exhibits and park benches for the visitors' knowledge and comfort during their visit. We will also continue to provide support and funding for requests made by the fort staff.

All that we achieve could not be done without your membership, support and donations and all are sincerely appreciated.

Jerry Johnson, President, Box 1023, Fort Davis, TX 79734



Friends of Fort Davis

Helping restore, preserve, and improve FORT DAVIS NHS since 1983

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Fort Davis NHS

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www.nps.gov/foda

We're on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/FortDavisNHS

A key post in the defense system of west Texas, Fort Davis played a major role in the history of the Southwest. From 1854 until 1891, troops stationed at the post protected emigrants, freighters, mail coaches, and travelers on the San Antonio-El Paso Road.

Historians today regard Fort Davis NHS as one of the best surviving examples of a southwestern Indian Wars era frontier military post.

It is a vivid reminder of the significant role played by the military in the settlement and development of the western frontier.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™



FORT DAVIS NHS

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

- The newsletter is back and your feedback will keep it coming
- Let the monsoon rains bring out the green grass and critters
- Calling all 4th graders, get a FREE park pass this year
- Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 11th
- Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) Buffalo Soldier days Nov. 15 & 16
- Christmas Education Day Dec. 19th



NPCA 100th Birthday

Extra! Extra!

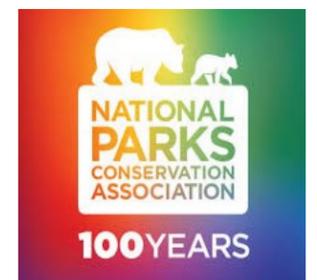
The National Park Conservation Association (NPCA.org) Texas Regional Office celebrated their 100th Birthday anniversary here along with students from East Central High school. The students worked alongside park staff in making adobe and learning about local building materials plus historic restoration of buildings. The students in turn taught staff and one another about eating healthy and foods of other cultures through the school's Culinary Arts Program presentations. The public portion of the celebration included speakers discussing what the NPCA does including educate, empower, and engage people in support of parks. Then park tours and a screening of

"The National Parks of Texas: In Contact with Beauty" rounded out the evening. The one hour film is a wonderful look at parks throughout Texas and their meanings to our entire country. A copy of this film was donated to the park, if you or a group would like to view it at the auditorium on site please contact us and we will make it happen!!

(432)-426-3224 ex. 226



Adobe Making Program!



Landscape Restoration

If you look west from Porters Thriftway something amazing will come into view, a historic fort! Thanks to the American Youthworks and Texas Forest Service non-invasive noxious mesquite and catclaw were removed. The project is an ongoing one to bring the park foreground back to its original landscape of the 1800s. The American Youthworks provides primary education and ca-

reer training programs through out Central Southern United States. With a hands on approach youth learn skills by assisting in hurricane disaster relief, historic & landscape restoration, community outreach and so much more. For more information go to:

AmericanYouthworks.org

Their abilities were so impressive



About 50 acres treated!

the park plans to hire more crews next year! We are also very appreciative of the Texas Forest service crew that worked on this project, Thank You!

Summer and upcoming Programs



Critter visitor -Tarantula

This summer June through August we saw 10,000 human visitors at the park. Plenty of tarantulas too! This isn't a record breaking number but most of these individuals didn't just receive a warm welcome they also witnessed or participated in may of our living history activities! Some of the fun included Independence Day, Saturday evening programs at the state park, weekly tours and cavalry living history. Finally, we had great sup-

port by the Lutheran Literacy Alliance giving out free books almost every weekend while dressed in 1800s clothes! Isn't that Cool!!

What's to come you ask?

Our night tour on October 12 will probably have passed by the time this issue arrives, but look forward to plenty of pictures in the Spring Issue.

Veteran's Day - we are hosting the Fort Davis Chamber ceremony honoring military veterans.

Buffalo Soldier's Days November 15 & 16 . TPWD reached out to us and will have programs for regional students on Nov. 15 and the public Nov. 16. If you would like to participate by volunteering or joining in the action contact Bill_Manhart@NPS.GOV

December Education Day December 19th

Every Kid Outdoors

September 1, 2015 an initiative to get every kid to a park began. All 4th grade students in the country can receive a free entry pass for themselves and family to all National Parks (plus monuments, forests, and refuges)! The focus on 4th grade stems from the curriculum of that group, state and U.S.

History. This program has been renewed for the fourth time this year! Parents and Educators of students in public & private schools plus home school and non traditional school students in the equivalent grade can go to everykidoutdoors.gov and print a voucher to be redeemed at a park for their



very own card! Remember this is the student's pass, they must be present! Please spread the word to friends and family who can benefit from getting EVERY KID OUTDOORS!!!

"A great big thanks to everyone for making this park a great place to visit and work."

-Superintendent David Larson



Troopers Heiner and Keith on parade!

Civil Rights video update!

A contract has been reached!



Effective Digital Presentation (EDP) has won the bid for the Civil Rights Video project. The project now consists of three short videos that will be featured on the official Fort Davis NPS website.

The first video will still focus on the Buffalo Soldiers here at Fort Davis and how they faced prejudice and gained respect on the frontier.

The second video has already been produced by the Department of Defense about African-Americans in the U.S. armed forces which will be included on the webpage.



The third video will center on NPS units that focus on civil rights of other groups such as Manzanar NM, Trail of Tears and Navajo Long Walk, Cesar Chavez NM and Belmont-Paul Women's Equality NM.

Colette and Paul from EDP have been in constant communication with the team at FODA regarding the videos and made a site visit in mid-September. We look forward to updating you further in the next newsletter!

Superintendent's Corner

Hello, my name is David Larson. I started working here this June as the acting Superintendent. My detail is coming to an end in late October. This has been a great experience and I appreciate all the time staff took to get me up to speed on 2019 project goals and visitor education efforts. Highlights for me include marching in the 4th of July parade, helping fold the large US flag with visiting chil-

dren, and enjoying the sights and sounds. Staff, volunteers and partners have done an amazing job in preserving this beautiful location. This continues with upcoming fall projects to remodel Historic Building (HB) #20, adobe work on HB #26, and repointing work on HB#36. There will also be an effort completed to place new cedar shingles on all the two-story buildings. In early November, a new Chief of Facility

Management, Troy Perry, will be joining the park team to provide a leadership role on all these maintenance and repair projects. A great big thanks to everyone for making this park a great place to visit and work. Take care.



What is something you are excited to see at Fort Davis this year?

Regina can YELL!

YELL is the park acronym for Yellowstone National Park. It also means a loud shout, so we want to shout-out to Regina Heiner who recently moved to Wyoming.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

We will miss you!!

Lets hear what she has to say:

"I have enjoyed all my positions and the people I have worked with along the way.

My fondest memories have been my time spent in facility management or assisting facility management with projects. I took great pride in seeing the tangible results of my efforts in the planning and managing of projects as the Facilities/

Cultural Resources Manager and/or Administrative Officer at Fort Davis NHS. I found great satisfaction in being able to help preserve our nation's heritage through conserving the historic buildings, ruins and landscape."

Regina & John Heiner were also recognized by the region as an Employee Spotlight this summer which can be e-mailed to you at your request. Contact Bill_Manhart@NPS.GOV for your very own pdf.



Volunteers

2018's Volunteer of the Year Al Gonzales!

Al began volunteering at Fort Davis NHS in 2008. He brings knowledge and expertise for our library and historic records management. Al is a go getter and helps all around the park in living history, tours of the enlisted men's barracks, visitor services, and most importantly our park library and historic records.

Q: Why did you start volunteering for the NPS?

AG: It was something I wanted to do for a very long time. I knew and worked with a lot of National Park Service employees in my career. So when I retired I saw it as an opportunity to serve.

Q: What do you enjoy most about volunteering?

AG: I enjoy the park staff and their dedication to telling the story of Fort Davis. Also the visitors



that come to Fort Davis and how I get to help broaden their knowledge of western frontier history and the discussions it creates.

Thank you Al for another great year of service!