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Dear Friends and Supporters:

This past year has been one of great accomplishments for the National Park Trust as we continue our work to ensure that everyone has an American Park Experience. During our strategic planning retreat, the board unanimously affirmed that cultivating the next generation of conservationists through land preservation, community building, and partnerships are the top priority for the National Park Trust. As such, we have continued to advance our important conservation work as well as our efforts to connect our nation’s youth, especially those from underserved communities, to our parks, historic landmarks, and public lands.

Last year we celebrated the completion of two important land preservation projects as well as significant milestones in others. The Trust completed the acquisition of a key mine inholding in the Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness area in the High Elk Corridor of Colorado. We also secured and administered a prestigious Save America’s Treasures grant for the Claymont mansion, a nationally significant historical home built by a direct descendent of George Washington in Jefferson County, West Virginia. With your support, we took important steps towards the acquisition of land to expand the Yosemite National Park boundary to those originally envisioned by John Muir. And we celebrated the groundbreaking for the visitor’s center at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve (see pages 6-9).

Our Where’s Buddy Bison Been? innovative education program has grown rapidly since the pilot phase was launched in fall 2009. In just 16 months, the program has expanded to include nearly 30 public charter, public, and independent schools in 9 states and Washington, DC. In 2010 we worked with teachers as they implemented the Buddy Bison toolkit and its resources in their classrooms, and we hosted 15 park experiences for thousands of students across the country. Each park experience provided unique opportunities for the students to take learning outside of the classroom to one of our country’s parks, wildlife refuges, forests or historic landmarks. This fall, three of these park experiences were designated as Let’s Move! events by First Lady Michelle Obama’s office. Of course, Buddy Bison is not limited to schools alone as any child or family can join the Buddy Bison bandwagon by getting out to the parks and sharing your park experience with other program participants. Read more about our school and family/individual programs, our Youth to Parks National Scholarship Fund, and our Buddy Bison celebrity ambassadors on pages 10-16.

During the past year, we were delighted to recognize two outstanding leaders and national conservationists for their work to protect our public lands and to connect families to the great outdoors. In June we recognized Senator Mark Udall (CO) with the 10th Bruce F. Vento Public Service Award for his long time work in land conservation and support of our parks. In December, we honored Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar with the American Park Experience Award for his innovative efforts at the Department of Interior to connect communities and young people to the outdoors (see pages 3-4). Both Senator Udall and Secretary Salazar are important role models for our students, many of whom enjoyed meeting them at the award receptions.

We are pleased to welcome two new board members to the Trust. Both Jonathan Cohen and Jim Speyer have already made a significant impact since they were elected to the board. Their professional expertise and personal passion for the outdoors and our parks will be tremendous assets to our growing land conservation and youth education programs. Adding support and enthusiasm to the Trust’s programs, we also welcome our new Education and Communications Director, Sarah Stankorb to the NPT staff (page 5).

Finally, because NPT believes that teachers are critical in connecting kids to our parks, in December we established “The Buddy” national teacher award (named after our woolly mascot) to recognize a teacher for his/her extraordinary environmental stewardship and dedication to bridging the classroom to the natural world. The inaugural award was presented to Carolyn Cohen of the Bullis School in Maryland (page 5).

All of these accomplishments would not have been possible without the support of our many generous sponsors, donors and partners. On behalf of our students and the lands that we are protecting for them, we thank you for making NPT your philanthropic priority. We look forward to working with you in 2011!

Warmest regards and appreciation,

F. William Brownell, Chair, Board of Trustees
Diana Leon Taylor, Vice Chair, Board of Trustees
Grace K. Lee, Executive Director
Colorado Senator Mark Udall accepted the 2010 Bruce F. Vento Public Service Award on June 17th, 2010 at a DC reception at the Newseum. The Award recognizes the Senator for his leadership and innovation in the protection of public lands in Colorado and for his life-long commitment to connecting children with the outdoors. In his remarks about the Senator, NPT’s board chair, Bill Brownell said, “This year NPT is very pleased to be celebrating the 10th Bruce F. Vento Public Service Award. It has been said that the Udall family shares a belief that the 11th commandment is ‘thou shalt protect the environment’ and he lives by that belief every day.”

Sue Vento, NPT Board member and wife of the late Congressman Vento, remembered her husband and his relationship with the Udall family by saying “Bruce would be honored this evening to have an award given in his name to his good friend and the son of his mentor, Congressman Mo Udall. Senator Mark Udall has distinguished himself amongst his family’s environmental legacy, first as a world-class climber and outdoor educator, then as a 5-term Congressman and now as the senior Senator from the state of Colorado.”

In accepting the award, the Senator said, “Even when you earn a great honor it’s got to be put into some kind of perspective and Jesse Owens, who is a great Olympian said ‘awards become corroded, but friends gather no dust’ and your award will gather no dust with me because it’s presented to me by friends and I have many in this room here and most importantly it’s being given to me by an organization that’s so highly respected.”
Secretary Ken Salazar Celebrated for Expanding the American Park Experience

“In my job, I always say the most inspiring thing I get to do is work with young people,” remarked Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar at an event in his honor at DAR’s O’Byrne Gallery where he was celebrated by federal officials, corporate stakeholders, environmentalists and school administrators.

The Secretary was there to accept NPT’s second American Park Experience Award – a tribute reserved for those who have made outstanding contributions to enhance the awareness and appreciation of our nation’s parks, wildlife refuges, and historic landmarks (the first co-recipients were Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan). The Secretary was tapped for the award because of his lengthy history of land preservation, in creating Sand Dunes National Park and conserving the South Platte River Basin, pursuing full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, along with spearheading the America’s Great Outdoors Initiative and Listening Sessions, and creating the Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors. But through his remarks, Secretary Salazar focused on the urgency of making the parks a vital fixture in the lives of the next generation.

Standing alongside Secretary Salazar at the podium were children who participate in NPT’s Buddy Bison school program from Washington Latin and Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter Schools and the Bullis School. These students spent a few minutes prior to the ceremony sharing with the Secretary the many ways the Buddy Bison program has expanded their knowledge of public lands and inspired a thirst for conservation. As part of the Secretary’s award presentation, they then joined together in an inaugural performance of “Get Out to the Great Outdoors,” the title tune from the new Buddy Bison musical! The children’s words echoed the Secretary’s call to connect youth with our public lands.
NPT NEWS BRIEFS

NPT Creates National Teacher Award

At the American Park Experience Award ceremony, NPT also awarded its first annual National Teacher Award for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship, what has already come to be known as ‘The Buddy,’ after our woolly mascot. Carolyn Cohen, Bullis School third-grade teacher and recipient of the award, said, “Bringing a new awareness and respect to the great outdoors to our students has been a rewarding experience for all, and I’m proud to be a part of that effort.” Carolyn has used the program to enhance lesson plans in language arts, technology, geography, and science classes.

Vice-Chair Diana Taylor encapsulated the award presentation, saying, “Teachers are honored far too infrequently for the dedication they put into their work. Through the Where’s Buddy Bison Been? program, NPT has engaged a cohort of the nation’s leaders in outdoor and experiential learning. We applaud Carolyn and all our teachers for making their lessons come to life in parks, fields and forests and instilling an ethos of conservation in their students.”

NPT Welcomes New Board Members Jonathan Cohen and Jim Speyer

National Park Trust is very pleased to announce that Jonathan Cohen and Jim Speyer have been unanimously elected to join NPT’s Board of Trustees. Jonathan is an attorney practicing at Gilbert LLP whose litigation and transactional work has allowed him to focus upon the resolution of complex, multiparty disputes involving insurance and bankruptcy issues. Running an active pro bono practice and as chair of his firm’s Pro Bono Committee, Jonathan is no stranger to service. He holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees, and a Ph.D. (in sociology) from the University of Chicago, and a J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law.

Jonathan explains, “I am looking forward to working with the Board and staff to help further the Trust’s very valuable mission of increasing the lands that this country sets aside as parks.” His family, including his two young sons, are big park enthusiasts and enjoy taking Buddy Bison to national parks throughout the country.

Jim Speyer is Managing Director in Navigant Consulting’s Energy Practice. He has experience working for Fortune 500 companies and utilities on compliance with environmental regulations and contract litigation. Previously, Jim was head of Charles River Associates’ Energy & Environmental Practice, served on President Carter’s White House Energy Staff, and has held positions of Director of Coal and Utility Policy at the Department of Energy and Director of Energy Policy at the Environmental Protection Agency. He has testified before the U.S. Congress, state public utility commissions, arbitration panels, and federal and state courts.

Jim commented, “My childhood experiences exploring Glacier National Park left a deep impression on me. These experiences inspired me to work for the environment, and I’m pleased to now work with NPT to protect other natural treasures.”

NPT Board Chair, Bill Brownell shares their enthusiasm, “We are delighted to welcome Jonathan and Jim to the Board and as members of the lands committee. Their wealth of experience and passion for America’s parks will provide tremendous support for NPT and its mission.”

NPT Welcomes New Staff

NPT welcomes Sarah Stankorb as the new Education and Communications Director. Sarah comes to NPT with a range of experience as an educator and nonprofit communications professional. Most recently, Sarah served as Communications Manager at The Corps Network, a Washington-based advocacy organization for Youth Service and Conservation Corps. There, she revamped all public communications and got back to her environmentalist roots. She previously taught 6th grade language arts and social studies, while also instructing night courses in philosophy and critical thinking at a local community college.

“We are excited to welcome Sarah to the NPT team. Her experience as an educator of children and adults will be invaluable as we develop resources and work with teachers to make our program even stronger. Sarah’s communications skills will go a long way toward making Buddy Bison accessible to even more children and families,” says Executive Director, Grace Lee.

Sarah earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy and World Religions from Westminster College and a Master of Arts from University of Chicago’s Divinity School, where she studied ethics.
NPT and the Wilderness Land Trust (WLT) partnered to protect a 10-acre patented mining claim perched on a high ridge within the Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness area in Colorado. In December, the parcel was donated to the U.S. Forest Service for inclusion in the 181,500-acre Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness for protection in perpetuity. The patented mining claim was vulnerable to development, even though it is within a designated wilderness area.

The 10-acre parcel, which may exemplify Rocky Mountain splendor better than any other wilderness area in the country, is located between Crested Butte and Aspen, Colorado. The so-called Denver Lode parcel is visible from Crested Butte and along the popular hiking and biking corridor between Aspen and Crested Butte. The property shares the same valley as the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, which researches issues such as climate change in the mountains and hosts nature camps, where children experience hands-on environmental education.

The parcel is also part of a patchwork of mining claims which make up the High Elk Corridor conservation effort. Conservationists have been working to protect the High Elk Corridor from development since 1996; the acquisition of the Denver Lode parcel brings conservationists one step closer to preserving this stretch of Rocky Mountain splendor.

The WLT has been working to complete the purchase of the Denver Lode since 2006, in an effort to preserve the property in its natural state and add it to the wilderness area. Thanks to a generous gift from the Barrett Foundation to NPT, the property was donated to the U.S. Forest Service for permanent protection.

“This donation would not have been possible without the strong partnership of the Wilderness Land Trust and National Park Trust. We have been working to purchase private lands in this area to complete the wilderness and protect it for the public’s enjoyment. We appreciate the Wilderness Land Trust and National Park Trust for their efforts to help up protect this pristine area,” said Charlie Richmond, Forest Supervisor for the Gunnison National Forest.

“When I hiked into the property, I was amazed at how important it is to add the property to the wilderness,” said David Kirk, Senior Lands Specialist for the WLT. “The property is at the headwaters of a beautiful side basin of Copper Creek and runs all the way up to the crest of a very visible ridge. Any development would have had a staggering impact to the surrounding wilderness. We are very grateful that National Park Trust was able to raise the funds to complete this donation.”

“Protecting key inholdings from development is integral to the mission of National Park Trust,” according to Jonathan Cohen, NPT Lands Committee Chair. “We are very pleased to work with the WLT on this important land preservation project and are grateful to Richard Barrett and the Barrett Foundation for their generous support.”

What is a patented mining claim?

During the gold and silver mining rush in the late 1800s, Congress passed the General Mining Law of 1872, which enabled prospectors to claim potential mineral lands for mining held by the government on public lands. Many of these claims were eventually “patented” and give the holder outright ownership of mineral-rich property within federal public lands, which allows the parcels to be developed like any other privately-held land despite being within public land. In heavily mineralized areas, such as the High Elk Corridor, a map of landownership can look like a pile of overlapping matchsticks—each stick a 10-acre mining claim, typically measuring 330 feet by 1,320 feet. The 1872 Mining Law has remained little changed since its passage, leaving public lands vulnerable to mining and recreational development.
Between the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, 70 miles from George Washington's Mount Vernon estate, lies a wealth of history of the early years of George Washington and his family.

In 1748, sixteen-year-old George Washington surveyed West Virginia's eastern panhandle region for Lord Fairfax. Between the ages of eighteen and twenty, before he knew that he would ever inherit Mount Vernon, Washington acquired about 2,300 acres of fertile land along Bullskin and Evitts Run in present-day Jefferson County, WV. The acreage equaled that of Mount Vernon at the time. If Washington had not come into possession of Mount Vernon at the age of twenty-two, he may well have made his home in the Shenandoah Valley as two of his younger brothers and their heirs subsequently did. As it was, Washington retained ownership of most of his Bullskin and Evitts Run lands until his death at the age of sixty-seven, farming them himself for some years and then profitably leasing them for many more years. Today eight Washington family homes, with ties to the first president, remain in Jefferson County, WV.

Four years ago, NPT embarked on an effort to recognize the area's unique Washington family history and help to restore one of the Washington family homes, the Claymont Mansion. Since that time, NPT and Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito have worked to secure a $150,000 Save America's Treasures (SAT) grant to restore the mansion, one built by George Washington's grand-nephew in 1820, is the largest of the Washington family homes.

Prior to that, NPT secured important donations from Monarc Construction for a comprehensive conditions assessment of the mansion and $20,000 from the 1772 Foundation, which will be used as a match to restore the mansion's ballroom. In late September the Claymont Society, joined by NPT, hosted a tour of the mansion to continue raising funds to match the federal SAT grant. To date, $110,000 of the total $150,000 needed for the match has been raised – $30,000 of that match came from the Jefferson County Commission to show its support of this important restoration project.

In December, restoration efforts on the mansion began. Phase one will stabilize the building's structure in the ballroom. The project encompasses the entire west side of the building, from the basement, where footers and a stabilizing beam have been inserted, to the ballroom where contractors will thread a steel beam through a hole in the exterior wall to replace the sagging original beam. Contractors will also replace and repair segments of the original wood flooring and sub-flooring in areas which are split and spongy. In the floors above, jacks are being used to remove the three to five inches of deflection in the floors; plaster and brick restoration work will be completed once the floors' deflection has been removed.

The project has two remaining phases: completing the critical weather-proofing envelope and rebuilding the second floor veranda. Those projects will begin in early 2011 and will be completed once the remaining funds have been raised.

“It is so exciting to see this project come to fruition. The mansion is a truly beautiful building worth restoring. It is wonderful to be a part of this project,” says Kit McGinnis, grant administrator and NPT’s Land Projects Director.

If you are interested in contributing to this important restoration effort, please contact Kit McGinnis at Kit@ParkTrust.org or by calling 304-728-3506.
The ’Father of the National Park Service’ and the ’Father of Conservation’ Meet to Preserve Yosemite

Their Work Continues through NPT Partnership

John Muir is widely recognized as the ’Father of the National Park Service’. He convinced President Teddy Roosevelt, known as the ’Father of Conservation’, to protect Yosemite, Sequoia, Grand Canyon and Mt. Rainier as national parks.

According to staff at Yosemite National Park, in 1903 President Roosevelt posed with John Muir for pictures on Overhanging Rock. They camped in a hollow there to awake to five inches of snow, which delighted Roosevelt, who had sent Muir a letter asking to meet him in Yosemite: “I want to drop politics absolutely for four days and just be out in the open with you.” At their meeting, Muir spoke of environmental degradation from development and asked for another layer of protection as a national park to improve management of Yosemite.

Work to fulfill John Muir’s intentions for protecting this spectacular national park continues today. NPT’s critical financial support has allowed Pacific Forest Trust to work with multiple stakeholders to expand Yosemite’s western boundary to include about 1,000 acres of land that Muir envisioned as part of the park. Extending the park’s boundary requires federal legislation. PFT staff, with help from NPT, has met with the California Congressional delegation to introduce the legislation to expand the park boundary. “We are looking forward to meeting with newly elected Congressman Denham in California’s 19th district, which is where Yosemite lies, and are hopeful that he will be supportive of this boundary adjustment and will help move this legislation forward,” says Rick Lehman, NPT Board member and former Congressman from the same district. NPT is also supporting PFT’s efforts to complete the necessary steps needed for the purchase of additional ’trophy’ properties under threat of development due to their proximity to the park.

“But no temple made with hands can compare with Yosemite. Every rock in its wall seems to glow with life.” – John Muir
NPT Board members Bill Brownell and Chuck Knauss traveled to Kansas on November 12 to join Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Kansas Governor Mark Parkinson, Senator Sam Brownback and Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius to break ground on a new visitor’s center and administrative buildings at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. In 1994, NPT preserved the 10,894-acre Z Bar Ranch making this a uniquely public and privately owned national park – what later became the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve.

“This new visitor center will help conserve and educate Americans about the tallgrass prairie and America’s great outdoors while creating good jobs here in Kansas,” Secretary Salazar said. “The facility will open a window to the expansive rolling hills and wide-open vistas that once covered 140 million acres of North America.” Salazar also thanked the National Park Trust for donating the historic buildings and land in 2002 needed for developing the visitor center and related facilities. Bill Brownell commented, “NPT is pleased to provide a working model for land conservation. Through partnership and years’ long efforts, we’ve been a pivotal part in preserving this important and scenic stretch of Kansas land.”

Secretary Salazar thanked the National Park Trust for donating the historic buildings and land needed for developing the visitor center and related facilities.

NPT’s land preservation and youth programs converged on Lassen Volcanic National Park’s Reach the Peak Trail this summer. Through NPT’s Youth to Parks National Scholarship Program, young adult members of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) gained hands-on experience and marketable conservation and masonry skills as they excavated space for retaining walls, laid stone steps, and cut drainage ditches for the trail. In the CCC – a youth service and workforce development program – young people like Jeremy Hodges learn job skills, responsibility and sometimes find a second chance in life. Jeremy, 24, is working to complete his high school diploma and now adds trail building and masonry to his resume. Jeremy has never before visited the park and says “climbing to the Peak and working with the Park Service was amazing.”

Bill Brownell applauded the intersection of NPT’s vision and mission, “We strive to bring everyone an American park experience, and through projects like this one, we place preservation into the hands of our youth, making land conservation a tangible part of their lives.”
I began my teaching career some 42 years ago in Cleveland’s city schools. For five wonderful years I tried to get my 35 students from first to fourth grades out of the “projects” and into the parks in and around Cleveland. Only on rare occasions was I able to finagle a bus to take my students to local parks during school hours. On weekends, I would gather a few kids, with parental approval, to go hiking and fishing in nearby parks and streams that were unused and often unknown by my students and their families.

Boy, I could have used the soft, cuddly and sweet Buddy Bison back then! Instead of prodding my kids to get outdoors, with Buddy Bison, I am certain, I could have much more easily connected my students to restful, peaceful and often beatific surroundings—places that offer a bounty of educational opportunities to build up and supplement classroom learning.

I am so proud now to be on the National Park Trust Board where kids from all backgrounds, rich or poor, urban and rural, have a chance to not only be with nature but to learn from nature. With Buddy Bison at their sides, our parks provide kids a comfortable, safe, lasting and magical place to reflect, to hope, to dream and as the old Shaker song goes “Tis a gift to be simple, tis a gift to be free, tis a gift to come down where we ought to be.”

Where we ought to be is with Buddy Bison and kids together, exploring our public lands. I am one among the ranks of so many other educators who are thankful that NPT, along with Buddy Bison, has taken our kids from ought to be to actually being in, learning from and enjoying our parks.

Editor’s note: Richard Lodish is principal of Sidwell Friends Lower School in Bethesda, MD and serves on NPT’s education committee.

Tortoises Through the Lens Shows Rebirth Through the Eyes of Students

NPT was pleased to fund and support National Park Conservation Association’s (NPCA) community-based conservation action project, Tortoises Through the Lens. With NPT’s support, students were able to take photojournalism field trips to the Mojave Desert to document the endangered California desert tortoise.

The program embraces a simple idea for bridging science and art to protect a species under siege: use digital cameras to document the life and times of California desert tortoises in their natural habitats. Under the auspices of the Tortoises Through the Lens program and with NPT’s Buddy Bison on hand, students developed a personal and profound relationship with the Mojave landscape and the creatures that inhabit it.

Over the course of a year and a half, thirteen Barstow, California students participated as photojournalists on field trips. Behind the lens, are stories of young people, like Dakota Sprout, who discovered a passion for the environment and developed a commitment to the tortoises’ survival. As Dakota wrote, “Tortoises Through the Lens really inspired me to learn more about the desert. The field trips we took made me think of the desert differently... I can’t wait to go back and continue my work.”

In the summer of 2010, NPCA published their work in the form of the book Tortoises Through the Lens, which NPT has purchased for distribution to all the Buddy Bison schools through their teacher toolkits.

NPCA’s California Desert Program Manager, David Lamfrom expressed his sincere thanks to NPT’s Board members, saying, “Your support really sent our program into the stratosphere, especially during a tough economy.”

Editor’s Note: Tortoises Through the Lens is available at Amazon.com. All proceeds have been designated by the students themselves, to help protect the desert tortoise.

“Your support really sent our program into the stratosphere, especially during a tough economy.”

– David Lamfrom
Buddy Bison “Ambassadors”

Buddy Bison “Ambassadors” encourage kids to grow up to be conservationists, no matter what they love doing. They can sing about nature, take care of our parks, write about the environment and use athletics as a springboard to advocate for conservation.
In the fall of 2009, NPT started with a simple idea: give kids a woolly companion to take to parks and see their connection to the outdoors grow. Over the course of just 16 short months, NPT launched the Where’s Buddy Bison Been? program in nearly 30 schools nationwide with 17 from underserved communities, directly engaged 3,000 youth in outdoor experiences, and has created a grassroots movement that has families across the country not only taking their kids out to our public lands, but also engaging in discussions about their preservation.

Buddy Bison, a Classroom Vehicle
School teachers who participate in the Buddy Bison program often respond with astonishment at the layers of support NPT provides as they implement the program in their classrooms. At a time when so many teachers struggle to maintain standards and keep to state mandated curricula, NPT instead offers a “loose-fitting garment” – a toolkit of resources that includes books for the classroom library, lesson ideas for teachers and a wealth of materials donated from partners like the National Park Service, PBS, and Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival.

Val Mansfield, a fifth-grade teacher at Sierra House Elementary School in South Lake Tahoe, California said of her inclusion in the program, “It’s like we won the lottery!” Heimy Salgado, another fifth-grade teacher at Washington, DC’s KIPP WILL Academy has also commented, “My students have never been more invested in the environment until they were introduced to the outdoor world and everything it has to offer by the National Park Trust and the Buddy Bison program.” This sentiment is repeated again and again by teachers whose students bridge their classroom learning with outdoor excursions also planned in their entirety by NPT.

“As a school, we are very excited to continue our partnership with NPT and Buddy Bison and to continue to offer our students opportunities to explore the great outdoors. The enthusiasm around the Buddy Bison program has surpassed our expectations. Not only are the students excited about the opportunities provided by the program, but teachers and parents are also equally enthused,” said Bobby Caballero, Dean of Students, Elsie Whitlow Stokes School, Washington, DC.

“My students have never been more invested in the environment until they were introduced to the outdoor world and everything it has to offer by the National Park Trust and the Buddy Bison program.”
— Heimy Salgado, fifth-grade teacher, KIPP DC WILL Academy
What is learned in the classroom heads outdoors through NPT’s park experiences and comes back full circle as students create nature-inspired artwork like “Nature Monster” pieces by Washington, DC’s Beauvoir National Cathedral Elementary School’s first grade or in reflective essays like those written by Central Park School for Children students in Durham, North Carolina. Students have the opportunity to publish their work and earn a coveted by-line in Buddy Bison’s Buzz, the program’s national monthly newsletter, and online in Buddy Bison’s Blog.

In 2010, NPT coordinated park experiences for students nationwide in learning adventures like those to Grand Teton National Park or the official Earth Day celebration and first National Fossil Day on the National Mall in Washington, DC. NPT also connected teachers with our broad team of “Buddy Bison Ambassadors,” authors, conservationists, athletes and musicians who teach children that they can work to protect the environment no matter where their dreams take them.

Mounted Park Police Officer Maria Clowers meets with students to discuss everything from the evolutionary advantages present in her partner (her horse, Steely Dan) to thoughtful reflections on character and environmentalism (see photo page 20). Park Ranger Shelton Johnson, who was featured prominently in Ken Burns’ documentary The National Parks: America’s Best Idea, meets with students throughout the country via Skype, to talk about his interpretive work acting out the life of a Buffalo Soldier. Authors Gloria Skurzynski and Alane Ferguson use their platform as ambassadors to discuss their National Geographic Mystery novels about the National Parks and encourage students to use their imaginations in writing and when studying science.

**Buddy Bison Roams Outdoors**

If the question is *Where’s Buddy Bison Been?*, the answer might be in my classroom, at the park, land preserve, historical site, forest, backyard, to see the pyramids or hooked to my backpack. While students throughout the country are discovering Buddy Bison in their classrooms, a growing segment of park-goers always do their exploring with Buddy Bison along for the ride (or hike or climb).

Members and supporters of NPT can take Buddy Bison with them as they visit our public lands and then share their photos by emailing BuddyBison@ParkTrust.org to have their pictures with Buddy Bison loaded to the bovine’s Google Map. In the past year, with the help of Buddy Bison and his friends, NPT has created a map that marks the nation’s (and world’s) topography as a measure of smiling faces, Bison handstands and – like all visits to our national treasures – memories that will last a lifetime.
NPT Recognized by First Lady’s Initiative

First Lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move! Campaign has an ambitious national goal of solving the challenge of childhood obesity within a generation. Recognizing that kids need at least 60 minutes of active and vigorous play each day to stay healthy, the U.S. Departments of the Interior (DOI) and Agriculture (USDA) are working with the First Lady’s office in a coordinated effort to get kids moving outdoors through the Let’s Move Outside! initiative.

NPT has supported the First Lady’s efforts this year through multiple outdoor excursions that carried the official Let’s Move! seal, and Executive Director Grace Lee was invited to contribute a piece about the Buddy Bison program for the initiative’s website. There, she explained, “In national and state parks across the country, our mascot Buddy Bison is getting kids excited about moving outside – and teaching them important lessons about what outdoor activity means for their health.”

For example, in September, NPT brought students from Washington area Buddy Bison schools to Seneca Creek State Park for hikes planned in a partnership between The North Face, the American Hiking Club and Government Solutions Group. The North Face generously provided funding to transport the students to this Let’s Move Outside designated event.

In November in Jackson, Wyoming, NPT partnered with the regional nonprofit Center of Wonder, AmeriCorps volunteers at Teton Science School and other local nature and arts focused nonprofits to celebrate Grand Teton National Park – and through hikes, exploration and nature games earned official designation by Let’s Move Outside. Also in November, NPT joined forces with the Minnesota-based Wilderness Inquiry to mobilize hundreds of students from Washington, DC and Virginia area schools for a canoe adventure and litter clean-up on the Anacostia River. Representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers assisted in all the trips and trained each student in water safety before the boats launched.
NPT’s youth programming takes a two-pronged approach, using the Buddy Bison program to connect younger children and their families to the great outdoors and the Youth to Parks National Scholarship Fund to give young adults and adolescents the public lands experiences that will shape their conservation ethic and future career aspirations. NPT partners with several organizations around the country, including: For Love of Children (FLOC), the National Hispanic Environmental Council, National Parks and Conservation Association, and Lassen Park Foundation to bring under-resourced youth to the parks and to cultivate future conservationists and environmental professionals.

Youth Profile: A Trip to the Park Plants a Seed
Lloyd Meeks, 7th grader at Baltimore’s St. Ignatius Loyola Academy, was one recipient of the 2010 Youth to Parks Scholarship, and through these funds was offered the opportunity to travel over spring break to FLOC’s Outdoor Education Center near Harper’s Ferry National Historic Park. With that scholarship, he and his classmates were able to spend several days in West Virginia participating in a leadership and environmental education program.

When he returned home to Baltimore, Lloyd noticed that the old Warwick Street Park in his neighborhood had become run down and was unusable for play. He talked to his dad and organized a presentation for his local City Council and requested that they restore the park. A few neighbors were so impressed that they offered to help clean up the park. After multiple official meetings with the city’s Recreation and Parks Director, Lloyd has ensured that not only will the park now be maintained by the city, but that basketball courts will soon be added to encourage more kids to come out to the park.

In June, Lloyd and his classmate Evan were present when Senator Mark Udall received the Bruce F. Vento Public Service Award and wowed a crowd of Washington guests with stories of their experiences and expressions of their passion for environmental conservation. After the event, Senator Udall heard of Lloyd’s efforts to restore the urban park and wrote a letter to Lloyd, saying, “You are an inspiration for other young people, and I am certain that as you move into adulthood you will continue to serve as an environmental leader for your generation.”

The Youth to Parks Scholarship is all about inspiration and NPT is delighted to have provided such a formative experience in the life of a young man whose internal motivation and drive to make a difference has already had a lasting impact on his community.
A LASTING LEGACY TO OUR NATION’S PARKS

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

NPT salutes two of our loyal and generous sponsors.

3M NPT celebrates 3M, a dedicated and gracious sponsor of the annual Bruce F. Vento Public Service Award that honors a public servant for their commitment to land conservation and stewardship of our environmental resources. All proceeds of this award event benefit our land preservation and the Buddy Bison programs.

In addition, the holidays came early for eight of our inner-city Buddy Bison schools thanks to 3M Foundation’s Supplies for Schools program. In December, these schools received hundreds of bottles of hand sanitizer, bandages, glue sticks, post-it notes and much more. Our school partners were thrilled by the unexpected generosity from 3M and in this day of budget constraints, these items are a tremendous help to teachers and administrators.

“3M was very pleased to provide supplies to schools participating in the National Park Trust’s program. We applaud NPT for their efforts to take learning out of the classroom and connect children with the great outdoors,” commented Jeff Rageth, Vice President, Public Affairs.

According to Sue Vento, Chair of the Vento Award event, “we are truly thankful for 3M’s continued support and belief in our vision that everyone will have an American park experience. In this challenging economic climate, their unwavering support for NPT is greatly appreciated.”

Since 2008, National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) has been a loyal partner of NPT and our work to protect and preserve culturally and historically significant landmarks. They also have provided key financial support for our conservation and youth education programs through the Bruce F. Vento Public Service Award.

In addition, in 2009, Joe Molinaro, Managing Director of Community and Political Affairs for NAR was able to observe NPT’s preservation efforts firsthand when he visited the Claymont Mansion – a home built by a descendant of George Washington in Jefferson County, WV (see page 7). Joe witnessed that the home was deteriorating and in desperate need of repair and as a result, he offered to give the project national visibility by featuring it in the Winter 2009 issue of On Common Ground – a publication that highlights the evolution of smart growth and the development of more sustainable communities.

“NAR is committed to improving communities at all levels and land conservation is an important part of smart growth. We applaud National Park Trust’s efforts to restore the Claymont Mansion so that future generations can experience the history and beauty of this national landmark,” said Jerry Giovanelli, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs.

“We are tremendously grateful to NAR for their continued dedication and generous financial support for our programs,” stated Grace Lee, Executive Director, NPT.

NPT Launches New Web Site

You know you’ve got a lot going on when you have too much to say for the internet. With the launch and rapid growth of the Where’s Buddy Bison Been? program, NPT launched an additional web resource in 2010 for teachers, kids and families. The new student-oriented website features pictures, art, poetry, videos and stories to engage young people in the Where’s Buddy Bison Been? program and to promote outdoor education and recreation. Visit www.BuddyBison.org to see it for yourself, then send us your photos, stories or even download free games for a Buddy Bison Birthday Bash!

Get Your Own Buddy Bison!

At NPT’s Buddy Bison Shop (www.BuddyBison.org/Shop), supporters of land conservation and park exploration can support NPT’s work through the purchase of Buddy Bison and other merchandise. All proceeds from the sale of Buddy Bison benefit our Youth to Parks Scholarship program.

If you are out to the parks and searching for our little woolly companion, a growing number (over 70) of National Park bookstores also carry Buddy Bison. To find a comprehensive list, visit our website.
HOW NPT WORKS

How do we accomplish our mission?

NPT is the nation’s only organization dedicated to the completion of the American system of national and state parks through the identification of key land acquisition needs and opportunities and the convening of potential funders to acquire these lands. The Trust also works to ensure that current and future generations, especially at-risk and underserved youth, appreciate and experience this national heritage.

Through Land Preservation

NPT’s vision is that “everyone will have an American park experience”. To achieve this, we work in several ways: 1. by creating new parks, 2. preserving existing parks, and 3. purchasing private land within or adjacent to parks and critical public lands.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Our Vision is that ‘Everyone Will Have An American Park Experience’

Get a Buddy Bison

For your gift of $15 or more, you can receive your own Buddy Bison. Buddy Bison encourages kids and families to “explore outdoors, the parks are yours!”

Send your pictures with Buddy Bison in our nation’s local, state and national parks to NPT@ParkTrust.org, and we may feature them on our website (www.BuddyBison.org), along with stories, songs or drawings that you have been inspired to create.

Become an NPT Member or Gift an NPT Membership

Become an NPT member today for $35 and join the national movement to protect our nation’s parks. Also consider gifting a 2011 NPT membership to your friends and family. As a member, your loved ones will receive many great benefits, including their own Buddy Bison, NPT’s annual report and calendar, and invitations to NPT’s special events. Please support NPT and ‘gift’ your memberships today!

Donate Monthly

Contribute monthly, quarterly, or annually on an ongoing basis. Make your initial donation online at www.ParkTrust.org and future donations will be automatically charged to your credit card. You can change your options at any time and an email receipt will be sent for each gift.

Workplace Giving

Federal employees can designate a portion of their paycheck to NPT through the Combined Federal Campaigns (CFC). Our CFC number is 12213. Our United Way giving number is 2358. NPT also participates in many State Employee Campaigns.

Corporate Matching Gifts

Many employers match charitable gifts made by employees, enabling you to double or even triple your donation. Check with your personnel office about your company’s matching gift program.

Through Our Buddy Bison™ Programs

NPT seeks to inspire people of all ages and socio-economic levels to love parks and protect them. The goal of our programs is to cultivate the next generation of conservation stewards and environmental professionals.

NPT created the Youth to Parks National Scholarship Fund to connect underserved children and their families to our nation’s parks. Our Where’s Buddy Bison Been? program works with teachers and administrators to create park experiences and to incorporate park educational resources into the classroom. Individuals and families can get their own Buddy Bison and share with us photos and stories from their trips.

For more information, contact:
Shana Newman Fajardo, Development Director
Email: Shana@ParkTrust.org    Phone: 301-279-7275 ext. 15
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NPT is most grateful for the generous financial and in-kind support of the following individuals, corporations, and foundations for our park preservation and youth education programs in fiscal year 2010 (July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010). We are pleased to recognize the following leadership donors. Thank you!

Robert Krull
Dorla Landry
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NPT THANKS THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR MISSION THROUGH THESE CAMPAIGNS:

Please visit the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance website for their report on National Park Trust.
### Finance and Investments

#### Statement of Activities (Audited)

**Year Ended June 30, 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</th>
<th>Total 2010</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Contributions</td>
<td>567,412</td>
<td>98.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product Sales</td>
<td>4,085</td>
<td>0.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>3,078</td>
<td>0.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>574,575</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROGRAM SERVICES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Conservation</td>
<td>292,994</td>
<td>44.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Education</td>
<td>197,040</td>
<td>29.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>49,470</td>
<td>7.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>539,504</strong></td>
<td><strong>81.61%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORTING SERVICES</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General and Administrative</td>
<td>57,335</td>
<td>8.67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>47,706</td>
<td>7.22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Development</td>
<td>16,527</td>
<td>2.50%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Supporting Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>121,568</strong></td>
<td><strong>18.39%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Expenses                         | 661,072    | 100.0%     |

**Change in Net Assets before Non-operating Items**

- (86,497)

**Realized and Unrealized Gain (loss) on Investments**

- 3,509

**Change in Net Assets**

- (82,988)

**Net Assets, Beginning of Year**

- 3,332,486

**Net Assets, End of Year**

- 3,249,498

---

#### Statement of Financial Position (Audited)

**June 30, 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>June 30, 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>165,957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>318,536</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property &amp; Equipment (Net of Depreciation)</td>
<td>1,355</td>
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<tr>
<td>Real estate and related holdings</td>
<td>2,855,701</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,341,549</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>92,051</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-term Liabilities</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>92,051</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Assets**

- Unrestricted: 3,197,998
- Temporarily Restricted: 51,500

**Total Net Assets**

- 3,249,498

**Total Liabilities & Net Assets**

- 3,341,549

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Our complete audit is available on our website: Visit www.ParkTrust.org, and click “Get Involved”. A hard copy is available upon request.

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### Revenue and Support

**$574,575**

- Product Sales: 0.71%
- Investment Income: 0.54%
- Grants & Contributions: 98.75%

---

### Expenses

**$661,072**

- General & Administrative: 8.87%
- Fundraising: 7.22%
- Membership Development: 2.50%
- Programs: 81.61%
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* Elected fall 2010

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Page 10: Bottom, David Lamfrom  
Page 11-12: B.B. King, Chris Botti, the Beach Boys, Chris Isaak and Bela Fleck at their summer 2010 performances at The Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for The Performing Arts.  
Page 15: Left, Keith B. Hyde  
Page 16: Top, Daniel Grogan; Bottom, Christina Schoppert  
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40th celebration of Earth Day on the National Mall with National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar