Our Mission

We fund and enable projects and programs that protect, preserve, and provide access to the natural and cultural resources of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

Letter from Executive Director

2016 was perhaps the most significant year for Sequoia Parks Conservancy in our history. The Natural History Association merged with the Sequoia Foundation and became Sequoia Parks Conservancy. The National Park Service has been encouraging mergers like this throughout the country for the past few years. Like other notable parks, the need to cultivate financial support for education, science, research and programs has never been greater. The Conservancy will begin to examine how to better serve our visitors, the wildlife in both the front and back country and our constituents.

If this was not enough of a milestone, it was a year of record attendance in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks due to the National Park Centennial Celebration. Each and every park had record attendance which set to task creating an extraordinary experience for each visitor.

The connection visitors make to this magnificent landscape resonates with each and every person. The Giant Sequoias, Crystal Cave, Mt. Whitney, Moro Rock or Roaring River Falls are but a few of the sites visited. Our work has been spoken through the work in education and managing Crystal Cave through the Field Institute, curating interpretive retail products and managing eight park stores, publishing maps and books and connecting individuals to become members giving back to something bigger than they can imagine.

I have fostered and nurtured this organization for twenty years and through that nurtured my own life. My staff and board of directors have never ceased to amaze and satisfy me each and every day. It has been a long enough journey for me and it’s now time for me to discover new ways to have new adventures on perhaps another mountain somewhere that is yet to be decided.

In the following pages, you will see stories of some of the innovative programs we achieved. We invite your continued support as I pass the torch to another executive director for the Conservancy in the spring of 2017. I thank each of you for visiting these parks and for supporting its future for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Mark Tilchen
President and Executive Director
We are all inspired in a different way when we visit Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. For some, the stunning flora and fauna are the motivators; others may find inspiration from the night sky or from the many trails located within our parks. Many visitors are simply awed by the wonders that can only be found in Sequoia and Kings Canyon. The Sequoia Parks Conservancy works to support projects that protect and enhance these varied experiences. Our key initiatives outlined below are just a few of the many ways your gifts benefitted Sequoia and Kings Canyon in 2016.

The **Sequoia-Kings Canyon Conservation Corps** (SEKI CC) spent 8 weeks improving park infrastructure with the National Park Service. This program provides young men and women the opportunity to gain job skills while exploring personal development in our national parks. SPC has provided the funding for this program along with private donations and assistance from the National Park Foundation.

$122,506 was received for SEKI CC in 2016.
The 2016 season at Crystal Cave was by far the busiest yet, we successfully completed 1802 programs. Over the years our visitation has increased every year and this year was no exception. Crystal Cave saw more than 10,000 more visitors this year than in 2015.

On November 4th, 5th, and 6th Crystal Cave closed its doors to the public and opened its doors to 15 volunteers for the first ever Lint Camp in Crystal Cave. Over three days 23 people (15 volunteers, 5 SPC staff and 3 NPS staff) removed over 1325lbs of lint from Crystal Cave.

The Buddy Park Centennial Celebration was a collaboration between Great Basin National Park, Lava Beds National Monument, Oregon Caves National Monument, and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. These four parks teamed together to come up with a programmatic theme for all programs that would be given throughout the day.

2016 was the most ambitious year yet for the Sequoia Field Institute, a trend that has been on the rise since 2011. Not only did we hire more staff than ever, we successfully designed and executed the third annual Dark Sky Festival, second annual Ersa of the Red Trees performance and reached the largest audience in our history with over 18,000 people, an increase in over 500% compared to 2011.

In its 9th year, the Rangers in the Classroom program served over 24,000 students across three counties. These programs are increasingly popular, with many requests coming in even after the schedule is filled. This program provides students with the rare opportunity to have a national park connection in classrooms. Most students don’t get a chance to visit the parks.
In late 2016 we gained funding for three exciting projects; Ecosystem Studies, Endangered Frog Restoration, and Winter Bear Management. The Easterday Foundation has generously funded these projects and work will begin in 2017.

Over $92,000 was awarded for these programs.

The 2016 **Dark Sky Festival** was once again a full festival with event locations in Three Rivers, U.S.A.C.E. Lake Kaweah, and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Attendance increased to 2,000 again with 45 session slots. As in previous years, enthusiastic paid and unpaid presenters from a retired NASA astronaut, National Park Service, Kern Astronomical Society, Riverside Astronomical Society, U.S.A.C.E. Lake Kaweah, professional night sky photographers, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory employees, and other presenters coalesced to offer a top-notch public dark sky education experience. The budget was set at $15,000 with Delaware North Corporation donating lodging, space, and presenter and volunteer meals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,285 participants</td>
<td>2,500 participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 programs</td>
<td>50 programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>360 volunteer hours</td>
<td>624 volunteer hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The **Jeangerard family** continued to make an impact on accessible trails in 2016. Jack Jeangerard’s mission is to give every person access to parks, whether the visitor is walking, in a walker, stroller or wheelchair. In 2016, the Hazelwood Nature Trail in Giant Forest underwent a restoration project with funds provided by SPC, the Jeangerard Family Foundation, and a National Park Service Centennial Challenge Grant. The trail now has improved accessibility and the trail crew was able to install tread, rock work, bridges, drainage structures, and edge treatments. The work is absolutely beautiful. A huge thank you to Jack and his family for their extraordinary generosity!
### Financial Statement

#### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Equivalents</td>
<td>$1,321,042</td>
<td>$789,514</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$202,420</td>
<td>$19,132</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>$10,335</td>
<td>$113,990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>$495,279</td>
<td>$663,063</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$2,029,076</td>
<td>$1,585,699</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment, Vehicles, etc.</td>
<td>$143,700</td>
<td>$87,590</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$2,172,776</td>
<td>$1,673,289</td>
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#### REVENUE

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<tr>
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<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retail Sales</td>
<td>$2,721,820</td>
<td>$2,059,835</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost of Goods Sold</td>
<td>-$1,245,732</td>
<td>($979,147)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crystal Cave Tours</td>
<td>$855,733</td>
<td>$830,565</td>
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<td>Membership Dues</td>
<td>$41,317</td>
<td>$58,020</td>
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<td>Program Fees</td>
<td>$96,614</td>
<td>$143,820</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bear Container Rentals</td>
<td>$17,093</td>
<td>$15,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants &amp; Donations</td>
<td>$465,085</td>
<td>$68,950</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>$5,182</td>
<td>$1,516</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$23,419</td>
<td>$25,804</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$2,980,531</td>
<td>$2,224,738</td>
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#### EXPENSES

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$2,380,869</td>
<td>$1,878,449</td>
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<td>Support Services</td>
<td>$163,936</td>
<td>$221,026</td>
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<td>Fundraising Services</td>
<td>$181,359</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$2,726,164</td>
<td>$125,263</td>
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Program services include the cost to run the visitor center stores, education programs, and provide support for national park programs and projects including education, restoration, protection of resources, and research. Management and overhead in 2015 was 10% of net revenue.

### 2016 in Numbers

- **18,048** Field Institute and Crystal Cave Participants
- **1,000** bear-proof canisters rented
- **6** trails rehabilitated
Thank you donors!
Sequoia Parks Conservancy is extremely grateful to acknowledge our donors listed below who supported our work in 2016.

$5,000 and above
The Jeangerard Foundation
Easterday Family Foundation
The Staggs Family Foundation
Ms. Elizabeth Karplus
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel & Sharon Whalen
Mrs. Donna Matson Trust

$500-$4,999
Ms. Suzanne Fischer
Mr. Bruce Droz
Mr. Heinz Ellersieck
Mr. and Ms. Barbara & Rod Karplus/ Womer
Ms. Beverly Hartline
Mr. Ward Eldredge
Mrs. Susan Hirsch
Mr. and Mrs. Lu & Ann Plauzoles
Mr. and Mrs. James & Tamara Bean
White Wave Foods
County of Tulare
Mr. Ronald Cibart
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph & Marcia Peterson
Ms. Karen Stroh

Flow 397
Ms. Susan Gustavson
Mr. Joseph Shen
Ms. Karen Merritt
Mrs. Madeleine Shaw
Mrs. Marla Morrissey
Ms. Andrea Knox
Mr. Patrick Inkster
Mr. and Mrs. Michael & Jennifer Dunham
Mr. Peter Kovac
Mr. and Mrs. James & Elizabeth Ralston
Ms. Bettie Woods
Mr. and Mrs. Dave & Lindsay McMenamin
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