Located in the Northern area of Death Valley National Park, Scotty's Castle is a place as unique to Death Valley as Death Valley is to the rest of the world. This Spanish-style architecture mansion in the desert is under the protection of the National Park Service and on the National Register of Historic Places. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America’s historic and archeological resources. This means that Scotty’s Castle will be preserved for visitors to enjoy for generations to come.

Annually for over a decade now, DVNHA assists in the preservation efforts at Scotty’s Castle by paying for the tuning of the Welte-Mignon Theatre Organ and its associated instruments, and by hiring five curatorial interns to provide much needed maintenance of the Scotty’s Castle collection. Working with NPS Curator, Gretchen Voeks, interns inventory collection items. Using specialized tools and equipment, each speck of dust is meticulously removed from furniture, books, pottery, baskets, tapestries and paintings, as well as the historic house, itself. This service is integral in caring for the collection as well as clearing the upper music room for the Scotty’s Castle Organ Concert. Removing all the furniture to admit an occupancy of 40+ to enjoy each performance of the fundraising event is no small feat! After the busy weekend, each item is again placed where it belongs and work resumes to complete the annual tasks. This year’s crew did a fine job!

This year’s concerts featured organist James Welch, with piano accompaniment from his two sons Nicholas and Jameson. The event raised $5,400 to help cover the expense of the annual organ tuning. Please help us preserve this National Treasure by attending a concert next year, donating to the Scotty’s Castle fund today, or by taking a tour next time you’re in the Park.

Visit Scotty’s Castle and step back in time to 1939! The Castle grounds are open daily from 8:30 am to 4:15 pm. Tour schedules vary by season so be sure to visit recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777 at least one day in advance of your visit.
60 Years of Service Update

Death Valley Natural History Association celebrates our 60th Anniversary as Death Valley’s non-profit partner!

What’s the Project?

In 1952, Devils Hole was put under the protection of what was then Death Valley National Monument. Few people have seen Devils Hole and even fewer have had the opportunity to observe the endangered Devils Hole pupfish in their natural habitat. Cameras have been installed at Devils Hole as part of the Park’s monitoring program. Ever wonder what the pupfish do down there? One underwater camera overlooks the rock shelf where the pupfish can be seen swimming, feeding, spawning, and doing all the other good stuff pupfish naturally do.

It is estimated that $12,000 is needed to help display this live feed in the Furnace Creek Visitor Center for the public to be able to view the secret underwater lives of the pupfish, up close and personal.

How can you help?

The $60 for 60 Years Campaign was launched in May. There’s still time to contribute $60 by visiting our webpage: http://dvnha.org/news/145-60-for-60-years-of-service or donate any other amount of your choosing by phone: 1-800-478-8564 ext. 10 or by mail:

Death Valley Natural History Association
PO Box 188
Death Valley, CA 92328

How close are we to reaching the goal?

We are ever so close. Over 125 Death Valley enthusiasts have contributed to this campaign! Thanks to all you landlovers who’ve contributed.

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Death Valley Road Scholar Schedule 2014 - 2015

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Interested in joining us?
Visit http://www.roadscholar.org/ to book your trip today!
Hiking Death Valley National Park #6120

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It’s another beautiful summer day here in Death Valley National Park, which means it’s hot and the wind is blowing like a hair dryer. Death Valley is a National Park that is not easy to love. This land of extremes has heat, wind, sand, and no big cute fuzzy animals to watch. No, you definitely have to be a little tougher and willing to look a little deeper to love this place. But, as you know, once you let it in, you will never be the same. Death Valley gets under your skin like no other National Park that I know of. I’m getting ready to go to my annual family reunion in Oregon. I hope it doesn’t make me soft.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the 8% of our membership who have donated to our $60 for 60 Years Campaign. It is not too late for the other 92% of you to join in. Even if you can’t give $60, any amount would be of great help. We know there are a lot of non-profits out there fighting for your attention and dollars so we always appreciate whatever you can give.

So what is next for Death Valley Natural History Association? We are beginning to plan for fiscal year 2015; this will include the beginning of a strategic planning process that will set the course for our organization for the next 3–5 years. October will see the startup of our 2014–2015 Road Scholar hiking programs.

So until next time, stay cool!

David

George Kohler Memorium Fund

George Kohler was a passionate bicyclist and lover of the outdoors. After his passing in Death Valley National Park in March of 2012, over $3,600 in donations from friends and family were received by DVNHA in George’s honor. George’s wife, Prudy Kohler, requested this money be restricted to assist search and rescue, as a token of appreciation for everyone involved in the search for her husband of 42 years.

We are happy to report that these funds have been put to good use—much needed search and rescue (SAR) backpacks, carabiners, rope, edge protectors, climbing helmets, headlamps, and other equipment have been purchased to aid in safely completing search and rescue operations here in Death Valley National Park. Acquiring itemized gear has enabled the Death Valley National Park Search and Rescue Team to assemble "grab and go" packs that will reduce response time for SAR.

Thank you to each and every one of you who made a contribution in memory of George Kohler.
Death Valley National Park Celebrates Park’s 20th Anniversary and Wilderness 50th

By Cheryl Chipman, NPS Management Assistant, Death Valley National Park

In 1964, Lyndon B. Johnson signed historic legislation that many people had worked on for a long time—to protect the wild expanses of our public lands and to create a national system of wilderness “for the permanent good of the whole people.” These areas were to offer places that were “undeveloped ... and retaining its primeval character and influence, protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions.”

Death Valley National Park is 91% designated wilderness, the largest in the lower 48 states. It achieved this designation with the passage of the 1994 California Desert Protection Act, which added ~1.5 million acres to what was then Death Valley National Monument.

On November 1st, Death Valley National Park will celebrate both of these anniversaries with wilderness-specific events such as hikes, speakers, exhibits, and programs in commemoration of these milestones. For more information please visit the Park website: www.nps.gov/deva