



# The Quarterly

## Special Partnership Edition

### The Superintendent's Letter

by Cynthia MacLeod

*No man is an island unto himself.*  
--John Donne.

The same is true for park resources and park operations. Our natural resources are part of a larger ecosystem, and our cultural resources are part of a continuum of history, with context shaping the significance of the immediate events. Even our management of the parks is done in partnership with other parts of government at all levels, with volunteers, and with the private sector.

I thank all of our partners for their valuable assistance. I also appreciate the opportunity to assist others when there is a need. In this issue of our newsletter, you will see illustrations of the successful partnerships that have enabled our parks to flourish.

I look forward to these partnerships enduring and evolving and to the establishment of others for the good of the resources, the staff, and the visitors.

*"Our cultural resources are part of a continuum of history, with context shaping the significance of the immediate events."*

### Partnering with RMCVB for Visitor Services at Tredegar

When the park opened the new Tredegar Visitor Center in June 2000, one of the greatest challenges facing the park was finding creative ways to staff the new facility. Seasonal rangers and volunteers were required, and the park searched for other resourceful ways to supplement visitor services. As the Tredegar facility also serves as a visitor center for Richmond's other Civil War venues, it seemed that a partnership with the Richmond Metropolitan Visitors and Convention Bureau (RMCVB) would be a natural alliance.

Park staff met with Jack Berry, President and CEO of the RMCVB, and the result was a partnership arrangement that has successfully provided Tredegar staffing four days a week in the summer, and three during the off season. The RMCVB individual is always supported by an NPS ranger, and visitors are now introduced to the park as well as to all that the city has to offer. Jack Berry was delighted by the opportunity to provide assistance. "We are pleased to be part of the Tredegar Civil War Visitor Center operations. Not only does the site have an impressive historical content, but it's the perfect place to introduce visitors to the city and the area," Berry said. "We recognize that the Civil War is a major drawing card for the region, and we are fortunate to be in a position at Tredegar to help visitors explore the area's Civil War heritage and discover our other attractions as well."



Donna Baxter greets Airon Thompson at the Civil War Visitor Center. Donna is one of many great people who assist rangers three days a week in directing visitors around the city.

Since the establishment of the RMCVB partnership almost two years ago, our rangers have learned more about the city, while the RMCVB staff can orient visitors to the park, answer detailed questions about Tredegar and even take visitors through the Civil War cannon drill. The partnership has worked

better than anyone anticipated and we hope it will continue to grow as more visitors seek out Richmond's battlefields and historic sites.

# Partnerships for Battlefield Preservation

Every acre of land that has been preserved for Richmond Battlefield has been the result of a partnership with private organizations. Most of the original 764 acres that became the nucleus of the park were purchased by a group of men who banded together in 1927 under the name “Richmond Battlefield Parks Corporation.” This group included prominent historians such as Douglas Southall Freeman and J. Ambler Johnston. Since 1927 other preservation groups have accepted the challenge of ensuring the integrity of the local battlefields.

At a national level, the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) achieved an important success when it purchased nearly 700 acres at the Glendale (Frayser’s Farm) and Malvern Hill battlefields in the early 1990’s. The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) is descended from the APCWS, and continues its aggressive support of the Richmond battlefields. With the purchase of another 245 acres at Malvern Hill in 2001, the CWPT has guaranteed the permanent preservation of that blood-soaked battlefield. Assisting CWPT with this purchase was the Commonwealth of Virginia and Henrico County. All of the land

*(continued on page 6)*



A portion of 245 acres of the Malvern Hill battlefield recently acquired by the Civil War Preservation Trust. On July 1, 1862 Union artillery went into position in the yard the war-time West House. The current structure (circa 1900) sits on the foundations of the original structure.

# Protection Rangers Assist in post- September 11 Tragedy

The tragic events of September 11 have had an effect on all Americans no matter what their profession. Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site are no exceptions. During the day on September 11, protection rangers closed the park units and monitored park facilities for any suspicious activity. No credible threats were received by the park that day or any day thereafter. In the days and weeks following protection rangers maintained a constant vigilance over park resources.

Since the outbreak of the terrorist attacks, protection rangers have been asked to volunteer to travel to “high threat” national park areas to assist in anti-terrorism security details. To date, all park protection rangers stationed at Richmond have participated in one or more two-week details at the following NPS areas: Gateway National Recreation Area in New York, NY; Boston National Historical Park, Boston, MA, and Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, PA. The security details involved working 14 straight, 12-hour workdays on either a day or night shift. Rangers were expected to be on constant alert to any suspicious activity, persons or packages. Checkpoints were



The crown of the Statue of Liberty as seen from above. Courtesy of Statue of Liberty National Monument website.

established at designated locations with all vehicles searched. Special foot, vehicle and boat patrols were conducted working along side local law enforcement agencies such as city and state police, the U.S. Military, U.S. Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard. Partnerships, set up in the way of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) for emergency assistance, allowed the Rangers to have legal authority at their work sites.

Today, protection rangers continue a constant vigilance of park resources against any activity that could be linked to terrorism or other

criminal acts. MOUs with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies greatly assist with the task at hand. The public can be assured that all possible precautionary measures are in place to address potential areas of threat.

Both the public and park neighbors play an important part in monitoring the park’s cultural and natural resources. By being the “eyes and ears” of the park, the public can allow us to “stretch” our coverage when we may not be at a specific area. Any illegal or suspicious activity can be reported at 795-5018 or by calling 911.

The mission of the National Park Service and Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site is to preserve and protect our lands for future generations. This means preserving and protecting against terrorism, whether international or domestic or preserving and protecting against looting of artifacts, poaching of wildlife, vandalism, and any other types of illicit activity. The public can be assured that the rangers will always strive to accomplish the mission.

# Learning Reaches New Heights at Seven Pines Elementary School and Richmond National Battlefield Park

Partnerships with area schools help to keep Richmond National Battlefield Park in step with today's educational standards. In turn these partnerships offer numerous opportunities to provide a better understanding and appreciation of the significance of our National Parks. This teamwork gives students, teachers and park rangers exciting learning adventures that support curriculum education.

Richmond National Battlefield Park and Seven Pines Elementary School have had a successful partnership over the last seven years. Debbie Hollowell, resource teacher at Seven Pines and Pat Ferrell, education coordinator at Richmond National Battlefield Park have developed educational projects that are curriculum based, SOL-related and create stimulating lessons that use National Parks as classrooms. Using Seven Pines' 2002 school theme "Up with Learning and Technology" all 457 students are in the midst of their third school-wide reading project, reading books and taking accelerated reader tests that earn them book tickets and miles. (One book equals one mile and one book ticket.) The students will use hot air balloon



Icy Coolio the penguin prepares for his trip to New York.

stickers and a large map of the United States to track the cross-country trip to their destination--White Sands National Monument, New Mexico and the return trip to Seven Pines Elementary, approximately 3,800 books/miles. By using computers in the classrooms the students are learning about White Sands National Monument (desert ecology, geology, history, endangered species and more). Park rangers from White Sands National Monument pro-

vide answers to student questions, send digital photos of the park and track the progress of the students.

The first graders had their own special project with the Statue of Liberty National Monument. The school mascot "Icy Coolio," a stuffed penguin, was sent to visit the National Park. Icy's job was to video record his visit and teach the first grade students at Seven Pines about the New York community, seasons, climate, location, and patriotic symbols. Icy also got an up-close ranger-guided tour of the Statue of Liberty and interviewed school children visiting the National Park. Computer-generated questions from the students were sent to the park staff to keep Icy on task.

Educational partnerships between the National Parks and area schools tap learning to support today's curriculum, connect Virginia's Standards of Learning and Virginia Studies and inspire children to learn about their National Parks. You don't have to leave the school to "Experience Your America."

## Eastern National: An Indispensable Partner

Richmond's National Parks are truly enhanced by the presence of Eastern National, a cooperative association that is an indispensable partner. Eastern National provides quality educational products and interpretive services and operates the five sales areas at Richmond National Battlefield Park and one at Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site. The sales outlets carry a wide variety of items covering the Civil War and African American History. Visitors will find both current and classic literature, children's items, touring tapes, CD's, maps and a host of other theme-related items.

Eastern National also works "behind the scenes" supporting park operations. A small list of their roles includes publishing park-specific items, reprinting important publications and providing grants to conduct research. In addition, Eastern National provides over \$10,000 in donations each year to support the interpretive program. This newsletter is just one example of Eastern National's many contributions.

"We are extremely privileged to be a partner with the National Park Service," reported



Visitors Andrew and Allison Buck peruse the Eastern National sales area at Tredegar Iron Works. A percentage of all sales is returned to the park in the form of donations.

Chesley Moroz, president of Eastern National. "Our mission is to provide visitors with the opportunity to learn more about and reflect upon the importance of the parks that comprise the National Park system. Richmond's incredibly diverse resources offer a unique learning experience for visitors, and one that we are excited to be a part of."



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Richmond National Battlefield Park was established in 1936 to commemorate the battlefields around Richmond, Virginia, Capital of the Confederacy, 1861-1865.

Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site was established in 1978 to preserve and protect the home of the first woman to found and be president of a bank.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

# Partnering Within the Department of the Interior to Protect the Park's Water Resources

During these times when environmental protection is becoming more and more important, the National Park Service is working harder to protect its natural resources. The first essential step in this process is having knowledge of what resources exist and their present condition. In 2000, Richmond National Battlefield Park acquired the necessary funding to take this step and decided to begin addressing one of its most valuable natural resources: water. With the help of the NPS Regional Scientist, the park decided that it needed both a wetland delineation, and a Water Resources Management Plan to be able to make good decisions about park management. A wetland delineation provides information on where, how much and what type of wetlands exist in the park, while a Water Resources Management Plan provides information on the present state of the park's streams and wetlands and makes recommendations for how best to manage these habitats. However, with a limited natural resources staff, it would have been nearly impossible for the park to accomplish these tasks on its own. As the "research arm" of the Department of the Interior, the United States Geological Survey was able to come to the park's rescue. USGS spends much of its time and resources working with various parks within the National Park Service on all aspects of natural resource management. Two divisions of this national agency proved most useful to the park: the Water Resources Division and Biological



USGS personnel testing water quality at Richmond National Battlefield Park

Resources Division, which has in its ranks the National Wetlands Research Center. Scientists from both divisions set out to create a complete picture of the park's water resources. They began using aerial photos combined with GPS and site assessments to map and describe the park's wetlands. They also began combining information on vegetation, surrounding land use, geology, hydrology topography and soils with water quality data to describe and make recom-

mendations for the park's streams. These projects are still in progress; however, their completion will enable the park to make sound management decisions to provide for the restored or continued health of one of the park's most valuable natural resources.

## Richmond National Parks Receive Kodak Grant

Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site will receive \$4675.12 worth of photographic and digital imaging equipment from Kodak through the National Park Foundation as part of the Proud Partners of America's National Parks program. The equipment donated by Kodak will be used to assist Law Enforcement with documenting resource issues and Interpretation with creating exhibits and maintaining photo files of special events and supporting the education program.

The National Park Foundation Imaging Product Donation Program, made possible by Kodak's generous support, donates digital imaging and traditional photography products to National Parks across the

country. Through products, people and technology, the National Park Foundation and Kodak are helping to provide innovative ways to increase public awareness and appreciation of the National Park system.

"Our National Parks tell a compelling story about America's rich heritage--our struggles and triumphs, our people and our culture, and the events that have shaped our history," said Jim Maddy, President of the National Park Foundation, "and there is no better way to capture the essence of the National Park experience than through pictures. We are thrilled to have Kodak's generous support as a Proud Partner, and look forward to being able to provide parks with the valuable photography tools that they need."

The National Park Foundation Imaging Product Donation Program is part of Kodak's commitment as a Proud Partner of America's National Parks. There are five Proud Partners--American Airlines, Discovery Communications, Inc., Ford Motor Company, Kodak, and TIME magazine-- all-American companies who have committed to multi-year, multi-million dollar partnerships with the National Park Foundation and the National Park Service. Over 130 National Parks will receive imaging products and photography equipment through Kodak's generous support, a total of \$500,000 worth of equipment.

# The Big Partnership: The NPS and You

The largest and most important partnership that Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site are a part of is with the American people. We, along with our brother and sister parks maintain sites of national significance. To this end the National Park Service was established in 1916 to ensure that these sites, and those that come after, will be preserved in perpetuity.

A few years ago the National Park Service organized a task force with the National Park Foundation to determine how best to get the mission of the National Park Service across to the American people and to the rest of the world. The task force found that the Arrowhead was the most recognized symbol the National Park Service has. Unfortunately they also learned that many people, while they love their National Parks, could not explain what a National Park is and did not know that there are 387 parks in the system, not just the 10 or so big name sites, most of which are out west. Thus was born the "Messaging Project." The "Experience Your America™" motto and brief message that you see each time



The Davis family of Oakland, CA experiencing their America at the Chimborazo Medical Museum.

you receive this newsletter is a part of this project. You have also seen it on the new Park Pass and it will soon be seen across the bottoms of most brochures and handouts at

parks you visit. The message is meant to encourage people to go to the parks. These are your parks, "your America" and the National Park Service is protecting it for you, not from you.

The final step to the Messaging Project was to create a uniform look to everything you see in a National Park. That is why we have changed the look of this newsletter. A few issues ago we ran an article about the new look to the Arrowhead. This is an expansion of that change. From now on National Parks across the country will standardize the look of all official brochures, waysides, and other publications.

All this is an effort to help inform visitors when they are in a National Park site and to feel at home there. Whether you visit Richmond National Battlefield Park in Virginia or Tuzigoot National Monument in Arizona, it's all yours. Experience Your America!

## Employee Profile: Celeste Dixon

Celeste Dixon is our feature employee. Born in Tennessee in 1963, Celeste says "my family moved to Texas when I was in junior high school, so I consider myself a Texan now, like my hero, Sam Houston." Celeste has been with Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site for less than a year and is an Intake trainee, the park's second of these (Randy Cleaver was the first). Celeste explains, "The Intake program is a two-year training and development program. It combines on-the-job training at a host park for a specific career field (Interpretive ranger for me) and off-site training in management and leadership."

Celeste has also worked at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Harry S. Truman National Historic Site and Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site. In addition she spent four years on active duty in the U.S. Navy with duty stations at Orlando, Florida, Norfolk, Virginia and Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. She joined the National Park Service because she has a love of history and an interest in sharing our heritage with others. In ten years Celeste "would like to be in interpretive training and development, helping train interpreters to



Celeste Dixon, Interpretation Ranger and Intake Program Trainee

share our cultural and natural heritage with park visitors."

Celeste's hobbies include reading, swimming and horseback riding. She enjoys spending time with friends and family and also likes to write. We welcome Celeste into our National Park family.

*"I consider myself a Texan now, like my hero, Sam Houston."*



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## Battlefield Preservation Continued

*(continued from page 2)*  
purchased by the CWPT will become part of Richmond National Battlefield Park; some of it already is accessible to the visiting public.

The Freeman branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) has been another vigorous preservation force. Spearheaded by Dr. Robert Bluford, the group has purchased battlefield land in recent years at Beaver Dam Creek, Bethesda Church, Cold Harbor, and Totopotomoy Creek. All of that acreage will become part of the national park in due course, and will significantly broaden the opportunities of visitors touring the Richmond battlefields.

The newest area preservation organization is the Richmond Battlefields Association (RBA). Founded in 2001, it is driven by a national membership base. Its board of directors consists of central Virginians who are anxious about the future of the unpreserved Civil War battlefields in the Richmond area. An advisory

board of prominent historians and authors will help guide the group's preservation activities.

The initiative of people and groups not affiliated with the National Park Service has been of incalculable benefit to our battlefield park. The recent change in the park's legislation that allows the use of Federal funds to purchase battlefield lands does not eliminate the need for land acquisition partnerships. It means that the federal government can work in cooperation with our partners to ensure the preservation of approximately 6000 acres of significant battlefield land that remains unprotected.