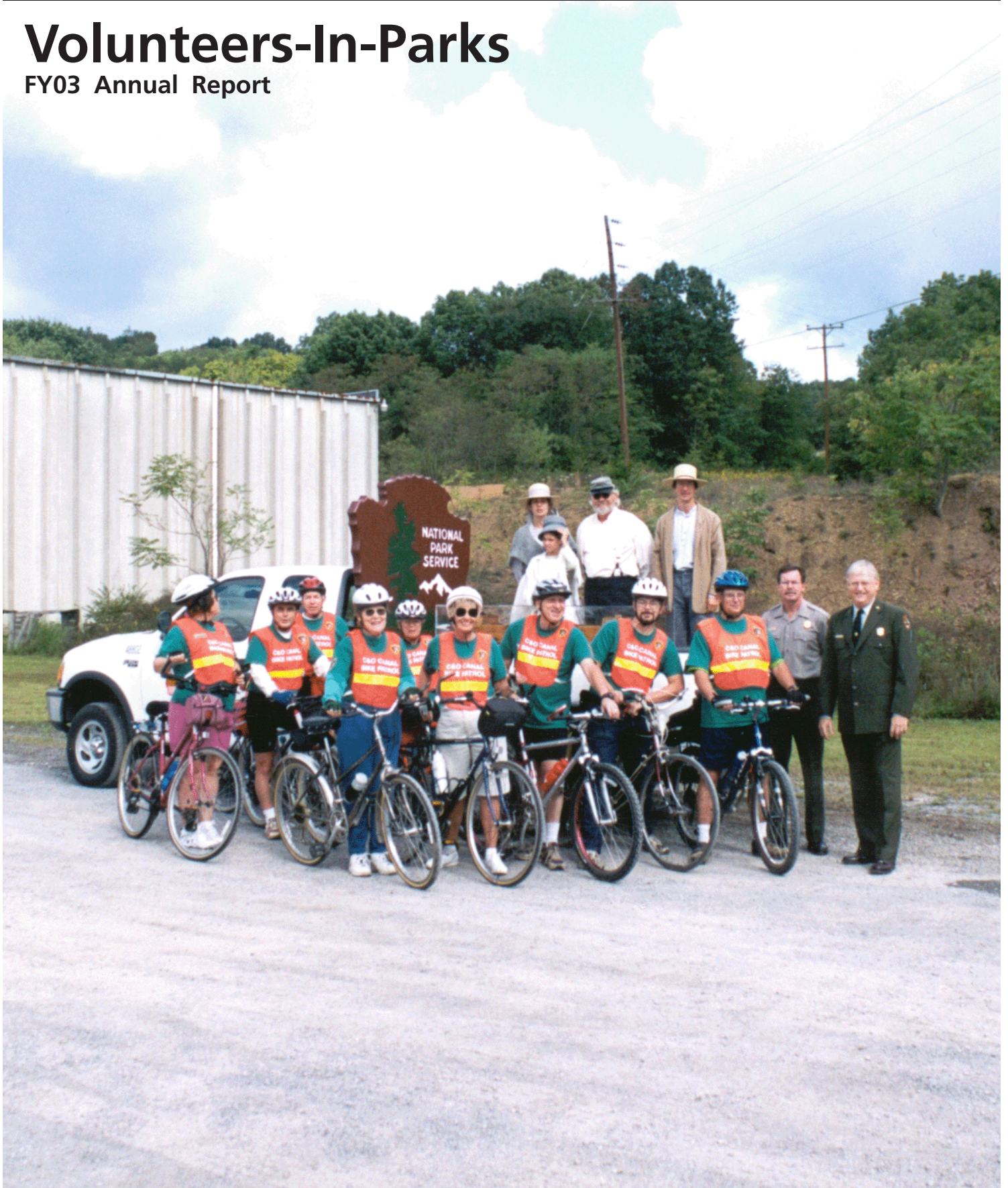




Volunteers-In-Parks

FY03 Annual Report



Volunteers-In-Parks

FY03 Annual Report

Produced by the Division of Interpretation & Education
National Park Service

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Front cover:

VIP Bike Patrol at Chesapeake and Ohio Canal NHP



VIPs at Great Smoky Mountains NP Take Pride in America event

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VIP Program Summary

The VIP program has grown over the years to reflect the dedication of people to their national parks. VIPs range in age from young children to senior citizens. They come from all over the United States, and the world, bringing different backgrounds, skills, and talents that enrich our park programs.

Background

The National Park Service (NPS) Volunteers-In-Parks program was authorized by Public Law 91-357 enacted in 1970. The primary purpose of the program is to provide a means through which the NPS can accept and use voluntary help in such a way that is mutually beneficial to the NPS and the volunteer. Volunteers may be recruited without regard to Office of Personnel Management (OPM) regulations, are provided coverage for tort liability and work-injury compensation, and can be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses while participating in the program.

Current Status

In FY2003, 122,000 VIPs contributed 4.5 million hours of service (or 2156 FTEs) valued at \$77,350,000 based on the private sector value figure of \$17.19 as used by AARP, Points of Light Foundation, and other large-scale volunteer programs including some federal agencies. There are 350 separate volunteer programs throughout the National Park Service. Since 1990, the number of volunteers has increased an average of 5% per year.

Current Direction - Our Goals

The national office is continuing to enhance and expand the Volunteers-In-Parks program throughout the Service. Our national goals over the next 3 years are to:

Enhance the visibility of the VIP program to improve recruitment.

Use \$274,000 in fee demonstration funds to:

- ◆ Update the existing web-based report system and establish a servicewide VIP database;
- ◆ Order and distribute VIP program supplies including patches, lapel pins, decals, and certificates;
- ◆ Create a VIP Service Log; and
- ◆ Continue the George B. Hartzog VIP Recognition Program.

Establish the Master Volunteer Ranger Corps Program.

Expand the corps of volunteers who are committed to contributing at least 500 hours of service each year or offer expertise in special areas such as geology, archeology, etc. Other specialized volunteer programs that fall under the Volunteer Master Ranger Corps include: the Volunteer Senior Ranger Corps, the Natural Resources Volunteer Laureate Program, and the Amtrak/NPS Trails and Rails Program.

FY03 VIP Program Figures At A Glance

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Total Number of VIPs | 125,000 |
| Total Hours | 4,500,000 |
| Total Cost | \$1,517,000 |
| Value Per Hour | \$17.19 |
| Total Value | \$77,350,000 |

VIP Program Highlights

The following highlights display the variety of programs, volunteers, and accomplishments servicewide. Volunteers are an integral part of the National Park System and assist in accomplishing the mission of the National Park Service.

Fred has volunteered his time and effort to help the park achieve its goals...and he has kept all of his toes in the process.

*Western Arctic
National Parklands*

Alaska Region

Alaska Public Lands Info. Center - Anchorage

Volunteers assisted with the NPS Urban Education puppet show and general visitor desk duties. Several volunteers collected field data for virtual trips on the public use GIS station, including one for Kenai Fjords and a winter Denali tour. A student volunteer with Alaska Pacific University developed an on-site program for visually-impaired students visiting the Center to learn about Alaskan animals. Long-term volunteers still assist on high visitation and special program days.

Alaska Public Lands Info. Center - Fairbanks

The Fairbanks Alaska Public Lands Information Center FAPLIC 2003 Explore Alaska Series and special programs were the most interesting in recent years and the greatest number presented in a single season for the last five years. Numerous performances and concerts took place including those by the Fairbanks Native Association's Johnson O'Mally Potlatch Dancers and the Fort Wainwright Arctic Warrior Band's "Denali Brass Quintet." Presentations included those by Dr. Neal Brown on the Aurora Borealis and "Firewise" by Morgan Miller. The Center was supported by two full time volunteers on staff throughout the summer season.

Denali National Park & Preserve

Denali Mountaineering Volunteers received the National "Take Pride in America" award for volunteer partnerships. Two new cabins for seasonal housing were constructed by Denali School Borough student VIPs and park trails were repaired and constructed by several volunteer groups. Resource VIPs performed exotic vegetation removal and native seed gathering and VIPs who performed care and exercise for the park's 30 dogs augmented Denali's kennel operation. Campground Hosts Phyllis and Harry Hassinger received the Alaska Regional award for volunteer excellence.

Gates of the Arctic Natl Park & Preserve

This summer GAAR conducted a cultural resources inventory of the Alatna River basin in the western portion of the park. The four week survey was the first systematic effort aimed at identifying prehistoric and historic sites within

this major drainage of approximately 1 million acres. Three VIPs associated with the University of Alaska Museum contributed to the project, donating over 656 hours as well as significant skills and expertise. Jim Whitney, a specialist in historic archaeology, helped to record a previously undocumented historic trapper's cabin near Takahula Lake. Dr. Dan Odess served as the project's inflatable canoe safety expert and barista, and Katrin Simon, an artist and visiting scholar at UAF, made excellent illustrations of archaeological finds.

Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve

Fifteen faculty and students from the Ethnography Field School – University of Alaska Southeast investigated the archaeological, ethnographic, and geological resources in the Bartlett Cove area of the park. Work included boating by skiff or kayak around Bartlett Cove, hiking the beaches and forests in search of evidence of past human activity, documenting evidence found, and conducting library and archival research in park headquarters. The goals of the project were to train students in basic archaeological, geologic, and ethnographic techniques, while documenting the Bartlett Cove landscape to the degree that it can be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as a Traditional Cultural Property. Twenty three VIPs assisted with humpback whale surveys in the park. VIPs also assisted whale biologists with documenting whale sightings, identifying individuals, and defining whale behaviors.

Katmai NPP, Alagnak WR & Aniakchak NMP

The Interpretive Volunteers at Brooks Camp in 2003 were key to the success of that area. They presented many programs, staffed the visitor center, and staffed the bear-viewing platforms.

Kenai Fjords National Park

In partnership with the Alaska SeaLife Center, the park provided interns on Star of the Northwest tour boats to aid in delivery of the Junior Ranger programs. Kenai Fjords hosted returning SCA and SAGA crews for 960 hours of extensive trail maintenance, repair, and additions. The resource management department engaged VIPs again this year in black bear and black-oyster-

catcher research. The park also had five volunteers from the Smithsonian Institute helping with the archaeology dig and research in Aialik Bay. Two SCAs helped with education programs, leading guided hikes up the Harding Icefield trail, and staffing the Nature and Visitor Center. Three other SCAs spent the summer in the backcountry on the coast conducting patrols by kayak. There was also an SCA that stayed with the park for an entire year. He was mostly in maintenance and led the rotating seasonal trail crews. Lastly, the VIPs aided greatly in maintaining visitor safety near the face of Exit Glacier. They provided assistance to visitors, offered safety messages, and provided a presence in case of an emergency. VIPs allowed park rangers the opportunity to be on the trails, roving dangerous areas around the face of Exit Glacier.



VIPs at Amistad National Recreation Area

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park

Connie Clineman served as a full-time volunteer in interpretation from April - July, 2003. Connie Clineman's achievements and contributions to the interpretive staff were numerous. She researched, developed, and presented hikes, campground programs, auditorium presentations, and two different historic walking tours. Connie also coordinated the park's fledgling costumed interpretation program, which through her work blossomed into a beautiful set of period costumes. Connie has also been working on several other projects. She wrote a "Senior Ranger" program for the park, which she has named the "Klondike Stampeder." She coordinated a project to place ambient sounds in a NPS historic house and bar. Connie was named by her co-workers as the "Interpreter of the Month" for June 2003. Her dedication and enthusiasm made her a joy to work with.

Sitka National Historical Park

An exciting new addition to the VIP program this year was a new partnership with the National Association for Equal Opportunity, which brought two African American student interns from Southern University in Louisiana to work for 11 weeks at the park. These students were instrumental in helping with the newly expanded fee demo program. They quickly made friends and connections both with the staff and in the local community and made a significant contribution of 848 hours this year.

Western Arctic National Parklands

There aren't a lot of people out there that would read this ad and reach for the phone... VOLUNTEER NEEDED for wolverine study in Northwest Alaska. Base camp will be stationed over 70 miles from the nearest village. Fieldwork will be conducted from February through April. Tem-

peratures will average -25 F with wind chills reaching -100 F. Tent and coffee provided. Fredrik Dalerum went one step further than that. He got on a jet and came straight to Kotzebue to see what was going on...from Sweden. Since that first visit in 2000, Fred has worked over 2000 hours as a VIP for Western Arctic National Parklands and has made significant contributions to the natural resource program. The staff is working cooperatively with Turner Endangered Species Fund (TESF), and Stockholm University to investigate the population demography of wolverines in Noatak National Preserve. Fred is a PhD student at the University of Stockholm whose prior experience studying carnivores in Scandinavia provides a valuable link with international researchers who share the park's interest in wolverine conservation. Fred has volunteered his time and effort to help the park achieve its goals...and he has kept all of his toes in the process. Fred is currently working in the lab at Montana State University in Bozeman, preparing samples for radioisotope analysis.

Intermountain Region

Amistad National Recreation Area

Amistad National Recreation Area and the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce co-sponsored a lake clean up day. 120 volunteers assembled and then split up into smaller groups led by NPS personnel. Two tons (4,000 lbs) of trash were removed from the lake that day. The National Recreation Area and the Chamber of Commerce plan on making this an annual event at Lake Amistad. Among some of the local community groups represented were fishing clubs, Boy and Girl Scouts, and many Del Rio residents.

Arches National Park

In 2003, Arches NP again relied on volunteers to operate the campground, provide a full repertoire of interpretive services, and complete important resource management objectives. In 1991, a large chunk fell from the Landscape Arch, the park's largest arch. The trail below was closed for visitor safety and never reopened. The trail remained and tempted visitors to jump the closure fence and continue up the old trail. This year, a Sierra Club group spent four days removing fence posts, rails, and rope and obliterated and revegetated the old trail. They also created a new fenced spur trail and view point so visitors could safely get a better view of the arch.

Aztec Ruins National Monument

Three local archaeologists- Gary Brown, Roger Moore, and Kathy Whitson volunteered to assist with archaeological subsurface test excavations

Becky's work has improved the orientation, recognition, and communication of volunteers with each other and with the park staff.

Big Bend National Park

on the Ruins Road Realignment project. They helped the geophysical contractor- D'Appolonia environmental services, Inc. to test anomalies that were identified through remote sensing. The results demonstrated the effectiveness of geophysical prospecting to identify and interpret subsurface archaeological features that otherwise would have gone undetected. The most significant feature was an ancient puebloan multi-room cobble structure. The volunteer work made it possible to verify the positive results of the geophysical study and to make a substantial contribution in archaeological method that would not have been possible with the contractor's funding and scope of work.

Bandelier National Monument

Over 18,000 hours of work was completed by park volunteers and SCAs. Groups such as the Sierra Club, Landmark Volunteers, and the Volunteers for Outdoors assisted with trail maintenance projects throughout the park. A backcountry SCA funded by the Friends of Bandelier provided the only backcountry presence during the busy hiking season. Eight volunteers and four SCAs assisted with visitor center operations and interpretive services. Both front-country campgrounds had campground hosts during the busy camping season. The fire operation had a six-person SCA fuels reduction and fire education crew working in the park and in area communities.

Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site

Volunteers provided scripted narration and a hands-on learning center twice a week on AMTRAK's Southwest Chief from La Junta, Colorado to Albuquerque, New Mexico. Over 14,000 riders experienced the program. Living historians performed 19th crafts, scenarios, and portrayals in two multi-day events. Bookstore volunteers assisted with sales of books, videos and trade good replicas. Rocky Mountain National Park volunteers helped remove exotic weeds and collect native seeds for revegetation.

Big Bend National Park

Volunteer Becky Reiger was hired to enhance Big Bend National Park's VIP Program. Beyond assisting with necessary office work, Becky was able to devote a large portion of her job to getting to know the volunteers and their assignments. She created a bulletin board with pictures and descriptions of the current volunteers. In-depth interviews were conducted to write articles for a volunteer newsletter, called "VIP2VIP." The volunteer newsletter helps VIPs and staff become familiar with other volunteers in the park and their contributions to the park. The newsletter also contains a calendar of up-

coming events, updates and reminders, and photographs of volunteers at work and play. Becky also organizes a monthly potluck which includes an ice-breaker game or activity to help volunteers mix and socialize with their peers from other districts in the park. Becky's work has improved the orientation, recognition, and communication of volunteers with each other and with the park staff.

Big Thicket National Preserve

The preserve met its GPRA goal that states the park will keep its VIP hours above 2500 hours per year. The staff applauds the volunteer coordinator, Rose Ann Jordan, who works in the interpretive division. Rose Ann has been out all year battling breast cancer, but came back in October to tally the VIP hours and rate the work value of each volunteer for the annual report. Thanks Rose Ann!!

Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park

The American Hiking Society contributed over 400 hours working on the South and North Rims of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. They have been volunteering at the Black Canyon for over six years contributing hundreds of hours each year. The American Hiking Society has completed numerous trail reconstruction projects and this year they stained and oiled all of the main park structures on both rims of the Black Canyon. These structures included both rim visitor centers and all of the overlook railings.

Bryce Canyon National Park

Bryce Canyon continues to benefit greatly from volunteers. The area that received the most volunteer hours, with 4,182, was the Campground Host program. Interpretation is next with 3,144 hours—the bulk of this time volunteered at the visitor center information desk. The Sierra Club donated 450 hours to Maintenance, and 575 hours to Natural Resource Management. An additional 387 hours were donated to Resource Management by other volunteers.

Canyonlands National Park

11,566 VIP hours were devoted to interpretation and general visitor services. This equals over 5.5 FTE. Over 1,200 hours were devoted to resource management, the majority which were dedicated to long-term monitoring of resource conditions in Salt Creek drainage. 1,608 hours of service were provided by campground hosts in the Squaw Flat Campground and 1274 hours of assistance were provided to the Ranger Activities Division, chiefly to the support of river operations and in GPS surveys of trails at the Island in the Sky district.

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument

VIPs completed conversion of park library to Library of Congress catalogue system. They also completed the historic graffiti book, documenting sites inside the Casa Grande. VIPs created a suggested reading list for visitors and volunteers and refinished all wooden benches in the visitor center area. They updated VIP files, brochures etc. and created curriculum-based activities for school children during their visits to the monument. VIPs led tours for visitors and school groups and staffed the back desk, giving out information and brochures.

Capitol Reef National Park

Elizabeth Eklund worked in a volunteer position at the Ripple Rock Nature Center from May through August, 2003 and made significant contributions to visitors' experiences here. This student from the University of California in Berkeley brought with her experience in working with youth programs at the San Diego Zoo and Science Center. Elizabeth spent four days per week staffing the Ripple Rock Nature Center. Elizabeth assisted with a four-day wildlife day camp in the park for 27 youths aged 9 – 12 years old and presented an established Junior Geologist program to youths in the park twice weekly. Elizabeth also developed and presented a campground evening program addressing the continuum of prehistoric, historic, and modern cultures that have used the Fremont River Valley over time. She made an eloquent argument for the preservation of this heritage via the park's designated cultural landscape.

Capulin Volcano National Monument

SCA intern Sheryl Horton organized and promoted National Public Lands Day at Capulin Volcano where 9 volunteers helped remove exotic vegetation from the park. She has also worked on a funding proposal for disturbed lands. GIP intern Tess Passey interpreted the volcano and its geologic processes for visitors and assisted with identifying and cataloging several geologic specimens in the museum collection. VIP Jim McChristol donated his time and expertise in geology to train new seasonals and conducted ropes rescue training. Local historian and rancher Richard Loudon and his brother Willard, an archeologist and teacher, provided a wide variety of expertise for the local tour celebrating New Mexico Heritage Month.

Cedar Breaks National Monument

FY03's VIP program at Cedar Breaks National Monument included a total of 4 volunteers, including one SCA Resource Assistant. Of note was the return of Campground Host Carolyn Habighorst for her 6th season. Duane Jundt re-

turned for a second season, and VIP Kim Kapalka and SCA Jessica Schultz were new to the program this year.

Chamizal National Memorial

Chamizal had several VIPs apply through the volunteer application process at www.volunteer.gov/gov. Having an application through the volunteer web site is a great idea.

Chaco Culture National Historical Park

The Night Sky program had another successful year. Eleven volunteers donated over 1900 hours to the program and reached over 9700 visitors. The park participated in the International Volunteer Program for the first time. Two international volunteers donated over 900 hours.

Chickasaw National Recreation Area

The volunteer program at Chickasaw National Recreation Area continues to thrive. For the second year in a row, the volunteer hours have exceeded the Performance Management goal set at the 1997 level of 20,305. Campground Hosts contribute the majority of the hours with Interpretation and Maintenance running second and third. Several interpretive programs would not happen without the support of volunteers, such as the Historic Candlelight Tour and the Trails & Rails program on Amtrak's Heartland Flyer.

Chiricahua National Monument

Volunteers at Chiricahua National Monument are essential in providing visitor services as campground hosts and working in the visitor center. The park was pleased to have campground hosts for the complete year, and a gentleman who volunteered at the front desk during the slow summer season.

Colorado National Monument

Maintenance volunteers performed various duties including sign restoration, indoor/outdoor painting projects, road clean up, and other minor handyman maintenance projects. Interpretation hours were increased by 177 hours as a result of the new Trails and Rails Program that added 480 volunteer hours. The program added ten new volunteers for the year. Resource Management volunteers assisted with natural resource projects (GIS mapping, non-native plant removal, landscaping VC area, web page write-ups, desert bighorn sheep counts, and adopt-a-roadway) and cultural resource projects (transcribing oral histories, museum archiving, archeological archiving, and road builders day).

Coronado National Memorial

The number of volunteer hours for FY2003 exceeded last year's total by 15%. This considerable

difference was due to an increase in VIPs plus two special events for which a significant number of additional volunteer hours were required. Coronado National Memorial celebrated a successful 50th anniversary celebration with historical presentations, Spanish folklorico dancing, living history programs, outdoor exhibits, and guided tours. An event of this magnitude could have not been possible without the generous contributions of the dedicated volunteer staff.



VIPs at El Morro National Monument

Curecanti National Recreation Area

Dick Schultz began volunteering at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park in 1994 and for 10 years has provided exceptionally valuable service to the park and the adjacent Curecanti National Recreation Area, along with several other local service organizations. He retired early from a career as a computer programmer with an undergraduate degree in geology. His duties have included staffing visitor centers, providing programs for small and large groups of all ages, database entry, troubleshooting computer problems for park staff, conducting backcountry patrols to assist hikers and maintenance cleanup, assisting behind-the-scenes work during complicated and prolonged search and rescue events, and providing other help as needed. He has been instrumental in keeping services available through the transition from national monument to national park as visitation rose. He has contributed over 5,000 hours of work, but more importantly his cheerful, can-do attitude has made working at the park a pleasure for everyone. He still works one to two days a week through the changing seasons; witnessing the beauty of the canyon and its timeless nature.

Devils Tower National Monument

For over ten years the Christian Motorcycle Association has assisted park staff during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. This year, 16 volunteers assisted during Rally Week, helping over 15,600 motorcyclists and other visitors.

Dinosaur National Monument

The VIP program this year was highlighted by a very successful season of Tamarisk removal on both the Yampa and Green rivers. Over twenty acres of this invasive plant were removed by 516 VIPs. The program included volunteers from the Sierra Club, Colorado Outward Bound, and the National Outdoor Leadership School.

El Malpais National Monument

The volunteer program continues to provide opportunities for members of the community. There were a total of 70 VIPs assisting on various projects. The monument reached out to high school students in Bradenton, FL connecting

them with the rugged beauty of the El Malpais landscape. Eighteen students and three teachers traveled to El Malpais to assist with trail improvements along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Most of the students had never been west before and were inspired by the lava terrain. They spent 3 days working on the trail and contributed 345 hours to this project.

El Morro National Monument

For the first time, all VIPs received a small daily reimbursement for expenses and meals paid for out of both the park's donation box account and with ISA funds. VIPs provided more than double the hours needed to achieve the park's GPRA goal for volunteer hours. The park also provided uniform shirts, rain jackets, and fleece jackets to the VIPs and they look great. Volunteers were able to assist with the very important rockfall monitoring program. VIP James Page had a secret woodworking talent. He designed and built two beautiful pieces of wood furniture for the visitor center: a children's reading bench and a children's step stool for the drinking fountain. Both are hand-decorated with pinned Mimbres art figures and match the overall decor of the visitor center. The kids love them!

Flagstaff Areas - Sunset Crater, Walnut Canyon & Wupatki National Monuments

In addition to the full array of interpretative and visitor services duties performed by the VIPs, several accomplishments stand out. In conjunction with Wal-Mart and Unilever, approximately 800 hours of volunteer help were provided in a single day, working on litter pick-up and facility management projects. Floy Healer has completed his 23rd year of volunteer service at Sunset Crater Volcano. GIP volunteers provided tremendous assistance in developing geology-based interpretive information. Sergey Feokstikov, from Russia, completed his internship requirement for his master's degree while volunteering for the NPS at Walnut Canyon. SCAs greatly enhanced the visitor services operation and provided particularly valuable assistance in park education programs. VIPs have assisted in monitoring archeological sites within Wupatki and Walnut Canyon National Monuments.

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

All 35 volunteers stepped up to the challenge to allow the park to continue providing quality visitor services to the public. Both the regular volunteers and new summer interns performed above and beyond the call of duty.

Fort Bowie National Historic Site

In 2003 a VIP at Saugus Iron Works NHS completed scanning over 2200 black and white pho-

tographs of the 1940 – 1950s archaeological excavations. Another completely retyped the archaeology field notes in a digital format. The daily notes of Roland W. Robbins can now be more easily explored by researchers. Color slides of the 1940s dig are currently being viewed and re-cataloged with better descriptions. More than eighteen volunteers of the Essex Shipbuilding museum completed a second “lighter,” to represent the boats that transported many tons of raw materials and finished goods up and down the Saugus River in the 17th century.

Fossil Butte National Monument

The weekend interpretive program, “Aquarium in Stone,” is one of the more popular programs. A VIP, funded through the Geological Society of America, introduces visitors to the scientific collection of fossils. Visitors are then invited to assist. Visitors often remark that this program is the highlight of their visit. Volunteers also demonstrate the techniques used in the preparation of fossils. This program was the year’s most attended interpretive program.

Fort Davis National Historic Site

Fort Davis NHS has outstanding partnerships with a number of non-NPS sites including Fort Concho, Fort Stockton, Fort McKavett, Fort Selden, Fort Lancaster, and Fort Bliss—all of which send living history volunteers to help at various events throughout the year. These partner sites are run by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, the New Mexico State Park system, the United States Army, and other municipal entities and represents over 2,000 hours of VIP time donated at Fort Davis NHS.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

The volunteer program at Fort Laramie is strong, vibrant, and poised for continued growth. The VIP program showed a 55% gain in volunteer hours this year. VIPs provided over 85% of the staffing for six special interpretive events. Volunteers also helped accomplish a number of major projects including a complete museum collections inventory, cataloging the park archives, and an archeological project to map the park’s sub-surface cultural resources. The park successfully recruited two retired couples as long-term volunteers (May - August), the first time since the summer of 1998.

Fort Union National Monument

VIPs were instrumental in making Fort Union’s living history special event “Cultural Encounters” a great success. VIPs included members of the Colorado Volunteers, the 1st New Mexico Artillery, and 1st New Mexico Volunteers reenactment groups. They performed living history

demonstrations, military drill movements, and black powder demonstrations. The monument was able to build two VIP trailer pads with full hookups. The park was fortunate to have VIPs Cliff and Jean Dickey work on a photography project. For two months they took some of the most beautiful pictures for the interpretive and resource management teams. They also scanned to digital format many of the Vanishing Treasure resource photographs.

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument

Volunteers continued as in previous years as the backbone of operations, constituting 50% of the staff hours at the Gila Center where both national forest and national park operations are combined. The vast majority of time was in staffing the cliff dwellings; providing guided tours twice each day and visitor orientation and roving interpretation; monitoring visitor impacts to the ruins; and routine, light maintenance activities.

Glacier National Park

Volunteers at Glacier NP contributed to projects such as revegetation of native plants (collecting seeds and transplanting); building maintenance and rehabilitation work; and trail maintenance and construction.

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

The VIP Program continues to provide opportunities for active stewardship at Lake Powell and in the rugged backcountry. The Graffiti Removal and Intervention Team led a two-pronged approach to removing non-historic graffiti from the beautiful sandstone walls of Lake Powell. Regional community groups, including several Boy Scout troops, spent entire days scrubbing with wire brushes to remove this blight. Groups of volunteers also set sail on the new anti-graffiti houseboat “True Grit,” removing unsightly markings from secluded coves and narrow inlets during their five-day stints on the lake. A partnership with Page Unified School District has led to the creation of the Regional Botanical Learning Center where numerous NPS VIPs have contributed to the center becoming a reality. This center will produce transplantable native species for regional restoration efforts and provide a curriculum-based science education opportunity for students from this region.

Golden Spike National Historic Site

Golden Spike National Historic Site relies upon many local volunteers who donate their time to the park. A group of dedicated VIPs perform a re-enactment of the Last Spike Ceremony every holiday and Saturday from May 10th through Labor Day. Dressed in living history clothing, these volunteers help recreate the atmosphere of

May 10, 1869, when the “Wedding of the Rails” took place in Promontory. Throughout the year, two locomotive engineers train volunteers to operate the park’s replica locomotives, Jupiter and No. 119. VIPs contribute more than 2,000 hours annually to help the National Park Service maintain these one-of-a-kind locomotives.

Grand Canyon National Park

Resource management VIPs monitored condors along the rim including the chick, which is scheduled to fledge late October. Volunteers contributed over 6000 hours toward non-native plant removal at the South Rim, Inner Canyon, and North Rim. The Sierra Club contributed 57 volunteers who gave 2775 hours to a variety of projects. Sjors Horstman has completed his 18th consecutive full year tour working as a resource protection VIP at Phantom Ranch, located at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. Over this time span he has accumulated over 30,000 hours. Fred Fisher has completed his 4th consecutive full-year tour working administration at the park warehouse and has now accumulated over 7500 hours. Grand Canyon High School and Middle School contributed over 500 hours to restore native vegetation around their school.

Grand Teton National Park

This year marks the 25th anniversary of volunteer service in Grand Teton for two park VIPs, Ed and Martha Clark. They have held volunteer positions in many areas of the park over the last 25 years, including lake patrol, campsite rehab, permits office, campground host, weed control, and most recently, they acted as hosts and caretakers in the historic Brinkerhoff house. The park is proud and honored to have such wonderful people give so much of themselves for Grand Teton National Park.

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

Dozens of volunteers helped to recreate traditional draft horse having, plowing, and cultivating activities this summer by performing these activities for several weeks during the summer. Other VIPs coordinated and developed new interpretive exhibits throughout the park that better represented the new interpretive park themes. The park hosted its second annual volunteer appreciation banquet in appreciation for the volunteers’ hard work.

Great Sand Dunes National Monument

Eight volunteers donated 600 hours to a high country archeological inventory. 60 school kids completed a rock retaining wall to aid in preventing wash-out and erosion at the newly completed resource management building.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Two student volunteers from Mexico assisted with interpretive and resource management projects including translating interpretive handouts into Spanish. VIPs staffed contact stations, helped with educational and outreach programs including a number with primary Hispanic populations, and assisted in monitoring backcountry use in the park and providing information to hikers. Volunteer trail groups greatly helped with maintenance needs of park’s hiking trails. Groups included both youth groups and others such as the Sierra Club, who actually camped in the park’s backcountry for up to a week at a time working on trail projects. VIPs helped with resource management work dealing with geologic resources, and both front country campgrounds were staffed by VIPs for much of the year.

Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site

The annual Luminaria event held in December was a great success thanks to enthusiastic VIPs. They donated the use of their camera and film as they photographed kids during their visit with Santa. The photos are then developed and sent back to the park for distribution to families in the community. The lovely candlelit holiday evening is a remarkable sight, reviving an old tradition of the southwest and encouraging stronger relationships with the local Navajo community, just as in the days of John Lorenzo Hubbell.

Intermountain Archeology Program

The VIPs have a huge impact on the start and the completion of the Aztec architectural wood inventory, with approximately 7,000 pieces inventoried and 4,000 sampled for tree-ring dating. This project started in the early 1990s and was completed in June 2003. This is the largest inventory of prehistoric architectural wood documented for a building in the New World and when completely analyzed, should produce a unique, fine-grained look at prehistoric cultural behavior and wood collecting strategies that can be determined down to months of a year. The vast majority of the work was conducted by volunteers.

Intermountain Historic Architecture Program

IMSF was the cross-training between NPS, University of Vermont students, United States Marine Corps families, local Santa Fe Craftspeople, and private historic preservation professionals that occurred in the Window and Door Restoration Workshops which took place in Santa Fe and at Camp Pendleton, CA at the National Landmark Adobe- Las Flores. This very diverse group of professionals and volunteers learned from one another many skills and methods

which they can use in the future. Hands-on resource preservation work was accomplished.

Intermountain Regional Office

NPS volunteers and employees greeted approximately 1 million visitors at AirVenture 100 during the annual event in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The event highlighted the 100th anniversary of powered flight and the year-long celebration which will culminate in the commemoration at Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kill Devel Hills, North Carolina. Five volunteers contributed over 230 hours of service greeting and talking with visitors. Participating was Don Castleberry and Bruce Collins, retired NPS employees and Martha Gibson, Charles, Gibson Sr., and Charles Gibson Jr. VIPs from Wright Brothers also joined the group.

InterMountain Submerged Resources Center

An international VIP helped to survey and document the sunken B-29 in Lake Mead.

Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument

In FY2003, VIPs provided guided tours of the monument to park visitors, school groups, and special interest groups. The monument can only be toured with park staff and the majority of these tours are led by a dedicated staff of volunteers. A group from the naval reservists unit in Amarillo, Texas assisted the Lake Meredith staff in a valiant effort to keep the Fritch Fortress boat ramp open, even with lake levels reaching new record lows. These volunteers worked in extreme heat to keep lake access open to the public. A grant from cooperating association Western National Parks Association provided funding for the excavation of a quarry pit in the park. Archeologist Paul and Susanna Katz, along with many other volunteers, donated their time to the park to make this archaeological dig a reality.

Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument

Volunteers performed important tasks in 2003 from working trails and answering questions during the dedication of the Indian Memorial to a past superintendent volunteering her time to help plan the dedication. In addition, volunteers helped research and organize information for a computer touch screen for visitors and conducted interpretive programs.

Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park

One of the volunteers, Maya Ogren, received certification in the Interpretive Development Program. Two new RV sites were added to the Johnson City RV area for a total of six available spaces. LBJ National Historical Park and LBJ

State Park and Historic Site joined together to provide a banquet honoring volunteers that worked in both areas. Each volunteer was recognized for his or her service and a video, created by Sam Sears, a volunteer for LBJ National Park, was shown. The video illustrates how both parks work as a team. It was a powerful and memorable program.

Mesa Verde National Park

A series of interns worked with various projects this past year. One of them, D.J. Webb, is an artist who produced work that will be used in future brochures, exhibits, waysides, etc. She also designed a public relations brochure for Partners in Parks, Mesa Verde Museum Association, and Ft. Lewis College explaining about the Partners in Parks program, how their recruitment is done, and who the donors are. Without D.J., Mesa Verde would have had to contract out all artwork for these projects.

Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments

The Wal-Mart/Unilever National Park Service volunteer day was a great success. Projects including painting an observation deck, removing vegetation and roots from a historic irrigation ditch, picking up trash and debris, and assembling barricades and removing evidence of social trails were all successfully completed. A total of 148 volunteers donated 592 hours of volunteer service for the day.

Navajo National Monument

The highlight of the year for Navajo National Monument was the hands-on projects by local artists demonstrating the works of rug weaving, basket weaving, silversmithing, and painting. The local volunteer high school students gave interpretation programs to groups of special needs children on a scheduled basis.

Oklahoma City National Memorial

The volunteers at the Oklahoma City National Memorial are some of the finest individuals that donate their time to serve the public. Whether they serve behind-the-scenes in Archives and Administration, or on the "front lines" with the park rangers on the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial, they represent the best of the best in the Volunteers-In-Parks program. Their dedication, compassion, sensitivity, eagerness, and commitment serve as an inspiration and make up the true spirit of volunteerism that reaches across the nation. These volunteers contribute to the education and significance of the memorial by constantly learning as much information as possible to better serve the visitors. They are proac-

tive in improving and complementing the operations and are an asset to the memorial, the National Park Service, and the nation.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

For the first time ever, Organ Pipe had a full-time VIP whose primary responsibility was to do interpretive programs. Jean Hubsch came with tour guiding experience and IDP training from Carlsbad Caverns. At Organ Pipe she developed and presented a variety of guided walks, talks, and slide presentations. Also involved in interpretive programs was VIP Bruce Secker. As a retired biologist, Bruce brought a wealth of knowledge and presentation experience. In March Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument held its 13th annual O'odham Day. This celebration of the Tohono O'odham culture brought over 630 visitors to observe traditional O'odham basket and pottery making as well as experience traditional food. VIPs from Organ Pipe Cactus NM, as well as from Saguaro NP and Tumacacori NHP, participated in this event.



VIP Recognition at Rocky Mountain National Park

Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site

Palo Alto Battlefield NHS has developed a close working relationship with the Girl Scouts of the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Projects this year included the development of exhibits used to mark National Park Week and a concerted effort to remove an invasive, rapidly-spreading species of plant from the park.

Padre Island National Seashore

The Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle Program at Padre Island National Seashore is thriving due to the efforts of the VIP Program. Volunteers were instrumental in locating nest sites and helping in the incubation process of eggs from 24 nests. A total of 1426 Kemp's Ridley, 306 loggerhead, and 68 green turtle hatchlings were successfully released into the Gulf of Mexico. 21 of the 24 sea turtle nests found on the Texas coast were transported to the Padre Island National Seashore incubation facility for protected care and monitoring. Americorps volunteers provided needed assistance to Facility Management. Several returning volunteers participated in beach cleanups and trash cleanups.

Pecos National Historical Park

Volunteers were very instrumental in serving visitors this past year at Pecos National Historical Park. The number of interpretive programs and amount of guided tours was at its highest point in the last 5 years.

Petrified Forest National Park

FY2003 was a record year for PEFO in number of volunteers and hours. In addition to valuable

visitor services provided, VIPs completed important projects in interpretation and resources management, including museum inventories.

Petroglyph National Monument

FY2003 saw the completion of the 27 km. inventory of the volcanic escarpment by the 15-member volunteer petroglyph inventory crew. This seven year effort has resulted in the documentation of over 20,000 images and 350 associated archaeological sites. Without the dedication of these VIPs, the baseline information about the fundamental cultural resources of the monument would be incomplete. Another cornerstone of the monument's volunteer program was the continued expansion of the cultural demonstration program at Las Imagines Visitor Center. Eighteen Native American and Spanish colonial cultural demonstrators provided valuable interpretive opportunities to monument visitors. In the spring, ten demonstrators also provided presentations to 450 3-5th graders from a local elementary school in the third Student Cultural Understanding Day. VIPs also provided interpretive, orientation and maintenance services.

Rainbow Bridge National Monument

The Volunteer Program at Rainbow Bridge National Monument continues to provide opportunities for active stewardship at Rainbow Bridge and the surrounding rugged backcountry. Interpretation VIPs assist rangers in providing opportunities for visitors to make connections with the meanings inherent in this breathtaking resource. VIPs have also assisted in re-vegetating impacted areas along the access trail to Rainbow Bridge.

Rocky Mountain National Park

In the spirit and tradition of the CCC, and in collaboration with the Rocky Mountain Nature Association and the Daniels Scholarship Fund, the park hosted the maiden voyage of the Rocky Mountain National Park Conservation Corps. The program provided six, 18-20 year old college students with a high interest in exploring NPS career paths and an opportunity to live, learn, and work in the park for 9 weeks. The group contributed over 2400 hours of service by working three days weekly with the trail crew, one day a week in Research or Resources Management, and one day a week in an educational seminar lead by NPS employees. Feedback from all parties was enthusiastically positive and supportive of continuing the program next year.

Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument

Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument has had great success with our VIPs in Interpretation and Maintenance. One VIP has been at the park since 1996. He is a Neotropical bird specialist

...the feeling of belonging to the park service family...keeps many of these folks coming back year after year.

Saguaro National Park

and has developed the park's bird checklist and has helped host International Migratory Bird Day every year since 1996. Boy Scouts from the surrounding area help preserve natural resources within Salinas Pueblo Missions NM.

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

This year, the park developed and operated the Trails and Rails Program which provides Amtrak passengers interpretation about historical, cultural, and natural treasures while on board the train between San Antonio and Fort Worth, Texas. This is a seven-hour trip each way with the VIPs presenting interpretation in both directions. Twenty-six VIPs provided 44 programs to 5760 passengers this past summer. VIPs have also put in close to 400 hours with special activities. They assisted the friends group, Los Compadres, with their fund raising events, cleaning up the San Antonio River, Wal-Mart/Unilever National Parks America Tour, and participated in many community festivals and events. A Resource Management VIP recruitment poster will be distributed to universities and colleges. These will be for both local volunteers and summer interns. A new four-color VIP brochure was also completed for distribution for recruiting local volunteers.

Saguaro National Park

Saguaro National Park had over 400 volunteers this year, most of whom are involved in the day-to-day staffing of the park. VIPs assist with office projects and reports, maintenance, resource management projects, staffing the visitor centers, and presenting interpretive and environmental educating programs. VIP work here is generally ongoing. Many of the volunteers have been giving their time, energy, and talents for many years, some as long as 20 years. An annual Volunteer Appreciation picnic was held to give VIPs and paid staff an opportunity to get together and say thanks. Formal certificates of appreciation and awards were given, both on the basis of hours and years of service, but it is probably the informal thanks and the feeling of belonging to the park service family that keeps many of these folks coming back year after year.

Timpanogos Cave National Monument

Timpanogos Cave National Monument's Volunteer Senior Ranger Corps program is in its third year of successful operation. "Behind A Tour Specialists" (B.A.T.S.) youth volunteers follow rangers on interpretive tours through the Timpanogos Cave system, assisting in answering visitor questions, ensuring resource protection and visitor safety, and providing emergency medical assistance. The B.A.T.S. volunteer program also teaches and trains youth about caving

ethics, conservation, and management techniques. The senior partners, RSVP volunteers, provide leadership, resource stewardship, and management of the B.A.T.S. program. This summer over 47 youth and senior volunteers from Utah County participated in the B.A.T.S. program dedicating over 2,453 hours of service.

Tonto National Monument

VIPs assisted researchers in the monitoring of rattlesnakes for the park's ongoing rattlesnake movement and behavior research project. They also participated in an emergency trail work project after a heavy rainfall destroyed much of the established trail to the upper cliff dwelling.

Tumacacori National Historical Park

Volunteers began the process of recreating a defunct Friends group in the past year. This will help to encourage stewardship of the park in the local community and increase volunteerism.

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

As the location of this site is quite remote, the staff was very fortunate to have one volunteer willing to take on administrative support duties. Acting as both clerk and greeter, he performed computer support and general clerical duties for a total of 960 hours.

Western Archeological & Conservation Center

This year marked the 50th Anniversary of the Western Archeological and Conservation Center (WACC) and the dedication of the new building. WACC VIPs provided valuable information to visitors touring the new building. During the dedication ceremony, VIPs were posted at various stations providing information about WACC's artifact to quest. VIP Judith Storry has donated over 1200 hours since 1996 assisting the registrars with curatorial duties pertaining to the maintenance of records and anthropological objects stored at WACC.

White Sands National Monument

There was a 28% increase in volunteerism at White Sands over FY02 with 6,947 hours of work. Four volunteer training sessions were held in FY03. VIPs gave formal interpretive programs, allowing the park to schedule them year-round and to maintain its summer schedule. VIPs did informal roving and maintenance of the Interpretive Boardwalk and other trails, staffed the Heart of the Dunes Nature Center and Visitor Center information desks, and assisted with a reptile and amphibian survey. A VIP computer technician spent several hundred hours upgrading the park's website and installing new software on all park computers.

Yellowstone National Park

Yellowstone was selected to receive a \$5,000 grant this year as part of the National Parks Volunteerism Enhancement Program. This program commemorated the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition by offering national park units in the states through which Lewis and Clark traveled an opportunity to competitively apply for funding to build and enhance the capacity of their VIP programs. This was made possible by the National Park Foundation with generous support from Allegra. Yellowstone used the grant money to recognize three specific volunteer groups: the Southwest Montana Astronomical Society which donates three weekends of interpretive astronomy programs for the park each year; the NPS Desk Officer Program made up of retired police officers who help the law enforcement rangers with important law enforcement-related tasks; and the volunteers who staff the Museum of the National Park Ranger which celebrates the tradition of the park ranger profession throughout America's national parks.

Zion National Park

The Zion Vegetation Program has accomplished a great deal of habitat restoration work using 200 volunteers devoting 5000 hours of their time. VIPs include a faithful group of local retired folks who work every Wednesday of the year, Student Conservation Association interns, a prison crew, Sierra Club, Americorps, youth groups, college groups, and various other individuals. VIPs made great progress restoring impacted areas in the frontcountry through social trail obliteration, native plant propagation, exotic weed control, and planting at the Zion Visitor Center and campgrounds. In addition, VIPs have worked in the backcountry performing native plant restoration and campsite delineation. SCA volunteers provided invaluable support to an outreach campaign to educate visitors on key resource issues such as wildlife feeding, social trail problems, and the value of cryptobiotic soil.

Midwest Region

Agate Fossil Beds National Monument

Agate was fortunate to have four outstanding volunteers assist with the park's interpretive program. Dr. Edward and Cynn timer Buchwald returned for another season and assisted staff in various projects as well as daily visitor center operations. They presented several education programs to local schools throughout their month-long tenure. On September 5, 2003, the Buchwalds participated in the Sioux County Book Fair Day presenting programs to 57 students from area schools (K-8). The Buchwalds continued work on a guide for the park's Fossil

Hills Trail. This guide will be an excellent addition to the park's interpretive program providing visitors not only with an enhanced understanding of the quarry sites, but also the natural landscape around Agate. Both Ed and Cynn timer documented 256 hours of service, time greatly appreciated. For several weeks during early June, Sam Fisher of Paxton, Nebraska, assisted the interpretive staff with front desk operations. Sam was also recruited as a "runner" shuffling paperwork back and forth from the visitor center to the Superintendent who was on medical leave. In early June, during the Intertribal Gathering at Fort Robinson, Nebraska, a number of volunteers assisted with the park's interpretive exhibit. Museum intern Sarah Ewing and former SCA Kristie Yelinek visited with local residents and others about the history of Agate and James Cook's relationship with Red Cloud and other Lakota people.

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

VIPs provided visitor services and onsite NPS presence at 5 historic light stations, which continue to be the park's most popular positions. Resource Management-Natural Resources utilized VIPs to conduct browse and pellet surveys; 12 VIPs conducted a continuous month-long migratory bird survey on Outer Island; and VIPs were used to plant beach grass and conduct other bird surveys. A partnership with the Bayfield County 4-H Clubs (4th year) led to 12 families maintaining the historic gardens on Raspberry Island and mowing the historic lawn at Sand Island. Because of an increase in black bear activity, VIPs on Oak and Stockton Islands educated visitors regarding clean campsite use in bear country.

Arkansas Post National Memorial

For nearly ten years the "Ghosts of the Past" event has been the largest and most popular interpretive program that the park hosts, with as many as 500 visitors coming each year. In order for "Ghosts of the Past" to run smoothly, it requires as many as fifty volunteers in a variety of capacities, such as portraying historic characters, serving refreshments, maintaining 500 luminaries, and leading tours. Not only is it the most popular interpretive program, the event is the park's strongest volunteer event. While located in rural southeastern Arkansas, the park has a pool of over one hundred volunteers who assist with park operations in large and small ways. While most volunteers assist in the interpretive division's special events, a number of area college students serve as VIPs and use the natural resources of the park as a research facility. Ongoing natural resources/resource management projects being done by University of Arkansas

Monticello students in the park include a study of ant populations and a herpetofauna study.

Badlands National Park

Ninety percent of the articles written for park publications in FY2003 were written by park volunteers. Through volunteers, 800 historic photos were digitized and made available for interpretive use. The photos can now be accessed for park publications and interpretive programs. Sixty percent of all interpretive contacts at Badlands National Park were accomplished through VIPs, totaling 248,000 visitors. The Telecom Pioneers constructed a boardwalk at the Bigfoot Pass Picnic Area using recycled lumber. Fifteen individuals volunteered their time to improve visitor safety and accessibility at the site. Fifty-two students and teachers from the local elementary school participated in the park's Clean-up Day on April 22, 2003. The children spent five hours picking up trash along the Loop Road through the park.

Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site

There were fifteen students from Emporia University that worked on the Oral History. They worked for 8 hours per day for 3 days. These students came from various parts of the country, the majority from Denver. The Professor who oversaw the project was Cecilia L. Savatore, Ph.D., an assistant professor at the university.

Buffalo National River

Three volunteers along with the Backcountry Horseman have received the Presidential Volunteer award for over 4,000 hours. VIP musicians provided visitors with traditional Ozark Music every Saturday between Memorial Day and Labor Day. These groups provide a tradition that has spanned several generations of visitors to the Buffalo Point area. The popular Artist-In-Residence program has enriched Buffalo National River with writings, music, photographs, and paintings. A new VIP Visitor Center Host allowed interpreters to provide roving coverage on trails, at launch sites, and on the river. Another highlight for the park was Eagle Scout Joshua Sutherland turning a rescue boat from a scratched and faded vessel to a sleek, well polished watercraft, providing a professional image for the park. The Rush Historic District received attention from the American Hiking Society which made improvements to the area heavily used for Parks As Classrooms school programs. Furniture in the historic CCC cabins were cleaned during the second annual National Public Lands Day. The Friends of Buffalo National River gathered for training in historic furniture preservation under the direction of a professional conservator.

Central High School National Historic Site

Over 600 people participated in the annual Big Boo!seum Bash, a partnership effort among 9 different sites in Little Rock that provide a safe, educational, and fun alternative to trick or treating. Fifteen student volunteers from Central High School assisted in the preparation and set-up of the event, helping to make the night enjoyable for all participants.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Cuyahoga Valley National Park was hit with some of the worst flooding in recent history. The Cuyahoga River exceeded its flood level by 3-5 feet in areas of the park and many of the tributaries flooded. The floods damaged many areas of the park. A campaign to educate the public about the level of damage, recruit new volunteers, and raise awareness about the park was initiated through the support of Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association. As a result, over 300 volunteers participated in activities ranging from staffing information booths and trail closure stations to providing manpower to the maintenance staff in restoring and rebuilding the hiking and equestrian trails. VIPs worked 50 trail work sessions clearing and rebuilding trails, steps, and bridges. VIPs kept the public informed on the park status while raising awareness of the park and its partners. Volunteers gave 2870 hours of assistance in flood damage restoration.

Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park

The park opened two full-service interpretive Centers, tripled its interpretive staff, and began the challenge of expanding its volunteer program. The Centennial of Flight in 2003 resulted in increased public awareness. The number of visitors multiplied creating greater demands on park staff and resources. Volunteer needs were identified in three operational areas including interpretation, research, and maintenance. Announcements were posted on volunteer.gov and nps.gov to reach out nationally. The Center for Non-Profit Resources sponsors a volunteer clearing house at cnrohio.org. Placing announcements was free and included announcements posted on their web site and in local newspapers. A number of interested individuals responded to the announcements from each of the posted locations which resulted in the selection of a number of VIPs. Boy Scouts, corporations, and numerous individual volunteers completed projects and planning in support of the park as well as the Dayton Aviation Heritage Commission. A park shuttle system was established, road side signage installed, and other preparations accomplished with the help of VIPs for the grand opening ceremonies at the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center. VIPs assisted with

those ceremonies and have since provided valuable support in day-to-day operations. Another VIP has been recruited to archive the park photo collection.

Effigy Mounds National Monument

There is a growing interest by volunteers in taking a more active role in presenting daily interpretive services. In addition to visitor center operations, donated hours have increased for VIPs presenting informal interpretation. The increasing knowledge and experience of several volunteers regarding interpretation of prehistoric American Indian culture and preservation of archaeological resources enables them to directly enhance the park's daily interpretive program. VIPs also took an active role in leading tours during the premier summer special interpretive events. Large-scale volunteer participation in the 19th annual Hawk Watch Weekend continues to enable this event to remain the most successful special program annually. Over 1,900 visitors participated in the two-day event. Six miles of roadside highway was cleaned up on Earth Day Weekend and lunch was provided.

Fort Scott National Historic Site

Volunteers assist in a variety of ways including visitor center help, library assistance, cleaning buildings, and living history programs. This year a substantial amount of time was devoted to the extensive collection of living history clothing. VIPs assisted in sewing labels, repairing worn material, and inventory. They also created a clothing database which provides a more efficient way of tracking the clothing collection.

Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site

VIPs were instrumental in making Fort Union's living history special event "Cultural Encounters" a great success. Members of the Colorado Volunteers, the 1st New Mexico Artillery, and 1st New Mexico Volunteers reenactment groups performed different living history demonstrations, military drill movements, and Black Powder demonstrations. The park was fortunate to have Cliff and Jean Dickey volunteer to work on a photography project. For two months they took some of the most beautiful pictures for the interpretive and resource management teams and scanned to digital format many of the Vanishing Treasure resource photographs.

George Rogers Clark National Historical Park

The annual spirit of Vincennes Rendezvous attracted a record 520 reenactors and approximately 28,000 visitors to the park over Memorial Day weekend. This event is organized, planned, and administered by a non-profit group and park volunteers. The event involves revolution-

ary War living history participants, merchants, demonstrators, and entertainers. Visit <http://www.spiritofvincennes.org> for more information.

Grand Portage National Monument

Grand Portage National Monument VIPs attained an historic milestone, the most long-term volunteers since the inception of the volunteer program at the monument. This year, seven volunteers (three couples and a single person) came to work as VIPs for six weeks or longer. Five of the seven volunteers worked in interpretation during the summer season which allowed the monument to keep satellite interpretive areas such as the Ojibwe Village and the Voyageur Encampment open further into the fall "shoulder" season which enhanced visitors ability to understand and enjoy the historic settings of the monument. During Columbus Holiday, the weekend the monument closes to the public, five volunteers from Thunder Bay, Ontario came to celebrate their Thanksgiving holiday.

George Washington Carver National Monument

Volunteers presented the life of George Washington Carver through living history programs during the park's special events known as Prairie Day and Pioneer Days. On September 13th, over 125 volunteers provided a close look at life on the Carver farm in the 1870s - 1880s when George was a boy. This year park volunteers were very much involved with Pioneer Days. On September 30th, 10 VIPs operated the event for 125 area students who participated in hands-on activities that were a major part of George's early life on the farm. Students received a tour of the historic 1881 Carver House and pre-Civil War Cemetery by dedicated VIPs who keep the Pioneer Days event popular and well attended. The students reached a better understanding of the influences the farm had on George's life goals.

Herbert Hoover National Historic Site

Volunteers Rhonda Billeaud and Jackie Carmichael conducted colonial toymaking workshops at the battlefield on two separate occasions during 2003. During the 227th anniversary of the battle they were in a rented tent where they taught children, and some adults, to make a variety of colonial toys. The tent was constantly full, with other visitors waiting in line.

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park

Volunteers assist Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in many ways. The majority of the VIPs that assist the park are in the Cultural Resource area. This past summer volunteers assisted National Park Service archeologist with excavations at three of the five Hopewell sites. The VIPs were instrumental in carrying out goals



VIP Interpretive Program at Grand Portage National Monument

set forth by the National Park Service. The mid-west region archeologist, Mark Lynott, was instrumental in another successful field season for this site.

Homestead National Monument of America

To celebrate National Park Week, a Reading Ranger program was developed which involves Volunteer Senior Rangers and staff members reading to K-6th grade students throughout a 100-mile radius of Beatrice. Books were age appropriate and connected the students to the themes of Homestead National Monument of America. The 25 readers read to 36 classrooms for a total of 825 students over 7 days. This project launched with the Governor and First Lady of Nebraska reading to Beatrice children. It ties directly to the First Lady of Nebraska's "Read to Your Children" campaign. Many volunteers read to their grandchildren while building a connection to the park. One grandfather traveled 300 miles in order to read to his grandchildren's classrooms. This project brought awareness to the National Park Service, Homestead National Monument of America, and the Web Ranger program. This project coincided with the launching of the Web Ranger program and teachers were given copies of the Web Ranger rackcard. The second highlight is the living history "Pioneer Day." This two-day event focused on hands-on activities related to the Homestead Era and is a partnership between the Monument, Gage County Historical Society, and the Blue Valley Antique Tractor Club. This event is planned and staffed by approximately 100 VIPs and one staff member. Activities include quilting, learning about and making pioneer toys, candle dipping, butter churning, spinning wool, making pioneer pottery, and playing schoolyard games. This event enhances the curriculum the teachers cover in 4th grade and they are activities that the schools cannot do for themselves. It also gives the volunteers a chance to make a difference in children's lives and bring education to life.

Hot Springs National Park

VIP Margaret Hoffman recently expanded her already extensive list of job assignments to include recruiting volunteers for the park. Contacting civic groups and clubs on her own initiative, she has already made PowerPoint presentations to a total of 90 members of six different organizations. Her experience as a volunteer tour guide in the Fordyce Bathhouse Visitor Center helps her communicate the history and mission of the park to her audience as she makes her appeal for volunteer assistance. Margaret also provides administrative support to the park volunteer coordinator.

Harry S. Truman National Historic Site

In September 2004 the Harry S. Truman National Historic Site honored its volunteers with a special dinner where they were treated to Kansas City style barbecue and recognized with gifts of appreciation. The gifts were theme related to President Truman's history in Independence, Missouri. The Superintendent addressed the volunteers with a look at the operations of the Harry S. Truman National Historic Site and the Chief Ranger spoke to each volunteer as they received honors. After the festivities a City of Independence, Missouri historic wagon train tour was given. Lasting over an hour this was a historic look at the history of Independence, Missouri from 1827 to present day.

Ice Age National Scenic Trail

Volunteers of the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation continued their dedicated efforts to build, maintain, protect, interpret, and promote the Ice Age Trail. As the public awareness and popularity of the trail increases, so does the membership in the foundation and the volunteer hours those members contribute. VIPs built many miles of new trail, installing bridges, boardwalks, and other facilities, and rehabilitated and maintained approximately 600 miles of existing trail.

Illinois & Michigan Canal

Volunteers in the I&M Canal NHC Corridor are primarily based with 3 groups. The Santa Fe Prairie restoration group has 37 volunteers who focus their energy into natural resource management. Last year their ranks increased as word got out that the National Park Service was seeking volunteers. This year their numbers continue to grow. Their prairie restoration project efforts continue to produce visible results. Recognition and help from the NPS continues to feed the momentum of their activities. Canallers in the Corridor is a troupe of volunteer re-enactors who visit schools, events, and meetings within the Corridor to interpret life on the canal to audiences of all ages. VIPs for the Trails & Rails program ride the rails to interpret life on the Illinois prairie from Chicago to St. Louis on Amtrak's Texas Eagle. Most of these volunteers have been active for more than 3 years and indications are that most will return next year.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

In FY2003 two volunteers participated in the Artist-In-Residence program and contributed sculptures to be viewed by the public and photos which will be used for press releases, slide shows, and various publications. This year's Junior Ranger program and Advanced Junior ranger program participants worked a total of 2,726.5 hours. Their work included exotic species re-

One grandfather traveled 300 miles in order to read to his grandchildren's classrooms.

Homestead National Monument of America

The zeal, energy, and enthusiasm of these people and their selfless donation of time and effort on this project is astounding.

Pea Ridge National Military Park

moval, native seed collection, habitat restoration, and various clean-up projects. VIPs at the front desk of the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center worked a total of 1,636.5 hours and helped many rangers complete projects that otherwise might not have been completed.

Isle Royale National Park

Isle Royale has continued to have a good experience working with organized volunteer groups. In FY2003, Minnesota Conservation Corps, Sierra Club, and the Student Conservation Association contributed a total of 3004 hours of work on trail and campground projects.

James A. Garfield National Historic Site

JAGA relied heavily on volunteers to successfully carry out a new special event in FY03 which highlights the farm resources remaining at the site, and the great emphasis that James A. Garfield placed on farm life values. The program is called Lawnfield Farm Days and features interpretive tours of the entire 8-acre site, using the farm outbuildings and cultural orchard to tell the story. Volunteers were essential in helping to park cars, direct people on site, pass out information and maps of activities, play historical figures of the time, help with arts and crafts, and conduct games for families.

Jefferson National Expansion Memorial

A partnership with the Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri and Downtown Metropolis was created to form a volunteer garden corps that will maintain the Smith Square Gardens. A 2003 National Parks Volunteerism Enhancement Program grant from the National Park Foundation & Allegra helped support this garden project.

Keweenaw National Historical Park

Keweenaw National Historical Park utilized several volunteers in the care and cataloging of museum collections, in library management, and in staff training. Most notably, Larry Malloy, an Oakland University professor, provided the park staff over 16 hours of quality classroom training in a variety of software applications including PhotoShop, Excel, Access, Word, PowerPoint, and Windows XP. His efforts advanced staff skills tremendously.

Knife River Indian Village National Historic Site

Marlene Frei has been a VIP at the park since May 2000. Since that time she has contributed 300 hours and has staffed the visitor center desk, presented earthlodge programs, and assisted at special events like the Northern Plains Indian Culture Fest. She has worked with 500 school children at the annual Buckstop Junction event. Marlene has also presented six Lewis and

Clark programs to various groups. She greets each visitor with enthusiasm and a smile and is very willing to work at the last minute if needed for an event. Marlene is a very valuable member of the Knife River staff.

Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail

The Lewis and Clark VIP Program continues to grow with the Bicentennial Commemoration now underway. Volunteers assist with the National Park Service's Corp of Discovery Traveling Exhibit on Lewis and Clark as it crosses the country. Several of the groups have been very active in cleaning up Lewis and Clark sites along the trail. Many present school programs along the trail and some have received funding for developing and installing wayside exhibits.

Lincoln Home National Historic Site

Lincoln Home volunteers contributed significantly to the mission of the site. VIPs conducted tours of the Lincoln Home and provided roving interpretation of the historic neighborhood in VIP uniforms as well as in period costume. They greeted arriving bus groups, presented interpretive programs off-site, and assisted in operating the Visitor Center. Volunteers assisted the Cultural Resource Services Branch with a variety of projects; one volunteer identified over 1000 images, placed them in archival holders, and filed them. Efforts to increase the number of volunteer hours included additional staff training, recruiting at local high schools and universities, and completing a VIP agreement with the nationally recognized Retired Senior Volunteer Program which has already resulted in the recruitment of several new volunteers.

Mississippi National River & Recreation Area

Volunteers began work as Visitor Center Assistants at the new Mississippi River Visitor Center in Saint Paul. VIPs work alongside National Park Rangers to assist visitors at computerized trip planning stations and with general information delivery at the Visitor Center. Volunteers are also helping to develop programs for the Visitor Center and attended training sessions conducted by visiting Park Rangers from Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway in Interpretation Techniques and the National Park Service.

Missouri National Recreational River

This year the Missouri National Recreational River staff assisted in the establishment of Boy Scouts of America Canoe Trail on the 59-mile stretch of the river. After this was completed the Lewis & Clark Scout Camp made four canoe trips down the river, which took three days with 6-8 boys on each trip. Along their journey the Boy Scouts removed trash and debris from the

Corky is a joy because of his enthusiasm and his positive attitude.

Niobrara National Scenic River

shoreline as part of their volunteer service to the community and the NPS.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial

In FY2003 volunteers assisted maintenance, cleaning up the mountain following the July 3rd fireworks. They completed several curatorial projects and assisted interpretation and law enforcement divisions with visitor services and resource management projects.

Midwest Regional Office

In FY03 the Midwest Regional Office again featured a wide variety of services by volunteers. Projects included a land survey at Pipestone National Monument, research on agricultural windmill production shops as potential National Historic Landmarks, a property survey, design of a law enforcement baseline report form, environmental audits as part of several operations evaluations, and support for the Casey Jones Trail development. A retired employee, Bill Padmore, continued his remarkable contribution of service with 216 hours. Bill has far exceeded the total volunteer hours required for the Presidential Volunteer honor.

Niobrara National Scenic River

Corky, an 18 year old young man with a serious physical and mental disability, is a valuable member of Niobrara's VIP team. Most every Friday he comes to the ranger station with a smile on his face. He proudly wears his volunteer vest and a Niobrara NSR cap. Corky helps us wash vehicles, pick up litter, and do other minor office maintenance. Last summer park staff took him on a short float trip on the river, his first time ever. Even though it was a cool, cloudy day he had a great time, enjoyed paddling, and seeing waterfalls and wildlife. Corky is a joy because of his enthusiasm and his positive attitude. He enjoys squirting the staff with a hose too.

North Country National Scenic Trail

Increasing public awareness of and support for the trail has resulted in increased membership in the North Country Trail Association, its local chapters, and its affiliates. Dedicated members continue to contribute significant amounts of time to the development and maintenance of the North Country Trail. Volunteers built many miles of new trail, installing bridges, boardwalks, and other facilities, and maintained or rehabilitated approximately 1,700 miles of existing trail.

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

The services of Ozark NSR's volunteers were invaluable to the success of the park's recent commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp at Big Spring.

This major two-day event, which drew CCC alumni and their families from all over the U.S., was a great way to say "thank you" to the CCC "boys" who built so much of our country's recreation and conservation infrastructure. Some volunteers presented talks and reenactments of crafts and skills the CCC workers would have used, such as dressing building stone. These were mostly older local residents with a first hand knowledge of the Depression Era. Their participation bridged gaps between generations, as well as between the park and the community. Other VIPs assisted behind the scenes in many ways, from parking cars and posting flyers, to lining up speakers and recording oral history interviews. The local community, the CCC alumni, and the park itself are grateful for the contributions by the many volunteers who made this event a success.

Pea Ridge National Military Park

The VIP program at Pea Ridge NMP is instrumental the operations of the park. From keeping the historic Elkhorn Tavern open, to rebuilding historic fence on the Leetown Battlefield, VIPs have done a tremendous job in helping the full-time staff make the park a showcase of Northwest Arkansas. This year corporations such as Wal-Mart and Unilever brought employees to the park to volunteer and help the park restore the historic scene. The VIPs who staff the visitor center provide a wealth of information on the park and surrounding area.

Perry's Victory & International Peace Memorial

Historic Weekend drew about 5000 people to the park. The event consisted of a Boy Scout Camporee, parade, formal ceremony, evening concert by Toledo Symphony, and a Living History encampment. The volunteer reenactors contributed over 1000 hours to make the event a success. Their activities included informal interpretation, playing period music, and black powder demonstrations.

Saint Croix/Lower St. Croix National Scenic River

Twenty neighbors and Riverway staff transformed a National Park Service parcel of land known as Fairy Falls over the summer of 2003. Silver Creek winds through this area and plunges over a 50-foot drop into a secluded ravine. Because access to the area is limited, it had attracted visitors that were creating a paintball area, cutting trees, eroding trails, littering, and having loud, late night parties. Neighbors met with Riverway staff and representatives from local law enforcement areas and created a plan of action to reduce problems. Neighbors volunteered to clean up the area, and in a single day removed 10 yards of debris, renovated campfire

“These winners epitomize good citizenship and volunteer stewardship.”

The Honorable Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior, at the Take Pride in America Awards Ceremony

scars, dismantled the paintball area, and cleaned the area of litter. Throughout the summer, neighbors monitored use and called law enforcement when necessary. Riverway staff installed signs, fenced off sensitive areas, and patrolled. This fall, when the sugar maples blazed in red and gold, walkers found a spectacular Fairy Falls that was clean, quiet, and inviting. The Camp Sunrise River Clean-Up — YouthCARE (Cultural Appreciation and Racial Equality) sponsors Camp Sunrise, near Rush City, MN and the St. Croix River. The organization serves the needs of over 500 youth between 14-18 years old with a special focus on the following areas of emphasis: youth employment, youth leadership development, multicultural experiences, outdoor and environmental education, counselling and support, and social and recreational activities. Special emphasis is placed on recruiting youth from diverse ethnic, cultural, and racial backgrounds. From early June through late August, a total of 1,668 hours of time was donated to the St. Croix Riverway from Camp Sunrise, assisting park staff with on-river trash pick up and primitive campsite clean up on a 56-mile stretch of the St. Croix River. The 278 volunteers removed over 1,771 pounds of trash. As part of the ten one-week sessions, students at Camp Sunrise also attended programs at the NPS Marshland Environmental Education Center, learning about the significance of the St. Croix and its watershed.

Scotts Bluff National Monument

The summer of 2003 was the second summer Scotts Bluff National Monument was selected to be in the Student Transportation Interpreter Program. Through a partnership between the National Park Foundation, the National Park Service, the Student Conservation Association, and Ford Motor Company the program provided the national monument two student interns who drove a bio-diesel shuttle van to the summit of Scotts Bluff. The transportation interpreters provided interpretive programs on alternative transportation and the biological, geological, and historical themes of the monument. The shuttle provides an alternative source of transportation to the summit for visitors that arrive in large recreational vehicles that are prohibited on the road, people who like to hike down from the summit, or people interested in learning the interpretive story by riding the shuttle.

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton gave Diane Novakowski of Flint, Michigan one of fifteen national Take Pride in America awards presented to individuals and groups. The volunteers were honored at a September 26th ceremony in Washington, D.C. for efforts in 2002 and as

models for others to emulate under the Take Pride in America program, which encourages citizen stewardship of public lands and resources. Take Pride in America is part of President Bush's USA Freedom Corps, dedicated to fostering a culture of service to others. John Bridgeland, Director of USA Freedom Corps, presented the winners with the President's Service Award. "These winners epitomize good citizenship and volunteer stewardship," said Norton at a ceremony with the award winners at the Department of the Interior Headquarters in the nation's capital. The national award honors Ms. Novakowski for "outstanding stewardship" in her role as a volunteer and campground host at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Over the past 19 years she has been more than willing to lend a hand wherever needed, from office work to greeting visitors at the entrance station. Ms. Novakowski has donated more than 10,000 hours of volunteer service to the park.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

VIPs assisted employees in the development and presentation of Education Days at the Lower Fox Creek School, a unique educational experience. Assistance included making period costumes for children, as well as going to the cooperating school (Chase County Elementary School) to promote the program among teachers. Students attended the program and received their lessons for the day, as if they were attending class in an actual 1880s one-room schoolhouse. Two important projects benefitting the preserve were completed by Boy Scouts at TAPR in FY2003. Boy Scout Troop #88 from Perry, KS assisted park staff in cleaning up an old dumpsite located on the preserve and in performing trail work north of the Ranch headquarters on the Southwind Nature Trail. Many VIPs contributed their hours in providing interpretation and guidance at the Lower Fox Creek School on weekends in May & June and in September & October. Without their support, the school would not be as accessible to visitors. Two VIPs conducted significant primary historical research adding to the staff's knowledge of the preserve's long history. Their research revolved around reading local newspapers from the 19th century to uncover primary documentation on subjects such as prairie burning practices, timelines for local events, and research into local holiday practices. On many spring and summer days in FY2003, an NPS VIP was the first park staff member a visitor met when starting their visit. VIPs give information on daily activities and future special events, local directions, and answer questions about the rich natural and cultural history of the preserve. They assist children in the Junior Ranger program, take bus tour reservations, and answer the

telephones. Several VIPs also contributed their time and talents to making history come alive through living history demonstrations.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

The Telecom Pioneers had a weekend work project in THRO to make the park more accessible. This was the 11th year they have completed an accessible work project within the park. Telecom Pioneers completed worked on 600 feet of new trail to make it wheelchair accessible.

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site

A VIP with a graduate degree in German, who is also a teacher at a local high school, translated the park brochure into German (fine-tuning it with a native German speaker). She has also been the catalyst for bringing the high school German class to the site and conducting an interpretive tour in German. She has volunteered her translation services for any German visitors to the site. Ulysses & Julia Grant traveled to Germany as part of a world tour, and had a memorable visit with Prince Otto von Bismarck. Grant and Bismarck discussed the American Civil War and Grant's key role in it. This interesting connection has been enhanced through the efforts of this VIP.

Voyageurs National Park

Voyageurs National Park benefited from generous volunteers this year who donated their time and skills to many projects in cultural resources, natural resources, maintenance, and interpretation. VIPs including Boy Scouts and SCA crews cleared backcountry trails. Volunteers conducted a project involving the radio tracking of native sturgeon in the park lakes. Dedicated expert volunteers continued clearing and restoring stone sculptures and planting flowers at the historic gardens created by Mr. Jack Ellsworth. The interpretive division received thousands of hours of volunteer assistance this year for staffing three visitor centers, conducting Canoe trips, North Canoe trips, Children's Programs, Evening Programs, Rock Talks, Beaver Pond Programs, and Boat Tours. The park benefitted from the skills and considerable abilities of two Proud Partner Transportation Interpreters sponsored by the National Park Foundation, SCA, and the Ford Motor Company. Two Artists-in-Residence presented programs about their art to visitors and created park poetry and artwork.

Wind Cave National Park

The Interpretation Division at Wind Cave National Park was fortunate to have two outstanding interns this past winter/spring. Amy Dozier and Ryan Brown volunteered a combined total

of 1,480 hours at the park. These volunteers were responsible for researching, designing, and producing several temporary exhibits that were set up specifically for the park's Centennial Celebration in June. Amy's efforts resulted in the production of the exhibit on the Civilian Conservation Corps. Ryan produced the Wind Cave staff photo exhibit as part of the Wind Cave employee reunion. These exhibits were very popular with visitors and employee reunion participants and the park received a number of positive compliments on their production.

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

75 park volunteers presented the "Moonlight Tour," an evening interpretive program highlighting the events of August 9-10, 1861.

William Howard Taft National Historic Site

A volunteer with a horticulture background contributed sixty hours maintaining the historic landscape. Jarra Henderson, daughter of Chief of Interpretation Ray Henderson, contributed 130 hours working the information desk. This came at a time during the month of July when visitation was high and the park had two lapsed interpretive positions. Her hours helped to insure that all visitors to the site were able to have a complete experience.

National Capital Region

Anacostia Park

Each year the Armed Services volunteer in Anacostia Park. This year's theme was called "Make A Difference Day." Heading the event was Katheryn L. Cranford from the Regional Navy Community Service Program. "Katie" signed up over 150 volunteers who, in four hours, improved the overall look of the park as well as completed needed maintenance of the pavilion. This is an event that accomplishes a great amount of work in a short amount of time by a very enthusiastic group.

Antietam National Battlefield

19 Visitor Services VIPs gave 1630 hours participating in duties such as fee collection, informal interpretation, interpretive programs, roving interpretation, working in the library, archival work, research, assisting with education programs, working the visitor center information desk, computer work, photography, and helping with special events such as the Annual Salute to Independence. Additionally 153 Living History Volunteers gave 2357 hours in informal interpretation such as encampments and military drills, roving interpretation, formal interpretive programs, and black powder demonstrations.

Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial

Arlington House was awarded VIP Competition Funds (\$1,500) for The Arlington House VIP Student Volunteers Corps Recruitment Program.

The program is designed to recruit as volunteers local college students studying history, parks and recreation, and other majors related to careers in the National Park Service. This program gives students the opportunity to gain practical experience in their chosen fields as well as greater appreciation for the National Park Service, its mission, and its goals through the skills and knowledge acquired during specialized training. Recruitment efforts will target ethnic groups that are underrepresented in Arlington House's VIP program and staff. The recruitment plan includes staff working with instructors at George Washington University and Howard University to recruit interested students for the spring semester and expanding the program to additional universities in the fall. VIP Vanna Lewis presented a training session on the topic of Antebellum Women's Clothing. Through her slide presentation, photographs, and a question and answer, Vanna assisted other volunteers in perfecting a more historically accurate presentation. VIP Joan Cashell transcribed over fifty letters from the Arlington House archival collection written by the Lees, Custises, and their associates. This work has been described as difficult and tedious, but VIP Cashell learned to transcribe and decode in the military during World War II. For a second year the site's historian, working with teachers at a local high school recruited six talented public history students who assisted at the site with interpretive services, research, and curatorial operations. Four of them worked as seasonals during the summer.



VIPs at Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park

Catoctin Mountain Park

Catoctin Mountain Park continued a special volunteer partnership with the Francis Scott Key Chapter Order of the Arrow. They continue to build accessible ramps for historic cabins and provided much needed general maintenance and cleanup totaling 1,436 hours in FY2003. A new volunteer partnership was formed with the Northrup Grummond Corporation. They provided labor for general maintenance and painted the Greentop stable barn for a total of 500 donated hours. Total volunteer hours increased from 9,464 in FY02 to 11,560 in FY03.

Center for Urban Ecology

Natural Resources and Science at the Center for Urban Ecology VIPs have assisted the region in the better understanding and protection of natural resources. The staff at the Center for Urban Ecology re-dedicated staff to help all citizens to turn their appreciation of the resources into ac-

tion by looking for new opportunities to involve volunteers in more projects. Specific accomplishments include providing technical assistance to parks in identifying methods to protect water resources. The exotic Plant Management Team supervised several volunteer groups working in parks by training them to rid park lands of aggressive exotic species. Parks are conducting deer surveys at night to estimate deer population size and trends. This year volunteers spent over 100 hours assisting in these surveys at Piscataway in National Capital East, Manassas Battlefield National Historical Park, Greenbelt Park, Great Falls Park, VA, and Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park.

Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park

In addition to the historic C&O Canal towpath, the park maintains several miles of backcountry trails. Unfortunately these backcountry trails were in poor shape and required much work. With the help of an enthusiastic volunteer who agreed to be project leader, a plan was devised to rehabilitate the trails. The project manager met with ten Potomac Appalachian Trail Club trail overseers who manage the trails who compiled the list of projects along with input on solutions. The park teamed the project leader and trail overseers with two SCA High School work crews. The team worked over a five week period this summer and accomplished most of the priority projects. This whole process was a great example of using volunteers and partnering to help meet the park's mission. A volunteer was project manager, who sought the input of volunteer trail overseers, who partnered with the SCA High School Program to accomplish their goal. As a result of this partnership, minimal park resources were required to make these much need trail rehabilitations.

Clara Barton National Historic Site

Clara Barton NHS had a volunteer project of photographing the Library of Congress collection of Clara Barton's medals, jewels, and other items. Volunteer Bruce Douglas and Park Ranger Susan Finta spent many hours on this project. At the conclusion, the site hosted a volunteer trip to view the collection items. The Library of Congress staff had them all out of their boxes and displayed on two large tables. The VIPs were thrilled to see and learn about these priceless objects.

Fort Washington Park

The Fort Washington Guard VIPs present the monthly artillery demonstrations, informing visitors of the proper way that Civil War artillery would be loaded and fired. This is presented monthly from April to October. The Universal

Soldier program has VIPs portraying soldiers from the Romans to the Gulf War, informing visitors of the changes in the military technology. Several times a year Boy/Girl Scout groups perform resource management volunteer work by clearing the ramparts around the fort, clearing trails, and trash pick-up along the shore.

Frederick Douglass National Historic Site

The Frederick Douglass Garden Club established The Frederick Douglass Community Garden in 2003. The garden is located on 1/2 acre on the FDNHS property behind the site's visitor center. Volunteers from the Washington, D.C. Americorps started the construction of the garden where 8-10 volunteers worked 3-4 hours a day 3 times a week for 3-4 months creating it. VIPs continue to maintain the garden.

Glen Echo Park

Glen Echo Park's volunteer program reached a critical stage in FY 2003. After 33 years, the park smoothly transferred management of many of the arts programming/administration to the friends group, the non-profit Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, Inc. (GEPPAC). The new Glen Echo Park will be a close-knit partnership of the National Park Service, GEPPAC, volunteers, and the cooperative groups responsible for producing the many cultural offerings at the site. The park remained under major construction during much of the fiscal year. Although most of the rebuilding of Glen Echo Park has been done by contractors, volunteers continue to play a large and inspiring role in the rebuilding of the 1923 Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park. VIPs are nearing completion of a band-shell for the pavilion while other groups are busy underground digging space for termite inspection/treatment sites, tunnels for utilities lines, and also preparing additional floor supports. Volunteers have also manufactured, installed and maintained heavy-gauge plastic "curtains" around the building that now allow it to host events during cold-weather months. Annual statistics for the park's volunteer program are returning to their historic levels, after showing decreases in the past 3 fiscal years due to the construction work at the park. It is expected that as the buildings return to use, and as the cultural festivals resume at the park, that both the numbers of volunteers and the variety of their activities will rise to new levels.

Great Falls Park

Trail development and resource protection are two areas in which the VIPs at Great Falls have made significant contributions over the past year. In an effort to protect, and at the same time

provide interpretive opportunities for the Patowmack Canal, the staff proposed reopening a loop trail adjacent to the canal. The first element of the project was to construct a sturdy split rail fence near the canal to prevent visitors from walking on and through the historic lock area. The second element was to create a safe and stable trail so that visitors could view this historic area without impacting the nearby resources. The volunteer trail crew completed both of these projects. Great Falls Park was awarded money from the National Capital Region VIP Program special funds to sponsor EMS training for volunteers. Those funds are being used to train volunteers in basic First Aid/CPR/AED training.

George Washington Memorial Parkway

Volunteer Senior Ranger Corps members participated in 10 different projects, including identification and removal of invasive plants, maintenance of park grounds, presentation and/or assistance with outreach programs at local elementary and high schools, as well as three senior centers. This year, volunteers and rangers presented monthly outreach programs at a third location: St. Martin de Porres Senior Center in Alexandria, Virginia. As another highlight, Dawson Senior Center residents, longtime recipients of park outreach programs, visited Belle Haven Park for their first on-site visit. GWMP recognized VIPs at a park-wide event in May at Glen Echo Park where approximately 100 people attended. On-going efforts are being made by several staff to recruit students and other organizations to become future VIPs.

Greenbelt Park

National Capital Parks East has developed a partnership with the University of Maryland-College Park. Each Saturday, students come and identify and remove harmful invasive plants from Greenbelt Park. This has led to a successful interpretive volunteer and resource management program communicating the destructive force of invasive plants in a natural setting.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

AMERICORP Team #9 made a difference at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park this winter. Eleven AMERICORP volunteers lived and worked in the park for 49 days and constructed 1,500' of new trail, installed 1,180' of Virginia, split rail, worm fence, built a new brick sidewalk, cleared 1,000' x 40' area of exotic plant species, removed snow from sidewalks for 576 hours, painted several buildings and rooms, assembled and installed new office furniture, and cleared fire roads of trees and brush. In their spare time,



VIPs at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

these volunteers worked in the community at libraries, schools, and on the trail crews of other organizations including the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens partnered with National Parks Conservation Association after Hurricane Isabelle where 80 volunteers cleaned up the debris from the storm. VIPs did an excellent job and the park was back to normal because of the volunteers' dedication and diligent work.

Manassas National Battlefield Park

This year Manassas NBP was able to form a new volunteer living history program featuring the park's new Civil War era artillery gun. Volunteers trained and demonstrated firing techniques for the public. Local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts replaced deteriorated "worm" fencing throughout the park. A Volunteer Picnic brought volunteers together to celebrate the various accomplishments for the year such as equestrian trail patrol, trail repair, and providing interpretive services.

Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS

The VIP at Bethune Council house initiated the Bethune Institute to train and enhance the knowledge base of volunteers who provide interpretive services to visitors. The institute offers a structured course of study with the site's reference library, lectures from Bethune scholars, and site trips to African American sites culturally linked to others, i.e. Maggie Walker NHS in Richmond Virginia. The institute is an additional learning tool to empower interpretive VIPs and enhance skills in order to educate visitors.

Monocacy National Battlefield

In 2001 an existing cooperative agreement between the National Park Service and the University of Maryland was used to conduct a series of archeological programs on the battlefield. Since then, the archeological volunteer has been an intricate part of these undertakings. In FY03 VIPs assisted archeologists with both field and lab work. Fieldwork during surveys included medal detecting, excavating, and recording of artifacts. In the lab volunteers were tasked with washing, bagging, labeling, and cataloging artifacts that were removed from the field. The lab work gave the volunteer a better understanding of the process after discovery. Volunteers have assisted with the unearthing of over 8,000 artifacts in FY03. The response that the battlefield has had with interested persons has gradually increased from year to year. With the assistance of VIPs, archeologists have discovered three major sites over the past year including slave quarters and two military concentrations that are believed to

be a short-term cavalry camp and possibly an early or pre-Civil War camp.

Museum Resource Center

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection, which is housed at the Museum Resource Center, was temporarily housed for over sixteen months. Several organizations are committed to supplying numerous on-site Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection (VVMC) volunteers. Some of the projects planned include the creation of several VVMC photographic traveling exhibitions and the reprocessing of VVMC artifacts to meet the public's desire for more access and the ever-increasing museum loan requests.

National Capital Parks-East

Volunteers from the Resource Management Division performed professional research activities on invasive plants throughout National Capital Parks-East and also conducted inventory and mapping tasks. Project Empowerment volunteers contributed critical administrative hours to the Office of Superintendent, the Division of Administration, and Human Resources.

National Capital Regional Office

Volunteer Coordinators from the region's 14 parks attended Volunteer Program Management training. The week-long training was held at Manassas National Battlefield. In May, the region's new Interpretive Specialist/Volunteer Coordinator was hired. The position had been vacant for almost a year.

National Mall

This year the focus of 2003 was recycling and environmental education. Several groups and individuals participated in recycling efforts during the busiest times of the Cherry Blossom Festival and the July 4th celebration. Girl Scout Troop #2227 recycled plastic bottles from the National Symphony Orchestra concert series on the Capitol Grounds. On the Mall grounds, volunteers participated in the construction of a Recycling float and walked in the July 4th parade. The park recognized volunteer John Devlin's amazing dedication of 15 years of service for a total of 6109 hours to the Mall. The Mall increased the student volunteers program by 50%. Many have expressed interest in working with the staff in the hopes of mentoring the next year's incoming student volunteers. American University's Four Day Freshman Experience, a leadership program for the incoming freshman class, gave over 630 hours to the preservation of the Mall's natural resources. This year 7 military groups with 293 participants volunteered a total of 456 hours in preserving the War Memorials. Each weekend groups cleaned the Korean War and Vietnam

Memorials. The National Mall hosted the opening ceremony for the National Public Lands Day Event on September 20th, 2003. All focus of the event changed on Friday, September 19th after the park surveyed the damage caused by the hurricane and the National Public Lands Day Event changed to Hurricane Isabel Relief 2003.

Oxon Cove Park & Oxon Hill Farm

Volunteers at Oxon Cove Park dressed in costume and presented over 450 hours interpreting the history of Mount Welby. Volunteers did research to get a feel of the lifestyle of people living in the 18th century.

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

FY03 is the first year the POHE has reported volunteer activity. The Allegheny Trail Alliance, recognized as the highlight of the year, assisted the Pennsylvania Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources with completion of an application for designation of the Great Allegheny Passage as a segment of the Trail. 36 volunteers contributed 906 hours to the trail.

President's Park

President's Park VIPs presented and/or assisted park rangers with curriculum-based programs for students from grades K-6 both on and off-sites: Colors and Shapes, Ranger Reading Time, President's Neighborhood, and "Why is the Teddy Bear called a Teddy Bear?". Volunteers designed and formulated graphics, text, and games for the educational program webpage for President's Park - White House Visitor Center which is currently in the design phase.

Prince William Forest Park

Due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Isabel, Prince William Forest Park's volunteer projects for National Public Lands Day revolved around clearing trails, picnic areas, roads, and campgrounds of dead and downed trees. Forty-four VIPs contributed approximately three hundred hours to this arduous task. The groups successfully repaired two foot bridges, a gravel embankment that washed onto one of the foot bridges, added two more water bars to the slope, and shoveled the gravel back in place. A Boy Scout Troop that participated in the event hiked along South Valley Trail to rehabilitate an old section of trail that had been closed due to previous storm damage. The hard work these volunteers contributed saved the park thousands of dollars in labor and contributed to the park's speedy recovery. Through hard work and stewardship to their community, several large groups of motivated local high school students assisted

the park by removing hundreds of tires from a recently acquired tract of land.

Rock Creek Park

VIPs were recruited from Coolidge High School to assist with a grant obtained for a community gardens project. GW intern Loren Oliker wrote the grant and received \$1,000 from a local non-profit organization entitled D.C. Seeds. It paid for seeds, equipment, and supplies that helped 15 Coolidge High science students plant and grow their own garden at the Fort Stevens Community Garden. The project allowed the students to obtain a hands-on experience in botany, agriculture, and community service.

Wolf Trap Farm Park

Volunteers donated their time as ushers, cart drivers, first-aid providers, stage door aides, bird watchers, and in many other ways. Without volunteers, visitors wouldn't have the great experience they have come to expect at Wolf Trap. This year, the park continued its relationship with the school St. Coletta of Greater Washington. Once a week, a group of students with varying disabilities came to the park to learn new work skills. Two Eagle Scout projects were completed in the park this year. One scout designed and built two bat boxes and another built park benches. Also this year, a volunteer conducted a traffic study in the park.

Northeast Region

Acadia National Park

Individual VIPs and volunteer groups from schools and scouts, clubs and camps, non-profits and for-profits accomplished work in all park divisions. This work varied from grooming of cross-country ski trails to waterfowl and shore-bird research; roadside clean-up, trail maintenance and bridge repair to counting visitors; assisting with interpretive programs to adding museum artifacts to the curatorial database. Other VIPs planted trees, counted snowmobiles, mowed grass, made signs, directed traffic, took photographs, spoke to visitors, cleaned campground firepits, answered phones, baked cakes, and moved and assembled furniture.

Adams National Historic Site

One of the most popular programs routinely offered at Adams NHP is Spirits of Quincy's Past. The program offers a candlelight tour of one of New England's oldest burying grounds, the Hancock Cemetery. Three centuries of historic figures briefly come back to life to share stories and little known facts. VIPs play an immense role in making the program a reality. They help with planning and preparations and do substantial re-

The project allowed the students to obtain a hands-on experience in botany, agriculture, and community service.

Rock Creek Park

search in order to add great significance to the interpretive programs offered. Others help to staff the Visitor Center or to lead thousands of visitors on a safe, enjoyable experience. The interpretive value and sheer enjoyment of the program for the audience and the staff would never be possible without the true dedication and commitment of the VIPs that give so much of their time to help fulfill the park's mission.

Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site
Scout projects that now fall under the Take Pride in America program increased in FY2003. Most of the service hours are earned during twice yearly events, one for National Public Lands Day in September and one held in the spring (April or May). Service projects generally center on the removal of invasive plants and improvement to park trails. Plants removed from the park lands include barberry, garlic mustard, and teasel, with the elimination of millions of seed pods. Park trail work and National Public Lands Day events included presentations of Leave No Trace principles and their application to parklands. Park Volunteer Senior Rangers continue with water and air quality surveys and will be adding regular trail sweep patrols and heavier trail improvement work to their activities.

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park
A Cultural Resource Management volunteer, Karmen Bisher, a graduate student at UNC-Greensboro in history, performed 264 hours of research on African-Americans and slavery at Appomattox Court House. Her valuable research will be incorporated into new interpretive displays on the subject. Various Boy and Girl Scout troops performed 1452 hours of trail clean-up as part of the Historic Trails Hike. In addition to the service project, the Scouts answered a historic questionnaire as requirement for a medal or patch.

Assateague Island National Seashore
Volunteer Don Winslow was awarded the 2002 Northeast Region's Excellence in Interpretation Volunteer Award. Mr. Winslow has recorded over 600 hours roving at Ferry Landing providing opportunities for visitors to connect with the resource. Don has expanded his knowledge of Assateague to include presentations of two prime interpretive programs given on the Coastal Bay (Shell Fishing and Bay Discovery) and provides in-depth study of the bay resources using microscopes, seine nets, viewing tanks, and live creatures. Don sees each visitor contact as an opportunity to inspire, provoke, and educate.

Appalachian National Scenic Trail

At the 2003 Biennial Conference of the Appalachian Trail, 89 volunteers were presented with plaques for 25 years of active volunteer service, and 5 were recognized for 50 years of active volunteer service. In 2003, APPA also received Recreation Fee Demonstration funds to develop a trailwide chainsaw certification process for volunteers that is recognized by both the United States Forest Service and the National Park Service. In addition, funds will be used to purchase the necessary personal protective gear (chaps, hard hats, gloves, etc.) for each certified volunteer. More than 350 volunteers are expected to be certified in the next 2 years.

Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area

Volunteers donated more than 4,300 hours of their time to the preservation and education programs in the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area in 2003. The Volunteers and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands received two national awards: the George B. Hartzog, Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service in the Park VIP Program category and the President's Award from the National Association of State Park Directors. When Secretary Norton visited Boston in May, she spent most of her visit out on the Harbor Islands. This is in large part due to the energy and dedication she saw from the group in Washington. Park staff and volunteers and partners are pleased to see the FBHI get the national recognition it deserves; and it's doubly sweet to see the group receive the state award.

Cape Cod National Seashore

January 18, 2003 marked the centennial of the first transatlantic wireless message transmitted from Cape Cod to England. Over 100 volunteer amateur radio operators partnered with the NPS to carry out a worldwide wireless event in which two-way radio contacts were made with over 12,000 operators from 135 countries. In 2003 Cape Cod received a grant from the National Park Foundation to establish a Volunteer Senior Ranger Corps. 5 volunteers were referred to Cape Cod from Elder Services of Cape Cod and Islands. The volunteers have carried out important work for the park by assisting with protecting the endangered piping plover and taking digital images to update park files. To date, they have submitted hundreds of images that will be used for staff training, public programming, documentation of park facilities and programs, and park publications. Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore partnered with the park to carry out a volunteer work project on National Public Lands Day. 18 volunteer installed 253

fence posts and cable to delineate visitor pathways in the resource-sensitive dune areas at Herring Cove Beach.

Colonial National Historical Park

Marge Shave, Curatorial VIP, logged 788 hours and Greg and Kathy Ballentine, Archeology VIPs, logged 1,600 hours and were the FY03 Volunteers-of-the-Year for the park. The park hosted international volunteers from Great Britain, Russia, and Germany. These individuals logged over 2,200 hours in the Areas of Interpretation and Natural Resource Protection.

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

The most active and remarkable group of VIPs working within Delaware Water Gap NRA are a bold and hearty group of men at Millbrook Village, a restored 19th century town that is used to interpret rural America. The site is a combination of new and original buildings and has always relied heavily on VIPs. The group, called the 'Tool Club,' meets every Friday throughout the year. An average of 10 VIPs show up in all sorts of weather – sleet, snow, etc., to help restore buildings. Over the past two years the group has restored or rebuilt several outbuildings, a garden fence, and built a carriage shed to store almost a dozen antique carriages and wagons. They use materials left over from other park projects, but are quite content to plane their own boards from felled trees. The group is part of the Volunteer Senior Ranger Corps and is also funded in part from the UPS grant through the National Park Foundation. The Tool Club volunteers are an integral part of Historic Activities Day, a curriculum-based education program in Millbrook. The VIPs help train other volunteers for this event and demonstrate skills to the several hundred children that participate. The VIPs are remarkable because they work on so many different levels. The estimated \$50,000 worth of work they have done preserving buildings is a major achievement in cultural resource preservation.

Edison National Historic Site

Volunteers assisted with packing Glenmont artifacts in preparation for major restoration work on the house, greenhouse, and gardener's home and with landscape and road repair work during the project.

Eisenhower National Historic Site

The Volunteer Senior Ranger Corps, recruited in partnership with the Adams County Office for Aging, donated 1,573 hours of service. Projects include re-cataloging artifacts, scanning photographs, transferring video to DVD, and preserving farm equipment.

Fire Island National Seashore

Fire Island Volunteer Senior Ranger Corps members were honored by the presentation of Certificates of Appreciation from NPS Director Fran Mainella. Stony Brook University also recognized this dedicated group during its Intergenerational Conference, presenting the Fire Island VIPs with a Connecting Generations and Strengthening Communities award.

Fort McHenry National Monument & Hist. Shrine

Park Resource Management VIP, Jim Peters, won the George B. Hartzog, Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service in the individual category. His work on reclaiming a tidal wetland has become a model for similar wetland conservation projects throughout the Chesapeake Bay Region. He has also received conservation awards from the National Aquarium in Baltimore and the Maryland Ornithological Society. Volunteers figured prominently in the park's Defenders' Day program, an annual event commemorating the Battle of Baltimore and writing of the National Anthem. Highlights included the attendance of Governor Ehrlich of Maryland and Baltimore's Mayor, Martin O'Malley. Mayor O'Malley signed on as a VIP, donned a War of 1812 uniform, and assisted with the living history activities. Over 6,000 visitors attended the three-day event. Volunteer efforts were equal to thirteen full-time equivalents in the park.

Fort Necessity National Battlefield

VIPs assisted in activities in all areas of the park. Some highlights include VIPs at Fort Living History who presented daily soldier programs and musket firings. A Native American intern presented programs and assisted in the construction of a miniature Indian Village to be used for educational programs. Resource Management VIPs conducted water quality and GPS tests and eight SCAs worked on a six-week weeding program. Several Boy Scouts troops camped in a designated area where they did a service project and participated in historic interpretive programs as well as cleaned and preserved wayside exhibits. An Artist-in-Park on a weekend residency painted soldier activities. Four interns from a business school assisted the information officer in Public Affairs.

Fort Stanwix National Monument

A large number of VIPs were available during the weekdays to help the park staff with school groups during the spring season. The additional VIPs allowed staff to present a wider range of programs to the visiting schools and to involve them in programs and activities that the park had been unable to do in recent years. The work of the VIPs meant the school groups received a

The estimated \$50,000 worth of work they have done preserving buildings is a major achievement in cultural resource preservation.

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

better quality experience. It also reduced the amount of stress and fatigue on the staff, allowing them to give a much higher quality program. Once again, Fort Stanwix NM VIPs allowed the park to accomplish things that could not be done without their help.

Friendship Hill National Historic Site

FestiFall (22nd annual) continues to be the site's largest event. The event is done in partnership by the Friendship Hill Association (the park's friends group) and the National Park Service. The Association fielded 171 volunteers to help with the preparation and running of the event. This year the Friendship Hill Association also participated in two additional events. The first, "Legends of Friendship Hill" was a tour of the grounds in the evening, highlighting the legends and folklore of the local area. The second was the presentation of three programs by Mr. Bill Barker, first person character interpreter from Colonial Williamsburg. Mr. Barker portrays Thomas Jefferson and gave three fine presentations related to his dealing with Albert Gallatin. The Friendship Hill Association again provided volunteers to assist with both programs, as well as pursue grant monies to cover the cost of Mr. Barker's programs.

Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania NMP

The park was able to recruit and fund four full-time historical interpreter interns for the summer. These interns did a wonderful job in helping the park through what proved to be a challenging summer and to provide the visitor services the community expects from this park.

Gateway National Recreation Area

At the Sandy Hook Unit, Americorps is an extremely valuable program because of the skills and motivation of the participants. They worked on both cultural and natural resources projects during the year totaling 3,400 hours worth of service to the park.

Gettysburg National Military Park

VIPs assist in Visitor Services by answering questions, guiding visitors, and conducting walking tours during the summer months. One VIP assisted in the curators with exhibits, building shelving, etc. 139 of the Licensed Battlefield Guides provided free interpretive programs, answered questions at the desks, and assisted visitors with guided tours of the battlefield. 1,068 people volunteered in living history programs by participating in encampments, shooting muskets, and other activities. Four interns assisted at the Visitor Information desks and by conducting walking programs. Numerous volunteers assisted with maintenance projects including the

Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg who placed a fence across the Picketts Charge area, repainted names on headstones in the National Cemetery, and painted cannon carriages to be placed back out onto the field. 228 people assisted in the Adopt-A-Position program by cutting brush, reseeding grass, and maintaining the monument and marker areas which they have adopted. The Park Watch Patrol VIPs continue their efforts day and night as the eyes and ears of the park reporting any suspicious activity to law enforcement rangers.

Hampton National Historic Site

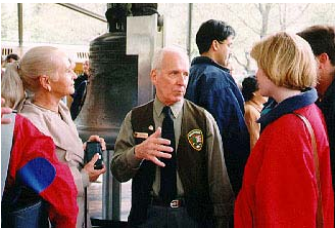
Hampton NHS added volunteer time from educators this year, as the site worked on developing educational programs. Hampton hosted a meeting of Baltimore County Middle School Social Studies Chairs to launch the field test of its draft school package. The Social Studies Coordinator for the county before this launch has twice reviewed the package. Thirty teachers visited the park to discover what is offered. Two teachers brought their classes to the park to follow the 2-hour program format.

Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site

Between December 7, 2002 and March 28, 2003, Michael Louie contributed 551 volunteer hours to Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, offering his expertise in park planning, as the park launched into its first General Management Plan in over 60 years. When he accepted the volunteer position, Michael had just completed a Master's degree in planning which entailed a year's service with the Illinois State Park System. Michael moved to Hopewell from Illinois and began the process of compiling lists of contacts from all local governmental agencies and cooperating agencies. He began working on a comprehensive GIS map of Hopewell Furnace and ensured the GMP got off to a good start before he left to secure paid employment. Michael now works as a park ranger at General Grant National Memorial. His enthusiastic hard work as a VIP at Hopewell Furnace was greatly appreciated by NPS planners and managers. Michael's high spirits and superior work ethic inspired the entire staff.

Independence National Historical Park

INDE continues to diversify its VIP program through new internship programs with inner-city high schools. Five new volunteer interns were placed in the maintenance, administration, and visitor services divisions. The recent trend of placing younger volunteers continues as more than half of the applicants in FY03 were under 55 years of age.



VIP at Independence National Historical Park

Johnstown Flood National Memorial

For the second year, the park worked with the National Park Foundation, the Student Conservation Association, and the Ford Motor Company to offer a unique visitor transportation program allowing hundreds of visitors to explore the park resources and the Johnstown area. This past May 31st, as the park marked the anniversary of the Great Flood, a new and unique play was offered at the visitor center. The play told the Flood story through the eyes of a young survivor. It included members of the park staff, as well as many members of the community. The May 31st activities were greatly aided by over 650 volunteer hours. The park was also fortunate to have a terrific intern from Bloomsburg University this past summer. This intern researched the lives of two heroines of the 1889 Flood, Mrs. Hettie Ogle and Miss Ehrenfeld. The intern was able to reconstruct a life story of Miss Ehrenfeld. Her work will greatly enhance the interpretive program at the park.



VIPs at Lowell National Historical Park

Longfellow National Historic Site

A cooperative agreement between Longfellow NHS and Harvard University provided the opportunity for students to participate in a course taught by NPS archeologists and to conduct archeological excavations at the site. Thirteen Harvard archeology students under the direction of NPS archeologists attended classes on site and worked at the archeological dig in the garden, preliminary to a major garden rehabilitation project. Student volunteers performed such tasks as shovel skimming, trowelling, screening, documentation, mapping, surveying, processing of artifacts, photography, research, and visitor interpretation. Each student performed 105 hours of work, which included research and presentation of a final paper. Longfellow NHS also hosted a reading and book party for best-selling author, Matthew Pearl, on the occasion of the publication of his best-selling historic murder mystery novel, *The Dante Club*, set within the context of 19th century Boston and Cambridge and Longfellow's formation of the Dante Club and translation of Dante's *Divine Comedy* to English. Mr. Pearl volunteered time to research, develop, and present a house tour for visitors on the Longfellow-Dante connection.

Lowell National Historical Park

Volunteers donated 87,097 hours to Lowell National Historical Park in FY03, a 13% rise over last year's total of 77,504. The Tsongas Industrial History Center, a partnership between the park and the University of Massachusetts Lowell, contributed nearly 36,000 hours in providing curriculum-based hands-on learning to school groups visiting the park. The Lowell Folk Festival

produced nearly 21,000 hours. The festival, in particular, is an enormous event that depends almost entirely on volunteers for all aspects of the work from donation collections, souvenir sales, performer and stage support, recycling, to the multi-cultural array of ethnic food booths sponsored by community organizations. Spindle City Corps, a partner high school-aged youth community service program, supplied nearly 10,000 hours for backlogged park maintenance and educational programming, tripling in size over the past three summers. Numerous other new initiatives this year contributed many additional hours to the park.

Marsh-Billings National Historical Park

In 2003 Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP utilized 178 volunteers in three major areas of the park, cultural resource management, visitor services, and natural resource management. A majority of that effort came from the use of youth program groups to accomplish important projects throughout the park. The predominant work included maintenance of 20 miles of carriage roads and trails throughout the Mount Tom forest and a considerable effort in invasive species removal for resource management. Visitor Services has utilized an increasing number of volunteers to support operations at the visitor information desk and at the Billings Farm & Museum. The professional effort of these volunteers reflects a positive image for the park strengthening the connection to the surrounding community.

Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site

Highlights from this year's program includes the culmination for the 100th Anniversary of the St. Luke Herald Newspaper wherein a symposium was held at the Maggie L. Walker's Governor's School for Government and International Studies. Volunteers were an integral part of this event. July 13th and 14th was Maggie L. Walker's 135th Birthday Anniversary and the kickoff for the 100th Anniversary celebration for the establishment of St. Luke Penny Savings Bank now Consolidated Bank and Trust started by Maggie Lena Walker. Contributions of talents and skill given by volunteers made this program memorable and educational.

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site

During 2003 the MAVA visitor services staff worked hand-in-glove with the board of the Friends of Lindenwald (park friends group) on two largescale projects. The first was a week-long planning session which produced clear, scholarly interpretive themes that will be the foundation for the CIP and the park's general management planning process over the next two years. The second was a year-long effort to cre-

ate a premier special event for the first Harvest Day held in September. The event highlighted the farming history of the site as well as provided a forum for learning about current Columbia County farms and agricultural practices.

Minute Man National Historical Park

Over 700 people volunteered in various ways at Minute Man NHP in FY 2003. This number includes 91 active individual volunteers, approximately 500 members of various reenactor groups, and 110 members of resource management teams, park association, scout troops and youth groups. The largest percentage of park volunteers presented interpretive programs to the public. VIPs also clear trails, work in resource management cataloguing native and exotic species, work with computers, do historic research, take photographs for the park, and create exhibits. Numerous VIPs also participate in black powder demonstrations.

Morristown National Historical Park

The highlight for FY 03 is the work of the Youth Conservation Corps YCC crewmembers' Wick Farm barn floor project. The Wick Farm barn is a critical, period resource of the cultural and interpretive landscape, and is under the management of Resources and Visitor Protection Division. The barn had experienced severe flooding, erosion, mosquito nests, and an uneven dirt floor, which exposed the horses to unhealthy conditions for more than twelve months. It was thought that the several tons of dirt and the leveling of the barn floor would have taken at least two days to complete, but the YCC crew finished the job in under eight hours, with a heightened degree of precision that deeply impressed the rangers. Park management also received acknowledgements of the work ethic and accomplishments of the YCC crew because of their outstanding work in completing projects for the park's Historical Garden over the summer.

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park

This year's volunteer training program drew on the expertise of park staff and park partners and integrated current servicewide standards of interpretation and customer service. Session topics included 19th century American whaling history, 19th century architecture, Quakers and abolitionism as well as tours based on the Underground Railroad history in New Bedford and Herman Melville and Moby-Dick. Because the volunteers at New Bedford Whaling NHP are the front line contact for visitors and responsible for conducting interpretive programs for the public, particular focus was given to researching and developing an interpretive program and providing quality customer service.

New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail

One VIP provided critical assistance with coordinating distribution of brochures and interpretive wayside exhibits to the 60+ partner destinations along the Trail's 300 miles of New Jersey coastline. He was later hired by a partner agency as a paid summer seasonal and assigned to work in this office as part of the state's matching support. He has provided over 700 hours of work in this seasonal position.

New River Gorge National River

Twenty neighbors and Riverway staff transformed a parcel of land known as Fairy Falls over the summer of 2003. Silver Creek winds through this area and plunges over a 50-foot drop into a secluded ravine. Because access to the area is limited, it had attracted visitors that were creating a paintball area, cutting trees, eroding trails, littering, and holding loud, late night parties. Neighbors met with Riverway staff and representatives from local law enforcement areas and created a plan of action to reduce the problems. Neighbors volunteered to clean up the area and, in a single day, removed 10 yards of debris, renovated campfire scars, dismantled the paintball area, and cleaned the area of litter. Throughout the summer, neighbors monitored use and called law enforcement contacts when necessary. Riverway staff installed signs, fenced off sensitive areas, and patrolled the area. This fall, when the sugar maples blazed in red and gold, walkers found a spectacular Fairy Falls that was clean, quiet, and inviting.

Petersburg National Battlefield

Ryan Schelske, a summer intern from Virginia Military Institute, prepared a series of digital maps depicting troop movements at the Battle of the Crater, 1864. This document will be made available to visitors and eventually published. The project required extensive historical research and use of advanced Geographic Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) technology.

Richmond National Battlefield Park

Park staff worked with over 30 living history volunteers to present a program called the "Changing Face of War." The program dealt with the change in battlefield tactics from the open field fighting around Richmond in 1862 to trench warfare outside Richmond in 1864. The volunteers researched the 4th Texas Infantry, a regiment that played a critical part in the 1862 battle of Gaines' Mill and the 1864 battle of Cold Harbor. They replicated the uniforms, equipment, weapons, and flag of the 4th Texas Infantry at both battles. They studied the role the regiment played in each engagement and the changing at-

titudes of the soldiers between 1862 to 1864. The program reflected their hard work. Over 300 visitors were able to travel between Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor and get a better understanding of both battlefields. This type of program could not have been done without the tremendous support of volunteers who donated approximately 500 hours to make it happen.

Saint Croix Island International Historic Site

A VIP assisted staff with archeological excavations and documentation on the Saint Croix Island International Historic Site cemetery to evaluate the condition of burials and to return several sets of human remains removed in 1969.

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site

Robin Reed, serving a nine-month internship through the Student Conservation Association, is involved in all aspects of the site's natural resource management program. Her primary responsibility is to assist the natural resource manager in implementing the park's Exotic Plant Management Plan that was completed in 2002. The objective of this program is to mitigate the impacts of non-native, invasive plant species on the park's native species and habitats.

Sagamore Hill National Historic Site

At a baseline of 6,000 VIP hours, the site would have to hire some five additional employees to cover the time that volunteers do for interpretation alone. VIPs help in administration and maintenance as well, providing much needed assistance in those areas. Some of the volunteers have worked on developing and augmenting the educational program and materials; some have done research to assist in preparing a briefing book for a new exhibit that is being installed.

Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site

A VIP at Saugus Iron Works NHS completed scanning over 2200 black and white photographs of the 1940 – 1950s archaeological excavations. Another completely retyped the archaeology field notes in digital format so that the daily notes of Roland W. Robbins can now be explored by researchers. Color slides of the 1940s dig are currently being viewed and re-cataloged with better descriptions. More than eighteen volunteers of the Essex Shipbuilding museum completed a second "lighter," to represent the boats that transported many tons of raw materials and finished goods up and down the Saugus River in the 17th century.

Salem Maritime National Historic Site

Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton, gave special recognition to Anastacia Hernando for over 17,000 volunteer hours at the kick-off celebra-

tion of Take Pride in America. Several volunteers took an active role in managing the various programs on board Friendship and guiding other volunteers in the numerous tasks to complete the ship and prepare for sail training. A large contingent of volunteers organized and staffed the annual Maritime Festival for a successful weekend event.

Saratoga National Historical Park

Saratoga NHP has a brand-new 20-minute visitor orientation film. Much of the work on the film, from scripting to on-screen presence, was done by a literal small army of volunteers. Indeed, without their tireless, dedicated efforts over a seven year period, culminating with the premiere in the autumn of 2003, this film would not have become the success that it is.

Shenandoah National Park

With the start of the new season the Volunteer Coordinator attended a VIP Coordinator training course at Manassas National Battlefield Park. There was an opportunity to network with other VIP Coordinators from the Mid-Atlantic area. A pilot program for providing a volunteer host at the Rapidan Camp, site of President Hoover's Summer White House, resulted in 724 visitor contacts that would have been missed without these VIP hosts. Hurricane Isabel left in her wake over 1,000 trees across Skyline Drive, 600 trees on the Appalachian Trail and several thousand trees on over 500 miles of trails in the park. Park partners, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, and other park VIPs assisted in re-opening trails and clearing debris. The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's continued assistance in Shenandoah NP is very much appreciated.

Springfield Armory National Historic Site

Armory VIP and former armory worker, Raymond Germain (Red) donated 466 hours to Springfield Armory NHS. Most of those hours were dedicated to the production of measured drawings of a historic rifle storage rack known as the "Organ of Muskets." Visitors come from all over the world to see and photograph this historic weapons rack. Mr. Germain labored over many months to produce these important drawings. The work was tedious and physically taxing. His dedication and attention to detail will enable Springfield Armory NHS to reproduce this rifle storage rack, if ever the need should arise. Visitors to this historic site and the staff of Springfield Armory NHS are forever indebted to Raymond Germain.

Statue of Liberty National Monument & Ellis Island National Monument

The park sponsored a Cultural Resources Di-

versity intern through SCA. This intern worked with the Oral History Program at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. Other internships were done with students from the Rutgers University Public History program and New York University. The park had one international volunteer from Germany who worked with the Interpretation Division during the summer. The park staff and the Save Ellis Island group hosted two volunteer events with corporate partners. The corporate partners included the Travelers Conservation Fund, Timberland, and City Year. VIPs worked on the unrestored Ellis Island hospital buildings to clear away vegetation and debris and begin sealing the buildings for stabilization.

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural NHS

The annual meeting of Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site volunteers took a new direction this year with an evening meeting. TR site staff and members of the site's foundation joined the volunteers for this important planning session. One of the goals of the site's Strategic Plan is to foster a greater interaction between these three groups and this new meeting format is one step towards that objective. Spirits were high at the well-attended event, as the volunteers shared their enthusiasm and determination. It was a great evening and an important step in bringing the staff, board, and volunteers closer together, insuring a bright future for the TR Site.

Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River

In 2003 the National Canoe Safety Patrol (NCSP) volunteered 2,597 hours to Upper Delaware S&RR. They patrolled the Upper Delaware River by canoe and kayak performing river rescues, first aid, and providing river users with river safety information. This organization provides an invaluable service to the park and to the public. The NCSP has donated 87,308 volunteer hours over the last twenty-four years.

Valley Forge National Historical Park

Volunteers in all divisions of the park have contributed greatly to serving the public and preserving and protecting the resource. VIPs from all division have been involved with numerous projects and special events. Organizations such as the Bell (Verizon) Telephone Pioneers, King of Prussia Rotary Club, REI, and numerous hiking clubs have all volunteered to perform work under the direction of the park's Maintenance and Natural Resource divisions. Visitor Protection established a volunteer horse mounted patrol to assist visitors protect the resources. Several volunteers represented Valley Forge NHP at the Devon Police Horse Competition. One volunteer placed second and another seventh out of over

twenty competitors. VIPs in Administration have also made an immeasurable impact in FY 2003 by completing numerous tasks such as xeroxing, posting of training announcements/vacancy announcements, and putting new employee orientation folders together.

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

This report includes the Vanderbilt Mansion NHS, Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill, and The Home of Franklin Roosevelt. Other groups that contribute to the park's volunteer hours include, The Beatrix Farrand Garden Association, The Frederick William Vanderbilt Garden Association, and for the second year, the Trails and Rails Program that runs along the Hudson River. This year there were also over 100 volunteers from TAUCK tours that volunteered over 1000 hours in one day last October. They helped clear paths, fix stone walls, cut brush, and complete many other projects in the park.

Weir Farm National Historic Site

In FY03, volunteer Grace Goodwin, now in her 7th year of service at Weir Farm NHS, started transcribing the letters of Mary Blair Wardell Cunningham, a life-long friend of Weir's daughter, Dorothy Weir Young. On comparing the handwriting in these letters and their dates, it was determined by a museum technician that all these names, initially thought to be many individuals, actually represented one person. Grace has been involved with the transcriptions of many of Weir's letters and diary entries, and now with her work on the Cunningham letters, is helping to make these components of the collections, and the lesser known stories they tell, more accessible to researchers and interpreters.

Women's Rights National Historical Park

The park had a curatorial Summer Intern that assisted in the collection documentation and care of the park's collection. The Seneca Community Players portrayed the 1848 convention attendees in convention dramatization as well as conducting an historical cemetery tour.

Pacific West Region

Bear Paw Battlefield

Three international volunteers from Saskatchewan, Canada's Fort Walsh National Historical Site, assisted with commemorating a Nez Perce Trail Ride onto the battlefield. The trail ride, following the Nez Perce route of the 1877 War, originated on the traditional homeland in Idaho and ended on the battlefield. The VIPs provided international and cultural history of the Fort Walsh Era and the Canadian Mounties for the trial riders. The Mounties maintained law

and order in the province during the time period when the Nez Perce and other tribes were seeking refuge from the United States government. 2003 VIP funding went into development of a trailer pad with necessary amenities.

Big Hole National Battlefield

The battlefield's VIP Program focused its attention on the local community with attracting more Big Hole Valley residents to assist with the spring education season and prepare for the Bicentennial of the Corps of Discovery. The awarding of the National Parks Volunteerism Enhancement grant, made possible by the National Park Foundation with generous support from Allegra, brought an additional \$4,800 dollars into the program to address Lewis and Clark activities. The grant money is being used to create a traveling Lewis and Clark exhibit that will be staffed by battlefield volunteers. The frame for the exhibit panels and display area was designed by a volunteer. Another volunteer is continuing the development of the traveling exhibit by gathering reproduction items and images in order for it to make its maiden voyage this coming summer.

Cabrillo National Monument

FY03 was a year of change and growth for the Volunteers-In-Parks Program at Cabrillo National Monument. Marcy Marquez, the new VIP Coordinator, has brought a new enthusiasm that energizes volunteers and is the reason for a large part of the growth seen in the VIP program over the last year. Marcy attended Basic VIP Program Manager Training and worked with VIP Supervisors in the Divisions of Resource Management and Visitor Protection, Interpretation, and Natural Resource Science to help facilitate their work with VIPs. VIPs also greatly assisted the park's curatorial program, costumed interpretation, and planning for a new, permanent exhibit about the 19th century Old Point Loma Lighthouse.

Columbia Cascades System Support Office

Librarian VIPS cataloged materials for Pacific West region's libraries including the cataloging of three new park library collections. This year the Regional Library volunteer program supported youth service projects at Mount Rainier and North Cascades. Projects included an exotic weed removal project where volunteers removed over 1,000 individual exotic plants from 3000 square feet of land; 200 native plants were salvaged from the future site of an apartment complex at Tahoma woods; students re-bagged soil to be flown to Paradise for restoration projects in the sub-alpine meadows. The project involved separating soil from weeds and degraded plastic bag material. Students at NOCA pulled non-native, invasive plants, conducted needed camp-

ground natural resource surveys, and helped set the greenhouse up for fall planting.

Channel Islands National Park

Volunteer naturalists provide a majority of on-island interpretive programs. The park interpretive staff has been highly successful in recruiting, training, and supervising an increasingly large corps of volunteers to meet the demands of visitation to the park islands. This year, the park expanded its volunteer program by establishing a cooperative volunteer educational program between the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and Channel Islands NP. This program, entitled the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps, not only met the demands of visitation to the park islands, it also met the demands of whale watching visitation within the park. For fiscal year 2003, 100 new volunteers were placed on all island landing trips and whale watching trips that visit the park and sanctuary waters. The volunteers educated passengers about the park and the sanctuary and collected opportunistic marine mammal sighting data.

City of Rocks National Reserve

VIPs were a great asset to the reserve this past year. One of the areas that benefited from volunteers was maintenance and trails. An American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacation, as well as other volunteer groups, greatly relieved the burden of the trail crew and maintenance crew. The second area that was improved by volunteers was park science and research. Three VIPs donated 250 hours towards raptor monitoring and bird surveys. Their data has been very valuable.

Crater Lake National Park

In FY03 the National Park Service and the National Park Foundation announced the winners of the first annual George B. Hartzog, Jr. Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service. The award for outstanding volunteer service by a group went to the Crater Lake National Park Volunteer Ski Patrol. The patrol not only contributes to the day-to-day activities that keep the park looking pristine during the winter months; they are also essential to visitor safety. Although the park spans nearly 200,000 acres, Visitor and Resource Protection Staff consists of only three field rangers, so the support provided by the ski patrol is invaluable. The patrollers practice backcountry ski skills, collect and report weekly avalanche data, do snow pack surveys, and educate the public about safety and regulations. Crater Lake Ski Patrol's commitment to protect the park and its visitors epitomize the spirit of volunteerism and professionalism that makes it possible for the Park Service to meet its mission.



VIP Interpretive Program at Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Craters of the Moon National Monument

Three Resource Management SCA interns worked as part of the Northern Rocky Mountain Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT). The interns attended a 2-week training program in Yellowstone NP and two of them became certified “Professional Pesticide Applicators” for Idaho and Montana. They inventoried over 65 miles of roadside in the monument for state-listed noxious weeds. Besides doing weed management and control activities in Craters of the Moon they also did the same in Fossil Butte NM, Hagerman Fossil Beds NM, and Minidoka Internment Camp NM. The geo-scientist-in-park VIP spent half his time providing interpretation for the public and the other half on resource management activities. The GIP re-occupied all of the existing photo interpretation points used to monitor change and updated the database.

Death Valley National Park

In 2003 the VIPs at Death Valley National Park accomplished numerous special projects along with helping in day-to-day activities. 24 different campground hosts for 7 campgrounds booked a total of 13,368 hours for a 5-month period. A VIP provided vital EMS training to staff and other volunteers. A set of volunteers created a MSDS database for the maintenance division, while another reprogrammed and inventoried each park hand radio.

Ebey’s Landing National Historic Reserve

The reserve has developed and implemented a volunteer program to manage a locally rare population of Western Blue Flag Iris (*Iris missouriensis*). The effort involves a wide range of participants, including private property owners, local government, non-profit organizations, and students from the local high and middle schools. Technical assistance is provided by organizations such as the Washington State Native Plant Society and The Nature Conservancy, as well as NOCA staff. The program pulls together an unlikely group of students, retirees, county staff, and private property owners, all concerned with the survival of this unique plant.

Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site

This was the first year a full length Interpretation Skills Training was offered to park volunteers and most tour guide docents took advantage of the Interpretive Development Program (IDP) curriculum being taught. This September was also the first time the park offered an Open House Living History program in conjunction with park partner, the Eugene O’Neill Foundation. VIPs provided visitor access, playing characters, and encouraging visitors to further ex-

plore the contributions Eugene O’Neill made to the dramatic world. Other major volunteer contributions included documenting plant specimens and weather patterns.

Fort Clatsop National Memorial

The park’s VIP program manager participated in VIP management training in April at North Cascades. Roger, a retiree from the Kentucky Historical Society helped extensively with group tours, particularly on busy days. The park’s VIP program has received a grant from the National Park Foundation to enhance the program by recruiting and training VIPs to provide orientation to visitors using next summer’s shuttle system and for special events.

Fort Point National Historic Site

History came alive for visitors to Fort Point NHS with the sounds and smells of civil war era life. Quarterly, volunteer re-enactors demonstrated both the life of a soldier and family life. The American Civil War Association re-enactors are a long-term dedicated partner in the Volunteers-In-Parks program.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Site Stewardship is a program with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, the nonprofit partner of the Golden Gate National Parks. Site Stewardships works with students from five educational partnerships on habitat conservation activities in sensitive natural areas throughout the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Students in these programs are extremely diverse reflecting the broad range of community members throughout the Bay Area. In the last decade, participants in this program have contributed more than 180,000 hours of restoration support to the park.

Great Basin National Park

The Southern Nevada Grotto out of Las Vegas conducted a survey of Lehman Cave using Total Stations. Total Stations are laser devices that use prisms to reflect the beam and calculate the target position to within a few millimeters. The Southern Nevada Grotto 2003 Total Station survey will be combined with the 1997-1999 compass and tape survey to produce an accurate and detailed cave map of Lehman Cave. Great Basin National Park appreciates the outstanding job and hours the Southern Nevada Grotto volunteers have provided during this project.

Haleakala National Park

This year volunteers helped with several large on-going projects. Projects included building the new Kapahu Trail, monitoring endangered spe-

Connie was named by her co-workers as the "Interpreter of the Month" for June 2003...

Klondike Gold Rush-Seattle Unit

cies, and helping with cultural resource projects. Approximately 18% of the volunteers are aged 18 and younger.

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

Volunteers at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park were essential to the success of the Vegetation Management program this year. Volunteers assisted in native plant restoration, invasive plant control, and field studies that monitor the health of native plant communities. One of the highlights of the year was the final outplanting of native plants in areas burned by wildfires during the past three years. Between 2000 and 2003, twenty thousand native plants were established in 1008 acres of native ohia woodland damaged by wildfire. Hundreds of volunteers devoted over one thousand worker days collecting seeds, propagating plants, and outplanting individual plants. This year 32 students, parents, and teachers from Hoala elementary school planted the final 400 native plants in the burned areas to complete the project.

John Muir National Historic Site

Approximately 53 volunteers split their time between Interpretation, Natural Resources, and Maintenance. Either in the Strentzel/Muir House, 9 acres of fruit orchards, or the 326 acres of oak woodlands on the Mt. Wanda side of the park, the VIPs not only donate their time but also skills and talents they are willing to share with others. They are able to reach out and connect to the visiting public in ways that are not possible for park staff. The visitors experience is greatly enhanced by the work that volunteers do.

Joshua Tree National Park

The Volunteer Horse Patrol has provided valuable data on trail conditions and has made numerous positive contacts with visitors. Joshua Tree NP participates in local parades and for the last three years the flag bearer has been a member of the park's horse patrol. The Wilderness Climbing Study is a new park initiative that is completely dependent on volunteers. Local and visiting climbers, wilderness enthusiasts, and park lovers have helped with the data collection. There are several main components of the study including resource inventory, wilderness visitor observation, and survey administration. VIPs continue to enhance the staff of the Interpretation, Administration, Maintenance, and Resource Management Divisions.

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

The Anza Trail volunteers in San Luis Obispo began patrolling their local trail area with a mounted and foot patrol made up completely of

VIPs. The NPS has no personnel in San Luis Obispo and protection of the trail segment is in the hands of the local Sheriff's Department. With limited resources, the Sheriff's Department is unable to patrol the river, so the Anza Trail VIPs are responsible for patrolling the corridor, providing interpretation and information, and keeping an eye on the public land. This particular area had extensive resource damage due to off-road vehicle activity. Following the patrol, virtually all of the vehicle traffic has left the area. The volunteers are now expanding their reach to deal with exotic plants in the Salinas River and developing trailheads.

Kaloko-Honokohau Natl Historical Park

For two days, the staff of Kaloko-Honokohau NHP organized a Hawaiian cultural educational program for over 250 4th grade students each day, totaling over 500 students. The program included braiding coconut fibers into cordage, story telling, hula, gourd preparation, fish identification, and numerous other crafts and games.

Klondike Gold Rush—Seattle Unit

Connie Clineman served as a full-time volunteer in interpretation from April 21, 2003, to July 24, 2003. Connie Clineman's achievements and contributions to the 2003 interpretive staff were numerous. She researched, developed, and presented hikes, campground programs, auditorium presentations, and two different historic walking tours. In addition to her outstanding interpretive programs, Connie contributed in many other ways. Her primary collateral duty was to coordinate the park's fledgling costumed interpretation program, which through her work blossomed into a beautiful set of period costumes. She researched historic materials, inventoried the collection, found reasonable sources, purchased materials, sewed the costumes, and insured the future care of the materials through proper storage - mostly on her own time. She wrote a "Senior Ranger" program for the park, which she has named the "Klondike Stampeder." She coordinated a project to place ambient sounds in a NPS historic house and bar, which entailed scheduling sessions with various employees to make recordings of appropriate sounds (such as glasses tinkling/music playing/conversations in the Mascot Saloon, and the Alaska Flag Song at the historic Moore House). These recordings will be used next season as a part of the building exhibits. For all of these accomplishments, Connie was named by her co-workers as the "Interpreter of the Month" for June 2003 (a time-off award) for her above-and-beyond the call of duty work. Her dedication and enthusiasm made her a joy to work with.

Lava Beds National Monument

VIPs provided both informal and formal interpretation to visitors. They researched, prepared and presented talks, cave tours and evening programs (using traditional slide format and Power Point format). VIPs also staffed the busy visitor center, sold Federal land passes, explained LABE fee structure to visitors, oriented visitors to the monument and surrounding areas, and recorded daily visitation statistics and program attendance statistics. VIPs researched, prepared and designed information bulletin boards for Petroglyph Point and Gillems Camp and assisted with designing the Tulelake Fair booth. With the construction of the new VC, VIPs helped pack and move items, photographed the construction of the new VC, and prepared a Power Point presentation illustrating the construction of the new VC/deconstruction of the old VC for the Superintendent. VIPs also helped with numerous other park activities including those with the Natural History Association, local reenactment groups, law enforcement staff, and wildlife management.



VIP of the Year at Lassen Volcanic National Park

Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Lake Mead National Recreation Area's VIPs contributed a considerable amount of time in assisting park staff in achieving exceptional visitor experiences. Volunteers assisted in the management and maintenance of eight campgrounds, documentation of archeological sites in Nevada and Arizona, staffed a visitor center and two contact stations, provided public programs, assisted on the water, and monitored and documented the natural resources of the park. The park started an Adopt-A-Cove program to help with the war on litter. Eight groups adopted coves and picked up over 600 bags of trash. Efforts continued to bring the neighboring communities, concessioners, and corporations into the park to help clean up the environment and build a sense of stewardship for the land. Lake Mead NRA formed a partnership with three federal land management agencies in the Las Vegas Valley, (United States Forest Service, Fish & Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management) to strengthen volunteer efforts through collaborative visioning and goal development.

Lassen Volcanic National Park

More than 100 volunteers, employees, and sponsors attended Lassen Volcanic National Park's first annual volunteer appreciation barbecue. The event was funded through the park's cooperating association and sponsors in the surrounding communities. Twelve volunteers received special recognition for contributions of 1,000, 2,500, and 5,000 hours. VIPs provided exemplary assistance with ski and winter safety patrols, avalanche searches, peak repeater repairs,

wilderness protection from snowmobile trespass, visitor safety, campground hosting, and visitor contact stations. Alan Wilhelm, a retired university biology professor, received the VIP of the Year Award. Alan has been the project leader for the small vertebrates inventory/monitoring project for the last four years. The project has revealed important information on species occurrence, distribution, and population trends.

Manzanar National Historic Site

In Spring 2003, Park Rangers Kim Linse and Kacy Lynn Guill recruited a dozen volunteers to enter data for a digital version of the War Relocation Authority's Manzanar Roster. Those recruited included Japanese Americans whose families had been interned during the war, college students, senior citizens, and others. The project was labor intensive as volunteers had to decipher nearly 300,000 entries from a poor quality reduced-sized photocopy of the roster. Twenty-seven fields of data for 11,070 Manzanar internees were entered into a spreadsheet program. Once data entry was complete, volunteers assisted in proofreading the digital roster. From this, a list of names was generated to include in the new interpretive center exhibit and a volunteer is currently creating a searchable database of the information to be used by park staff and researchers. A simplified version of the database will be made available to visitors.

Mojave National Preserve

The park successfully recruited and hosted its first international volunteers, a Canadian couple, as winter campground hosts. The campground hosts also worked in interpretation, staffing the VC, leading nature walks and evening programs, revising the area nature trail, and producing geology information and brochures. Another couple served as hosts and are also assisting with interpretation. In addition, both sets of hosts helped with resource management and maintenance projects. To facilitate usage of the fire dormitory by volunteers and other interested parties, the draft dormitory regulations were finalized. The Rock House, a historic structure in the park, was restored to serve as volunteer housing. Initial arrangements were made to host the park's first Artist-In-Residence in 2004. Several additional volunteer postings were added to volunteer.gov/gov attracting the most volunteer inquiries and actual volunteers that the park has ever had. After several years of trying, initial arrangements were made by park staff to co-sponsor Wilderness Volunteers, a private volunteer group, to assist neighboring Providence Mountains State Park with trail maintenance in 2004. An SCA Crew worked on a heavily eroded trail in the park and did an outstanding job with very

minimal supervision; the maintenance supervisor plans to ask for another crew next year.

Muir Woods National Monument

The AFTEROWLERS, the park's volunteer spotted owl monitoring team, ventures into the park at dusk to check in on the presence and breeding status of this endangered species. Surveying eight areas in southern Marin and following scientific protocol, these trained "citizen scientists" help collect information for the database, interpret the natural history of this nocturnal park resident to park staff, visitors, and park neighbors, and assist local communities to better protect it. One pair taught their young to fly on a main park trail and the VIPs set up viewing blinds so the trail could be temporarily closed to allow the public optimum chances for observation and interpretation. The team is composed of ten volunteers, some of which are park employees "moonlighting" in a role very different than their day job, the others are nearby residents. This year the team spent 580 hours in the field.

Nez Perce National Historical Park

University of Idaho architectural students and their professor worked with the park's Interpretive and Resource Management staff to develop site plans for a newly acquired rock art site. The county road had recently been moved to protect the site and there was no safe appropriate access. After a tour of the site and a discussion of the General Management Plan's visitor experience goals each student developed plans and a drawing which were formally presented at the university. Two Boy Scout troops honed their skills in using maps and GPS units to help the park check the fence around White Bird Battlefield. They braved the uncertain spring weather to hike miles of fence line and pick up trash. Most of Nez Perce NHP sites are a considerable distance from the park headquarters. Because of this the park volunteer coordinator organized fifteen members of the White Bird community to help monitor conditions on the battlefield, keep brochure boxes filled at the highway overlook and the battlefield trailhead, and tell the story of the battle and the Nez Perce people to visitors. The volunteer group also operates the community library and graciously supplies a place for park programs and includes articles about the park in the White Bird monthly newsletter.

North Cascades National Park

North Cascades National Park hosted IVIP Roberto Quintero Dominguez, a student from the University of Guadalajara. Dominguez was in search of the elusive Black Swift in North Cascades National Park. Dominguez came to the United States from Mexico with hopes of gath-

ering more data on the obscure high-altitude bird. He was sponsored via the National Park Foundation's Partners-in-Flight program with American Airlines. Many staff members and local volunteers assisted Dominguez with the task of searching and identifying the birds in the Skagit River valley.

National Park of American Samoa

VIPs working at the National Park of American Samoa have provided invaluable assistance with many tasks and have helped the park accomplish several goals. They have assisted with the reduction of exotic plants within the park, greenhouse operations, and a two-acre forest restoration plot. In addition, VIPs have assisted with numerous environmental education programs presented to several primary and secondary schools, and with community beautification projects. VIPs continue to help with the park's Homestay program and provide support for the Samoan Wildland Firefighting Crew. Volunteers play an important role in conducting fishery surveys and coral reef studies for the park's coral reef program. VIPs also help with educating the local fish farmers on subsistence fishing.

Olympic National Park

What seems like a normal volunteer project will often change focus. Bob Morgenstern, one of the new Olympic National Park volunteers, was helping with a meadow restoration project. He was planting hundreds of tiny native plants at the Hurricane Hill parking lot in an effort to restore an area impacted by heavy visitor use. During the restoration effort, the nearby Griff Fire grew large enough for visitors to easily see from Bob's vantage point. Bob and other VIPs shifted their focus and helped answer questions from the many visitors who came to view the fire over the next two weeks. The volunteers provided critical assistance to help the public better understand the park's efforts to control the fire.

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

Under the auspices of the National Park Service, and in conjunction with China Camp State Park, the Associate Curator of Small Craft at San Francisco Maritime NHP, has orchestrated the construction of a full scale replica of a San Francisco Bay Chinese Shrimp Junk by park VIPs. The intention is to operate this unique craft on San Francisco Bay as a sailing ambassador that will link the broad Asian community of the Bay Area with its maritime heritage and serve as a vehicle to educate the public about the rich Chinese fishing society and culture that flourished here in the 19th and early 20th centuries. VIPs have been involved in nearly every aspect of the project, from assisting with archeological exca-

“...I got to experience things that I would never be able to do otherwise. It has changed my opinion on my future.”

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

vations in the research phase, to employing traditional Chinese boat building techniques such as fire-bending and edge nailing the red-wood planks for the hull. Park VIPs have also assisted with the construction of the complicated rigging and the unique Junk sail, fabricated entirely of natural materials which are then boiled in a traditional “tanbarking” process to preserve the fibers. Meanwhile, VIPs acting as docents have handled the interpretation for the visiting public, while others have done extensive video documentation of the project.

San Juan Island National Historical Park

The Battery D Foundation, the park’s volunteer partner, raised money throughout the year with its barbecue pit to underwrite the cost of providing meals for the fifth annual Encampment at English Camp. Battery D’s 19th century period U.S. Army field kitchen not only provides food, but delivers several interpretive programs throughout the weekend on 19th century cooking methods and recipes. Encampment commemorates the peaceful joint occupation of San Juan Island by British and American forces from 1859 to 1872. More than 90 partner re-enactors from the United States and Canada joined with Battery D and San Juan Islanders in staging the two-day exhibition that featured recreations of Royal Marine camp life and demonstrations of pioneer folk life. VIPs under volunteer supervision constructed a boundary fence at American camp that will protect soils and vegetation and attenuate the advance of exotic species in the area. In still another project, three new self-guided walk brochure boxes and two complete wedge tent ridge pole systems were designed and fashioned by volunteers, also representing enormous savings to the park.

Santa Monica Mountains NRA

This year’s National Public Lands Day project focused on a waterway that traditionally brings trash and other debris downstream from a populated community during the rainy season. The park joined forces with local boy scouts, a community homeowners group established to encourage responsible growth, the Getty Museum, and Heal the Bay, a clean water watchdog group. Two 40-yard dumpsters at two staging areas were filled and over 70 VIPs participated.

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

In 2003, the SEKI Fire Education Corps SCA volunteer provided valuable service both to park visitors and local communities. This volunteer worked over 600 hours providing free defensible space home evaluations for homeowners, roving near park fire projects giving information to the public, working with newspapers, and attending

special community events to educate people about fire safety. The park also hosted several Sequoia for Youth programs which involves kids volunteering in the park for a service project. Each student wore their volunteer uniform during the school science fair and helped recruit other students for the NPS volunteer program. After attending a week-long program and completing a service project one student wrote, “This week was amazing. I got to experience things that I would never be able to do otherwise. It has changed my opinion on my future.”

U.S.S. Arizona Memorial

The USS Arizona Memorial initiated a new program utilizing members of the active and reserve military branches serving throughout the Hawaiian Island of O’ahu and mainland America to assist with increased security measures at the memorial. With the initiation of this particular program, the park was able to raise over 4,600 volunteer hours in the park’s protection unit thus saving U.S. taxpayers thousands of dollars.

Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity NRA

Whiskeytown’s significant Volunteers-In-Parks activity for 2003 was the increasingly popular free kayak tours. The tours became so popular in the summer of 2002 that they were expanded to include evening and full moon tours. With the help of over 20 volunteers, visitors were introduced to quiet coves and a chance to spot bears along the shoreline, along with sightings of osprey, bald eagles, and great blue herons. Along the way visitors were educated about kayaking techniques and safety, and the history and geology of the area. Volunteers also managed the daily telephone kayak reservation line. Volunteers assisted with two tours per day, seven days per week in addition to special evening and moonlight tours and special tours for groups and events. Volunteers contributed 1,570 hours of their time to this popular activity.

Whitman Mission National Historic Site

The artifact collection has seen improvements in storage due to the museum collection VIP. The information gathered on the artifacts has been translated into recent collection criteria. Documenting the artifacts will produce results that show a more complete view of the Whitman Mission story. The slide file is currently being categorized by the volunteer also. The slides will be useful for public programs and for documenting the experiences of the site.

Yosemite National Park

Eighty four separate groups of volunteers were led in projects such as trash pickup, trail maintenance, exotic plant removal, fire prevention

strategies, and preventative search and rescue techniques. The park trained and utilized 7 individuals as “Crew Leaders” of volunteer groups. Of the eighty four projects, 43 were lead by these trained volunteers. Yosemite hosted three international volunteers and fifteen SCA Interns. Yosemite bridged an active partnership with the Golden Gate CIEE International Volunteers and the park provided volunteer labor and coordination to the U.S. Forest Service, Stanislaus National Forest, Groveland Ranger District.

Southeast Region

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site

In May 2003, twenty-six third and fourth graders from Magnolia Elementary School participated in the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home clean up day. This group laid sod, raked leaves, and weeded flowerbeds. In June, volunteers from the LaRue County Schools Youth Services Center pulled weeds, washed park signs, and removed trash from park trails. With the help of inmates from the LaRue County Correctional Center, 5 ½ acres of thistles were controlled as a part of the park’s alien plant control program.

Andersonville National Historic Site

The highlight of the volunteer program this year was the participation of over 70 volunteers in the filming of a new video for the park. “Voices from Andersonville” will be used as an introductory video in the National Prisoner of War Museum and as part of the park’s educational outreach program. This group of very dedicated volunteers spent three days in the Georgia heat of late July to assist with this project. They were very professional when it came to “hitting their marks” and endured the process of adding “sores” to their skin and dirt to their clothing.

Andrew Johnson National Historic Site

Over the past year, a variety of 8 volunteers performed many different tasks for the site. These volunteers worked 1,409 hours. An SCA intern logged 287 curatorial hours working in close conjunction with the site curator to analyze, describe, inventory, and catalog many items in the park’s field collection. She also spent 188 hours assisting the interpretive division in the Visitor Center. Trustees from the county detention center continued to help the park’s maintenance staff weed-eating around the many gravestones in the National Cemetery and assisting with routine maintenance tasks. A dedicated volunteer from Kingsport continues to come to the site each Tuesday to provide orientation at the Visitor Center.

Big Cypress National Preserve

Lee Pytel worked in Environmental Education within the Interpretation Unit at Big Cypress National Preserve. Her primary job was to assist in the SWAMP program with 6th grade school groups. Her day would start by preparing the backpacks for daily field operations for students out in the swamp. Following a half-day of pre-site at school, the students arrive the next day on-site ready to get their feet wet. As the students explore three different habitats they use the scientific equipment from their backpacks to take weather readings, sample soil, take dissolved oxygen readings of the water, and use telemetry equipment to track radio collars that previously have been used on endangered Florida panthers. The students collected and recorded data with Lee there to answer questions and provide guidance. Daily, Lee would enthusiastically wade out into the swamp exploring with excited and energetic 6th graders.

Biscayne National Park

Biscayne hosted three clean up events that brought close to 500 volunteers to help the shorelines, removing approximately 50 cubic yards of marine debris. The efforts of these individuals made a difference during the turtle and turn nesting seasons. Also, the park had the support of Unilever and Wal-Mart during the America National Park Tour Event. As part of this event the BellSouth Telephone Pioneers Volunteers, Everglades Chapter, built a second accessible picnic area. This group of retired telephone business professionals completed a week-long project that will improve visitor experience in the visitor center picnic area.

Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area

During FY 2003 the volunteers who worked at Big South Fork assisted in various projects and programs. Volunteers presented crafts instruction, demonstrations of craft skills, night sky telescope viewing, and special programs dealing with astronomical events at these programs for a total of 1566 interpretive program hours with 49 volunteers. During National Public Lands Day, five members of the Blue Ridge Trail Riders restacked 30 tons of rock from an old rock wall along No Business Creek shoreline. This was necessary to rehabilitate the stream banks and prevent trail erosion and undercutting of horse trails into the creek which was causing a hazardous condition for riders. The second group of volunteers from the Tennessee Trail Association worked on rebuilding a historic paling fence around the Oscar Blevins Farm. The group had assistance from Sam Perry an interpretive volun-



VIPs filming at Andersonville National Historic Site

teer who had skills in splitting out the palings. Two thirds of the rock wall project was completed at No Business Creek and half of the paling fence was completed around the Oscar Blevins Farm. Both groups want to see the completion of these projects in the next year.

Blue Ridge Parkway

The highlight of the Blue Ridge Parkway Volunteer Program in FY03 was the completion of the partnership between Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the park in management and support of the volunteer program. Friends provided administrative, financial, and management support in all aspects of the program. They provided funding for volunteer appreciation events for 583 volunteers, which the park could not formerly support. They implemented and fully managed an Adopt-A-Trail program for the park. They recruited and managed volunteers to assist the park in viewshed management and monitoring, and the establishment of a new trail system at the park's Blue Ridge Music Center. They jumped in and worked side by side with VIPs, and managed the program with a quality never before seen in this park. The result is an increase of over 5,000 volunteer hours and most importantly, a higher quality program with happier volunteers. The partnership is a great example of how Friends groups can support volunteer efforts in the National Park Service.

Buck Island Reef National Monument

Over the last sixteen years Buck Island Reef has been the focus of intense sea turtle research and monitoring on the highly endangered hawksbill sea turtle. Frequently the volunteer research assistants covered over 10 miles of beach per night and worked with up to 7 nesting turtles. The Buccaneer Hotel, a local four-star establishment, provided the long-term sea turtle volunteers with outstanding accommodations, three excellent meals a day, and the friendship and understanding of their staff. During their stay, volunteers were introduced to the three species of sea turtles that nest seasonally on the beaches of the Virgin Islands, completed extensive project training, were tested by the many rigors of sea turtle work, and successfully patrolled Buck Island nesting beaches all night for 2881 hours to collect data on nesting turtles. In addition there were over 44 volunteers from the local community that assisted the project either patrolling at night, assisting with turtle strandings, coral surveys, juvenile sea turtle survey, exotic predator control, or hatched nest excavations. There is no doubt that the investment the NPS has put into the Buck Island Reef Sea Turtle Program from a variety of sources and local partnerships to support volunteers has been worthwhile and will

continue to provide information critical to the survival of sea turtles in the Caribbean.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

The "Fish with a Ranger" program was featured in newspapers and local publications several times this summer. Twenty-three volunteers presented the program twice a week contributing 1240 hours for 1209 visitors. The program has continued to be very popular for the past thirty years. VIPs contributed 4160 hours to the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and Visitor Center by giving interpretive programs for more than 160,000 visitors, cataloging the library, and assisting with the 50th Anniversary Celebration. A volunteer at Fort Raleigh Visitor Center translated the official park map and guide into Spanish. Ocracoke ponies are thriving due to the hard work of the local VIPs. They have contributed 1200 hours in this endeavor. Wright Brothers VIPs contributed 3697 hours by staffing the Visitor Center and presenting programs, with an additional 263 hours for special events celebrating the Centennial. A new program was started this year called the "Beverly Henson Group." Beverly is an elementary school teacher in Hatteras. She organized a group of elementary school children and supervised them this summer. The children helped clean the lighthouse and worked with Resource Management in both sea turtle and bird nesting projects.

Canaveral National Seashore

This year the park had two VIPs that went to local elementary schools and presented the sea turtle education program. These were schools that could not come to the park for the formal Environmental Education programs. These two women sometimes visited 3 schools in one week's time. This was in addition to both of them working in the Information Center and for Environmental Ed. The outreach programs enabled children to experience the park and some of its resources from the classroom. The park has received rave reviews from teachers about the great job these two VIPs are doing.

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site

The time and talent of park volunteers were crucial to the success of the thirteen special events planned this year to recognize Carl Sandburg's 125th birth year and the 35th anniversary of the creation of Carl Sandburg National Historic Site. Two volunteers designed the logo used to tie the park and many community and partnership activities together. Volunteers helped visitors find parking, facilitated special interpretive programs, and helped promote the activities in the community. These contributions were above the "routine" services they provide in guiding house

tours, maintaining and interpreting the dairy goat operation, grooming the historic gardens, providing services along the park trails, and preserving items in the museum collection.

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

The Rivers Alive month-long campaign contributed 3,142 volunteer hours, with over 1,000 VIPs working on trash and debris removal along the Chattahoochee River. The park added National Public Lands Day to the list of annual volunteer events. Both Turner Broadcasting and Toyota Corporation participated with a total of 53 volunteers giving more than 200 hours. The groups removed exotic plants, set new split-rail fencing, and repaired eroded trails. The park hosted six SCA volunteers who worked on GIS projects, including utilizing GPS for mapping park encroachments and creating new park trail maps. The volunteer program also tapped into the court ordered community service program to assist with maintenance tasks.

Charles Pinckney National Historic Site

This year's project brought the Coastal Carolina Camellia Society along with the American Camellia Society to the Charles Pinckney Historic Site. They, along with Tom Johnson, the head horticulturist from Georgia, have taken a long-term interest in the health and preservation of the camellia's and live oaks at the site. Together they hope to preserve the camellia's through cuttings and regular maintenance.

Christiansted National Historic Site

In FY03 Christiansted NHS had two volunteers that helped maintain the Steeple Building that is open to the public. The park is in the process of recruiting more VIPs to staff the Steeple Building and help with Eastern National Bookstore operations. VIPs will also help clean the exhibit rooms located in the Fort Christiansvaern.

Cowpens National Battlefield

VIPs were a blessing to Cowpens National Battlefield in 2003, especially during special events, and their help came in several different varieties. Reenactors worked tirelessly with park staff members in April to pull off the park's first "education day" for local schools. For this program, reenactors and park staff were stationed at four schools as well as the Visitor Center and presented programs on the Battle of Cowpens as well as 18th century lifestyles. Each station averaged 200 children. In June, the park partnered with the town of Cowpens in honoring crewmembers from the World War II light aircraft carrier CVL-25, the USS Cowpens. This ship was named for the Battle of Cowpens, and crewmembers return each year for a reunion.

Volunteers from the town provided food for the reception at the battlefield for returning crewmembers and families. In addition, crewmembers from the new USS Cowpens, CG-63, the guided missile cruiser which fired the first missile in Operation Iraqi Freedom, attended the reception as well. Additionally, volunteers helped the park's two-person maintenance staff in keeping the Visitor Center, Administrative Office, and the park clean and ready for visitors.

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park has reached a milestone in its history. The 50-year-old dream of restoring the Cumberland Gap and Wilderness Road to its 1780-1810 appearance has become a reality. Once again, wildlife can roam freely through the pass and visitors can walk along the historic trail though the Cumberland Gap where the buffalo, the Native Americans, and the early settlers once trod. During the spring and fall of FY2003, volunteers from Lincoln Memorial University, Southeast Community College, and Middlesboro Independent Schools planted over 20,000 indigenous trees and shrubs alongside the newly restored trail. The American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacationers, ranging in age from 30 to 70, contributed one week of intense work clearing portions of the Harlan Road, a historic Civil War road.

Cumberland Island National Seashore

Cumberland Island National Seashore continues to expand and develop a successful volunteer program. To date, volunteers assist in curatorial research and cataloging, staff the mainland museum, team with rangers on tours for resource protection, assist with bird and horse counts, as well as assist turtle biologists during the busy turtle nesting season. In addition, VIPs provide much needed assistance with back-log maintenance projects and historic restoration. Some VIPs are provided lodging in some historic structures, which lessens the cost of lodging, provides someone on site as a visitor contact, and mitigates transportation problems to the island.

De Soto National Memorial

Orientation handbooks were created for all VIPs. These booklets contain a welcome and introduction to VIPs and information concerning the NPS, DE Soto NM, and the VIP program in general. One-on-one meetings were held as an opportunity to discuss possible job barriers or needs for improvement of DESO's VIP Program. Performance Evaluations were created and given to each VIP. A new brochure was prepared for recruitment efforts. Three events were attended to encourage local citizens to participate in the VIP program. As a result, the park gained eight

new VIPs. A program was developed to encourage the special needs population to participate in the VIP program. Manasota Arc brought numerous clients to help with trash pick-up. Two VIPs went through DESO's black powder training and have assisted park rangers in the living history program. Two VIPs have helped with computer problems and programs. They have become adept at website in-put and photography software. The park also provides service opportunities for local scout troops to obtain badges.

Dry Tortugas National Park

In addition to a wide range of important maintenance and resource management projects, volunteers assisted with the renovation of historic living quarters on Loggerhead Key. Volunteers also assisted with the installation and maintenance of a photovoltaic system designed to collect solar energy. The new photovoltaic system now supplies all of the electricity required for Loggerhead Key.

Everglades National Park

Student groups from The University of Madison, WI, Manchester High School, IN, Northwest Academy, ID, New Acropolis, FL, Princeton Christian School, FL and long-term VIPs Debra Guendelsberger and Laurie Humphrey came out to the Everglades to assist in a large scale restoration project in an area of the Slash Pine forest once dominated by a dense stand of non-native Brazilian Pepper. Due to their collective efforts, thousands of pine seedlings were planted and hundreds of Brazilian Pepper seedlings removed from newly restored sites. Data was also collected on pine seedling diameter and height. The hard work and commitment of these and other volunteer groups are helping to transform this abandoned farmfield into a healthy wetland prairie and pineland ecosystem.

Fort Donelson National Battlefield

Park staff and VIPs invited visitors to enjoy a taste of Christmas past at Fort Donelson National Battlefield's historic Dover Hotel. Following the customs of the Civil War period, staff and VIPs decorated the hotel with fresh fruits and greenery, contributing over 400 volunteer hours. Three local Girl Scout Troops and leaders assisted in period dress demonstrating the Victorian custom of caroling. Fort Donelson National Battlefield also hosted a recognition brunch to honor the park's VIPs and volunteer groups. Special thanks went to those with ten years of service. Park staff gave a power point presentation highlighting the park's volunteer program achievements for the preceding years. A 14" x 20" walnut plaque that lists volunteers with three or more years of volunteer service was unveiled.

The plaque is on displayed at the Fort Donelson National Battlefield Visitor Center.

Fort Frederica National Monument

FY 2003 marked a year where the park was the in the midst of a transition in the division of Interpretation. Without the help of a diligent volunteer staff, the park visitor center may not have been open some days. Fort Frederica National Monument had 3 RV couples and 3 RV singles occupy the RV pad. They provided numerous hours in the Visitor Center orienting visitors and providing basic visitor services. Two highlights of the program included VIP Donald B. Janes digitizing all of the park slides so they can now be used for presentations. In September, VIP Bob Wirt repainted all of the wayside exhibits, including stripping, sanding, cleaning, and painting.

Fort Matanzas National Monument

A new VIP opportunity at Fort Matanzas is as a deckhand. The new, larger ferry boat, 42-passenger Matanzas Queen III, needed another person in addition to the captain to handle dock lines. The park recruited and trained fourteen volunteers and cross-trained three other current VIPs. In all, with hosting the visitor center, serving as deckhands, and presenting interpretive programs, Fort Matanzas VIPs give time which equals that of nearly 2 1/2 permanent employees.

Fort Pulaski National Monument

In May 2003, over 20 VIPs participated in "clean coast", a United Way program. The VIPs spent the day cleaning the marsh and dike system around Fort Pulaski National Monument.

Fort Sumter National Monument

Ten Americorp team members donated 2,042 hours in May 2003 at Fort Sumter, Fort Moultrie, and the Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center. Some of their projects included the painting of cannon carriages at Fort Sumter and Moultrie, landscaping the Liberty Square park in front of the Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center, painting the World War II Harbor Entrance Command/Control Post at Fort Moultrie, and painting handrails and barriers at both forts. Without their help, these projects would have taken up to a year to complete. The improvements helped with the preservation of the resource and provided a positive experience for visitors.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Two ADA accessible campsites were installed in the Cades Cove Campground, which was also a kick-off celebration of the Take Pride in America initiative in the Park. These sites were installed in just one day by 28 volunteers from BWXT Y-12, Oak Ridge, TN. Each included a large poured



VIPs at Take Pride in America event at Great Smoky Mountains National Park

cement RV and vehicle pad accompanied by a crushed stone tent pad w/curbing, an accessible metal fire ring and pedestal cooking grill, picnic table, and associated walkways. In addition, a crushed stone and curbed walkway was constructed to connect the sites with nearby restrooms and paved roads as well as the adjacent concession store and campground kiosk. The project was enabled by a \$5,000 donation from BWXT in what was their 8th year of partnership projects and annual donations.



VIPs at Mammoth Cave National Park

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park

Nearly 50 VIPs were involved in the park's Veterans' Day program in November. The "History of the American Soldier" is a one-day interpretive program involving representatives from nine periods of United States military history. These periods stretched from the colonial era to the modern day. Each representative, a VIP, provided their own uniform, equipment, and weapon for this program.

Gulf Islands National Seashore

This year the International Beach Cleanup coincided with National Public Lands Day. The weather was great and 1163 volunteers turned out (a new 1 day record for Gulf Islands NS). They contributed 5433 hours of their time and cleaned up 97 miles of shoreline by picking up over 9 tons of debris.

Horseshoe Bend National Military Park

In January 2003, Horseshoe Bend NMP recruited, uniformed, and trained a cannon crew for monthly historic weapons demonstrations at the park. The new crew portrays Captain Joel Parrish's Tennessee militia artillery company, circa 1814, that fought at the battle of Horseshoe Bend. The monthly cannon demonstrations added a new element to the park's summer interpretive program and brought many new visitors into the park.

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve

This national park worked in partnership with local schools to have Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) volunteer to portray military groups at the commemoration of the Battle of New Orleans at Chalmette National Historical Park in January 2003.

Jimmy Carter National Historic Site

In early 2000, the park was tasked with replicating a rural south Georgia farm's blacksmith shop, circa 1930s. It was the knowledge and advice of Jay Reakirt, a nearby blacksmith, that made this project successful. As a VIP, Jay located period tools, fabricated ones he could not locate, and displayed them in a way that made

one think there were still glowing embers in the fire pot. Since then Jay comes periodically to demonstrate his craft and to oversee the shop's needs. Visitors to the farm have always been curious about blacksmithing, so this year, Jay volunteered his time to take several interpreters under his wing and place a hammer in their hand. It was not long before the anvil started to ring and visitors and students alike got to see smithies at work. The rangers still have a long way to go, but under the skilled tutelage of this VIP, they are becoming more proficient. The public is responding to the smell of the smoke when they near the shop, the sound of metal being beaten into shape, and the warmth of the fire on a cool, crisp, Georgia morning.

Kings Mountain National Military Park

Kings Mountain National Military Park continued to enhance the park's volunteer program with the continued growth of the Backcountry Militia, the park's newly formed living history group. During FY03, the group has grown not only in numbers but also in experience. The Backcountry Militia currently has 41 members and has become an outstanding ambassador for the park through participation in local and regional historical events, parades, and school educational programs. In addition to these out-of-park activities, the Backcountry Militia conducts at least one living history encampment each month of the year in the park. The Backcountry Militia, which is only in its second year of existence, contributed over 3200 hours of service during FY03. Boy and Girl Scout Troops, home school groups, and members of the Brigade of Friends contributed to the volunteer program by assisting with Cultural and Natural Resource Management projects.

Little River Canyon National Preserve

In May 2003, Little River Canyon National Preserve opened a Day Use Fee Area for the first time. VIP Dave Rogers used his expertise in carpentry to help build the fee collection booth and kiosk. Dave's many skills and willingness to volunteer his time are very much appreciated by the park. He was honored with an appreciation dinner and a plaque for 7 years of service to Little River Canyon National Preserve.

Mammoth Cave National Park

The plant communities at Mammoth Cave benefitted from hundreds of hours of volunteer labor. Beginning in the spring, the invasive plant, garlic mustard, was removed. This was followed by the planting of orchid and sunflower plants native to the area and the replanting of native ginseng plants recovered from poachers. As part of a project to eventually restore nut trees to the

forest, chestnut seedlings were planted and the search for native butternuts continues.

Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site

The Coca Cola Company, SunTrust, and Hands-On participated in the Annual King Holiday Celebration by providing assistance in cleaning Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church for the Annual Ecumenical Service. The site officially assumed responsibility for the Crescent Amtrak Trails to Rails Program from Jean Lafitte NHP&P.

Moore's Creek National Battlefield

VIPs Rhonda Billeaud and Jackie Carmichael conducted colonial toymaking workshops at the battlefield on two separate occasions during 2003. During the 227th anniversary of the battle they were in a rented tent where they taught children, and some adults, to make a variety of colonial toys. The tent was constantly full, with other visitors waiting in line. On Colonial Day, Rhonda returned to work with area children at a large table in the demonstration area. These programs are very popular because of the ladies' knowledge and personalities.

Natchez National Historical Park

The VIP program at Natchez National Historical Park cruised into new territory in 2003, making significant contributions in the community and the park. In September of 2002, the mansion Arlington, a National Historic Landmark in Natchez, burned. NATC staff and volunteers removed damaged historic furnishings from the house and over 2,000 historic books. NATC sponsored a training course in rare book conservation where over 20 VIPs cleaned and began the cataloging of the donated books. VIPs contributed to beautifying the Melrose property as well. Ten VIPs pruned the camellias of the grounds of the estate. The Interpretation Division was strengthened by several local and out-of-state volunteers who provided quality customer service at the park's two visitor centers and added support to the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

Natchez Trace Parkway

The Tombigbee Pioneer Group volunteered ten times throughout the year to provide demonstrations of pioneer life to parkway visitors. This group consists of several local families, home-school students, and area artisans who demonstrate basket making, spinning, chair caning, butter churning, leather making, whittling, and other activities. The Tombigbee Pioneer Group contributed over 1000 service hours. VIPs assisted with educational programs and helped with hosting special emphasis month events. The

parkway was fortunate to have the services of VIP Margaret Gann who contributed over 300 hours in ten months in the Tupelo Visitor Center. Ms. Gann was instrumental in helping the staff present over 85 educational programs and 60 different interpretive presentations.

New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park

The VIP program this year helped most significantly in the community out-reach programs. Education Programs were a big highlight for the park. VIPs Mr. and Mrs. Foy contributed greatly through education programs and administrative activities. SCA Wayne McCray worked with YCC workers and did a great job at preparing future park sites.

Ninety Six National Historic Site

The park hosted its annual Annual Autumn Candlelight Tour with approximately 1,000 visitors attending. 60 volunteers assisted at the visitor center, through living history programs, as tour guides, and with parking. Without VIPs the program would not have been successful. The park hosted the biannual program Evolutionary War Days with approximately 1,300 visitors attending the two-day program. Almost 150 volunteers with 10 reenactment units helped make the weekend unique with living history encampments and period skills demonstrations.

Obed Wild & Scenic River

Thanks to a cash award from Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Obed WSR was able to conduct a program entitled "Experience Your Obed." The Obed Wild & Scenic River was assisted by 9 other agencies to present programs to local government and community leaders to help them understand and appreciate the unique value and problems of the park. Three sessions were held and were well attended by current VIPs and some who were signed up on-the-spot. VIP hours resulting from EYO totaled over 100.

Ocmulgee National Monument

More volunteers helped with special events including the Ocmulgee Indian Celebration and Vietnam Wall Memorial. The park focused on using groups such as school volunteers and Boy/Girl Scouts to help clean up after special events. The park reached out to groups who have not volunteered before such as veterans, and had a very positive response. During the summer months, many more adults and teenagers volunteered to help with four Summer Children's Workshops. The SCA group did some much needed work on the trail system. Local High School students worked to complete community service hours. Ocmulgee National

VIPs...have enthusiastic attitudes and bring smiles with them to work.

*Russell Cave
National Monument*

Monument has become a well known place in the Macon area for people to participate in community projects that benefit everyone.

Russell Cave National Monument

VIPs at Russell Cave make ordinary days seem special. They have enthusiastic attitudes and bring smiles with them to work. The regular volunteers have become good friends with the entire staff and contribute to making special events a success. These are a tremendous amount of work and the VIPs are invaluable.

Southeast Archeological Center

Fifty-four volunteers worked through the Southeast Archeological Center on the Shiloh Mounds excavation. The excavation lasted from May to November. Pictures of the excavation and volunteers are available through www.cr.nps.gov/seac. Over 20 volunteers assisted archeologist John Cornelison with battlefield survey work, locating bullets, shell fragments, and other metal artifacts from Southeastern Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War park units. SEAC was pleased to accept Ms. Muriel Hannion as a long-term International VIP from France. Ms. Hannion learned the basic resource orientation of the National Park Service of the United States, including a detailed understanding of the cultural resources of the Southeast Region. This involved learning archeological field techniques and performing basic archeological field investigations, learning the basic cultural chronology of the Southeast, and cataloging and numbering archeological objects recovered from past excavations. Ms. Hannion's service alone accounted for over 100 hours. She is now pursuing a Master's degree in Geology at Florida State University.

Southeast Regional Office

The Southeast Regional Office student volunteer program is in its third year. The Budget/Finance office sponsored one local high school student and the Cultural Resources Division sponsored an Emory University student from South Africa as an International VIP. The Cultural Resource Division exposed the student to as many NPS park planning and resource management activities as possible. During the last quarter of FY 2003, the Southeast Region obtained the responsibility of the national level program, Trails and Rails, which is a program in partnership with AMTRAK. This realignment automatically expands the VIP program for the Southeast Regional Office to now provide support for 37 additional volunteers.

Shiloh National Military Park

In March of 2003, the park participated in the Civil War Preservation Trust sponsored Park

Day. 21 individuals gathered to assist in clearing brush from a fire line that was being cut around the boundary of the park. These individuals assisted in clearing part of this fire line, thus making that section more manageable to control a wild fire on the battlefield or to assist in keeping a wild fire from entering the park. Throughout the summer of 2003, a crew of archeologists from the Southeast Archeological Center and 55 VIPs worked at Indian Mound A of the Shiloh Indian Mound Complex. The excavations are providing information about the lifestyles of the Native Americans in this complex. These 55 volunteers donated a total of 2,538 hours in assisting with this valuable research project. Along with historic weapons firing demonstrations the park also used VIPs to display civilian life, medical demonstrations, civil war music, and a program on the navies of the American Civil War.

Stones River National Battlefield

In FY2003, Stones River National Battlefield hosted seven large volunteer projects including work days on CWPT Park Day, National Park Week/Earth Day, and National Public Lands Day. Three work projects were devoted to cleaning headstones in the Stones River National Cemetery while the other projects included exotic plant elimination and fence building. Many of these projects included cooperation with the City of Murfreesboro to improve areas adjacent to NPS property. The park also hosted several large living history programs including programs spanning eleven days during the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Stones River. Stinger Industries, a local business, became a volunteer partner with the battlefield. Stinger Industries' employees began volunteering at the park on a regular basis and will continue to do so.

Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site

This is the first year of the VIP program at Tuskegee Airmen NHS. When the park opened August 15, 2002 a young man decided to volunteer that day. Since that time he has spent almost every Saturday working at the park. During FY2003 he has devoted a total of 160 hours volunteering. Some of his projects include assisting in setting up exhibits, minor grounds cleanup, many hours spent receiving visitors, and providing information on park site development. He is currently researching weather data. His goal is to become a Meteorologist. To this end he has been researching costs for weather monitoring equipment for the park. His project is to monitor weather patterns and rainfall, research weather data collected by the Tuskegee Airmen, and compare dates, patterns, etc. He will document and maintain a file of the data collected. He has also been seeking to contact a Tuskegee Airmen Me-

The level of commitment and productivity demonstrated by Eric enabled him to be a huge part of the summer's production team.

Harpers Ferry Center

eteorologist to receive first-hand information to make his project more meaningful. In February 2003 another volunteer, a former school teacher, enrolled with the park. This woman brings many years of invaluable experience to the park. She has been working on the park's news file, working the information desk, working on developing curriculum for the park, and assisting with groups. The park also received an \$1800 grant from the National Park Foundation's African American Experience Fund's Volunteerism Enhancement Program. The funding will be used for research on the Tuskegee Airmen and expenses related to representing the park at the Experimental Aircraft Association's annual convention in Oshkosh, WI.

Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site

Voting Right's Jubilee Celebration Tuskegee Institute NHS VIPs participated in the annual Voting Right's Jubilee Celebration in March 2003. The Voting Rights Struggle produced an offspring of opportunities for thousands of minorities in the United States of America: the years of 1966 through the 1970's continued to be a struggle for minorities in the south. Minority Law Enforcement Officers were not willingly accepted into the field and faced adverse scrutiny. Yet, despite the odds of adversity, minority officers prepared the trail for others and entered into the field to protect and serve the populous. The highlight of the program was when Mr. Jesse Seroyer, United States Marshall Service, explained to students that right now they have all the tools they need in life to succeed, and to use them and never give up fighting for their rights.

Vicksburg National Military Park

VIP hours reached an all-time park high for 2003. A total of ninety-three volunteers logged in over 4,764 hours. Twenty-six volunteers were recruited for the park's summer living history unit and resulted in 251 one programs being presented to the public. Two VIPs assisted park staff in presenting a five-stop educational program to the entire 4th grade of Sherman Elementary. Numerous VIPs from reenactor groups participated in various programs. The park completed a successful VIP year with a five cannon artillery demonstration over Labor Day weekend.

Virgin Islands National Park

Virgin Islands National Park played host to an SCA camp and Americorp camp this past summer. The Americorp group, funded by the park, camped at Cinnamon Bay Campground and the SCA group, funded by the Friends of Virgin Islands National Park camped at Maho Bay Campground. During their six weeks at the park, both groups performed many different

tasks, including trail work, inventory and monitoring, and archeological work. All together, the groups provided Virgin Islands National Park with more than 2,600 volunteer hours which consisted of cataloging artifacts and rehabilitating more than 5 miles of trails.

Washington Office

Denver Service Center

The Denver Service Center is fortunate to have four dedicated volunteers. Library: Alice Sharp (11 years) and Pat Cooper (9 years). Alice expertly applies her cataloging skills to assist with cataloging projects for region and park libraries. Recently, Alice has undertaken a project to barcode the books in the branch libraries. Pat provides an alerting service to notify employees of articles of interest in current journals. She receives the journals and maintains the journal collection in the branch libraries. Their efforts greatly enhance the services of the library. Site Design: Felton Brunson (5 years) is a career Denver Service Center employee and has continued his engineering work after his retirement in 1998. This past year he has primarily worked on engineering projects at Lake Mead. Planning: Dina Thomas is a new volunteer for the Denver Service Center's Planning Branch. She has assisted in the preparation of various park planning documents including draft general management plan documents for mailing, Notice of Availability for Federal Register, and Draft Record of Decision, etc.

Harpers Ferry Center

Harpers Ferry Center VIP Eric Minella had a strong desire to be an interpretive filmmaker. He explored options within the film world, and made the decision to come to Harpers Ferry, WV all the way from California to work with the Harpers Ferry Interpretive Design Center. Eric worked an average of 60-hours per week and contributed to "Mosaic of Diversity", a new film for Olympic NP. By designing a major graphic element crucial to the film, he saved the government thousands of dollars. The level of commitment and productivity demonstrated by Eric enabled him to be a huge part of the summer's production team.