



Community Bulletin



Harpers Ferry Park Welcomes New Education Specialist

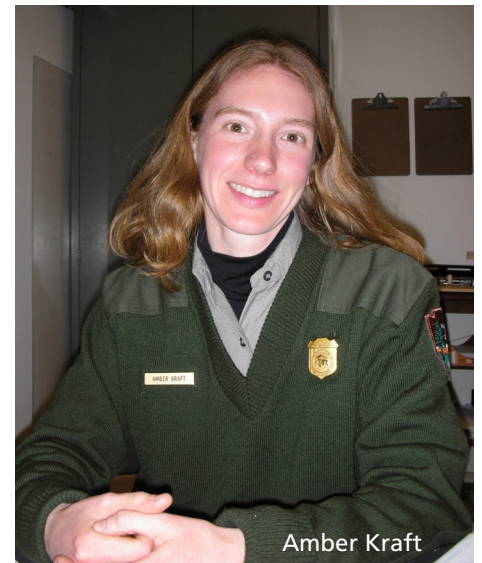
Harpers Ferry NHP is pleased to welcome Amber Kraft to its growing Education Staff. Amber recently moved to the area from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and graciously agreed to write a bit about herself for this month's Community Bulletin.

Growing up I always enjoyed family vacations, especially the ones to National Parks. I thought it would be great to wear a Smokey Bear hat and work in such amazing places. I remembered all those wonderful experiences after I graduated from Texas Lutheran University (TLU) and was looking for a job.

As a political science major at TLU, I had the opportunity to study how and why our government works. Upon graduation, I put my knowledge to work as a park guide at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia. It was wonderful to watch visitors at the Liberty Bell, the Rising Sun Chair, and the Declaration of Independence, pondering what these things represent to our country.

In 2004 I became an Education Program Developer at Independence. In this new role I created and evaluated the educational program and materials for the Independence Park Institute, the education branch. I promoted the park to teachers and students as a premier educational resource and strived to create educational experiences that sparked intellectual and emotional connections to the stories and resources of the park. I based all programs on current research and best practices in the field as I created standards-based learning experiences for teachers, students, and learners of all ages.

I am now honored to be a member of the exciting and productive education team at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. I have come to learn that the education program has made great strides in recent years and I welcome the challenge to continue the excellent standards set by the folks at Harpers Ferry NHP.



Amber Kraft

Amber and the rest of the Education Team are preparing for upcoming Spring programs for school groups, a Summer Teacher Institute on John Brown from June 23 to 27, and a Bridging the Watershed Teacher's Institute from July 7 to 11. For more information about the Education Program at Harpers Ferry NHP log on to <http://www.nps.gov/hafe/> or call the Education Offices at 304-535-6283.

Volunteers Needed For 20th Annual River Cleanup

Join us on Saturday, April 5, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, rain or shine, to clean up the shoreline of the Potomac River. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and River and Trail Outfitters BTI Whitewater, and River Riders staff will be at Potoma Wayside, across from the intersection of Hwy. 340 and Rte. 671, to assist volunteers. Extra parking will be in the gravel lot upstream and across the highway. Volunteers should wear boots or sturdy shoes and prepare to get dirty. Trash bags and canvas gloves will be provided.

This annual event, the largest single watershed cleanup in the region, is a unique cooperative effort of federal, state, county and city governments working with a variety of groups and concerned citizens. Last year, volunteers participated at sites in DC, WV, VA and MD hauling away 291 tons of trash from the tributaries and shoreline of the Potomac River. The drainage basin of the Potomac includes more than 100 tributaries and covers more than



23 volunteers contributed to the Potomac Watershed cleanup on March 31, 2007.


14,000 square miles in West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Washington D.C.

Why have a watershed cleanup? Rivers are a symbol of the health of our community. What does it say about us when we allow trash to line the river shoreline and lodge in streambeds? Last year's haul included more than 13 tons of recyclables, 889 tires,

11 shopping carts, eight car bumpers, three bed frames, two recliners, \$50 in foreign currency, and, yes, even the proverbial kitchen sink. How did most of this trash get there? As water washes down our sidewalks and street and into storm drains, the runoff carries with it whatever is in its path. Storm drains then dump the water into nearby tributaries, or into the river itself. Some people intentionally dump anything they don't want into the rivers!

Join the fun and share the good feelings that come from doing your part to help clean the Potomac watershed and to protect the Chesapeake Bay. We all live downstream. Join us on April 5th. It's time to take out the trash!

For more information about the cleanup at Harpers Ferry, contact Park Ranger David Fox at david_fox@nps.gov or (304) 535-6282.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The history of Harpers Ferry has few parallels in the American drama. It is more than one event, one date, or one individual. It is multi-layered, involving a diverse number of people and events, decisions and actions that influenced the course of our nation's history. Visit Harpers Ferry and step into history.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
P.O. Box 65
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425

Visitor Center
304-535-6029

Harpers Ferry Historical Association Bookshop
304-525-6881 or 800-821-5206

Harpers Ferry NHP Home Page
www.nps.gov/hafe/

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

Team Up to Cleanup Battlefield

On Saturday, April 5, 2008, history buffs and preservationists from around the country will team up with the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) to help clean and restore America's priceless battlefields, cemeteries and shrines. The nationwide effort – dubbed Park Day – is underwritten with a grant from The History Channel. For the second time, this year's Park Day is presented in partnership with Take Pride in America, a division of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is one of the sites that will benefit from Park Day-related activities. Volunteers are needed to cleanup the Schoolhouse Ridge North Battlefield. Starting at 9 a.m., volunteers will remove trash, fences, brush and downed timber in preparation for new trails and exhibits. Parking will be on site at the intersection of Bakerton Road and Highway 340. Park staff will be on site

until 4 p.m. to coordinate the cleanup. Volunteers should wear boots or sturdy shoes and be prepared to get dirty. Tools, trash bags and water will be provided by the park. Bring gloves, if possible, and a lunch.

Park Day is an annual event sponsored by the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT). It is an excellent opportunity to bring Civil War enthusiasts and community activists together in an effort to help keep our nation's Civil War heritage not only preserved, but also pristine, well kept, and cared for. This event will be held rain or shine. T-shirts provided by CWPT will be available to all volunteers.

Join us on April 5th. For more information, contact Park Ranger, David Fox at 304-535-6282 or by e-mail at david_fox@nps.gov