



The Quarterly

Letter from the Superintendent

The National Park Service was founded in 1916 and will celebrate its 100th anniversary in nine years. President Bush’s proposed 2008 budget launched the National Park Centennial Initiative. If passed by Congress, this budget would provide up to \$3 billion of public and private investment over 10 years to prepare parks for another century of conservation, preservation, and enjoyment. The President’s Centennial Commitment says \$100 million per year for 10 years in federal spending will fund new levels of excellence in parks. These funds will hire 3,000

more seasonal national park rangers, guides and maintenance workers; repair buildings; improve landscapes; and enroll more children in Junior/Web Ranger programs. Richmond NBP is scheduled to have 6 seasonal jobs funded from this initiative.

The President’s Centennial Challenge is designed as follows: each year for the next 10 years, \$100 million of annual mandatory federal spending will be available to match at least \$100 million in private contributions to national parks. This Centennial Challenge con-

tinues the legacy of leveraging public and private investment for the benefit of national parks and their visitors. Parks now receive about \$20 million each year in cash gifts. The Centennial Challenge will increase the level of giving and help pay for signature programs and projects identified through a public, open, and transparent process.

The NPS held a Listening Session in Richmond at the Tredegar Iron Works on March 26, at which over 100 participants discussed ideas for the future

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Maggie Walker House Gets “Special” Treatments

Maggie Walker’s house is a rare glimpse into Richmond’s upper-middle class African American community during the early 20th century. With such stately architecture and decorative contrivances, one can wander around the house in awe for hours. However, the house isn’t completely furnished—yet. Hard at work in the parlor is a lively pair, Judy Radford and Kenny Tinsley of Elegant Draperies. The NPS contracted the local company to install window treatments for the house to further enhance its 1930’s appearance. Until recently, the windows were bare

save for some sheers and shades. Long-time Park Ranger Celia Suggs whole-heartedly approves of the results, stating that the window treatments “provide a vibrant atmosphere and highlight the luxury of Mrs. Walker’s home.”

For some time now, the Harper’s Ferry Center’s Historic Furnishings

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Before: Judy Radford and Kenny Tinsely of Elegant Draperies remove sheers from the windows of Maggie Walker’s front parlor. See page 4 for the results of their efforts.

The Superintendent's Letter

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of the NPS. Multiple other Listening Sessions were held in March and April all over the country, gathering ideas from the public. Following these sessions and with information from career NPS staff, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne and NPS Director Mary Bomar will present their recommended goals and actions to the President by May 31, 2007.

This is an exciting time for the National Park Service in general and for Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site in particular.

Cynthia MacLeod

Employee Profile: Klydie Thomas

This issue of the Quarterly we welcome Klydie Thomas to Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site. Klydie is our new museum curator and officially began here on October 30, 2006. She describes her job this way: "I am the steward for the museum collection. I represent the collection and do what it takes to make sure it will be preserved for us and future generations to see."

Prior to Klydie's appointment to Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, she worked at Colonial National Historical Park as well as at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve in Gustavus, Alaska. In addition she has worked at the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art in Washington, D.C.



**Klydie Thomas, Museum Curator,
Richmond National Battlefield Park and
Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site**

Klydie was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and while she currently has no kids, spouse or pets, sometime in the next ten years she hopes to start a family. She loves dancing, fashion, running and chocolate.

Welcome, Klydie!

CleanUp at Totopotomoy Creek

Eagle Scout, Michael Dawson, and his Mechanicsville Troop 535 provided much needed assistance in the park's attempt to protect and manage its recently donated Totopotomoy Creek property. Last winter, Michael organized and carried out a project to clean up a large, unsightly dump site of modern household garbage on the property. This included securing the use of a bobcat and hauling vehicle, donated by Collision One, as well as a place to dump the garbage.

Michael and his troop removed two large trailer loads during the course of the project and then returned during their Christmas break to haul off one more load. The troop also installed a trailside bench, and several posts to

exclude damaging ATV's entering the property from an adjacent neighborhood. All of the material Troop 535 used were donated by Home Depot and Dominion Salvage.

In these tight financial times, it would have been nearly impossible for the park to acquire the funds or supply the staff to complete this very important project. However, thanks to this large scale clean up effort, the



Special thanks go to Eagle Scout Michael Dawson and Boy Scout Troop 535 of Mechanicsville for their hard work in clearing a dump site and beautifying the Totopotomoy Creek battlefield site.

environment is cleaner and the park unit is that much closer to being opened up to visitors.

Stewardship Recipe for a New Generation



Education Specialist Pat Ferrell and Twin Hickory teacher Deborah Gribben with boxes that were mailed out for the "Blazing Trails Through Our National Parks" project.

How do you get 850 students excited about learning and help them gain a better understanding and appreciation of our national parks? That's easy. Take the teacher of the year at Twin Hickory Elementary School, Deborah

Gribben and mix in her creative ideas; add Education Specialist Pat Ferrell from Richmond National Battlefield Park and schedule some invigorating meetings: Bam! You have a project called "Blazing Trails Through Our National Parks" that brings students, teachers and park rangers together in an exciting learning adventure that supports today's curriculum-based education.

Next, you give each of the 40 classes at Twin Hickory Elementary School a national park that fits well with the standards of that grade level. Let the students use technology, write letters, do research, construct 3-dimensional objects, become WebRangers, and work collaboratively with others while

accomplishing the SOL goals in a fun way. Have each classroom send a school mascot (Blazer the Dog) on a journey equipped with a disposable camera, a journal, postcard money, return postage for the Blazer box to be sent back to the school, letters to park rangers and a scavenger hunt list generated by the students. In April, during National Park Week, have each classroom represent their national park for people to visit, display student projects and interpret the contents of the returned box.

Voila, a stewardship recipe for a new generation of students that are using national parks to experience their America!

Mark Your Calendars!

Below are a few of Richmond National Battlefield Park's upcoming events. Call (804)226-1981, ext. 30 for details. All programs are free unless otherwise noted.

May 19 and 20 -- Drewry's Bluff Anniversary Program. Living history encampment, with park ranger guided tours and historical talks. Saturday 10 am-5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm.

May 28--Memorial Day Program at Fort Harrison National Cemetery. Noon, with guest speaker and wreath laying ceremony.

June 2 and 3--Cold Harbor Anniversary Program. Living History encampments, artillery and rifle firing demonstrations, and ranger guided walking tours. Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Evening program Saturday 7 pm.

June 23 and 24--Gaines' Mill Anniversary Program. Living history encampment, rifle-firing demonstrations and walking tours throughout the weekend. Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm.

July 7 and 8--Malvern Hill Anniversary Program. Union artillery and Confederate infantry demonstrations; park ranger guided walking tours offered throughout the weekend. Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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

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

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

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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The Quarterly

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Comments? Write to:

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Department, Maggie L. Walker NHS and Elegant Draperies have been coordinating to reproduce the house’s original curtains and draperies. In Radford’s opinion, enhancing the windows for the 22-room house is “a piece of cake.” Tinsley explains that unlike their modern counterparts, older fabric prints are easier to find. “They’ve been around for over a hundred years.” While he brings expertise in drapery installation, Radford coordinates with designers and Draperies staff to develop a finished product.

Thanks to these experts who’ve been with Draperies for more than 10 years, the house is even more dynamic. When



After: The new and improved front parlor, with draperies recreating the original look of curtains from Mrs. Walker’s era.

Tinsley and Radford were commended for exercising extreme caution in the house and around the furnishings, Tinsley’s reply was, “We have to be, we’re preserving a big part of history!”

Locations of front page images (left to right): Chimborazo Medical Museum; Cold Harbor battlefield; Drewry’s Bluff battlefield; Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site; The Parsonage at Malvern Hill battlefield; Civil War Visitor Center at Tredegar Iron Works.