



Community Bulletin

Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan Honored by NPS

Acclaimed filmmaker Ken Burns can now add “honorary park ranger” to a resume that already includes two Academy Award nominations, seven Emmy Awards, and 20 honorary degrees.

Acting National Park Service Director Dan Wenk recently presented Burns and his production partner Dayton Duncan with honorary park ranger certificates and traditional ranger hats during a ceremony in the Department of the Interior Auditorium. After receiving the awards, Burns and Duncan previewed and discussed a short film based on *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, their six-part, 12-hour series scheduled to air on PBS stations nationwide this September.

“Ken and Dayton have created a documentary film on the national parks and the origin of the National Park Service that provides Americans an opportunity to reflect on the significance and value of our national parks,” said Wenk. “Their film will assist the National Park Service in communicating important messages and themes, such as the wonder of our natural and cultural heritage preserved in the National Park System; the unique American ideas and ideals that the System represents; and the inclusion of America’s diversity in its past, present, and future.”

The project, eight years in the making, traces the birth of the national park idea in the mid-1800s and follows its evolution for nearly 150 years.

Burns said the cinematography in the series is the most stunning of his nearly 30-year career. “National parks embody an idea as uniquely American as the Declaration of Independence and just as radical: that the most magnificent and sacred places in our land belong not to royalty or the rich but to everyone- and for all time,” said Burns. “While making this series, we discovered more than stories of the most dramatic landscapes on earth. We discovered stories of remarkable people from every conceivable background. What they had in common was a passion to save some precious portion of the land they loved so that those of us who followed might have the same chance to fall in love with that place. Without them, parks would not exist.”

Battlefield and River Cleanup Day Scheduled for April 4

On Saturday, April 4, 2009, preservationists and river outfitters from around the area will participate in Park Day and the Potomac River Cleanup. Individuals and groups are welcome to join these efforts:

Potomac River Cleanup:

From 9 a.m. to noon meet at Potomac Wayside, across from the intersection of Hwy. 340 and Rte. 671. Extra parking will be in the gravel lot upstream and across the highway. Volunteers should

wear boots or sturdy shoes and be prepared to get dirty. Trash bags will be provided. Please bring work gloves.

Battlefield Cleanup:

From 8 a.m. to noon meet at the Schoolhouse Ridge South Battlefield. Parking will be on site adjacent to Highway 340 and Koonce Road, across from Meadow Farms Nursery. Volunteers will remove wire and pallet fencing and vegetation debris. Wear boots or sturdy shoes and be prepared

to get dirty. Tools and trash bags will be provided by the park. Please bring work gloves and water.

For more information about these opportunities at Harpers Ferry, contact Volunteer Coordinator Jessica Liptak at jessica_liptak@nps.gov or (304) 535-5017. For information the day of the event, call the park Information Center at 304-535-6029.

Volunteer of the Month

Eighteen-year old Harpers Ferry resident and education intern, Jeremiah Alexander, is currently a sophomore at Howard Community College studying computer science. He began his volunteer work for Harpers Ferry NHP this past summer, when park managers realized his computer skills could help the education staff create a new online reservation system for school programs.

Jeremiah saw it as a good opportunity to gain work experience while also seeing the positive effect his work would have close to home.

The new reservation system will pilot this spring and the education staff hopes to have the system fully operational for the 2009-2010 school year. Once in place, it will enable teachers to quickly and easily make field trip reservations to the park.

Education Specialist Amber Kraft commented, "Jeremiah has done an outstanding job helping us meet the needs



Jeremiah Alexander works on the new Education Reservation System.

of educators and at the same time providing excellent customer service."

"The best part about this [volunteer] work has been what I love about [computer] programming: finding creative ways to solve problems and make everything come together," stated Jeremiah.

In his spare time Jeremiah enjoys photography, working with and playing games on computers, and, of course, spending time with his friends.

Harper Ferry Center Garners Awards

Congratulations to Harpers Ferry Center. Several of their products have been recognized with 2009 Blue Pencil and Gold Screen Awards by National Association of Government Communicators. Final announcement of First Place, Second Place, and Awards of Excellence will be announced on Wednesday, April 22. The products are:

Title: Arlington House Unigrid Brochure
Category: Most Improved Publication
Contributors: Susan Barkus, Bill Gordon, Nancy Haack, Kendell Thompson

Title: Chesapeake and Ohio Canal NHP Large Print Brochure
Category: Special Purpose Publication
Contributors: Lori Simmons, Bill Justice, Ed Zahniser, Linda Meyers

Title: Falls View Park Wayside Exhibits
Category: Special Purpose Product
Contributors: Betsy Ehrlich, Duncan Hay, Sarah Heald, Winnie Frost

Title: New Unigrid Brochures
Category: Graphic Design Portfolio
Contributor: Angie Faulkner

Title: Land of Dreams: Homesteading America
Category: Documentary
Contributor: Charles Dunkerly



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

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.

Upcoming Events

April 18 "A Prelude to History: The Wedding of Virginia Kennedy"
10 am - 4 pm

Opening event for the John Brown Raid Sesquicentennial. Programs and activities focus on the arrival of John Cook to Harpers Ferry and his subsequent marriage to Virginia Kennedy. Family & youth activities and a dramatic presentation "My Conspirator", the life of Captain John Cook as told by his sister, Kate.

April 25 Workshop "Elegant Solutions: Animals Replenishing the Kitchen Garden" 10-4 pm Join Master Gardener Carol Anderson to discover how to reap the benefits of kitchen gardening with heirloom vegetables. Registration fee of \$20.00 covers instruction and the purchase of heirloom vegetables. To register and for more information, call the living history offices at 304-535-6063. Class is limited to 20