



Community Bulletin



Hard Work Improves Appalachian Trail

Bob Sickley, Kerry Snow and other Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) personnel from Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania have worked with Steve Lowe, Harpers Ferry Park Landscape Architect, over the last 5 years to create grant funding and allocate man power for the construction of a 50 plus stone step staircase, connecting the Mather Side Trail to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy on Washington Street.

With funding appropriated, the first ATC crew worked on the trail from

October 12 - 22, 2006. Eight ATC and Potomac Appalachian Trail Club volunteers installed the first steps on the trail, completing approximately 35% the total staircase installation. They installed 18 cut and shaped steps.

The second volunteer work party was again lead by Bob Sickley and Kerry Snow from ATC Boiling Spring, PA, but this trip fully enlisted Chris Brunton, Lead Trail Boss for the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. Chris supplied the majority of volunteer labor for the

December 15-17 work weekend. With knowledge of sling loading stone via cable and more than a full crew, approximately 22 stones were cut, shaped and laid into place.

A third ATC lead work crew will complete the job. Bob Sickley has recruited 10-16 Georgia Tech graduate students to complete the stone staircase from March 17-21, if all goes as scheduled.



Upcoming Events

Women's History Month Activities

Necessity: The Mother of Invention

The industrial revolution debuted new machines, gadgets, and gizmos that helped offer Americans more time, more money and established a burgeoning middle class. Harpers Ferry women took advantage of these inventions and employed them in their everyday lives with family, field and factory. Special programs will feature industrial & scientific advances in gardening, food preservation, and fabric manufacturing.

March 24th

Luxury or Necessity: Victorian Preserved Foods Kitchen gardens were commonly found in Harpers Ferry's mid-nineteenth century backyards. Local families "put up" or preserved their own foods for long term storage in an era when tin canned foods were becoming more widely available on national and international markets. Join

the living history staff and volunteers at Roeder's Confectionery as they demonstrate the differences between tin can and glass preserved foods. Visitors are invited to examine Victorian food preservation methods and containers.

March 24-25

Victims of Failure: 1847 Mill Girls of Virginus Island

Join members of the Frederick Ladies Relief Society and park staff at the Ready Made Clothing Store for stories, displays, and demonstrations about the fateful lives of the Virginus Island Mill Girls. The weaving mill opened in 1847 to rave reviews boasting technologies of gas lights and steam heat employing 35 women. The mill's sudden closure cast a shadow of embezzlement on the mill's management and a dim and uncertain future for the women workers. Visitors are invited to contrast and compare machine made yarn and cloth to hand made and make woolen yarn on the park's drop spindles.

April 21-22

Rally For Virginia 1861 The Southern Grays, reactivated living history group, will portray a camp of mustering Virginia State Troops during the opening moments in the Civil War when citizens became soldiers and state militia became part of the Confederate army. Although the federal armory at Harpers Ferry had been destroyed in April, the town remained a strategic military staging area for the nucleus of the growing confederate forces. The Southern Grays, will portray the Grayson "Daredevils," an 1861 militia unit

from the mountains of Southwestern Virginia which became part of the 4th Virginia infantry of the Confederate army. The Grayson Daredevils and other volunteers mustered into Confederate service in the Spring of 1861 under Colonel Thomas Jackson, later known as General "Stonewall" Jackson. The Southern Grays will depict the raw recruits of the time with period correct uniforms, weapons, and camp life.

May 5th


Stonewall Jackson's Brilliant Victory

Join living history staff on Bolivar Heights for a hike out to the School House Ridge Battlefield, the location of Confederate General Stonewall Jackson's 1862 brilliant victory. Guided Living History hike begins on Bolivar Heights and ends on School House Ridge.

May 26-27

Defend and Protect: Arming America's Soldiers

Special exhibits, historic weapons firing demonstration, and programs highlight the Harpers Ferry Armory, technology, invention and how soldiers used these weapons for national defense and exploration. This program investigates how a young republic grew with industrialization, technology, innovation, national expansion, while wrestling with the challenges of mass immigration, free labor versus slavery, and religious prejudice. Visitors are invited to experience the skills necessary to be a musket lock plate armory worker and munitions workers.



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/

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