



Community Bulletin



Bridging the Watershed: A Great Partnership

This past fall over 400 students and teachers visited the park to participate in Bridging the Watershed (BTW) field studies. BTW is an outreach program of the Alice Ferguson Foundation, in partnership with the National Park Service and area schools that provides meaningful educational experiences connecting students to their place in the natural and cultural world.

BTW Educators and Harpers Ferry Park Rangers work together to give students a hands-on experience that meets state curriculum standards for WV, MD, and VA schools and also connects students to their natural world and the park.

Five modules offered in the park. They are:

- Alien Invaders: assessing exotic invasive species
- Don't Get Sedimental: runoff and sediment in the river
- Water Canaries: assessing benthic macroinvertebrates
- Watershed Watchdogs: assessing water quality
- A park-specific module called Water Power.

In order to participate in these field studies, teachers must attend a BTW summer teacher institute that prepares them to incorporate one or more of the stand-alone curriculum modules into

science courses. Institute participants explore the Potomac River watershed to learn about the local history, geology, ecology and how to work with student investigations in the BTW curricula. Teachers also conduct a field study in their participating park to collect and analyze authentic data.

This summer's institute for Harpers Ferry NHP and Monocacy National Battlefield will be held June 15-18, 2009. Teachers can earn a stipend and graduate credit or MSDE credit for participating in the institute.

For more information log onto:
<http://www.nps.gov/hafe/forteachers>



Wal-Mart Volunteers

Five Wal-Mart managers from stores in Charles Town, Martinsburg, and Spring Mills recently completed a community service project in the park. Working with Park Volunteer Coordinator, Jessica Liptak, and Landscape Architect, Steve Lowe, the group cleared wire fencing along sections of School House Ridge South Battlefield, improving this section of the battlefield for park visitors.

Pictured left: (L to R) Eric Darr, Ron Prather, Michelle Fogle, Clint Miller, Ernie Ferrebee

January Volunteer of the Month: Vanessa Smiley

Vanessa Smiley has worn many different hats at Harpers Ferry NHP; as a seasonal ranger with the park's living history and education programs, a student intern and as a visitor use assistant. Since 2005 and her work with the Youth Conservation Corps, Vanessa had grown accustomed to conveying the park's history and significance to visitors through interpretation, living history, and education programs.

In late November, Vanessa began working with Steve Lowe, the park's Landscape Architect, as a landscape architect intern. Since then, Vanessa has turned out some excellent products: a 150-page park wayside guide including information on inventory, maintenance, planning, flood removal and installation; plant identification binders for over 150 native and exotic plant species; and construction designs of "standard park pipe gates."



Vanessa has been a tremendous asset to the park, Lowe comments, "she is naturally savvy with photography, drawing programs, drafting skills and document organization. She is quick to grasp design concepts, is not afraid to ask questions, desires to produce the best products she can, is extremely hard working and a pleasure to supervise."

Vanessa would love to become a future permanent full time employee with the National Park Service, however, she realizes those jobs are hard to come by, so she continues her graduate work on-line pursuing a Master of Science in Resource Interpretation from Stephen F. Austin University.

In spring 2009, Vanessa will finish out her experience at Harpers Ferry NHP, then move on to the C & O Canal National Historical Park.

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.

Necessity the Mother of Invention

Harpers Ferry Park announces the March 2009 Women's History Month Program, *Necessity the Mother of Invention*. On Saturday and Sunday, March 28-29 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the public is invited to see industrial revolution debuted 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 and scientific advances in gardening, food preservation, and fabric manufacturing.

Join the park's living history volunteers and 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. Contrast and compare machine-made yarn and cloth to hand-made samples.

Additionally, at the Dry Goods Store exhibit, visitors can inspect the latest in patent medicines and home entertainment, such as the stereopticon. Learn about Doctor Fowler's theories on Phrenology, the health benefits of Sylvester Graham's health cracker, Mr. Goodyear's vulcanized rubber products, Samuel Colt's revolver pistol, and the variety of ways to light your home at mid-century. Join the living history staff and volunteers as they demonstrate the differences between tin can and glass preserved foods. Visitors are invited to examine Victorian food preservation methods and containers.

For additional information contact the Living History Branch at 304-535-6063.



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.