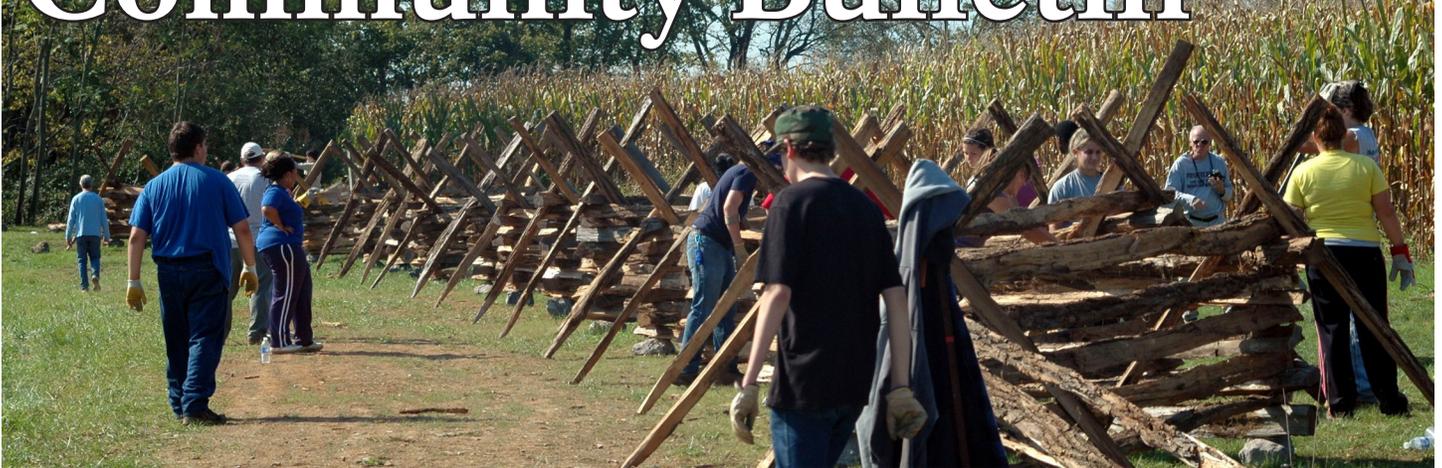




Community Bulletin



Students Build a Fence and Commit to Making a Difference

For the sixth consecutive year the senior class from St. Mary's Hall/Doane Academy in Burlington, New Jersey made the 4 hour trip from home to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and the park is all the better because they made that journey. On September 24 nineteen students and 5 teachers completed a fencing project along School House Ridge--South Battlefield. According to Principal Jim Paradis, "Completing service projects is part of the mission of the school. We teach our students to make significant contributions. Think beyond themselves. Do for someone else. That's why we're here. We had a history lesson at Antietam Battlefield yesterday and one here last night. The students know this is special ground. When we return to school, we put together a slide presentation and the students talk about what they learned from this experience."

It was a perfect day for fence-building--the temperatures and humidity were low, but the gnats were out in force. Everyone got the chance to swing a sledge hammer and swat bugs. Marklyn Louis commented, "I thought this was going to be icky and disgusting, but it turned out to be fun. I liked the sledge-hammering thing. I'd never done that before." Niya Chambers agreed, "I think it's been fun. I was hesitant at first, because I didn't know how this would work out. It's better than expected, even though I got a gnat in my ear."

Headmaster John McGee said, "I told the students the NPS knows we're not normal and have accomplished great projects in the past. I told them they had a reputation to uphold and they've done it. We get a lot more out of this than the NPS does."

Anthony Wootson added the work was "50 percent better than my old job" as John Graziul chimed in, "This is just like my old job of cutting wood." Eric Baker said, "We're getting done faster than I thought."

When asked what they were going to say to the 5 seniors who missed the trip the group responded, "We're going to

rag on them and tell them how great this was. They missed a great bonding experience." Justin Baldwin added, "I'll take away a commitment to learning and cooperating with others."

Team work was evident. Those experienced with manual labor taught novices; as everyone got a turn to do something new. Teachers took turns swinging a sledge instead of opening a text book, while students called out encouragement. "You can do it. That's the way." It was like having your own personal cheering section.

"We give each other good support and encouragement," said Niya Chambers. "That's one thing our class is good at--we push each other to reach our goals."



Upcoming Events

November 1-2 Luxury or Necessity: Victorian Preserved Foods Join staff and volunteers at Roeder's Confectionery as they demonstrate the differences between tin can and glass preserved foods. 11:00 to 4:00 p.m.

December 6-7 Prospects of Peace: A Soldier's Prayer presents a special program focusing on Yuletide 1864 when soldiers attempted to create their own version of Christmas on the battle front. 11:00 to 5:00 p.m.

In 2009 Harper Ferry NHP and partners will host a variety of events commemorating the 150th anniversary of John Brown's Raid.

Log on to <http://www.johnbrownraid.org/> for a list of activities.

Job Corps Students Experience Historical Trades



Students pause at lunch time to admire their work.



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.

On October 23, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park was pleased to host a training session with students from the Job Corps Carpenter Shop. The day began with a guided tour of the park given by Living History Ranger Scott Devers. Along with the history of the area, the tour focused on average working class men and the types of jobs they held in the historic town in days past.

Following the tour, 10 students and their instructor, Mr. Hartle, worked with Devers making period-style fence palings for the Paymaster Garden Gate. The students were enthusiastic and reported they would like to return to learn and experience other period trades.



Using the "wolluper" a student drives the froe down through a piece of timber to create a straight board.