



The Oasis

The seasonal newsletter of Prince William Forest Park • Volume 1, Issue 12

A Year of Special Events Commemorates the Enduring Legacy of FDR’s New Deal Programs.

On September 26th and 27th, Prince William Forest Park hosted the National Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Alumni Reunion and National Public Lands Day. The weekend was one of a series of events offered by the park throughout the year to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal programs. Prince William Forest Park was founded as part of a ‘New Deal’ program in 1936. The September weekend honored the CCC alumni, commemorated their accomplishments, and recommitted to passing the CCC legacy of service to this current generation. Over 250 volunteers donated almost 1000 hours on September 27th to the park for National Public Lands Day. They cleaned cabins, painted fences and fire hydrants, and planted trees.



The CCC alumni visit the FDR memorial in Washington, DC . Photo Courtesy: NPS.



Department of Interior Deputy Secretary Lindi Harvey poses with Scout Troop 35 on National Public Lands Day. Photo Courtesy: NPS

A dozen CCC alumni gathered to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Roosevelt’s New Deal program. Highlights of the weekend included a tour of the World War II Memorial and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.; National Public Lands Day activities; and a BBQ supper and park program in one of the park’s historic CCC-

built dining halls. The event culminated with a dinner celebration hosted by the CCC Legacy and Prince William Forest Park in the recently rehabilitated CCC-built OSS Theater.

During the National Public Lands Day opening and closing ceremonies on Saturday, CCC alumni were publicly honored for their work and their conservation legacy on public lands across the United States. Prince William Forest Park was the national signature event site for this year’s Public Lands Day event, sponsored by the National Environmental Education Foundation. A welcome was provided by Superintendent Bob Hickman and guest speakers included DOI Assistant

Secretary Lynn Scarlet; NPS Deputy Director Lindi Harvey; Diane Wood, president of NEEF; Alva Adams-Mason from Toyota USA;



CCC alumni and young volunteers plant the ceremonial tree. Photo Courtesy: NPS

Steven Stockton, Army Corps of Engineers; and former Pennsylvania Senator and AmeriCorps CEO Harris Wofford. A ceremonial tree was planted by volunteers and CCC alumni in recognition of the

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1930s Heritage Days brings FDR's New Deal to life... and wins an award!



Model A cars harken back to the era of FDR's New Deal. Photo Courtesy: NPS

On May 31st and June 1st, exhibitors, musicians, crafts folk, antique cars and many others gathered in Prince William Forest Park to commemorate life in the 1930s and the 75th anniversary of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal. Prince William Forest Park was built in the 1930s by the men of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), one of the most popular New Deal programs. The event was held at Cabin Camp 3, one of five historic CCC-built cabin camps still in use today.



Cephas and Wiggins "chase away the rain" with the blues. Photo Courtesy: NPS

Over 500 visitors enjoyed the sights and sounds of the 1930s on Saturday and Sunday, despite threats of bad weather. On Saturday, musicians Cephas & Wiggins began their set in the main stage area but due to some light rain, finished their performance in an intimate setting in the Cabin Camp 3

mess hall. As Mr. John Cephas said, "the blues will chase the rain away," and visitors enjoyed a once in a lifetime chance to experience an up-close-and-personal musical performance with these two blues legends. Earlier in the day, Bob Perilla's Big Hillbilly Bluegrass played on the main stage and then treated visitors to a small acoustic set up at the cabins. On Sunday, Hokum Jazz performed vintage blues, jazz, and swing from the 20's, 30's and 40's on the main stage to round out the weekend's musical stylings.

Throughout both days, the Kids Kabin was packed with kids of all ages who enjoyed learning how to make corn husk dolls and playing Chinese checkers and other "old time" games such as hopscotch and jacks. Ranger Kathi Bertsch led the weekend's Kids Kabin activities to rave reviews from young and old alike.



Children make corn husk dolls in the Kids Kabin. Photo Courtesy: NPS

During the 2-day event, heritage craftsmen and women showcased skills that would have been learned by the CCC boys during their enrollment. These included blacksmithing, hand hewing logs, portable sawmill demonstrations and an on-site cabin restoration conducted by our talented maintenance staff.



Park maintenance workers Doug Davidson and Rocky Schroeder use the portable sawmill. Photo Courtesy: NPS



Visitors look on as a craftswoman demonstrates hand hewing logs. Photo Courtesy: NPS

Antique cars from the Greater Washington Model A Society, antique radios from the Radio and TV Museum, and antique tractors and corn machines from Field Day of the Past rounded out the demonstration areas. In September, park staff won the National Capital Region Interpretive Teamwork award for the 1930s Heritage Days event.



Park staff accept the Regional Interpretive Teamwork Award from Acting Regional Director Lisa Mendelsson-Illmini. Photo Courtesy: NPS.

Prince William Forest Park will host Heritage Days again in June of 2009. Check out the Schedule of Events website at (www.nps.gov/prwi), call the visitor center at 703-221-7181 or join our e-mail list for more information.

Updates and Highlights...

Park Adds Lands

In May of 2008, Prince William Forest Park acquired a private land holding that added over 18 acres to the park, helping to round out the park's legislative boundaries. The area was surrounded on three sides by the park, and the fourth adjoined the Brittany community. In addition, a half-acre parcel along Dumfries Road was also acquired. Through Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations, the NPS is able to acquire lands from willing sellers. On behalf of the American public, we are very thankful that these owners sold their land to the NPS for the benefit of all!

In April, the National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA) released *America's Heritage for Sale; a Lack of Federal Funds Threatens Loss of Significant National Parklands*. This report

identified 180 acres of private land within the authorized boundary of the park as a "need to buy". Several media reports caused some concern after the release of the NPCA report. Some concerned citizens contacted the park because they thought we might be selling NPS lands. On the contrary, Prince William Forest Park is not selling any land and has no plans to do so. Quite the opposite is true. The NPS has quite an active land acquisition program at Prince William Forest Park, acquiring lands from willing sellers within the congressionally-authorized boundary. The NPS is still trying to fulfill the vision for this park to "round out the boundaries".

So what exactly is this "authorized boundary"? Each NPS site has a boundary that is set by Congress. Park sites may not expand beyond this boundary without

express authorization and legislation approved by Congress. Within the "authorized" or legislative boundary, the NPS is able to purchase land from willing sellers, without having to request additional approval from Congress. Legislation in 1948 called for the "proper rounding out" of the boundary of Prince William Forest Park. This boundary encompasses all lands as bounded by areas south of Route 234, north of Route 619 and west of I-95. In 1948, approximately 1,500 acres of privately held lands were within this area. Beginning in the 1990s, the NPS began to actively acquire lands from those desiring to sell to the NPS, and has been doing so since. To further protect park resources, the NPS continues to work with willing sellers adjacent to Prince William Forest Park to acquire lands for inclusion as part of the park.

Youth Play Essential Role This Summer Season



YCC participants and NPS staff "suit up" while on a team building field trip. Photo Courtesy: NPS

Once again this summer, Prince William Forest Park hosted five youth between the ages of 15 and 18 as part of the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program. Participants in the YCC program are offered employment in a "work-learn-earn" program that develops an understanding and appreciation of our nation's environment and heritage. In essence, the YCC hopes to capture the enthusiasm and idealism of youth and create an environment where such attributes could be put to use. The park has employed youth in this capacity since the mid 1970s and many have gone on to work for the National Park Service.

In addition to the YCC program, the park partnered this summer with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) to host a month-long conservation crew. The crew was comprised of high school students age 15-19; they were supervised by trained SCA Interns. Participants were recruited from the Washington D.C. area from under-represented cultural backgrounds in order to expose them to a natural and cultural setting they may not have yet experienced. The crew resided as a group in one of our cabin camps during the week and returned home on the weekends to maximize their experience.

Park Wins Safety Award Once Again

Prince William Forest Park was once again the proud recipient of the 2007 National Capital Region's Park Safety Award. The park was given this award in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and now 2007! Prince William Forest Park shares this year's award with another National Park Service site in the region, National Capital Parks East. This award reflects well on every person

"Our motto is: If we can't do it safely, we don't do it!"

working in the park and demonstrates that safety is a value recognized by all employees. We plan on continuing our commitment to safety for our employees and our visitors. Our motto is "If we can't do it safely, we don't do it!"



CCC in Prince William Forest Park. The Virginia red oak also symbolized the one-millionth tree planted by NEEF partnership organizations since Arbor Day.

The CCC Legacy and Prince William Forest Park hosted the reunion dinner at the Prince William Forest Park historic CCC-built OSS Theater on Saturday evening. A special performance of "God Bless America" was performed by Wendy Mayton, granddaughter of Henry Rich, the CCC's first enrollee. Entertainment also included FDR impersonator Delmas Wood, who made a special appearance to honor the CCC alumni and their guests.

The National CCC Legacy Reunion showcased the quality CCC workmanship in Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area, now Prince William Forest Park, between 1936 and 1943. Over 150 historic CCC-built structures are

still actively used by the public at Prince William Forest Park.

The CCC reunion events celebrated a legacy of conservation begun by the CCC and continued today by the NPS and partners like the National Environmental Education Foundation, Student Conservation Association, Corps Network, and CCC Legacy.



Cabin Camping Goes Green

The park offers a unique, historic cabin camping experience. Come stay in our Civilian Conservation Corps 1930s era cabins; it is a living history experience. We have individual cabins for families, and entire camps for group rentals. While staying in the camps, take a look around and see the "green" improvements that we have made in keeping with our commitment to help our environment:

- Hand dryers in the restrooms to reduce/eliminate the use of paper towels.
- Motion detector switches to activate lights.
- Timer switches have been installed on the stove exhaust fans.
- Recycling bins – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.
- Incandescent lights have been replaced with fluorescent lights.
- We use green cleaners and encourage you to do the same!

Stay in one of our cabins or bring your group and rent an entire camp- what better way to get back to nature!

Tick Tock, Tick Tock

It's only a Matter of Time Before You Meet this Bacteria Carrier

While recreating in any park setting, you will more than likely become acquainted with ticks! Prince William Forest Park is no exception. Contrary to popular belief, ticks do not jump or fly. Instead, they rest in leaf litter and on the tips of plants waiting to grab hold of any unsuspecting passerby. Ticks are typically present in temperatures of 40 degrees and above. Most ticks usually grab onto your lower legs and then crawl up your body looking for a damp, dark place to attach and feed. If this doesn't sound like fun to you, heed the following precautions to help you fight off that dreaded tick:

- Wear light colored, long-sleeved clothing, tuck your pants into your socks and wear a hat. This may not be fashionable, but it helps you spot ticks before they get a chance to find a spot to feed.
- Perform routine tick checks and remove attached ticks properly and promptly. Using a pair of tweezers, grab the tick as close to your skin as possible and pull it straight out. Be sure to remove the en-

tire tick. Afterwards, be sure to keep the area clean to avoid getting an infection.



***Ixodes scapularis*, AKA the deer tick, is a carrier of Lyme disease. Illustration Courtesy: NPS**

- Consider using a repellent. Plant based repellents, such as those containing lemon eucalyptus, can be applied directly to the skin. Other types of repellents, such as those containing permethrin or DEET, should never be applied directly to the skin. As with all products, be sure to follow label instructions and EPA guidelines.

Tick bites are usually painless and consequently many people are unaware they have been bitten. To complicate matters, not all those infected with Lyme disease develop the bulls-eye rash that is usually thought of as a typical sign of a tick bite.

Not all tick bites pose health risks. Deer ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*) are much smaller than the common dog and lone star ticks, and can carry the bacteria that cause Lyme disease. In their larval and nymph stages, they are no bigger than a pinhead and can be hard to find. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), transmission of the Lyme disease bacteria is unlikely to occur in the first 36 hours after the tick has bitten you.

So, check yourself early and often after being outside. If you experience flu-like symptoms or develop a bulls-eye rash- symptoms indicative of a tick borne illness- see your doctor. Other diseases carried by deer, dog and lone star ticks include Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Ehrlichiosis and Babesiosis. For more information on tick related illnesses visit the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov.

Infirmiry Gets a Well Deserved Facelift

The infirmiry in historic Cabin Camp 4 was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and has been in use almost continuously since it was built in the 1930s. Over the many decades of its use the structure had fallen into a state of disrepair and was in dire need of historic rehabilitation. Because of the historic nature of the infirmiry, special care was taken while rehabbing it in order to preserve its integrity and appearance.

The structural integrity of the infirmiry, including the foundation it rested upon, was crumbling and rotting. During the 1940s when the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) trained in the park, they built an addition which had a footer system that differed from the original CCC-constructed cedar wood post footers. The OSS used stacked cinder blocks without any mortar holding them together for their addition's footers, contributing to the deterioration of the building. This part of the foundation was missing blocks and crumbling. Nearly every one of the cedar wood post footers

on the original CCC-constructed section of the building was rotted, due to water damage and termite activity. The cinder block footers were replaced with poured concrete footers and the wood post footers were replaced with new cedar posts.

About half of the window sill beams in the building were damaged because of water infiltration and insects and many of the floor joists needed to be replaced. The original sill beams were made of 6" x 8" solid oak lumber that was milled right here in the park. All of the lumber used to replace the sill beams and floor joists was specially milled at a local sawmill in order to adhere to the strict historic preservation guideline of replacing with "in-kind" materials whenever possible.

The roof was rotting, so the old three-tab asphalt shingles were removed and replaced with park approved architectural dimensional shingles that simulate the building's original cedar shake roof. If a cedar shake roof was put on the infirmiry

today, it would only last about ten years before it would rot and need to be replaced again because of the moisture problem caused by the canopy cover over it.

The infirmiry received a new electrical system that includes a new service panel, outlets, switches and lighting fixtures. The old service panel and lighting fixtures were failing and presented a safety hazard to the public. The plumbing fixtures in the bathroom were changed to specially ordered fixtures that match the original period style fixtures. The cedar siding the OSS installed was replaced with new cedar siding. The exterior of the building was stained with two coats of park approved stain and the interior walls were painted white. All of the wood floors were coated with linseed oil to prevent them from drying and cracking.

This historic structure was open this summer season and will once again welcome visitors next summer.

Before



Rotting roof on infirmiry before rehabilitation. Photo Courtesy: NPS



Crumbling foundation on infirmiry before rehab. Photo Courtesy: NPS

After



Infirmiry after repairs, including installation of new roof. Photo Courtesy: NPS



New concrete footers vastly improve infirmiry's stability. Photo Courtesy: NPS

A Ride Through History

The 8th annual Chopawamsic Cycle Challenge was held at Prince William Forest Park Sunday, September 14th. This year over 50 riders between 6 and 72 years old participated in the 11-mile challenge. The event was the third of five park events highlighting the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the 75th Anniversary of the New Deal Initiative and the rich cultural and natural history of Prince William Forest Park.

This year interpretive displays were posted throughout the route to connect the riders with the historical and natural features of the park. Riders of all ages and riding levels came back to the start point at the Cabin Camp 1 baseball field to enjoy a BBQ lunch, raffles and a special park trivia game.

The Friends will host a tour through Manassas Battlefield on November 9th. For more information on this and other Friends programs visit www.fpwfp.org.



Riders gear up at the starting gate for the Chopawamsic Cycle Challenge. Photo courtesy: NPS

Calling All Junior Rangers!!!

After many years of anxious waiting, Prince William Forest Park now has a new Junior Ranger booklet. Designed for ages 7 through 12, the new Junior Ranger booklet is a perfect fall family fun activity. With 13 separate activities that range from hikes to designing your own cabin camp, the activities in the new junior ranger booklet are designed to familiarized kids with the resources and stories of Prince William Forest Park.

Throughout the booklet, 'Junior Ranger Guides' will help children connect to the many periods of our country's history the booklet covers. The Junior Ranger Guides were drawn by volunteer Matthew Lawrence and they truly help bring the booklet to life.

The park is already getting rave reviews from visitors whose children have completed the Junior Ranger booklet. Steve Busa from West Chester, IL writes "Our family has visited 240 NPS units and... probably done about 150 junior ranger programs. [WE] all feel that your Junior



Ranger booklet is by far the best, not just in appearance, but in variety of different things in it for kids. You and the other rangers deserve credit for developing a quality and fun booklet for kids."

The Junior Ranger booklet is available free of charge at the visitor center daily from 9 am to 5 pm. Upon completion of the booklet, children receive a Prince William Forest Park Junior Ranger badge and certificate signed by a real Park Ranger. There are 'extra credit' activities in the booklet as well that encourage kids to get out into the great outdoors. Upon completion of these hikes, kids receive a special junior ranger prize! Join our Junior Ranger Corps today!



Meet Agent Jack. He's a Junior Ranger Guide from the period of the park's history where spies trained here. Drawing courtesy: Matthew Lawrence.

Sowing the Seeds of Reclamation at the Pyrite Mine Site

2008 has been a year of promise at the Cabin Branch Pyrite Mine. In recent years, growing native vegetation on the site has been an arduous task compounded by acidic soils, invasive species, and draught conditions. However, the Resource Management Division hopes they have turned the corner at the historic mine.

This new optimism is due to hard work conducted by Maintenance personnel, Resource Management seasonals, and park volunteers. This spring, Roads and Trails Foreman Chuck Ayres assisted Resource Management by felling seven large trees from atop the east facing hill slope of the mine. Resource Management summer seasonals manually moved and positioned the felled trees vertical to the hill slope. Finally, on National Public Lands Day, twenty volunteers planted 200 Virginia pine trees adjacent to the felled trees. Resource Management is confident that the shade and nutrients provided by the felled trees will discourage growth of invasive plants and encouraging the growth of Virginia Pine.



Volunteers Donate Their Time and Talents to Park Events and Projects



Dedicated volunteers repair Taylor Farm Road. Photo Courtesy: NPS

It is said that the National Park Service would not be able to accomplish all that it does year after year without the help of volunteers. This statement is all too true at Prince William Forest Park, and this year proves to be no exception. Volunteers lend a hand to various park operations, from assisting visitors at the visitor center to taking care of campers at the cabin camps and the campground.

In April, over 120 volunteers got down and dirty assisting park staff with cleaning the cabin camps in preparation for the open season. It was a dusty and tedious job, but the volunteers worked diligently and with amazing spirit. They washed windows, wiped mattresses, swept and oiled floors, and replaced screens. Due to their commitment and hard work, a wonderful standard of preservation was set with dozens of carefully cleaned cabins.

Volunteers were also instrumental in ensuring the success of 1930s Heritage Days, a first time event for the park that celebrated the legacy of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal and its many programs which helped create the park. They were on hand to park vehicles, greet visitors, and provide assistance to event attendees. Girl Scouts volunteered at the Kids Kabin, where many families and children made corn husk dolls, played Chinese checkers, and learned other 1930s crafts and games. One volunteer

helped out in the general store, donating antique items to create a historical ambience and assisting with sales. Other volunteers worked the information tent, ensuring that visitors were safe and well informed. The event could not have run as smoothly as it did without the help of these dedicated volunteers!

National Trails Day took place in June and was another huge success with over 50 volunteers donating around 300 hours of work. With the support of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), REI Fairfax, and the Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE), volunteers sweated it out in the heat and humidity to perform rehab trail work on the Taylor Farm Road. After receiving a safety briefing from Liles Creighton of PATC, volunteers gathered traditional hand tools and hit the trail. The Trails Day volunteers created nine new water barriers of log and earth to steer future rainfall off the trail. In addition, they restored over 600 feet of trail surface.

The amount of work accomplished by these individuals and groups, along with others who volunteer in the park is incredible. We would like to say "thank you" to everyone who gives so generously of their time and energy to ensure the preservation of Prince William Forest Park. You are appreciated!

CCC Alumni, Their Families, and Enthusiasts Celebrate CCC's Legacy

Prince William Forest Park, The Friends of Prince William Forest Park, and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Legacy hosted the 2008 Virginia CCC Membership Recognition Event on March 29, 2008. Seven CCC Alumni and 90 guests gathered for a late lunch, music, reminiscing of CCC memories, the presentation of the CCC Legacy Builder's Award, and the keynote presentation of the HABS/HAER CCC report by Dr. Lisa Davidson. The event was held in the recently rehabilitated Cabin

"The program culminated in the presentation of the Virginia CCC Legacy Builders Award to Virginia Beach volunteer CCC member Vernon Hill."

Camp 4 Theater. The program also included a performance by the Brooke Point High School Jazz Band, presentation of the colors by the Forest Park Air Force JROTC, and a short history of the CCC in Prince William Forest Park.

Highlights of the membership recognition event included impromptu CCC alumni interviews by Friends member and CCC



CCC "boys" , Vernon Hill, Norman Claiborne, Karl Landstrom, Frank Kuhn, Walter Patrick, and Lawrence McGlynn . Photo Courtesy: Kevin O'Rourke

enthusiast Owen Lee. The program culminated in the presentation of the Virginia CCC Legacy Builders Award to Virginia Beach volunteer and CCC member Norman Claiborne. Mr. Claiborne, a CCC alumnus of Company 1371, an all African-American regiment at Virginia First State Landing Park, received this award to honor his continued stewardship at First State Landing.



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A Farewell to Superintendent Bob Hickman

After 36 years in the National Park Service (NPS), 14 of which were at Prince William Forest Park, Superintendent Bob Hickman has decided to hang up his flat hat; retiring to search for new adventures.

During Superintendent Hickman's 14 years at Prince William Forest Park he worked with park staff as a staunch advocate for the 250,000+ guests who enjoy the park every year. Superintendent Hickman worked to improve and protect visitor facilities, recreation opportunities, historic buildings and the increasingly endangered natural resources.

Since his arrival in 1994, the park has switched from an antiquated well water system to the municipal waterline; comfort stations were rehabilitated or constructed in several visitor areas; and the ecological bal-

ance and water quality of Quantico Creek continues to improve through restoration of the Cabin Branch Pyrite Mine site. He was also an advocate for community partnerships. Today the park enjoys a strong partnership with the Friends of Prince William Forest Park; an education partnership with Bridging the Watershed; and a working partnership with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, who help maintain the 35+ miles of park roads and trails. Superintendent Hickman also worked to build an immersing partnership with Prince William County Schools and the National Marine Corps Museum.

Superintendent Hickman came to the NPS through a Boy Scouts of America partnership program working with inner-city youth near the C&O Canal in Maryland. He joined the NPS in 1973 working on the

Lightship Chesapeake, a former Coast Guard lightship converted by the NPS for environmental education purposes. In his 36 years, he worked in jobs ranging from Park Protection Ranger to Resource Management Specialist in over 10 parks all located in the eastern half of the United States.

Although Superintendent Hickman has left Prince William Forest Park, his indelible mark has been made for generations to come. He will be missed by park friends

The Oasis, the official seasonal newsletter of Prince William Forest Park, is released in spring, summer, fall, and winter.

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Prince William Forest Park Information Directory

- General Park Information** 703-221-7181
Visitor Center - Open daily 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Camping** 703-221-7181
 Including individual, group and backcountry.
- Cabin Camping** 703-221-5843
 Including group cabins and individual rentals
- Travel Trailer Village** 800-737-5730
 RV/Trailer camping facility off Route 234 with full hook-ups.
- Ranger-led Programs** 703-221-7181
 Including regularly scheduled, special request and education programs.
- Volunteering in the Park** 703-221-7181
 Learn how you can help.
- Official Park Website** www.nps.gov/prwi
 For the latest information about the park, surf this way.