



# Volunteer Newsletter

## Colvin Run Elementary School Helps Clean Up the Park

On Monday, March 26, 2007, Wolf Trap along with park partner Colvin Run Elementary School conducted a large scale park cleanup. The event was a part of the annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup. The entire sixth grade from nearby Colvin Run Elementary came out in force to support this community service event. One hundred thirty-two student and parent volunteers collected 88 bags of trash and recyclables totaling 1,118 pounds. Not only did this event display the students' spirit of volunteerism, but their visit to Wolf Trap was done as a part of their environmental education curriculum.

During the previous weeks, park rangers Peter Lonsway and Audrey Lonsway met with the students at their school and led them through a series of environmental education activities. The activities focused on each student's impact on their community and how the students can make environmentally friendly choices in their daily life. The lessons paralleled the 6<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum. The students were also challenged to bring a "trash free" lunch to the park cleanup.



**Above: Before**

**Below: After**

These enthusiastic student volunteers have greatly improved Wolf Trap and learned some important life lessons.

### A Note from the Director

On behalf of all the patrons and National Park Service staff members at Wolf Trap, I offer a very sincere "thank you" to each and every park volunteer. Without your kind and generous support the broad spectrum of performances offered at this beautiful park would lack the helpful assistance, the friendly smiles, and the caring medical support that you give so freely. Your presence at each performance helps create the "magical" atmosphere at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts.

Each presentation at the Filene Center and at the Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods provides an open avenue for patron enjoyment. I sincerely hope that you reap many rewards as you give your time and see patrons experience the delight of live performance.

Thank you for your dedication and for your kindness to all Wolf Trap patrons. I hope you have a great Wolf Trap summer!

William Crockett  
Director, Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts

## First-Aid Volunteer Corps Nominated for National & Regional Group Volunteer Awards

This spring, the Wolf Trap First-Aid Volunteer Corps was nominated for the 2006 George B. Hartzog Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Group Service and the National Capital Region Director's Award for Excellence in Protection Activities. The National Park Service staff felt these nominations were well-deserved.

The Hartzog Award nomination focused on the Corps dedication in providing first aid services at every performance and special event at the park. The Corps received a plaque in recognition of their nomination and the work they do.

The first-aid volunteers acquire their medical training on their own time and at their own expense, and then generously use their skills to provide assistance at Wolf Trap. These volunteers are essential in helping performances run smoothly. Without their services, the ranger staff would be spread thin carrying out these duties. They are always there to respond promptly in times of need, providing calm assistance during these sometimes stressful situations.

The enthusiasm of this group of volunteers is contagious. Long standing members of the Corps have helped recruit additional first-aid volunteers, and the cycle continues

to bring Wolf Trap new volunteers.

The Director's Award nomination focused on the Corps' dedication and recruitment activities, but also highlighted a specific instance where the first-aid volunteers discreetly responded to a medical need in the center of the front row during a performance. The volunteers were personally thanked by the performer for their discreet actions.

The results of the Director's Award nomination will be announced at the upcoming August picnic for First-Aid and Ranger Volunteers.

## 2007 International Children's Festival scheduled for September 18-23, 2007

The 37<sup>th</sup> International Children's Festival will be held at Wolf Trap from Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The festival will feature over 80 young performers from 4 countries presenting music, song and dance representing their cultural heritage. Invited performers for 2007 are from Bolivia, Nepal, Spain, and Sweden.

Volunteers are needed during the week from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm for the weekday performances given to all 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Fairfax County. Volunteers are also needed to usher at the Filene Center for the public festival on the weekend.

The Arts Council of Fairfax County, a park partner presenting the festival also needs volunteer help for the weekend festival scheduled from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers assist with Will Call, Souvenir Sales, Programs, staffing the Information Booth, assisting the children in the Creative Kid area and much more. Volunteers are asked to work three to four hour shifts in the morning or afternoon. Special International Children's Festival t-shirts will be provided to all volunteers.

Please contact Terri Bobek at (703) 255-1825 to be a volunteer usher for the weekday school programs or on the weekend. Please contact Suzanne Keating at (703) 757-7252 to volunteer with the Arts Council of Fairfax County for the weekend public festival. Please contact Duane Erwin at (703) 255-1822 to volunteer as an EMS provider or cart driver.



# Volunteers Make Headlines in Vienna Connection

Several of Wolf Trap's volunteers were recently interviewed by the Vienna Connection Newspaper. Their thoughts, comments, and photographs were printed in a very positive article that appeared in the June 6-12, 2007 edition.

Three of our volunteer units were present. Regina Jordan, Renee Hogan, and Tom Searby represented ushers; Mike Toreno and Carrie Simpson represented first-aid; and Sharon Kudobek represented rangers. Together, these volunteers have donated over 70 years of service to Wolf Trap!

The article quoted the highlights of their volunteer time, but overall the article had an underlying theme of family, service, and good times.

Regina Jordan spoke about the Thursday night ushers hosting their own picnic every

season. Renee Hogan spoke of the close bond between the ushers. Tom Searby donates his time due to his love of the National Parks. Mike Toreno and Carrie Simpson were so impressed by the rangers after being called to the park as Fairfax County Fire & Rescue volunteers, they decided to offer their time each week as EMTs for Wolf Trap. Sharon Kudobek spoke about the thrill of driving and meeting the Tuskegee Airmen.

The volunteers spoke of the family atmosphere of volunteering at Wolf Trap. It was mentioned how nice the other volunteers and patrons are to work with. Another common message was how all of the shows were enjoyable, especially the least expected ones. A quote from Renee Hogan summarized the article and sentiments of all, "Volunteering here is more than just seeing great performances."



From left to right:  
Tom Searby  
(Volunteer Usher),  
Renee Hogan  
(Volunteer Usher),  
Sharon Kudobek  
(Volunteer Ranger),  
Regina Jordan  
(Volunteer Usher),  
Carrie Simpson  
(First-aid Volunteer),  
Mike Toreno  
(First-aid Volunteer),  
Donna Manz  
(Vienna Connection).

## Requiescat in Pace

Sadly, Wolf Trap recently learned of the passing of three of its volunteers. They will be greatly missed.

- ◆ Marjorie Orr passed away this spring after thirty-one years of volunteer usher service, starting in 1976.
- ◆ Dan Lee passed away this spring after several years of volunteer usher service, starting in 1999.
- ◆ Ken Sheehan passed away October 19, 2006 after thirteen years of volunteer ranger service, starting in 1993. Ken will be remembered by the ranger staff for his distinctive Bronx accent, his willingness to help with anything/everything that was needed, and his festive candy-cane pants that he wore each year for the Holiday Sing-A-Long.

# Above & Beyond

At The Team America Rocketry Challenge, Saturday night ushers Sherry and Craig Beyers work the team registration and run the event's information booth each year. They get to meet the teams, their advisors, friends, and parents. They answer questions and point people in the right direction: just like ushering!

Five years ago, the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) teamed up with the National Association of Rocketry (NAR) to hold a model rocket competition for high school students in honor of the Wright Brothers' first flight, and to generate more interest in engineering and the sciences. Additional details on the event can be found at <http://rocketcontest.org>.

This year's challenge was to design, build, and fly a model rocket while it carried a raw egg. Teams had to return their rocket safely to the ground after it had stayed aloft for 45 seconds and reached an altitude of 850 feet. The teams had to recover the intact rocket with the egg unbroken or they were disqualified.



**Left Photo: Rocket taking flight**  
**Right Photo: Sherry Beyers (volunteer usher) at the Rocketry Challenge**

The competition is held the third weekend of May. Approximately \$60,000 in scholarship money was presented to the top ten teams by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. In addition, the winning team received an all-expense-paid trip to the Paris Air Show in June. Teachers from the top 25 schools were awarded a week long class at the Huntsville Space Center.

# Mark your Calendar...

August 4 – Picnic for volunteers at the Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods

August 13 – Picnic for volunteer rangers and first-aid volunteers

September 29 – Camille's Affair for volunteer ushers

Coming this fall...  
Special Backstage Tours for all Wolf Trap volunteers. Check the fall issue of the Newsletter for dates and times.

Check the "Current Volunteer" section of the park's web site for updates and information throughout the season.

[www.nps.gov/wotr/supportyourpark/currentvolunteers.htm](http://www.nps.gov/wotr/supportyourpark/currentvolunteers.htm)



## Volunteer Opportunities

There are many ways to volunteer at Wolf Trap all year long.

- Usher
- Ranger
- First-Aid Provider
- Stage Door Aide
- Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods
- Recycling Specialist
- Roaming Interpreter
- Park Cleanups

Volunteer Office Contact Information:  
(703) 255-1893  
[Wotr\\_volunteer@nps.gov](mailto:Wotr_volunteer@nps.gov)

Information On-line:  
[www.nps.gov/wotr](http://www.nps.gov/wotr)



## Junior Ranger Day at Wolf Trap

Junior ranger programs, offered at many National Park sites, give children a fun way to learn about the parks. On April 28th and July 6th, Wolf Trap celebrated "Junior Ranger Day." This special day of park activities gave kids a chance for a unique Junior Ranger experience.

Participants could attend a variety of ranger programs and complete the "Passport to Wolf Trap" stamp booklet. The ranger programs included opportunities to learn about instruments and performance, as well as tours of the park and the backstage area of the Children's Theatre. The passport booklet leads the kids to explore the park and hunt for hidden stamps. The kids had a great time and left the park with a patch, button, and a greater understanding of Wolf Trap and theatre.

Wolf Trap offers an activity book year-round for kids to learn about the park and earn a Junior Ranger patch.



**Volunteer Usher Cricket Moore and Family with Ranger Lorri Whiteman at Junior Ranger Day**

### More Junior Ranger Day fun!

Friday, August 10 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

- Ranger Programs
- Passport to Wolf Trap rubber stamp scavenger hunt
- Earn the official Junior Ranger Day patch

More information available on-line at [www.nps.gov/wotr](http://www.nps.gov/wotr) or call (703) 255-1893.



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts**  
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**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™**

Wolf Trap's Volunteer Newsletter highlights the 1,100 volunteers that contribute their time to the National Park Service at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts.

**Editor**

Audrey Lonsway

**Contributors**

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**Comments? Ideas for the fall newsletter?**

**Write to:**

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 Include "Newsletter" in the Subject

**Website:**

[www.nps.gov/wotr](http://www.nps.gov/wotr)

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

## Eagle Scouts in the Park

Eagle Scout projects have a long-standing history of helping the National Park Service complete maintenance and natural resource projects throughout the park system. Recently, two eagle scout projects were completed at the park which will help with visitor safety and enjoyment at the Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods.

Last fall, Patrick Spitzer constructed a mulch patch which allows easier access to the theatre for patrons with limited mobility. This spring, Nicholas Rivera constructed and installed six benches along the pedestrian path to the theater.

Eagle scouts must complete at least 100 service hours for their eagle projects which contain elements of leadership and planning.



**Bench built and installed along the pedestrian path to the Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods**



**"Y" shaped path at the entrance to the Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods**