

Volunteer Newsletter

*Spring
Edition*

Stewardship Days with Colvin Run Elementary School

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts and Colvin Run Elementary School partnered for the fourth year in a row with the sixth grade students to participate in a service learning project. All sixth graders, 160 total, learned about stewardship and the National Park Service, in conjunction with the school's character education program. Park Rangers visited all six classes and taught the students that each of them plays an important part in their community. On March 23 and 30, the sixth graders walked a quarter mile down the road to visit Wolf Trap and put their new stewardship knowledge into action. Three classes picked up trash and recyclables throughout the park. The students collected 58 bags of trash totaling 739 pounds, and 45 bags of recyclables (glass, aluminum, plastic) totaling 493 pounds. Some interesting items found included a metal bed frame and a highway guardrail. Two classes planted 107 native trees. One class learned about the invasive exotic plant, garlic mustard, and pulled 10,030 plants in order to prevent them from spreading throughout the park. Fairfax Re-Leaf provided the native trees and the supplies to properly plant them. Supplies for the trash cleanup were provided by the Alice Ferguson Foundation in conjunction with the Potomac River Watershed Cleanup.



Students from Colvin Run Elementary School volunteering at the park.

Eagle Scout's Help Beautify the Park

On Dec 16, 2008 ten Boy Scouts arrived at Wolf Trap ready to begin their work. Their project included planting over 200 trees, shrubs, and plants to enhance the peaceful and natural environment at the park. The Scouts were led by Connor DeLoach who planned and managed the project in order to achieve the Boy Scouts highest rank of Eagle Scout. In order to achieve this rank a Scout must complete at least 100 volunteer hours on projects designed to improve or help the local community. Connor volunteer over 130 hours at Wolf Trap helping to improve the landscape and prevent erosion.

Achieving the rank of Eagle Scout is no easy task. It takes months of planning and coordination in order to reach an end product that is both pleasing to the client and is in keeping with the Eagle Scout pledge to help others. Connor worked closely with Phil Goetkin and Mike Dixon of the Maintenance Division in order to meet the needs of the park and ensure all plant life was indigenous to the local area. Fairfax Re-Leaf, an organization dedicated to promoting sustainable urban forests in Northern Virginia, donated over 200 seedlings for the project. The results of these efforts can be seen throughout the park along Lots 1 and 4 and across from the Usher Trailer. These plants will enhance the natural beauty of Wolf Trap.



Trees planted by Eagle Scout Connor DeLoach in protective tubes

Volunteer Coordinator Change Over at Wolf Trap

Christie Brown, the current Volunteer Coordinator at Wolf Trap, will be stepping aside April 24 to make way for Amy Jonach who will be taking over the helm. Christie will be leaving in April to have her first child with her husband Lance, as well as moving to North Carolina as part of Lance's military career. About her time here Christie said "I have enjoyed my time at Wolf Trap and will miss everyone."

Amy Jonach, a familiar face at Wolf Trap, will be stepping up from her current duties as the Secretary for the Interpretation and Volunteer Offices to take over the position. She has a broad wealth of knowledge and will be a great asset to the program. Amy has been with the park since 2006, and has worked closely with park staff on many aspects of the volunteer program.



Amy Jonach, New Volunteer Coordinator at Wolf Trap

Please be sure to say goodbye to Christie and hello to Amy at the volunteer orientations.

Calling All Volunteers – Time to be Proactive

This year we plan to bring back the suggestion box with a new twist. It will be called Compliments and Concerns. As the name suggests, we want positive feedback from your total experience here at Wolf Trap. Are you a new volunteer, and appreciate the helpful advice from a returning volunteer? Do you want to recognize the efforts of one of the paid staff for any reason? Let us know. This is your opportunity to recognize the superior efforts of those volunteering and working at the park. Accolades work both ways – we ask them to recognize you as well!

Concerns can be anything you would like us to address. You may remain anonymous or not. It can be anything from a safety issue that has been overlooked or any issue that makes your time spent here at Wolf Trap less than ideal. Personality issues? Sure, tell us about it. Too often in the past, we have learned near the end of the season about situations that could have been resolved much earlier had they been brought to our attention sooner. By creating the Compliments and Concerns box we hope to correct issues as they arise.

Suggestions are always encouraged and we will address your input on a weekly basis. It may be in the form of a notice on the bulletin board, a personal phone call or an e-mail. Let's keep the lines of communications open and flowing!

We will have a box at the beginning of the season located in the Usher Trailer and the Ranger Station so that all volunteers can participate. We hope that you will use this system to improve and continue the great work here at Wolf Trap.

What's new at Wolf Trap?

Although the stage goes dark in September, Wolf Trap is never at rest. After the hustle and bustle of the performance season, the park staff focus on new projects, programs, and ways to make the park a more enjoyable place to visit and experience the performing arts. Each year brings change.

Many of these changes directly affect our patrons, volunteers, and staff. To ensure that every volunteer is best prepared to serve the thousands that visit Wolf Trap, we require each volunteer to attend annual orientations. Beyond sharing updates, orientations give you a chance to get all your questions answered too.

So to all Ranger, Usher, EMS, Stage Door, and Theatre-in-the-Woods volunteers - remember to attend the orientation so you can be ready for summer 2009 at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts!

Mark your Calendar...

Backstage Tours for Volunteers will be held on the following dates:

Saturday, April 25 @ 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 25 @ 3 p.m.

Stand on a world-class stage, learn how a theater runs, and get a sneak peek at where the stars get ready.

Tours will begin at Stage Door. Be sure to bring your friends. Please call the Volunteer Office at 703-255-1893 to sign up.

The National Park Foundation Launches the 2009 Junior Ranger Essay Contest

The National Park Foundation has launched the 2009 Junior Ranger Essay Contest, asking youth across the country to share their big ideas on how to protect and preserve America's National Parks. This year, the National Park Foundation is asking students aged 9 to 12 this question: Why are our national parks important to you and what is your best idea to protect our parks for the future? The First Prize winner will receive a \$1,000 Visa gift card and the opportunity to direct a \$5,000 contribution from the National Park Foundation to his or her favorite national park. This contribution will be used to help put into action big ideas like those included in the winning essay.

Kids aged 9 to 12, with the help of a parent or guardian; have through May 1, 2009 to submit an essay of no more than 500 words. Entries may be submitted online at www.nationalparks.org/essaycontest or by mail at:

National Park Foundation
ATTN: 2009 National Park Foundation Junior Ranger Essay Contest
1201 Eye Street N.W.
Suite 550-B
Washington, D.C. 20005



The 2009 National Park Foundation Junior Ranger Essay Contest is sponsored by Unilever, Proud Partner of America's National Parks, as part of its ongoing commitment to the National Park Junior Ranger program. For more information please visit www.nationalparks.org/essaycontest.

Revised 2009 Rear Orchestra Volunteer Usher Seating Policy

In light of recent feedback and in an effort to provide high quality visitor services to Filene Center patrons, and create a positive work environment for Rear Orchestra volunteer ushers, the 2009 policy follows:

While ushers are "on duty" in the Rear Orchestra (from the time the house opens until 10 minutes after the last intermission), all ushers are expected to check tickets, seat patrons, enforce house rules, and assist patrons. All ushers will stand prior to the show and during intermissions.

Once the show begins, to provide patrons ready assistance and access to an usher, a minimum of one usher will be positioned at the entrance of each portal to the rear of the railing. During the performance, the usher at the entrance is encouraged to limit obstruction by utilizing a stool positioned adjacent to the entrance of the aisle or stand behind a bunker. Additional ushers assigned to a portal, while continuing to provide visitor services, may utilize an aisle seat in the last row provided there are no patrons seated in that row in that section. Ushers assigned to each portal should rotate positions periodically.

Park Staff will ensure that there is an adequate inventory of stools on hand for volunteer use. We understand how valuable our volunteers are to park operations and hope this policy helps to ensure a safe and enjoyable working environment. We appreciate all feedback on this and other park policies.

EXTRA! EXTRA! Read all about it! Call for Volunteer Ushers

We need your help! There are a few "extra" volunteer usher opportunities that the park could use assistance with. Below is a list of three volunteer opportunities when the park could use your help:

1. We have a shortage of experienced rear orchestra volunteers during the first Saturday night show, A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor on May 23 (Memorial Day week-end) at 5:45pm SHARP! The rear orchestra is going to consist of mostly new volunteers and new paid staff. With the holiday weekend, the early opening, and a need for quiet once the show begins, extra assistance from a few seasoned "mentor" volunteers will make the night a success.
2. The U.S. Marine Band Blast-off is scheduled for Sunday May 24 at 8pm, and since it is a free event it will be extremely well attended. We are typically short-handed due to the holiday weekend, and could use some extra volunteers.
3. We always welcome extras for the matinee performances. You can sign up for these at any time during the season.

If you are interested in helping during any of these events please give Terri a call at 703-255-1893. We appreciate your help!



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts
1551 Trap Rd.
Vienna, VA 22182

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.

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Comments? Ideas for the spring newsletter? Write to:
Volunteer Office
Wolf Trap National Park
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1551 Trap Road
Vienna, VA 22182

Wotr_volunteer@nps.gov
Include "Newsletter" in the Subject

Website:
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.

Volunteering At Wolf Trap Always an Option...

Do you know someone who would like to volunteer? Do you belong to a group or club and would like us to come speak to them about all of the wonderful volunteer opportunities at Wolf Trap? Then let the staff in the Volunteer Office know! We are willing to come speak to local groups and clubs to help spread the word about volunteering at Wolf Trap.

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity please contact the Volunteer Office at 703-255-1893 or email us at wotr_volunteer@nps.gov.

