



Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park

2016
National Park Service
CENTENNIAL

Newsletter

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National Historical Park
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Celebrating the Centennial!



Senator Reed (RI) joined the park staff for the Centennial to congratulate Superintendent Kish and the staff on their accomplishments.

Park staff and partners celebrated the National Park Service's 100th anniversary with a menu of programming highlighting the resources of the Blackstone Valley. The Centennial provided an opportunity for the park to roll out new programming, work with community partners on new initiatives and to celebrate all that the valley has to offer.

Community Engagement

What's Right About RI?



The Pawtucket Red Sox (AAA affiliate of the Boston Red Sox), PawSox for short, and Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park have entered into a new partnership to better serve the communities of the Blackstone River Valley and visitors to the area! We kicked off this new partnership this past summer with two memorable events.

About RI" award in a pre-game ceremony at McCoy Stadium. The award was "established in 2013 to recognize organizations and companies for their contributions to the state and that provide an inspirational example of why Rhode Island is a wonderful place to live, work and do business." Special thanks to Mike Lyons, Director of Corporate and Community Partnerships! Earlier in the summer, park staff set up an informational

In early September, the new national park was proud to receive the "What's Right



display at McCoy stadium and met with thousands of fans as they arrived for an afternoon game. Everyone wanted to learn about the new park, get information about upcoming events, and pick up copies of the new Passport Book, suggested itineraries and paddling maps.

Interesting Fact!

Baseball has long been a part of the Blackstone Valley story as many of the textile mills sponsored baseball teams in the Industrial League. The first professional team to play at McCoy Stadium was named the Pawtucket Slaters after Slater Mill and Samuel Slater.



New Faces at the Park!



Lauren D'Elia started as a volunteer at Roger Williams National Memorial this past spring and, since then, has accepted the position of Interpretation and Outreach Intern through the Student Conservation Association and Americorps. She graduated from Roger Williams University in 2015 with a BA in American Studies. Lauren is excited to be a part of the developing narrative in Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park and looks forward to sharing untold stories about this hidden gem.



McKenzie Martin is an Outreach and Interpretation Intern for the Student Conservation Association. She is a transplant from Texas and is diving head first into all the rich history of New England. She has a Masters Degree in Park and Recreation Management and is working to develop more recreational opportunities to offer in the Blackstone River Valley. She is passionate about the outdoors and you can often find her pedaling with the Blackstone Valley Bike Patrol on their weekly rides or paddling with the Blackstone Valley Paddle Club on their regular outings.



Dan Pulieri is a seasonal Laborer at Roger Williams National Memorial and has recently moved to Providence from Nags Head, North Carolina. His ultimate career goal is to become a National Park Service Law Enforcement Officer. Dan will also provide maintenance support at Blackstone when needed and is excited for the opportunity to explore the valley, both on foot and by bike.

What's Happening in the New Park?

New Park Information Panels



Just after Labor Day, park staff, partners, and project contractors began the process of designing new informational and interpretive signs for the park. These signs will help visitors better understand the park's rich history and will illustrate how that history is tied to the Blackstone River Valley. When completed, this project will result in over 30 new panels to be installed throughout the new national park. The project is scheduled for completion the winter of 2017.



Several of the information panels installed throughout the park will be custom illustrations like this one above about the Blackstone Canal found at Roger Williams National Memorial.

Summer Highlights

BIODIVERSITY FESTIVAL

In September, Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park hosted the inaugural Biodiversity Festival. The festival showcased the work our partners do to promote conservation of the Blackstone River Valley's natural resources.

Festival activities included guided walks, wildlife

investigations, hands-on crafts and nature journaling. Explorers and citizen scientists of all ages and experience levels came out to learn about the flora and fauna, and to better understand the important work that our natural resource partners do.



Upcoming Events



This fall, the park and its partners are offering programs that highlight the culture and history of the Blackstone River Valley.

October 14th, 21st, 27th, 28th 7:30 - 10:00 PM Slater Mill: Mills & Mysteries Paranormal Investigation, a popular investigation of 1793 Old Slater Mill, the waterwheel pit of the 1810 Wilkinson Mill, and the 1758 Sylvanus Brown House. Visit slatermill.org for more information.

October 16th 4:30 - 6:00 PM Little Red Shop, Hopedale: Join historians Linda Hixon and Allison Horrocks for a walk and talk about the history of belief and spiritualism in the former commune of Hopedale.

October 20th 6:30 - 9:00 PM Slater Mill: FAMILY Paranormal Investigation, a popular investigation of 1793 Old Slater Mill, the waterwheel pit of the 1810 Wilkinson Mill, and the 1758 Sylvanus Brown House will be tailored for family audiences. Visit slatermill.org for more information.

October 21st 7:30 - 9:30 PM Whitinsville: The Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra returns to the Alternatives Chamber Series this year with an exciting program of brass quintet music and a special performance of "Acadia," an opus by Eric Ewazen inspired by Acadia National Park.

October 22nd 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Blackstone River State Park: Try your hand at fishing "backyard bass" through a lawn game that will teach the basics of fishing.

October 23rd 3:00 - 4:30 PM Hopedale Unitarian Parish: During this year's Friends of Adin Ballou Fall Lecture, reenactor Guy Peartree will present "The Abolitionists, Frederick Douglass and the Slave Narrative." Mr. Peartree will offer a dramatic reflection on Douglass's lectures.

October 29th 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Hopedale Pond: Try your hand at fishing "backyard bass" through a lawn game that will teach the basics of fishing.

November 5th 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Whitin Community Center: We're making Nature Journals in which you can record your observations of the natural world through drawing and writing.

November 13th 7:00 - 9:30 PM Slater Mill: The Slater Mill JAZZ presents Grammy-award winner and Pell Grant recipient Duke Robillard, whose jazz quartet showcases the best of the 1940s and 1950s sounds.

For more information on any of these programs, please check the sponsoring organization's websites.



Partner Spotlight: Slater Mill

Lori Urso, Executive Director of Old Slater Mill Association



What does becoming part of Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park mean for Slater Mill?

Becoming part of the new park means, to me, that we are becoming a part of something larger than just ourselves.

Until now, Slater Mill has been telling a broad story of the American Industrial Revolution. Now, with other partners in the historical park, Slater Mill can focus on telling its part of the story, and encouraging visitors to explore other park nodes where they will be able to put all the pieces together for a more comprehensive experience.

It also greatly enhances our partnership with the National Park Service, which means more support in the preservation of our buildings, and more opportunities for public engagement,

collaboration, and all the ways in which we serve the community.

What are some of the new things going on at Slater Mill for visitors to enjoy?

Slater Mill is committed to offering a variety of programs for visitors, everything from our crafting classes to musical performances, art installations, and our very popular paranormal tours in October.

To learn more about the programs and activities being offered at Slater Mill this fall, check out slatermill.org/programs/events/.

Preservation in the Park

Slater Mill National Historic Landmark



Located on the bank of the Blackstone River in Pawtucket are two mill buildings that tell the story of America's early industrialization period: Slater Mill, originally constructed in 1793, and the Wilkinson Mill, constructed in 1811. Owned and operated by the Old Slater Mill Association, these two buildings, as well

as the Sylvanus Brown House, make up the southernmost area of Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. The historic site is identified as an important resource in the park legislation and park staff has been working with the Old Slater Mill Association to best determine how the complex will continue to

enhance the story of America's industrialization. Recent preservation efforts by the Old Slater Mill Association include window restoration in the Wilkinson Mill, restoration of the roof and exterior of the Slater Mill, and replacement of structural columns under the Slater Mill. Restoration work is never complete and new projects are in the works. The National Park Service is working on securing funding for several resource studies that will further develop the story of the site and its critical role as a leader in the country's industrial revolution.

Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteer Joe Nadeau



V.I.P Joe Nadeau is an all star on the Blackstone River Bikeway. As part of his service to the Bikeway Patrol, Joe

has gone on more than 659 rides, cranking out 12,000 miles along the banks of the Blackstone River. In all, Joe has donated 1,373 hours of volunteer work since 2010. Joe can be found helping with flat tires, giving out directions, and providing interpretation about the park he calls home.

We are looking for volunteers to help us preserve, protect, and interpret the

historical, cultural, natural, and recreational resources of Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. Whether it is a single morning pitching in at a riverside clean up or presenting a walking tour every week, our Volunteers-In-Parks (VIPs) play a critical role making the park a success. If you are interested in joining us, please contact us at BLRV_info@nps.gov for more information.

