



# Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park

# Newsletter

## What's Happening in the New Park?



In December, Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park (BRVNHP) and Blackstone Heritage Corridor, Inc. (BHC) hosted a gathering to celebrate the holiday season and the park's second birthday. The event was also an opportunity to say thank you to several volunteers as well as to recognize our municipal partners for their great work and dedication to preserving and interpreting the valley's resources.

### Linwood Office

Blackstone River Valley  
National Historical Park  
670 Linwood Avenue  
Whitinsville, MA 01588  
508-234-4242

### Slater Mill Office

Blackstone River Valley  
National Historical Park  
67 Roosevelt Avenue  
Pawtucket, RI 02860  
401-725-8638 ext. 104

[nps.gov/BLRV](http://nps.gov/BLRV)  
[fb.com/BlackstoneNPS](https://fb.com/BlackstoneNPS)

## 20 Years of Service

This past November, we were pleased to honor Park Ranger Kevin Klyberg (BRVNHP) and Park Ranger John McNiff (Roger Williams National Memorial) for twenty years of employment with the National Park Service. Klyberg was born and raised in the Blackstone Valley, growing up in a home next to the historic Blackstone Canal. Some people may dream of living to see their backyard become part of a National Park. In Kevin's case, it actually happened!



## New Park Offices



Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park staff has moved into new offices. Ranger Chuck Arning can be found at the Linwood Mill in Northbridge, MA and Ranger Kevin Klyberg is stationed at Slater Mill in Pawtucket, RI.

Looking for more information about the park? We have set up a visitor experience area at the Linwood Mill office which is open Monday through Friday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Stop by and say hello!

## New Faces at the Park!



**Joshua Bell** is a Park Ranger and the Volunteer Coordinator for Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. In addition to working for this park, he also works half time for Aleutian World War II National Historic Area. He began his career in the National Park Service as a volunteer. He holds a Masters degree in History from Providence College and another in Political Science from Suffolk University. Josh is excited to grow the park's volunteer program in collaboration with Blackstone Heritage Corridor, Inc.



**Jan da Silva** is the Cultural Resource Specialist/Facility Manager for New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, Roger Williams National Memorial, and Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. As the park's cultural resource expert, Jan focuses not only on the architectural history of the Blackstone Valley but also its local history and ethnographic resources. Jan is most excited to learn about the historic resources of the valley and working with partners to preserve them.

## Connecting with Communities

### Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA): Year One

In March 2016, Allison Horrocks joined BRVNHP and BHC as a DOI/VISTA, which is a collaboration between the Department of the Interior and AmeriCorps. Her primary responsibilities have been to create new partnerships and to strengthen the capacity of local historical and environmental groups.

During her year of service, Allison had the opportunity to learn about the Blackstone Valley from the ground up—by taking part in springtime cleanups, summer walkabouts, weekly bike patrol rides, and evening paddles along the river.

In addition to taking part in many events, Allison

planned and facilitated the inaugural Biodiversity Festival, a showcase for local conservation groups. While creating citizen-scientist projects is one responsibility of a DOI/VISTA, their work also includes cultural and historical projects.

Last fall, Allison coordinated a series of community-based Junior Ranger programs marking the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. Allison also created a new walking tour in Hopedale, MA and a driving tour of Auburn, MA.

A huge thank you to Allison for all of her hard work.



### New Blackstone River Greenway Segment



On a mild winter's day, more than thirty local residents, park VIPs, members of the Blackstone Valley Canal Conservancy, as well as staff from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and BHC

went for a four mile walk along a new extension of the Blackstone River Greenway in Blackstone, MA.

As we ushered in the new year, it was great to connect with partners, neighbors, and even

a few friends flying overhead. In addition to Mallard Ducks, walkers observed a Bald Eagle and a Great Blue Heron. Several Mute Swans were also spotted floating along the Blackstone River.

To obtain a map of the Greenway, contact Bonnie Combs at Blackstone Heritage Corridor, Inc. (BCombs@Blackstoneheritagecorridor.org) or visit the Linwood Mill office in Whitinsville, MA.

## Engaging Youth

### Slater Mill School Programs

Did you know that every fourth grader in Pawtucket, RI visits Slater Mill? This past fall, BRVNHP rangers along with Student Conservation Association intern Lauren D'Elia assisted the education staff at partner site Slater Mill by offering programs to nearly 900 young people. Students start their field trip experience at the Pawtucket

Visitor Center where they watch a short movie about the valley's industrial history. Then the students move across the street to Slater Mill where they are given an up-close look at the inner workings of an 18th century water-powered mill. For information about school programs at Slater Mill: [Slatermill.org/programs/for-schools/](http://Slatermill.org/programs/for-schools/)



### Youth Honor Fifty Years of Historic Preservation in NPS



On October 15, 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the National Historic Preservation Act. In marking this 50th anniversary, park staff and partners coordinated a series of Junior Ranger programs focused on historic preservation. Hundreds of young people from all over the Blackstone Valley came to park sites and other historically-significant buildings to learn

about architectural styles in their own communities and what they can do to become preservation stewards.

In Pawtucket alone, there are 54 properties on the National Register of Historic Places. Included are Old Slater Mill and the Prospect Heights Housing Project constructed between 1941-1942.



## Upcoming Events

### Winter Civic Dialogue Series



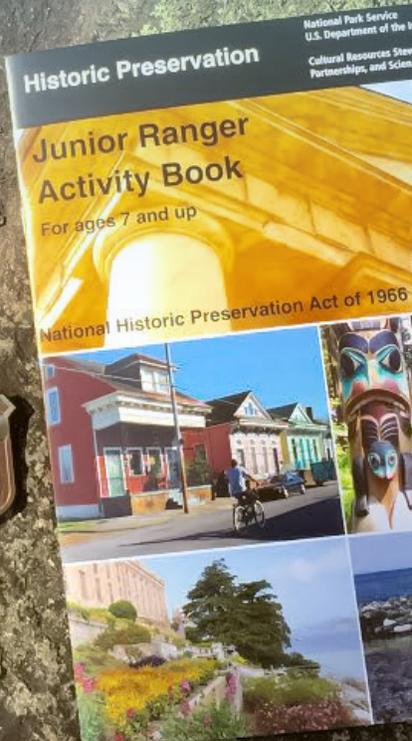
*"The chief aim of interpretation is not instruction, but provocation."*

These words form the essence of Freeman Tilden's philosophy as the National Park Service's foremost thinker on interpretation. Tilden wanted the park ranger's interpretation of the resource to stimulate the visitor to create their own meaningful connections. The ultimate goal is for the visitor, at the conclusion of their ranger-led experience, to want to discover new perspectives and understanding about park resources on their own. In other words, we want our visitors, through their own lenses, to continue their learning experience well after leaving the national park.

The first panel, *Our Changing Climate: From a Very Local Perspective*, was held January 29th and was very well attended. We hope that you will join us for the next two panel discussions in our series:

**Sunday, February 26, 2017 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM at the Pawtucket Visitor Center, 175 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI** *The Struggle for Freedom: The March for Civil Rights from the Underground Railroad through Reconstruction*

**Sunday, March 26, 2017 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM at the Hopedale Unitarian Church, 65 Hopedale Street, Hopedale, MA** *From Utopian Visions to Mainstream Politics: The Fight for Equal Pay*



## Partner Spotlight

### Steve Sette - Town Administrator, Hopedale MA



**What does it mean to you to have Hopedale as part of the new national historical park?**

It's an honor to be part of one of the newest National Parks in our National Park System, especially the fact that the park was one of the final designated during the

Obama Administration. The fact that we are included with some significant historical places within the Blackstone Valley is also an honor, as well as the story of how this area contributed to the growth of the textile industry in the United States. We, here in Hopedale, know the significance of the role the Drapers played in that part of the growth of the United States and now visitors from the rest of our country and from around the world will come to know this as well.

**What's the buzz around town about the national historical park?**

Hopedale is definitely beginning to feel the buzz as residents begin to learn about Hopedale's significant

industrial story, how it will fit into the new park structure, and its impact on the town.

**What will Hopedale look like in five years because of the partnership with the National Park Service?**

We look forward to welcoming visitors to the park, to the Little Red Shop Museum and other areas around Hopedale. I think there will be a certain vibrancy that visitors will bring to the community as well as a new vitality to the businesses we currently have in town. It may very well create such a welcoming environment that other businesses will want to develop their business here as a result of the park being here. For more information: [hopedale-ma.gov](http://hopedale-ma.gov) and [littleredshopmuseum.org](http://littleredshopmuseum.org).

## Volunteer Call to Action

### The Park Needs Volunteers and We Want You!



If you are interested in volunteering with the park this coming season to help us preserve, protect, and interpret the historical, cultural, natural, and recreational resources of the park, please contact: Josh Bell at [Joshua\\_Bell@nps.gov](mailto:Joshua_Bell@nps.gov) or Suzanne Buchanan at [Sbuchanan@blackstoneheritagecorridor.org](mailto:Sbuchanan@blackstoneheritagecorridor.org)



## Volunteer Spotlight

### Rosanne Sherry



In the spring of 2016, Rosanne Sherry began offering birding walks along the bike path in Blackstone River State Park. These excursions, which became known as "Birding with Rosie," provide a showcase for Rosanne to teach others how to stop, look, and listen for birds.

Since these walks began, Rosanne has kept a careful record of birds in and around

the Blackstone River in Lincoln, RI. During the winter months, Rosanne is using her records to create a guide on local birding as part of her service to the Volunteers-in-Parks program.

Rosanne has inspired many living in the Blackstone Valley to get outdoors. Rosanne's motto is "Keep looking up!" To join Rosanne's flock, email [blackstonebirds@gmail.com](mailto:blackstonebirds@gmail.com).