



Currents

DOI Assistant Secretary Hosts River Summit



Above: Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Rachel Jacobson (right) presented Superintendent Patty Wissinger with a plaque commemorating the park's designation as the nation's first National Water Trail.

Island Ford--On Wednesday, August 28, 2012, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior Rachel Jacobson came to Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area to chair a "river summit" hosted by the Southeast Tourism Society, *Chattahoochee Riverkeeper*, the Trust for Public Land and the National Park Service.

"When Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar selected a 48-mile stretch of the Chattahoochee River as America's first National Water Trail," said Jacobson, "it opened up new opportunities to boost tourism to the Atlanta region." A broad spectrum of park partners contributed to the brainstorming session.

Left to right: Stephen Cassell, Marc Miller, Christina Twomey, Patty Wissinger, Rick Slade, and Jon Jarvis.



Superintendent's Corner

Designing the Park

Washington, DC--On September 19 and 20, I met with Director Jon Jarvis to accept recognition for the park's participation in the *Parks for the People/Designing the Parks* competition. The most important cornerstone through the entire project has been our own "Beautification Project," started by the maintenance division two years ago. I continue to receive compliments from the public about how good the park looks. The credit goes to the staff and volunteers.

--Patty Wissinger,
Superintendent, CRNRA

Volunteer Focus: International Coastal Cleanup

Johnson Ferry North--On Saturday, September 15, some seventy volunteers gathered to bring the Ocean Conservancy's annual *International Coastal Cleanup* to the Chattahoochee River. Supported by more than twenty CRNRA Trail Blazer volunteer crew leaders, fifty employees of Coca Cola came out to float and clean the river from Johnson's Ferry to Powers Island. They also helped clean up under the I-285 bridge (pictured) and helped eradicate privet.

Below: Volunteers from Coca Cola help clean up debris under the I-285 bridge, including the derelict barge float in the foreground. Left to right: volunteer Carlos Pagoaga, volunteer coordinator Dave Thomas, and Trail Blazer crew leader Peter Fitzpatrick.



UPCOMING RANGER-LED PROGRAMS

Oct. 20 and 31: Historic Roswell Mills Walk South end of Mill St. in Roswell, 1-3:30 PM

Oct. 27: Hunter's Moon Campfire and Night Hike The CREEC, 7-10 PM

Nov. 10: Autumn Owl Prowl The CREEC, 6:30-10 PM

Reservations required for all programs: call 678-538-1200.

For a complete list, check our website at <http://www.nps.gov/chat/planyourvisit/events.htm>

New Places and Faces

Congratulations to Ranger Sean Perchalski on his promotion to **Supervisory Park Ranger!** Sean has been a park ranger at CRNRA for over 3 years, and has also worked as an NPS and police dispatcher and a local police officer.

Congratulations to Frank Ouellette on his promotion to **Fee Program Manager!** Frank has been working in the fee program since 2006 and has extensive experience in the telecommunications industry.

Welcome to Emily Henderson, Park Ranger! Emily graduated from the NPS seasonal academy in Franklin, NC, and volunteered for the Peace Corps in Guatemala and Paraguay.

Welcome to Phylcia Pierson, Natural Resources Intern! Phylcia is a graduate of the new NPS Academy program and Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi.

Welcome to new SCA assistant volunteer coordinator Justin Eikenberry! A "river rat" since his days at Centennial High School, Justin is a graduate of the Georgia State University political science program.

Farewell to outgoing SCA assistant volunteer coordinator Chris Cassling. As an intern, Chris volunteered a full year of his time to the Chattahoochee River NRA family of volunteers, partners, and employees.

Finally, a big thank-you to our many outstanding seasonal employees! You made our summer.

Cost-Efficient Fix at Settles Ramp

Settles Bridge--From mid-June to mid-July, park maintenance staff replaced the step-down boat ramp at Settles Bridge. The old ramp had been damaged in the 2009 floods and by spring 2012 had become too unsafe to use. Park staff saved over \$50,000 by using innovative construction techniques on the new ramp.



Left--Before repair: unsafe, flood-damaged steps. Right--After repair: precast concrete blocks were used first as a cofferdam, then left in place as new foundation, thus saving the cost of a temporary cofferdam.



Status Update: Check out our Facebook page for the fall photo contest: **"VIPs AT WORK!"**

Featured Partner

Friends Group Returns!

On August 2, 2012, the Chattahoochee Park Conservancy Board of Directors held their first official meeting. The Conservancy will be the official nonprofit friends group of CRNRA. For the past year, a small group of dedicated volunteers has been working to re-establish the friends' group. The Board's first meeting considered topics such as recruiting legal and accounting talent to assist with setting up a 501(c)(3) organization; membership and fundraising methods; and building public awareness about the park. For more information about the Conservancy, please contact Beth St. Jean: beth@ammoniasafety.com.

Archeologists Investigate Allenbrook Foundations

Allenbrook--During the week of August 20, archeologists from the preservation nonprofit Chicora Foundation excavated an area in front of the historic Allenbrook house in Roswell as a preliminary to repairing the sagging foundation of the 1850s-era mill manager's home. Researchers found whiteware, pearlware, window glass,

Below, archeologists Dennis Forest and Debi Hacker sift through soil at Allenbrook. The porch in the 1940s photo at right was apparently not original.



bottle glass, porcelain, and a metal tool. They also unearthed remains of a lightning rod that may indicate the extent of the original porch, which was smaller than later versions.

