



# Currents

## 730 Fulton County Kids Get “Ticket to Ride”

*Johnson Ferry North*--In October and November, a grant from the **National Park Foundation** funded field trips to CRNRA that included a nature hike and water conservation activities.



Left: Park Ranger Marjorie Thomas addresses students from Mimosa Elementary School in Roswell at Johnson Ferry on October 4. Mimosa was one of six schools brought outdoors by the grant.

Park education staff designed and presented pre- and post-trip programs at schools and coordinated field trip logistics with Fulton County Water District, the bus company and numerous volunteers. An exhibit of student art and writing is now on display at Hewlett Lodge.

Below: Gateway NRA served as the incident command post for emergency storm recovery work.



### Superintendent's Corner

## Response to Sandy

*New York Area Parks*--

When disaster strikes a national park, the whole NPS helps out. Eight employees of CRNRA, including myself, spent up to 2 weeks helping with emergency storm recovery at parks such as Fire Island and Statue of Liberty. Back home, our co-workers shouldered the extra workload with the can-do attitude that makes me so proud of this park. Good job, everyone!

--Patty Wissinger,  
Superintendent, CRNRA

## Volunteer Focus: Visitor Safety 1/2 Mile Markers

*Lake Lanier to Paces Mill*--This spring, expect to see volunteers continuing a successful safety project that began in 2008 with a grant from the Coca Cola Company and the National Park Foundation. The grant funded the installation of mile markers and other signage along most of the 48 miles of the Chattahoochee within CRNRA boundaries. By enabling visitors to quickly and accurately describe their location to emergency responders, these signs have saved lives. The park is now installing half-mile markers to make the river even safer. [Click here](#) to help!

Below: Volunteer coordinator Dave Thomas (left) works with VIPs John Lemire (center) and Claudia Ramos (right) to install milepost 341.5 in December.



## UPCOMING RANGER-LED PROGRAMS

**Feb. 16: Great Backyard Bird Count** Johnson Ferry North, 9:00-11:00 AM

**Feb. 16: Winter Owl Prowl** The CREEC, 6:30-10:00 PM

**March 2 and 9: Harbingers of Spring Discovery Hikes** Paces Mill (3/2), Indian Trail (3/9), 10A-3P

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

**Welcome to Planning and Resource Management (PRM) Intern Alex Magruder!** Alex comes to us with a BS from UNC Asheville and 3 years as an SCA crew leader. He will be providing GIS assistance to the park.

**Welcome to PRM Intern Tracey Brandt!** Tracey has a degree in Natural Resources Management from Grand Valley State University in Michigan and will be serving as a bio tech.

**Welcome to Visitor Services Intern Alanna Smith!** Alanna is a graduate of UNC Chapel Hill and will be assisting with both the education and volunteer programs.

**Welcome to Park Ranger Jay Kolodzinski!** Jay brings seven years of NPS experience to the Chattahoochee resource protection program, most recently from Cape Cod National Seashore. He is a graduate of U Mass Amherst.

**Welcome back to Lead Visitor Use Assistant Isaiah Fitzgerald!** Isaiah got his start in the NPS in the CRNRA fee program in 2009. In 2011 he went to Biscayne National Park as an administrative support assistant.

**Farewell to outgoing Interpretive Ranger Larisa Nachman!** Larisa worked in the park since 2009 and has provided excellent support to the education program. We wish her well.

**Farewell to Dave Wilkins, who retired from the maintenance division in November!** Dave leaves the NPS after a 30-year career at Chattahoochee River. He plans to continue volunteering at the park and at church, do some traveling, and spend time with family.

**Congratulations and farewell to PRM Chief Rick Slade on his promotion to Superintendent of Monocacy National Battlefield!** Rick has served CRNRA in his current capacity since October 2006, when he came to the park from Amistad National Recreation Area in Texas.

## Bike Training for Park Rangers



Josh Baldwin (left) and Emily Henderson are certified police cyclist park rangers at Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area.

*Sope Creek*--In November, two more CRNRA park rangers joined the ranks of certified police cyclists after completing a 32-hour course with the International Police Mountain Bike Association. The park now has four certified cyclist rangers who have logged time on park trails at Sope Creek, the Cochran Shoals FIT trail, and East and West Palisades. Patrolling on bikes allows rangers to cover more ground, promotes fitness for duty, saves gas and reduces pollution. "Visitors love seeing rangers on bikes," said Supervisory Park Ranger Sean Perchalski.

### Featured Partner

## Chattahoochee Nature Center

Founded in 1976, CNC is a private-non profit that CRNRA partners with for various events. Their Discovery Center Museum and Nature Exchange serve as an interpretive center for the watershed. They focus on telling the river's story enabling people to better understand the natural world. Visit [www.chattnaturecenter.org](http://www.chattnaturecenter.org)!

## Grant Funds Revegetation at Paces Mill

*Paces Mill*--In December, CRNRA staff from Planning and Resource Management joined staff from the Atlanta Botanical Garden and Botanical Guardian volunteers to remove invasive, exotic plants and plant native species at Paces Mill. Eight hundred and fifty native trees, shrubs, grasses, and herbaceous plants were installed in the area between the picnic area and the river. The partnership project was funded by a "Five Star Restoration" grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation on the theme of "Pulling Together: Managing Invasives." The purpose of the project was to reduce foot traffic through the area that is damaging sensitive riparian habitat and collapsing the riverbank. Three hundred fifty more plants will be added next month.



Left: PRM interns Tracey Brandt (left) and Phylcia Pierson (right) with ABG staff Kyle.

Right: Botanical Guardians Bob and Caroline with ABG staff Jaime, Beth, Matt, and Kyle.

