



Currents

New Concessionaire Announced

The Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC) has been awarded a 10-year concessions contract with the park to serve as our concessionaire. They will be the official company authorized to conduct rental



transactions on park property and will occupy the pavilions at Johnson Ferry and Powers Island. NOC will begin operations in either December 2014 or January 2015. Having NOC as our primary outfitter should increase park revenues, improve visitors' experiences when renting watercraft, and more safely streamline watercraft operations conducted in the park.

NOC calls itself a "complete outdoor outfitter", providing watercraft for rent and for sale, and offering lessons and training on a number of southeast rivers. The company, started by three friends in 1972, first began operating on the Nantahala River, and has expanded its operation to include apparel sales, international travel trips, and restaurants and lodging in and around Bryson City, NC. Specifically for CRNRA, they will offer guided river trips, paddling instruction, paddlesports and specialty retail, guided fishing tours, food and beverage operations, shuttle services, special events, and a wide variety of watercraft rentals including kayaks, canoes, rafts, tubes, and stand-up paddleboards.

New Park Podcasts

The park has a new venue in terms of social media. Social media means "new media", and the park is striving to stay connected with new audiences through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram...and now podcasts. In August, the park aired its first audiovisual podcast, produced by Student Conservation Association Intern Saveria (Sami) Steinkamp, to highlight the Cochran Shoals unit. Sami has produced two other podcasts, for Sope Creek and the Palisades. Look for the all three of the newly produced podcasts to be featured on the park's website in the very near future.



Superintendent's Corner

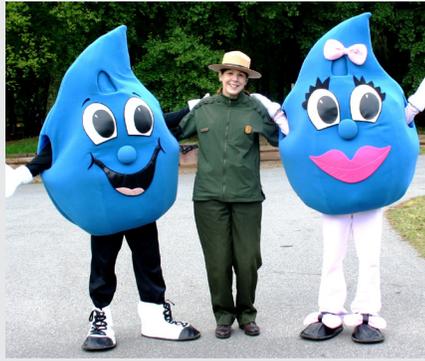


As many of you may be aware, Sally Bethea, founding director of Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, is retiring this year. Sally has been a tremendous force for good on the river in terms of improving water quality and she will be sorely missed. As a way to highlight some of Riverkeeper's accomplishment's, they are producing a film, of which I will be part. My role will be to talk about the BacteriAlert testing. BacteriAlert is a partnership which includes the U.S.

Geological Survey (USGS), Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Cobb County Government, and the City of Atlanta. Water sampling is done at Medlock Bridge and Paces Ferry to test for total coliform and Escherichia coli (E.coli) so that water users can be informed about the real and predicted bacterial counts. Results are posted on the USGS website with a link to it from our website as well.

Patricia Wissinger 1958 - 2014

The park and all who loved her were saddened by the recent loss of former Superintendent Patty Wissinger. Patty grew up in North Carolina, went to college and graduate school there, and then began her career of over 30 years with the National Park Service. She served in numerous capacities, to include Chief of Interpretation for the Blue Ridge Parkway and for Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Chief of Concession Operations at Shenandoah National Park, as the Southeast Regional Partnership Coordinator, as Superintendent



of Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, and most recently as Deputy Superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. During her tenure at CRNRA, the park was designated the first National Water Trail and the Chattahoochee Parks Conservancy, our Friends' Group, was established. Patty was a mentor and friend to many. She will be greatly missed.

Chattahoochee River Summer Splash... The Coolest Family Event!

The Seventh Annual Chattahoochee River Summer Splash was a huge success! Traditionally, the Summer Splash happens the last Saturday of July and is a way to encourage families to get on the river. Shuttle service is provided for the event participants, who float from Morgan Falls Dam Park to Powers Island. Several vendors and exhibitors await participants as they come off the river at Powers. There were 536 registrants for this year's Splash. This year, as last, the Summer Splash was funded by the City of Sandy Springs, with staff and volunteer support provided by CRNRA. Many thanks to all who made it a success!



Summer Youth Programs

The park had several youth crews: the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), Homestretch, Greening Youth Foundation (GYF), and Student Conservation Corps (SCA), this summer working to accomplish tasks relating to visitor use and safety and resource protection. In addition to the time spent working the youth



also learned about the National Park Service and various cultural and natural resources found in parks.

The YCC is a nationwide program where local youth, ages 15 to 18, are employed for 8 weeks. Homestretch is a local program that employs youth ages 15 to 18 for 4 weeks. Funding was provided through a grant by the National Park Foundation. The GYF is an Atlanta-based non-profit organization and employed a 7-person crew. The SCA is a nationwide program comprised of two crews of youth from across the country that came to the park to work for 4 week periods.

Altogether, these crews closed 2 miles of trail, built 1/4 mile of new trail, and installed 175 new park maps. They also assisted with the following events; Back to the Chattahoochee the River Race & Festival, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park's Sesquicentennial, and the Chattahoochee River Summer Splash.

Youth programs are a direct way to make parks relevant for future generations. By providing work experience in a park setting, the participants gain a stewardship ethic, feel a sense of ownership to the park, and learn more about careers within the National Park Service. These programs impact the youth in a positive way with a desire to return to the park as a park visitor, employee, volunteer, or advocate.



Welcome to...

Noelia Aponte-Silva, PRM Intern, has been completing graduate coursework in Environmental Science at the University of Puerto Rico. She will be the field leader in coordinating and conducting activities for the park's Exotic Vegetation Management (EXOT) program.

Eddie Benton, Seasonal Maintenance Worker, brings real value to the park, with over 12 years of experience in the maintenance profession.

Alexis Bien, Student Conservation Association Intern, is the Assistant Volunteer Coordinator. Lexie is a recent graduate from Appalachian State in North Carolina with a major in Sustainable Development.

Chris Calkins, Law Enforcement Park Ranger, comes to us from Martin Luther King Jr., NHS (and Little River Canyon NP Res., and Glen Canyon NRA prior to that). He is originally from St. Augustine, Florida. He and his wife, Bridget, have a 17-month old named Payson, and 2 dogs.

Jarrold Cawley, Seasonal Maintenance Worker, joins us from a resort in Ten Sleep, Wyoming where he worked various duties including maintenance. He has also worked as a seasonal at Little Bighorn Battlefield NM.

Jim DeWick, Seasonal Maintenance Worker, comes from the private sector where he gained years of maintenance and business experience.

Jeff Glossop, Law Enforcement Park Ranger, is originally from Maryland, and is transferring from Lake Mead NRA. He has worked seasonally at Theodore Roosevelt NP, Bryce Canyon NP, Everglades NP, Glen Canyon NRA, and Grant Teton NP. Jeff is engaged to Cynthia Walton, historian in the Southeast Regional Office.

Deanna Greco, Planning and Resource Management (PRM) Chief, comes to us from Grand Canyon NP. In addition to managing the park's resource and planning programs, Deanna will provide leadership in our efforts to address some of our current water resource issues.

Joe Hodge, Maintenance Worker, worked seasonally last summer and has been hired in a furlough position. He is retired from Industrial Maintenance and has been in this area since 1994.

Carolyn Huntley, Intern, will be developing a new Junior Ranger booklet, targeted for Pre-K through 2nd grade kids. She has just completed her Masters Degree in

Forest Resources and Conservation from the University of Florida.

Matt Ibbetson, Maintenance Worker, comes from Georgia Department of Natural Resources, bringing valuable experience from the maintenance department there.

Joseph Jarquin, PRM GIS Intern, is a student at Kennesaw State University, and has been involved in the mapping component of the park's Exotic Vegetation Management (EXOT) program, in BacteriAlert monitoring, and in the Big Creek shoal bass population study, among other things.

Andreas Moshogianis, Hydrologic Technician, most recently worked as a Water Quality Specialist with the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation in New Orleans, Louisiana. Andreas will be developing a new water quality program for the Chattahoochee River.

Sean Williams, Seasonal Park Ranger, was hired as the Youth Conservation Corps crewleader for the summer, and is being extended through the end of the year to work on several projects, including additional podcasts.



And Farewell to...

Kristin Siembieda, Teacher-Ranger-Teacher (TRT), developed an interpretive STEM walk for Cochran Shoals, utilizing clues and QR codes. She left her "summer park job" to get back to her "real job" in a Fulton classroom.

Saveria "Sami" Steinkamp, Student Conservation Association Intern, developed the park's first podcasts. Visit park's website to see/hear her work. She's returned to Dennison University in Ohio for her Junior year.

Rodney Tumlin, Teacher-Ranger-Teacher (TRT), developed a coldwater fisheries program focusing on microclimates. He left his "summer park job" to get back to his "real job" in a Paulding classroom.

Matthew West, Seasonal Interpretive Park Ranger, worked on developing a Civil War program, and also provided weekend roving. He left us to start graduate school at University of Georgia.