



Currents

CRNRA Hosts First Naturalization Ceremony



Island Ford--On September 28, park staff helped welcome 72 new citizens at Hewlett Field. This ceremony, the park's first partnership with US Customs and Immigration Services, was part of the park's **National Public Lands Day** celebration.



Superintendent's
Corner

Introducing Bill Cox

Island Ford--Hello, my name is Bill Cox, the new superintendent of Chattahoochee River NRA. I know some of you already from my **background** with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), where I managed the wetlands, coastal and ocean programs in the southeast region. I consider it a privilege to return to the National Park Service, and look forward to working with you. --Bill Cox, Superintendent, CRNRA

Volunteer Focus: Welcome Secretary Jewell!

Island Ford to Riverside Park--This year's **Rivers Alive!** volunteer cleanup on September 28 had a surprise guest at the Riverside Park trash weigh-in, sponsored by **Keep Roswell Beautiful**. Sally Jewell, US Secretary of the Interior, joined the group to thank volunteers and meet local cooperators in the day's events. Afterward, the Secretary enjoyed a short paddle on the river with CRNRA staff to the **Chattahoochee Nature Center's** boardwalk.

Below: Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell (center, blue shirt) shares a moment with longtime CRNRA volunteer Julie Burroughs (tan shirt) and two students from Centennial High School who helped clean up the river.



UPCOMING RANGER-LED PROGRAMS

Nov. 16: **Autumn Owl Prowl**, CREEC, 8615 Barnwell Rd, Johns Creek 6:30-10:00 PM

Dec. 7: **Late Autumn Campfire and Night Hike Program**, CREEC, 6:00 to 9:00 PM

Dec. 14: **Waning Autumn Morning Hike** Whitewater Creek, 10 AM to 1 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

Farewell and Congratulations to Superintendent Patty Wissinger! On September 5, we celebrated Patty's promotion to Deputy Superintendent at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We are happy to you doing great things in your beloved home state, but we will miss you, Patty!

Farewell to Acting Planning and Resource Management Chief Tim Bemisderfer! After an amazing six-month detail at CRNRA, Tim had to return to his day job in the Southeast Regional office in planning and project management. Thanks for your help, Tim!

Thanks and farewell to some longtime friends and all our 2013 seasonals and interns! The graduation of some of our longtime student employees coincided with the usual autumn scale-down of our seasonals this year. Sylvia Talley, Matt Adams, Jesuan Rodriguez, Brandon Connelly, Derrick Smith, Jeffrey Smith, Amandip Kaur, Tracey Brandt, Alex Magruder, and Justin Eikenberry--thanks for your hard work making the park a better place!

Welcome interns Jonathan Kleinman, Jessica Su, and Ryan Krysty! Jonathan and Jessica will be helping out in Natural Resources, while Ryan will be Dave Thomas' new assistant for the volunteer program in 2014.

Park Seeks Input on Proposed Annual Fee Increase

Island Ford--Did you know your fee dollars started the BacteriAlert program? Fees also pay for restrooms and park signs. For the first time since 2005, CRNRA proposes to raise the cost of annual passes from \$25 to \$35, while keeping the price of daily passes at \$3. Comments can be emailed to chat_fees@nps.gov. On Tuesday, December 3, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, there will be an open house on the topic at Island Ford. The comment period will end on Friday, December 6. [Click here to learn more.](#)



The new EXOT protocol will help systematize the park's treatment of exotic invasives like this kudzu infestation (now eradicated) near Sope Creek.



The EXOT Protocol

Island Ford--If you have ever chopped or sprayed privet or Russian olive, you know how difficult it is to eradicate these invasive non-native plants. Thanks to the efforts of the CRNRA natural resources staff, a new protocol called EXOT will help prioritize and schedule treatments based on resources at risk, time last treated and other variables. The park's new friends group, the Chattahoochee Parks Conservancy, is helping pilot the program in the field. [Check out the full report!](#)

Thanks for making "PACK IT OUT" a success parkwide by being responsible with your trash. Look for new pet waste buckets on baggie dispensers throughout the park. Please use them for pet waste only--no trash!



Chattahoochee Parks Conservancy Helps Fund Field Trips

Park Ranger Jerry Hightower works with students from Campbell Elementary.



Powers Island--This fall, CRNRA will bring over 800 Title I students from Fulton and Cobb Counties into the park at no cost to the schools through a grant program from the **National Park Foundation** called "Ticket to Ride." Repeating last year's success with similar field trips at Johnson Ferry North, this year park rangers Marjorie Thomas, Jerry Hightower, and other members of the park's education staff will join volunteers and the Fulton and Cobb Water Departments to educate students from eight different schools about water quality, pollution, and the plants and animals of this national park. Additional funding to pay for buses also came from the CRNRA's new friends group, the Chattahoochee Parks Conservancy, and the bus company itself, Cooper Global Transport.