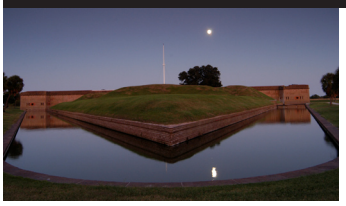
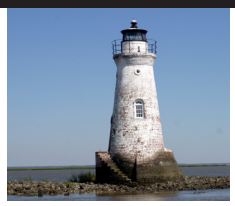
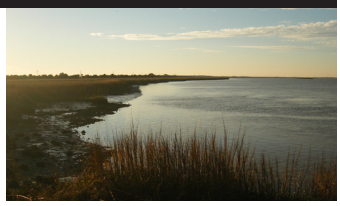
Park News

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Pulaski National Monument



Fort Pulaski Press

Fall 2007

Tis the Season... Candlelantern Tours Start Soon!

Cannon demonstrations highlight an evening of period music, special tours, and holiday merrymaking during the Candlelantern Tours. Photo by Corey Carr

Come relive a Savannah tradition and join in the celebration of the holiday season with Fort Pulaski National Monument. On the evenings of Friday, December 14 and Saturday, December 15, Fort Pulaski staff and volunteers will conduct the annual Candlelantern tours which re-create the Confederate Nog party of 1861.

"The company was marched into the mess room where we found the tables groaning under the weight of the good things...After finishing dinner we remained at the table and had songs and jokes, we also had several visitors from the city at the dinner, everything passed off in the best manner possible."

- Sgt. L.W. Landershire-1861

Refreshments, hot cider, special tours and period music highlight these evenings of merrymaking. Advance reservations are required. A limited number of spaces are available for each program. Programs will be presented at 6:00, 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. Anyone interested in attending should call Fort Pulaski (912) 786-5787 between the hours of 9:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning Tuesday, November 1 and ending Friday, December 8. Reservations will not be accepted after December 8. Admission is $3.00 per adult. Children 15 years and under are free. (No credit cards are accepted)

Charles E. Fenwick, Superintendent

Welcome to Fort Pulaski!

We hope your visit is the experience of a lifetime. Whatever your interest—sightseeing, hiking, kayaking, bicycling, exploring, history, nature study, or photography— you will find Fort Pulaski National Monument like no other place.

There has been a strong positive reaction to the first edition of our park newsletter. Many people wanted to know how our efforts to repair the threatened foundation of the Cockspur Lighthouse are going. To date, the Park Service has just released $73,000 to conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA) which is required prior to any repair work beginning. We hope to complete the EA by June of 2008.

A group of concerned citizens is also in the process of forming a "Friends of the Cockspur Lighthouse" non-profit and hopefully by our next issue we should have something official we can announce. In the meantime, anyone who is interested in getting involved with the protection of the lighthouse can contact the park. If you missed the premiere edition of our newsletter, an electronic version is available on our park web page.

As our busy and very successful summer season comes to an end, I would like to take a moment to thank you for visiting and our staff and volunteers for working so hard to accomplish our mission. Please, let us know how we are doing and get involved in your local National Park.

Charles E. Fenwick

National Public Lands Day Kicks Off Fall Season

Fort Pulaski National Monument along with the Savannah District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Combined Federal Campaign for Coastal Georgia, Chatham County, United Way, Southern LNG, and the City of Tybee Island will proudly sponsor this year's National Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 29, 2007.

Nationwide, an estimated 100,000 Americans will participate in a variety of important volunteer projects on federal lands. National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance public lands across America. As a recipient of a Unilever 2007 Recycling at Work Sustainable Grant Program, Fort Pulaski will recieve 1,000 linear feet of sustainable lumber, as well as picnic table and bench kits. These new materials will be installed as part of National Public Lands Day.

Registration begins Saturday at 7:00 AM at the Fort Pulaski Picnic Area. A free breakfast will be served during the early registration. Work projects will last from 8:00 AM to noon, followed by a free lunch. Volunteers should be prepared to work outdoors. Sturdy shoes, hats, and insect repellent are recommended.

The Cockspur Island Lighthouse gets a fresh coat of paint during National Public Lands Day 2006. NPS Photo

The highlight of this year's volunteer day at Fort Pulaski will include work to begin to complete the last mile of the McQueen's Island Rails-to-Trail from the park entrance east towards Battery Park on Tybee Island. Currently bikers, runners and walkers can use six miles of trail on the abandoned Central of Georgia Railway that once connected Savannah to Tybee Island.

Superintendent Charles E. Fenwick adds, "This is a day when we can all show our pride in our local National Park. This type of cleanup allows current and future generations of Americans to continue to enjoy this special place the same way we do now, pristine and beautiful."

Fort Pulaski to Commemorate Veteran's Day 2007

The National Park Service will host a special living history event on November 10-11 at Fort Pulaski. The event will honor our nation's veterans by offering a full schedule of activities inside the fort. The 48th New York Volunteer Infantry will recreate many aspects of daily life at a major Civil War-era post. A variety of stations will be positioned throughout the fort allowing visitors to learn about military inspections, mail calls, bayonet drills, barracks life, infantry drills, and cannon firings. Superintendent Fenwick remarked "What better way to honor our veterans of today and yesterday than by honoring our rich tradition of military service that includes the Civil War era that Fort Pulaski preserves."

A special military salute to veterans will be offered at 4:00 PM on Saturday. All vertans will be admiited free of charge. In-depth tours will be offered hourly from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM on Saturday, and again from 11:00 AM-2:00 PM on Sunday. Check the park's official website at www.nps.gov/fopu for more details.

Interpretive Programs

Daily Ranger Programs

Fort Pulaski National Monument offers visitors daily interpretive programs inside historic Fort Pulaski. Activities include musket & soldier drills, Civil War soldier talks, and guided fort tours. Activities are scheduled from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday thru Friday.

Schedule of Activities:

11:00 Guided Fort Tour
12:00 Musket & Soldier Demonstration
2:00 Musket & Soldier Demonstration
3:00 Guided Fort Tour
4:00 Musket & Soldier Demonstration

Living History Days

Living History Days are presented every weekend at Fort Pulaski. Saturday programs reflect Federal garrison life from 1862 to1865. Activities include cannon firings, musket drills, Civil War soldier talks, and guided fort tours.

Sunday programs reflect Confederate garrison life from 1861 to April 1862. Activities include musket drills, Civil War soldier talks, and guided fort tours.

Schedule of Activities:

Saturday
10:00 Guided Fort Tour
11:00 Cannon Firing
12:00 Cannon Firing
1:00 Musket & Soldier Demonstration
2:00 Cannon Firing
2:30 Guided Fort Tour
3:00 Musket & Soldier Demonstration
3:30 Cannon Firing

Sunday
11:00 Guided Fort Tour
12:00 Musket & Soldier Demonstration
2:00 Musket & Soldier Demonstration
3:00 Guided Fort Tour
4:00 Musket & Soldier Demonstration

Your Entrance Fees At Work

Annually, nearly 350,000 visitors explore the rich history and natural beauty of Fort Pulaski National Monument. Last year, the park collected more than $216,000 in fees. So where does all the money from entrance fees go? At Fort Pulaski, fee money is used for park preservation, interpretation, maintenance, and numerous conservation projects.

Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) students Lisa Lorang (foreground) and Nicole Stutts mix lime mortar inside Fort Pulaski.

As you enjoy the park, you may notice signs bearing the User Fee logo. Wherever you see this logo displayed,you will also see your entrance fees at work improving the park for your enjoyment and the enjoyment of future generations.

As visitation increases at Fort Pulaski and throughout the National Park System, providing a safe and memorable experience for all visitors can present quite a challenge. Increasing demands are placed upon existing facilities, making new facilities and services necessary. The benefits of collecting entrance fees are already visible at Fort Pulaski.

Nationwide the National Park Service, pending approval, plans to raise fees in January 2008. If approved, the minimum raise for entrance fees would be $8. However, Fort Pulaski feels that this is too great of an increase and is proposing that fees at the park only be raised to $7 for individuals and $20 for annual pass holders.

The new rates would be comparable to other existing museums and historic sites in the Savannah area. Fort Pulaski's entrance fee also gives visitors the opportunity to return to the park for up to six days and enjoy many amenities including, nature trails, fishing, picnicking, bicycling, kayaking, as well as tours of the fort and grounds.

The increase will allow the park to continue to expand its living history programs and special events, while also increasing revenue needed for park projects aimed at ensuring a memorable experience for park visitors.

Fort Pulaski recently implemented a fee demonstration project that addresses the enormous preservation challenges that face the historic fort and surrounding landscape. Partnering with an existing park maintenance staff of five employees and utilizing the STEP authority (a Federal Hiring program that allows for the hiring of student employees) the park recently hired six talented undergraduate and graduate students majoring in Historic Preservation from Savannah College of Art and Design to form the park's first ever park preservation team.

The main focus of work includes reducing the amount of deferred maintenance within the fort, as well as maintaining the Cockspur Island Lighthouse. An exciting component of their experience is their cross training to fire Fort Pulaski's reproduction black powder cannons.

The increase in fees would also allow Fort Pulaski to hire more full-time employees to better address our long term preservation needs, and to ensure the highest level of visitor services possible.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Pulaski National Monument
P.O. Box 30757
Savannah, GA 31410-0757
912-786-5787
www.nps.gov/fopu

First Class Mail
Postage and Fees
PAID
City, State
Permit number

Fort Pulaski Press

Eastern National
Serving the Visitors to America's National Parks and Other Public Trusts
Printed with funds donated by Eastern National, a not-for-profit partner of the National Park Service and other public trusts.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Pulaski Press
The offical newsletter of Fort Pulaski National Monument. Printed on recycled material.

Editor
Matt Turner

Contributor
Mike T. Ryan
Mike Weinstein

Comments? Write to:
Superintendent
Fort Pulaski National Monument
P.O. Box 30757
Savannah, GA 31410

Phone
912-786-5787

E-mail
FOPU_Administration@nps.gov
Website:
www.nps.gov/fopu

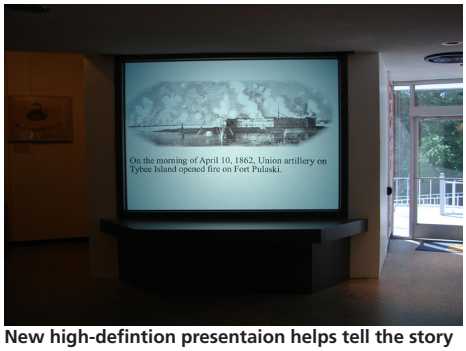
New Exhibits highlight Battle of Fort Pulaski

The past few months have seen numerous changes throughout the park, none more evident than inisde the Visitors Center. Hands-on exhibits, high-definition presentations, and new interpretive panels work together to bring the story of Fort Pulaski to life.

New exhibits include: A full-scale 13" Union Seacoat Mortar that illustrates a type of weapon that was used during the Battle of Fort Pulaski. The 13" Union Seacoast Mortar saw action in almost every theater in the American Civil War utilized by both the Army and the Navy. At Fort Pulaski, Union General Quincy Gillmore had a dozen, which took part in the reduction of the fort in April 1862. The new mortar also serves as a donation container for the park.

Another recent additon is a high-defintion large-format presentation detailing the Battle of Fort Pulaski. Using historic photographs and period maps, the presentaion allows the visitor to better understand the battle by seeing the location of batteries and troop positions before and during the battle.

13" Seacost Mortar illustrates the massive Civil War weapon used against Fort Pulaski. NPS Photo



New high-defintion presentaion helps tell the story of Fort Pulaski. NPS Photo