



2016 *Year in*

REVIEW



Artist in Residence
Chantelle Dinkel
creates a painting of a
World War II tank during
the Eisenhower NHS
World War II weekend.

Call to Action Initiatives

NPS Centennial Celebrations:

Programs and events throughout 2016 engaged youth and Millennials and focused on arts programming; community and employee wellness; and expanding stewardship of park resources through philanthropy. Thousands of visitors attended events

including Doors Open Gettysburg, the Gettysburg BioBlitz, Eisenhower paint and wine nights, the Eisenhower Farm to Table dinner, Artist-in-Residency programs, NPS Founders Day, the Gettysburg and Appomattox student exchange and other education programs, and Harrisburg International Airport exhibits.



A Gettysburg school student learns more about turtles during the Gettysburg BioBlitz.

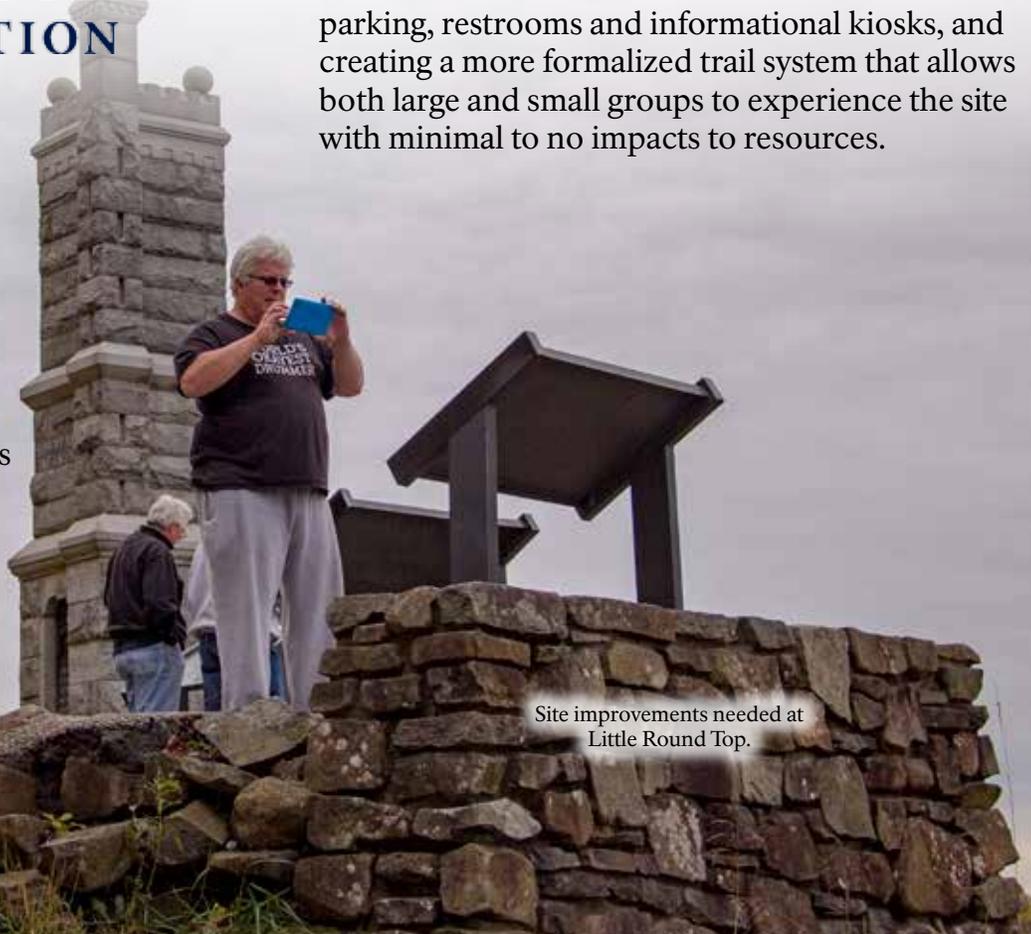
Cemetery Ridge Rehabilitation: This official Centennial project is bringing back battle era features at the center of the Union army's battle line on Cemetery Ridge, including Ziegler's grove, Ziegler's ravine, the Hancock Avenue gate, and commemorative walkways. The new parking area is expected to be completed in time for the Gettysburg

Address anniversary events. The Gettysburg Foundation provided a grant of \$900,000 to match NPS Centennial funding of \$600,000.

Little Round Top: An Environmental Assessment will be available for public review in early 2017 for site improvements to Little Round Top. Draft alternatives include re-purposing previous alignments of Sykes Avenue for additional parking, converting the Little Round Top School House into non-staffed visitor facilities with parking, restrooms and informational kiosks, and creating a more formalized trail system that allows both large and small groups to experience the site with minimal to no impacts to resources.

GETTYSBURG FOUNDATION

Support from the Gettysburg Foundation throughout 2016 has been crucial to our Centennial programs and celebrations. We owe the Foundation a huge debt of gratitude! Through our partnership with the Foundation we'll continue to work to engage new audiences and accomplish preservation projects that ensure that Gettysburg's two national parks will be here for future generations.



Site improvements needed at Little Round Top.

The Gettysburg Foundation continues to raise funds for this project.

75 Acres Preserved at Gettysburg's George Bishop Farm: In August Roxanne Quimby donated 75 acres to the park, including the George Bishop farm - one of the largest remaining unprotected Civil War farms

at Gettysburg. Union cavalry confronted Confederate troops on the site during the battle. Confederate entrenchments also run across the property. The site has two historic structures, a sensitive riparian area for Marsh Creek, and critical grasslands habitat. The donation helps protect the view shed for both Gettysburg and Eisenhower parks. It was part of a larger land donation to mark the NPS Centennial, including 87,500 acres in Maine, creating Katahdin Woods



Park staff pose for a photograph at the George Bishop farm.

& Waters National Monument. The park acquired three additional parcels this fiscal year: 1.74 acres on Culp's Hill, 6.8 acres along Baltimore Pike, and 44.6 acres at Plum Run.

"With Brush, Mold, Chisel and Pen: Reflections on Civil War Art:" Gettysburg's first exhibit of artwork focusing on Gettysburg

and the American Civil War opened June 29. It features some of the most celebrated artists of the 19th and early 20th centuries – including several who served in the war. The artwork is rendered in oil, pen-and-ink, and sculpture, and capture battles from the perspective of leaders and the common soldier. Installed in the Museum's Gilder Lehrman Special Exhibits Gallery, the exhibit includes works from the collection of Gettysburg National Military Park, as well as from



The new art exhibit *With Brush, Mold, Chisel and Pen: Reflections on Civil War Art* is located in the Museum's Gilder Lehrman Special Exhibits Gallery.

the collections of the Civil War Museum of Philadelphia and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Eisenhower Exhibits at Harrisburg International Airport: More than a million annual travelers who pass through Harrisburg International Airport are seeing artifacts and promotional displays for Eisenhower National Historic Site thanks to a new collaboration between the park and Harrisburg airport officials. Mamie Eisenhower's luggage is now on display in the terminal and so is one of President Eisenhower's original tractors used at his Gettysburg farm. Free advertising space also promotes Gettysburg National Military Park and the NPS Centennial.



Superintendent Ed W. Clark poses with two Samurai Warriors after signing "Sister Park" and "Sister City" status with Sekigahara, Japan.

Sekigahara is now Gettysburg's Sister Park: On September 5, Gettysburg celebrated two historic international agreements, "Sister Park" status and "Sister City" status between Gettysburg and Sekigahara, Japan. Hundreds of visitors at the Museum and Visitor Center learned more about Samurai Warriors and Civil War soldiers during special programs. About 100 members of the public attended the signing ceremony at the Gettysburg Railroad Station.

Park Foundation Documents Completed: To effectively manage a national park unit and plan for its future, a basic understanding of a park's resources, values, and history is needed - a foundation for planning and management.



A traveler stops to read more about Ike's tractor at Harrisburg International Airport.

These are called foundation documents. Foundation documents are at the core of each park's planning portfolio. Foundation documents for GETT and EISE were completed in August and are now available on the web.

GETT Stewardship

Eternal Light Peace

Memorial: In September, NPS preservation experts from the Historic Preservation Training Center started a major rehabilitation project at the Eternal Light Peace Memorial. The work includes dismantling and resetting all plaza stones, granite capping stones, stairs, and flagstone walkways; selective repointing of the memorial shaft; and cleaning of all masonry on the monument and its bronze urn. This federally funded project (total \$519,000) will be complete at the end of 2016.



Prescribed fire at Munshower field.

Prescribed Fires: With the help of the NPS Northeast fire program, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and nearby parks, we conducted two successful prescribed fires this year: 8 acres at the Triangular field in September, and 36-acres at Munshower hill last spring. Prescribed fires are helping maintain open fields and meadows by reducing woody vegetation without the use of chemical or labor-intensive mowing or mechanical hand trimming. Weather permitting the park intends to use prescribed fire in the fall and spring annually.

Artifact Acquisitions:

Through the generosity of the Gettysburg Foundation, the park has been able to acquire several significant artifacts, including the US Sharpshooters frock coat of Corporal William Henderson, Company A, 1st US Sharpshooters; an original printing of General George G. Meade's General Orders



Preservation work on the Eternal Light Peace Memorial began in September.

Number 68, July 4, 1863; and a Henry Collins Bispham oil painting entitled “The Raid” or “The Foragers Return.”

Comprehensive Community Trails Plan: NPS staff and contractors continue to develop feasible alternatives for providing alternative trail alignments and connections for pedestrian, cyclists, and equestrian users at GETT and EISE. The planning team continues to develop alternatives and an Environmental Assessment will be available for public comment and review by the end of 2016.

American Conservation Experience (ACE): Based on the Youth Conservation Corps, the ACE program provided workers at GETT for six months, maintaining historic landscapes, treating non-native invasive vegetation, and cutting brush along fence lines. The program was an enormous success in eliminating backlogs and helped engage young adults in a non-traditional manner.

Ephraim Wisler/First Shot House: The park has contracted for an engineering study for the stabilization of the retaining wall in front of the First Shot monument and the foundation walls of the historic Ephraim Wisler house. The study will identify drainage improvements and post-battle portions of the house for removal. We expect to complete the study by January.

Cemetery Lodge: A complete refurbishing of this structure is nearly finished. Park maintenance staff installed new HVAC, plaster, paint, and flooring. Park resource management staff will begin using the building for office space in early 2017.

GETT Interpretation and Education

“Great Task” Youth Leadership Initiative: The park has piloted three new programs for the new “Great Task: Youth Leadership Initiative” on the battlefield. Students from Washington, D.C. schools participated in September, discovering leadership lessons that they will be challenged to apply to their own lives. This program is serving diverse student groups, in urban, underserved schools.

Expanded interpretive programming: Gettysburg interpretive staff created the new Battlefield Book Club to augment the winter lecture series, conducted a Spring Battlefield Foray, “Days with Documents” teacher professional development workshops, and opened the Brian farmhouse and Meade’s headquarters for visitors.

Visitors learn more about the Brian farmhouse during special open house weekends during the summer.



Licensed Battlefield Guides: A major milestone in FY16 was the redesign of the Licensed Battlefield Guide testing system. Since the written exam in December nine candidates successfully completed the four-level system and are now enjoying status as Licensed Battlefield Guides.

Wayside Exhibit Plan: Work continues on creating a new, comprehensive, interpretive wayside plan. The initial draft and proposal is near completion and will soon transition to the



A park volunteer helps visitors in the newly expanded McKenna Foundation Resource Room.

design, fabrication, and crafting the text. This plan will tie in with the Comprehensive Trails Plan and the rehab of Little Round Top to improve the visitor experience across the park.

McKenna Foundation Resource Room Revitalization: Through a joint

effort with the Gettysburg Foundation, we have expanded the museum's Resource Room to include new computers with Ancestry.com and Fold3 military records. NPS volunteers staff the room daily to help visitors discover Civil War connections.

MORE CENTENNIAL EVENTS



Left: Eisenhower Farm to Table dinner.
Right: Eisenhower paint and wine night.
Bottom: National Park Service Centennial events included special birthday cake.

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EISE Stewardship and Education

Transportation Management Plan: Park and NPS regional office staff are developing a comprehensive plan to identify how visitors can best access the Eisenhower site. The plan will evaluate the use of the shuttle system as the site's only public access and provide recommendations for additional public access opportunities.



Eisenhower NHS Reception Center.

Redesign of the Eisenhower Reception Center: Park staff are working with the NPS Harpers Ferry Design Center to redesign the Reception Center to improve the visitor experience. New forms of media, interactive exhibits, and an area for temporary exhibits are being explored.

Oak Board Fence: Approximately two miles of oak board fencing has been replaced at Eisenhower Farms 1, 2 and 3, with approximately 1,200 new fence posts.

Walks, Walls and Patios: Gettysburg maintenance staff replaced/repaired historic stone walls, as well as brick and flagstone walkways around the Eisenhower home and the tea house.

Specialized Arbor Care: The NPS Olmsted Training Center and a group of arborist students evaluated the health of the trees at Farm 1, developed a treatment plan, and removed trees in unhealthy condition. They also did emergency trimming of trees throughout the entire site.



Flagstone walkways around the Eisenhower home were repaired over the summer.