



# The Gettysburg Quarterly

## Environmental Assessment for the Cyclorama Building Begins

In response to a U.S. District Court decision in the lawsuit regarding the Cyclorama building at Gettysburg National Military Park (NMP), the National Park Service (NPS) is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) planning process. The environmental assessment will describe and evaluate alternatives regarding the future of the Gettysburg Cyclorama building, a National Register listed structure located on North Cemetery Ridge.

The NPS is responding to the March 31, 2010, decision of the United States District Court directing the NPS to undertake a “site-specific environmental analysis on the demolition of the Cyclorama” building and to consider “non-demolition alternatives” to its removal, before “any implementing action is taken” on the building; to implement the 1999 Final Gettysburg General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement by rehabilitating the landscape of the 1863 battle on North Cemetery Ridge; and to improve visitor understanding of the battle action and commemoration that took place on North Cemetery Ridge.

“The NPS will decide the future of the Cyclorama building using the National Environmental Policy Act process identified by Judge Hogan,” said Bob Kirby, Gettysburg NMP Superintendent.

At issue in the lawsuit was whether the NPS had complied with National Environmental Policy Act and National His-



The Cyclorama building along the Union army's battle line on North Cemetery Ridge

toric Preservation Act and their respective regulations in its decision to demolish the Cyclorama building at Gettysburg NMP, in order to rehabilitate the historic landscapes of the battle line of the Union Army on North Cemetery Ridge.

The Cyclorama building was designed by noted architect Richard Neutra and construction by NPS was completed in 1962. In 1999, the NPS approved a General Management Plan for Gettysburg NMP that called for (among numerous other actions) the demolition of the Cyclorama building in order to provide for the long-term preservation of the Cyclorama painting (a National Historic Object) and the rehabilitation of the historic landscapes of the battlefield. During the general management planning process

the NPS consulted with the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer, the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, numerous interested parties, and the public.

The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer and the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation both approved the demolition of the building in order to rehabilitate the 1863 battlefield, as did the majority of the public comments received.

The NPS plans to launch this planning process as soon as possible. To be added to the mailing list and for more information about how to participate, contact [GETT\\_Superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:GETT_Superintendent@nps.gov) or call 717/ 334-1124 x3351.

# Gettysburg Museum achieves LEED Gold Certification

Facility is first museum in Pa., and fourth in U.S., to achieve Gold certification

The Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center has achieved Gold certification in the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Green Building Rating System. The LEED Green Building Rating System is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings.

The Museum and Visitor Center opened in 2008 and is operated by the Gettysburg Foundation in partnership with the National Park Service.

"Our certification at the Gold level highlights the Foundation's and the National Park Service's commitment to environmental responsibility and preservation," said Gettysburg Foundation Chair Robert A. Kinsley. "When ground was broken for the facility back in 2005,



Superintendent Bob Kirby, left, with the building's architect, Robert A. Kinsley II, LSC Design Inc., of York, Pa., center, and Barbara Finrock, Vice-Chair of the Board for the Gettysburg Foundation. Photo courtesy of the Gettysburg Foundation.

we always had our sights set on achieving a certain level of environmental sustainability. We are thrilled that we have been able to exceed those goals as we work to preserve not only our past but also our future."

The facility is one of only four Gold certified LEED museum projects in the nation, and it is the first Gold certified museum project in Pennsylvania. LSC Design, Inc., of York, Pa., is the architect of record for the museum.

"Buildings are a prime example of how human systems integrate with natural systems," said Rick Fedrizzi, president, CEO and founding chair of the U.S. Green Building Council. "The Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center project efficiently uses our natural resources and makes an immediate, positive impact on our planet, which will tremendously benefit future generations."

The Gettysburg Foundation is a private, non-profit educational organization working in partnership with the National Park Service to enhance preservation and understanding of the heritage and lasting significance of Gettysburg. For information, visit [www.gettysburgfoundation.org](http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org).

## Highlights of the museum's environmental responsibility include:

- Geothermal heating and cooling system: 200 wells, average depth of 400 feet use the earth's constant 55-degree temperature to heat and cool the facility
- Wetlands restoration: Nearly two acres of wetlands were restored during Museum and Visitor Center construction
- Timber reuse: Existing timber was reused in the building's construction
- Recycling: A facility-wide recycling program was adopted
- Construction waste reduction: Metal, cardboard and wood was separated during construction to minimize waste
- Storm water runoff minimization: Storm water runoff was reduced through the use of underground storage tanks
- Plumbing: Low flow toilets and sinks were installed
- Reduced off-gasses: Off-gassing from carpets, glues, vinyl and paints was reduced
- Low-emission vehicles and carpooling: Parking spaces will be labeled for preferred use by hybrid vehicles and by carpoolers
- Green power: Green power credits will be purchased
- Regional materials: Twenty-five percent of the building materials were produced from the region



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Gettysburg National Military Park, established in 1895, is the site of the great Civil War battle that repulsed the second Confederate invasion of the North. The mission of the National Park Service at Gettysburg is to preserve and protect the resources associated with the battle of Gettysburg and the Soldiers' National Cemetery and provide an understanding of the events that occurred there within the context of American history.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

# Ranger programs, Homeschool Days and Traveling Trunks Await Students this School Year



Gettysburg National Military Park's educational offerings include fall and spring ranger field programs, as well as a December Teacher Workshop series, Winter Homeschool Days and Traveling Trunks that can be shipped to any school. Each year these programs serve approximately 18,000 school students, coast-to-coast.

This year, for the first time, the reservation systems for these educational offerings are all available electronically. To get started planning for the best field trip ever go to Gettysburg National Military Park's website [www.nps.gov/gettforteachers](http://www.nps.gov/gettforteachers). Reservations for all of the park's educational offerings are now being accepted.

The park is offering a new opportunity this year: Winter Homeschool Days. Participation can be reserved now too, and include a hands-on history fair and other opportunities for homeschool families and co-ops. Additional educational programs include: Workshops for Teachers - in early December, providing full days of continuing education for Civil War Science, Language Arts, and a Soldier Camp just for teachers; and Traveling Trunks on the life of the Civil War Soldier that can be reserved throughout the school year and shipped to schools all across the country.

Please also be sure to check out the "Best Field Trip Ever! Planning Kit" on the website, a coordinating pdf document that provides all your options, planning tools, chaperone information and everything else you will need for a successful Gettysburg field trip (including reservation instructions for the park's Museum, Film and Cyclorama painting programs, and Licensed Battlefield Guide tours).

## Sample Ranger Field Programs:

*Determination & the 15th Alabama Infantry - Climb Big Round Top and attack Little Round*

*Top* after a forced march, and without any water! This program illustrates the strength, stamina and determination of these Confederate infantrymen, and then explores how your students can apply these lessons to their lives.

*Caring for the Wounded* - Students follow the path of a soldier from camp to campaign to battle to first aid to transport to field hospital and finally to recovery. Activities include role-play, walking, carrying, and some lifting and climbing.

*Life of a Civil War Soldier* - Students participate in activities that present the training, equipment, life and feelings of the volunteer soldiers. This entails walking, running, standing and sitting.

*"Unfinished Work": Soldiers' Cemetery & the Gettysburg Address* - Students work in small groups simulating the process of soldier identification following the battle. They then read the letters of soldiers buried in the cemetery, graveside, and apply them to Lincoln's Gettysburg Address – a unique and emotional primary source experience.

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## Friends of Gettysburg Volunteers Build Fences and More

On June 5th, 237 Friends of Gettysburg volunteers descended on the battlefield and the Eisenhower National Historic Site for the annual Friends volunteer work day. The "Post and Worm Brigade" constructed 1.2 miles of Virginia worm fence along both sides of the Emmitsburg Road from the Snyder house to the Rose farm and in the fields between the Snyder Lane and Rose farm. The fences really make a huge visual impact when you ride along Emmitsburg Road.

The Friends' "Brush and Bucket Brigade" painted the show barn, breeder barn, garage and reception center at the Eisenhower farm. Part of the brigade was also dispatched to the Gettysburg amphitheater, Sherfy iron fence and the Spangler fence. The sites all looked fabulous with their new coat of paint. A new volunteer group--aptly called the "Iron Brigade"--cleared thickets and thorns away from the Bigelow fence line near the Trostle farm and the stone fence line near the Weikert farm. These 27 volunteers did a Yeoman's job and their hard work is much appreciated.

The Friends of Gettysburg is the member organiza-

tion of the non-profit Gettysburg Foundation. To learn more about how you can support battlefield

preservation go to: [www.gettysburgfoundation.org](http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org).



**Hardy Friends of Gettysburg volunteers formed the "Iron Brigade" to clear brush from a fence that Friends volunteers had built several years ago. Photo courtesy of the Gettysburg Foundation.**



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## Gettysburg Staff Assist with Oil Spill Response

Brion FitzGerald, the park's Deputy Superintendent, went to work on the oil spill response in the Gulf of Mexico in early June. Brion is a Commander in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves and was re-called to active duty for 60-days. The Coast Guard is the lead federal agency in charge of the response to this unprecedented environmental disaster. He is working long days in

Louisiana, assigned as a Parish President Liaison Officer in Plaquemines Parish. Plaquemines Parish is--by a significant margin--the most heavily-impacted location in the oil spill area. The Parish President, Billy Nungesser, has made frequent appearances in the national media voicing concerns about spill impacts and response. Brion's responsibility is to provide clarity on response

operations to Nungesser, to voice his concerns to the Unified Area Command and provide briefings to the office of Secretary of Homeland Security on the same. His goal is to keep the political side of the response from impacting the operational side, thus allowing the 3,000+ responders in the Plaquemines Branch to focus on the critical response.

Prior to his appointment as the Deputy Superintendent earlier this year, Brion had served as the park's Chief Ranger since 1995. He is 32 year veteran of the NPS and has served as an enlisted member and officer with the U. S. Coast Guard Reserves for 19 years.

In late May, Katie Lawhon, the park's Management Assistant, was also detailed to work on the federal response effort for oil spill. Katie spent two weeks working in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. She assisted with logistics for congressional and VIP visits to the spill area and served as the National Park Service spokesperson with the news media on beaches and barrier islands within Gulf Islands National Seashore wherever oil was washing up.



**Brion FitzGerald, Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Reserves, and Deputy Superintendent, Gettysburg NMP, working in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, responding to the oil spill.**