



# Volunteer of the Month

## Jim Schatz

Just before sunset, in the long shadows of Loudoun and Maryland heights, Short Hill Mountain fades into the downstream view from Harpers Ferry. On the far side of Short Hill, in the even darker shadows of the eastern slope and its thick forest, Jim Schatz keeps watch. Jim, his wife Wynell and their two beautiful German Shepherds have been patrolling this little corner of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park for almost five years. This section of the park in Loudoun County, Virginia, is often overlooked because there is no visitor access. Visitors aren't aware that they look at Short Hill every day when they visit Jefferson Rock. Short Hill is actually looked after constantly by Jim and his family. Good thing, too, because much of the trash that floats by Harpers Ferry on the Shenandoah and the Potomac ends up along the Potomac shoreline of Short Hill.

This past April, Jim planned and supervised a concentrated cleanup of the Short Hill area. He recruited several dozen of his neighbors, and in only four hours, they filled the park's stake body truck with piles of large trash bags full of debris, four tires complete with rims, six 55-gallon barrels (metal and plastic) and the remains of several abandoned boat docks. Jim's crew also found one severed head (it was only a mannequin!) and one "Potomac crocodile" (plastic, made in China & recycled by NPS staff). As Jim put it, "All in all this cleanup effort accomplished its mission. The area has NEVER been cleaner. Thanks to all involved!"

When he is not caring for his Short Hill Neighborhood or working full-time as a consultant for the U.S. military, Jim is out hiking the mountain, enjoying a Nickelback concert, climbing in the Grand Tetons or assisting Loudoun County educators with tours of Short Hill. He is also a veteran of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division and was the Team Coach and participating member of the award winning All Army Combat Pistol Team.

We are proud to have Jim Schatz as a member of the Harpers Ferry All Volunteer Team!



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering at Harpers Ferry Park, please contact the park's volunteer coordinator at the address or phone number listed below. Volunteer today and give back!

**Harpers Ferry National Historical Park  
Volunteer Coordinator**

P.O. Box 65  
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

**Phone**  
304.535.5017

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