



# 2006 LNHP Volunteer Report

For October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006

Issue Date: December 2006

Lowell National Historical Park

## Overview of 2006 Volunteer Hours Report

This report contains a review of the people and the events that have shaped the work of the Lowell National Historical Park Volunteer Program. It was quite a year!

- Volunteer Coordinator Mike Wurm submitted the **Lowell Canalwaters Cleaners** for the National Park Service Volunteer Group of the Year award. Under the leadership of Bill Moreau, this hard-working, dirty-hands group amazingly got the nod not only for Northeast Region but also for the national honor!



At the Great Canal Clean-up press conference in October, **Congressman Marty Meehan** congratulated Lowell Canalwaters Cleaners on the national and regional awards. **Janet Pohl** and **Bill Moreau** are holding the awards in this photo. Amy Glowacki, photographer.

- Many new volunteers helped to make the expanded 20th annual Lowell Folk Festival a resounding success.
- The Interpretation Division scored very well using Spindle City Corps, interns, work-study students, and traditional volunteers.
- Volunteer Event Milestone: Linda Almeida's National Honor Society students from the Stoklosa (formerly, Bartlett) Middle School completed their 20th annual cleanup of Francis Gate Park.

You will find stories about the above items and volunteer features such as about longtime trolley volunteer **Don Thomas** and more.

## Volunteers Give Park A Record Number of Hours

Lowell NHP's Volunteer Program continues to expand as the park's relationships with the community and partners grow. In Fiscal Year 2006 (which ended on September 30), 2,308 volunteers donated 88,595 hours to Lowell National Historical Park, the highest ever. Not only was it a park record, but it is also the largest total in Northeast Region and eighth largest in the National Park Service. In the NE region it surpasses Shenandoah NP (61,306), Boston NHP (16,375), Independence NHP (15,060), Gateway (75,703), and Delaware Water Gap (84,831).

## The Lowell Canalwaters Cleaners Group Nets NPS's Top Volunteer Award

Among all of the submissions in the NPS, the **Lowell Canalwaters Cleaners (LCC)** won the prestigious **George B. Harzog Volunteer Group of the Year Award** in recognition of its unprecedented community stewardship initiative on the canals. The award was presented during a special ceremony in Washington, D.C. in May. Attending the volunteer awards ceremony were **Bill and Connie Moreau**, LNHP Superintendent Michael Creasey, and Volunteer Coordinator Mike Wurm. The award recognizes the very successful cooperative partnership the park has developed with LCC, which is dedicated to the public appreciation and environmental upgrading of the historic canal system.

This past year the **LCC** put in many hours of work and steadily gained notice from the local media, namely *The Lowell Sun*, local cable TV, and even *The Boston Globe*. Their efforts resulted in sparking public awareness of the "trash issue" and led to the improved appearance and cleanliness of the canals. Also partnering with LCC and contributing significantly to the winning of the award have been the **City of Lowell**, **Keep Lowell Beautiful (KLB)**, and the park's **Maintenance Division**.

A partial list of cleanup events this year includes **Earth Day**, **the Great American (city-wide) Cleanup**, and **National Public Lands Day**.

The organization's 125 member-volunteers contributed nearly 6,000 hours on seven major clean-ups and numerous minor events in the "cleaning up" of the historic canals. Included in the total hours of the group were all the behind-the-scenes work of LCC's first couple: founder-director Bill Moreau claims 1,900 hours, undoubtedly a gross underestimate; and his spouse and LCC worker-bee, Connie Moreau, gave about 600 hours.

Happy New Year!

## The Lowell Folk Festival: Janet Leggat and a Cast of 1,600 Volunteers

The 20th annual Lowell Folk Festival brought thousands of visitors to experience a diverse array of folk music, crafts, and ethnic foods over the last weekend of July. The festival's producing partners—the park, the city of Lowell, the Lowell Festival Foundation, and the National Council of Traditional Arts—instituted a number of changes in this milestone year. The biggest change was adding a major new stage near the Tsongas Arena, which consequently required more volunteer support.

Overall, the festival depends heavily on volunteers for all aspects from donation collections, souvenir sales, performer and stage support, and recycling to the multi-cultural array of ethnic food booths sponsored by community organizations. The event increased from 19,134 volunteer hours to 23,011 hours and from 1,247 to 1,607 volunteers.

The Lowell Festival Foundation remains a critically important partner for the park in supporting the festival and other city-park events. Particularly outstanding among Foundation volunteers were **Beth Fraser** (347 hours), **Art and Debbie Sutcliffe** (357 hours), **Helene and Dave Loiselle** (163), **Barry Fisher** (155), and **Ed Bellegarde** (151).

Foundation Director **Janet Leggat** has grown through the years to be an ever more valuable partner and supporter for the park volunteer program. She is leaving her position at the end of this year for new challenges. Janet will be sorely missed by event/park volunteers and her good friends in the park volunteer office!



**Janet Leggat** gets the VIP treatment being driven around by **Barry Fisher** during the 2006 Folk Festival. Kevin Harkins, Photographer

## Volunteers Assisting the Maintenance Department

The park Maintenance Division benefited additionally from **Greater Lowell Technical High School Work Experience interns (under program director Frank Heslin of Greater Lowell THS)**, and youthful groups and individuals assigned by the **Merri-mack Education Center**. Maintenance also received significant help from the following work groups, who contributed hundreds of hours to maintaining the walkways and landscapes along the canals and river banks: the aforementioned **Lowell Canalwaters Cleaners, Keep Lowell Beautiful, Mass Water Watch, Coalition for a Better Acre, Citizen Schools, Stoklosa School Honor Society (under teacher-volunteer Linda Almeida), and the Lowell Lock Monsters (hockey) Boosters Club**. All told, volunteers and partners contributed approximately 8,000 hours to our maintenance of resources.

## Special Events

Regarding other events besides the Folk Festival, the **Lowell Summer Music Series** concerts at Boarding House Park benefited greatly from a surge of volunteer interest to produce over 1,300 hours. Other volunteer-staffed events in the city that the park assisted and participated in include: **Doors Open, the Banjo & Fiddle Contests, City of Lights Parade, Monster Bash, and Winterfest**.



At the Food Tent: volunteers **Eva** and son **John Kalish** during the Marcia Ball Concert on July 3, 2006. This was a special benefit for the Lowell Folk Festival as a part of the Lowell Summer Music Series. The concert was held on a Monday, but nevertheless had a great turnout of volunteers who would not normally work on this day. **Ray Houde, Volunteer Photographer.**

**The Banjo & Fiddle Contests** celebrated a milestone and deserves special mention for supplying **27 years of music and sunshine** to participants and thousands in the audiences. **Alex Demas**, the coordinator of the event since its inception, supervised over **90 volunteers** this year. It has never been interrupted by rain!



**Ray Houde, Photographer.**

## Spindle City Corps - Thirty Teens Make a Difference!

Spindle City Corps, our partner youth community service organization managed in cooperation with Community Teamwork Inc., supplied over 8,000 hours from nearly 30 urban teens for backlogged maintenance and educational programming, a significant increase. **The following report by Park Ranger-Coordinator John Curwen provides more details on the Spindle City summer:**

The Spindle City Corps mission is to make an investment in the future of Lowell youth by focusing on three guiding principles – service, diversity, and education. The 2006 Spindle City Corps crew accomplished all of these goals and more. The partners involved in Spindle City this summer were Community Teamwork Inc., Lowell National Historical Park, The Revolving Museum, and the Enterprise Bank. This summer's Spindle City Corps was composed of two 11-person National Park teams and one 6-person Artship Enterprise team.



This summer the Spindle City Corps National Park Teams worked very hard to clean up and restore the overgrown borders of our canals and park areas. Through their efforts over 2,700 yards or 1.6 miles of clean-up and restoration work was completed this summer.

Paul Gendron, Will McLean, Pedro Figueroa, Team Leader Andy Lopez, and Park Ranger and Spindle City Corps Program Coordinator John Curwen clearing debris

A second part of Spindle City Corps, known as the Artship Enterprise, had a different job. Through the art in the park program of the Artship Enterprise project, neighborhood children were encouraged to come out to do art projects, and while there, to eat a nourishing lunch provided through the city-wide Healthy Summers meal program: "the lunch that's in when school is out." During the seven-week program all 27 corps members aged fifteen to twenty, together with their three team leaders, explored the theme of Our Ecological Footprint. They did this through their Lowell service projects as well as films and field trips. We discussed how man's actions have impacted our world and ways to reduce that impact. Learning about the restoration of the Nashua River and then canoeing on it, cooking a third world meal in a "global village" at Overlook Farm's Heifer Project International, and helping to restore a trail at Cape Cod National Seashore and having an opportunity to stay in a youth hostel were some highlights of the summer.

Everyone wins with the Spindle City Corps program. The participants learn working skills and a greater environmental awareness and Lowell National Historical Park is able to better maintain many parts of the canal system that are such an integral part of this industrial city and our national heritage.

## A Canal Cleanup Event Marking Its 20th Anniversary

Matching the Lowell Folk Festival in longevity as a volunteer event for 20 years is the cleanup that occurs every June along the Pawtucket Canal in Francis Gate Park. It is led by **Linda Almeida**, a teacher formerly at the **Bartlett School**, now working at the **Stoklosa Middle School**.



Linda Almeida with Cindy Laurenza

Maintenance Supervisor **Cindy Laurenza** has been at all 20 cleanups along with Linda Almeida. She has always been real pleased with what the group of 35 or 40 National Honor Society students accomplish in 4 hours. Along the

walkways, the students rake leaves and pick up trash. They really do a thorough job.

Maintenance Ranger **Brendan Sullivan** complimented this group as "the most efficient of the volunteer groups all year for canal cleaning."

A subset of the National Honor Students has been volunteering for 20 years at the Lowell Folk Festival. At the festival they prepare t-shirts and lunches for the festival performers. Former students of this group have been returning for years to help the new group of honor society students complete their tasks at the LFF dining hall.



Stoklosa School contributed 144 volunteer hours at Francis Gate Park during the cleanup and 334 hours at the Lowell Folk Festival.

## Special Youth Canal and Riverwalk Cleanups From Citizen Schools

**Citizen Schools** youth groups from the **Wang and Robinson Middle Schools** of Lowell have contributed several productive efforts cleaning up along the Northern Canal and the Riverwalk areas. While the outings lasted only one hour each, a combined total of 124 students picked up enough trash to fill three pickup trucks.



The Wang Citizen Schools Cleanup on October 10, 2005: So much trash was picked up in 30 minutes that this maintenance truck had to return to pick up another load!

Citizen Schools logged a total of 135 hours over three dates.

## Interpretation Volunteers: Traditional, Work-Study, and SCA All Contribute Very Uniquely

Under division volunteer coordinator **Jim Roberts**, Interpretation is finding creative ways to use volunteers, interns, and work-study students for day-to-day operations and backlogged work in support of paid staff. For the fourth summer, **Student Conservation Association (SCA)** transportation intern students provided key assistance in trolley operations, as well as interpretation to visitors. **University of Massachusetts Lowell (UML)** work-study students for the second summer played valuable operational and interpretive roles at the park exhibit sites as well as the National Streetcar Museum. A core of committed year-round volunteers contributed greatly at the Visitor Center, exhibit sites, and park trolleys.

### **Jim Roberts contributed the following report:**

The Interpretation Division benefited from more than 3,000 hours contributed by volunteers, including partnership programs. Volunteers worked side by side or solo as the primary point of contact and information at all of the visitor sites in the park, and some also conducted interpretive tours and talks.

Year round volunteers **Fred Forster**, **Mike Gaulin**, and **Michelle Todd** provided the park's paid staff with invaluable assistance to day-to-day operations. The three of them together logged over 600 hours in volunteer time for the park.

Senior aide **Jim Boyle** contributed over 1,000 hours staffing park sites and on the trolley year round through a partnership program with the **Elder Service of the Merrimack Valley**.

Summer season brought a new influx of volunteers to augment the staffing needs of the busier season. **NYU student Emily Levine**, **Billerica schools teacher Margi Loyer**, and **Central Catholic High School student Ronny Ead** gave a combined total of 681 hours to the Interpretation Division during the peak season.



Student volunteers **Ronnie Ead**, and **Emily**

**Emily Levine** said this about her summer of volunteering:

"Volunteering with the park has been an overwhelmingly positive and influential opportunity for me. I feel that I have gained valuable experience and perspective and was consistently challenged to expand my knowledge of the park and its history, various operating procedures, interaction with visitors, and giving talks and tours. I appreciate being allowed the opportunity to perform a variety of duties; I felt very integrated into the park and the staff. . . . I will walk away from my time in Lowell this summer inspired by my experiences here, by the city itself, by the wonderful staff, and by the opportunity to work with the National Park Service."

**UML and Middlesex Community College (MCC)** provided the park with eight work study students throughout the year to assist with division operations. As a group, **Zaki Ahmed**, **Sarah Chauvin**, **Christopher Grimm**, **Sandra Gotham**, **Jason Heck**, **Peter Lammi**, **Samuel O'Neil**, and **Samuel Palmisano** contributed an average 80 hours per week.



UML Work-Study **Chris Grimm**

**MCC work-study Sandra Gotham** described her volunteer experience at the park:

"Working at the park really made me learn new things. I learned all about Lowell and met some really great people. It was great because instead of being lazy all summer, I actually did something. I can't wait to do this again next summer!"

In all, the park was better staffed and operated than it would have been without the contributions of all of the people mentioned above. Most notably, when the annual visitor survey was given out during the month of July, the majority of these volunteers were the primary contacts that visitors had. Assistance from park employees and ranger programs both received a 100% satisfaction rating from the survey. That says a lot regarding the contributions that volunteers provided.

The park was also fortunate to have four interns through **SCA** last summer who gave a total of 2,007 hours. The **SCA** is dedicated to building a new generation of conservation leaders, advancing the conservation ethic, and conserving our nation's natural and cultural resources. Its high school, college, and graduate student members annually provide more than 1.5 million hours of service in national parks, forests and other public lands.

**Lindy Brownback**, a junior at **Kansas State University**, and **Andy Pearson**, a sophomore at **UML**, worked as interpretive rangers staffing sites and presenting tours. Andy, majoring in history, said "*Helping to maintain the memory and character of the Lowell mills and the people who worked there is important.*" **Lindy**, a hotel and restaurant management student felt that "*Educating the public is essential. There is so much history and culture in this area – so much to experience, and I really hope to reach as many visitors as possible.*" Lindy and Andy worked 911 hours collectively.

**Roberto Pagan** and **Ryan Shockley**, both Lowell residents and **MCC** students, spent their summer working on the trolley cars. As interns with the **SCA-Ford Transportation Internship Program**, Roberto and Roberto worked 1,096 hours and interacted with almost 17,000 visitors ranging from general visitors to Folk Festival participants and children's concert attendees.

## Mogan Center Volunteers

Under coordinator **Mehmed Ali**, Mogan Cultural Center's community projects, exhibits, and programs harnessed the help of about 40 volunteers, interns, and special placements, who gave 3,045 hours of mostly behind-the-scenes work. Through this continuing infusion of community work, the Mogan meets its mission of being a community-participatory cultural center.



Part of the retrospective exhibit for the 20th annual Lowell Folk Festival that was put together in part by volunteers **Victoria Howard** and **David Chieh**.  
**Ray Houde**, Photographer

Besides the various boards that help plan the many special events at the Mogan Center, countless artists and exhibit planners volunteer their time to produce exhibits. The exhibits this past year include Cambodian Expressions, the 175 Anniversary of St. Patrick's Church, the Syrian Community in Lowell and the Lowell Folk Festival retrospective exhibit. There were many other special events and exhibits which utilized an army of volunteers.

## Other Volunteer Efforts

**British citizen Victoria Howard** has been working-and-learning fulltime with us on an international internship: she is a graduate student at **University of Derby** in England, **Victoria** gave 1,172 hours as a researcher at the Mogan Cultural Center and as a front-line interpreter.

Among her special academic interests are immigration history and research, so her placement under supervisor **Mehmed Ali** at the Mogan has been ideal. For interpretation, she has been learning interpretive skills in the production of tours and talks. She is now planning to produce a public program on community exhibits at the Mogan for Women's Week this coming March.



Mogan Cultural Center Director Mehmed Ali with **Victoria Howard** and **David Chieh** during a cool October day in front of the Mogan

Two individuals coming from a transitional career retraining program for seniors have contributed their efforts at Lowell NHP. **Jim Boyle**, who works for Interpretation at exhibit sites and also on the trolley, has amassed 1,093 hours. Another standout contributor of hours helping the Mogan Cultural Center as a researcher is **David Chieh**, who clocked over 1,560 hours.



**Jim Boyle** at the Boardinghouse during a non-hectic moment

Some of the more outstanding individual year-round volunteer contributions include: summer interpreter **Emily Levine**, a student at **New York University**, gave 447 hours; longtime interpreter **Fred Forster** gave 247 hours; trolley crew member **Don Thomas** gave 308 hours; library assistant **Jeanette Dose** gave 260 hours; and Curatorial Assistant **Clee Ace** gave 435 hours.

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**Merrimack Education Center**. Maintenance also received significant help from the following work groups, who contributed hundreds of hours to maintaining the walkways and landscapes along the canals and river banks: the **Lowell Canalwaters Cleaners**, **Keep Lowell Beautiful**, **Mass Water Watch**, **Coalition for a Better Acre**, **Citizen Schools**, **Stoklosa School Honor Society** (under teacher-volunteer **Linda Almeida**), and the **Lowell Lock Monsters Boosters Club** (hockey). All told, volunteers and partners contributed approximately 8,000 hours to our maintenance of resources.

A volunteer who does extraordinary behind-the-scenes work documenting the people and programs of the park is photographer **Ray Houde**. For about 40 years, Ray has been photographing the happenings of Lowell.

Since he officially became a year-round volunteer photographer for the park in 2000, Ray has not just photographed our special events such as Lowell Summer Music Series concerts, Lowell Folk Festival, and Doors Open Lowell, but he has made himself available on call to cover numerous other kinds of events such as Mogan Cultural Center and Boott Gallery exhibit openings, volunteer awards, and whatever "assignments" the park needs done. In addition, Ray has donated the bulk of his historic slide collection of pre-park and early park years to the park library, all produced at his ex-



**Ray Houde** with Volunteer Coordinator **Mike Wurm** receiving his longevity award pin and a handshake for outstanding work.

pense. We are truly blessed to have a volunteer photographer of Ray's masterly skills.

## DON THOMAS'S AMAZING VOLUNTEER RESUME

By James W. Byington, Trolley Motorman

Park employees and regular park streetcar patrons may know that Don Thomas has volunteered for the National Park in Lowell for over seven years as a trolley conductor. They might even suspect that he, like others working on the trolley, has a passion for rails. In fact, Don has loved trains since the age of five when he watched his father ride the train from Somerville to Boston every day for his job. Later in his youth, Don got to ride himself on the steam trains of the Boston & Maine Railroad.



While trains and trolleys are in Don's blood, so is volunteering. Don and his wife Jan have two daughters and a son. Their kids and even the grandkids volunteer now!

Would you have guessed that Don's volunteering started as a teen? As a high school student in Melrose, Don joined Habitat for Living through his church and volunteered in an inner city neighborhood of Washington, D.C.

Don then attended Lowell Textile Institute, the forerunner to UMass-Lowell, where he studied textile engineering while playing baseball and basketball. After graduation, Don volunteered for the draft and joined the Army. While in

the service Don's volunteering spirit continued. He assisted flood victims in Petersburg, Virginia by leading a small convoy of vehicles loaded with food, water, and medical supplies. On another occasion while stationed at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, he assisted in the aftermath of a flood in downtown San Antonio.

After the army and getting a graduate degree in electrical engineering by going to night school at Northeastern, Don started what turned out to be a

35-year career at MIT's Lincoln Labs. He also joined the Massachusetts State Guard, which is an all volunteer state organization falling under the control of the Massachusetts State Police. This is the military branch of the state police which means that when the Massachusetts National Guard is activated for federal service the state guard provides military security for the state. In this capacity Don has been called upon for search and rescue, finding lost children, and helped develop dive teams for the state.

Retirement gave Don the time to pursue his passion of chasing trains. He found himself in 1996 pursuing that

passion in England and Wales. Upon returning he volunteered to work on the "Truant," a Georges Bank fishing schooner built in Newfoundland in 1928. It had been brought to Gloucester to be used as a training ship in a capacity similar to the Outward Bound Program.

One day, while talking to Sandy Shepherd and Larry Shelvey of our Boott Mills weave room, Don received a casual "dare to volunteer." Don, knowing that the environment of the weave room would be too noisy for him, let Sandy talk him into volunteering on the trolleys instead.

It is lucky for us on the trolley crew that Don liked trains and not the noise of the weave room. Don has been volunteering on Tuesdays and Thursdays, no matter what the weather. His cheery smile welcomes each rider to the trolley, and the visitor benefits from Don's wealth of knowledge. Don is a willing volunteer. No matter what is asked of him, he never grumbles or refuses. He just carries on with a smile and a word of wisdom. He is always willing to help in any capacity. Don is a great asset to our trolleys and Tuesdays and Thursdays are not the same when he is on vacation.

Is that all of Don's current volunteering? No, Don also gives his time at the Gloucester Maritime Heritage Museum as an interpreter of diving equipment. He also volunteers at the two-foot narrow gauge Wiscasset Railroad Museum in Maine where his skills in track work and general maintenance shine. As Don says, "Any job – any and all."

That same spirit travels with Don no matter where he volunteers. I look forward to his smiling face each week and say to myself what can I learn from him as he cheerfully goes about his duties. When you look and listen to Don Thomas you know he loves what he is doing for Lowell National Historical Park and our Lowell trolleys.

## A Major Volunteer Event Reaches For Its 28th Year

"Music is too important to the human spirit to be left solely in the hands of professionals." *Folk Singer, Michelle Shocked*



All photographs on this page by volunteer Ray Houde

It doesn't seem possible that **The Banjo and Fiddle Contests** and event organizer Alex Demas, Park Ranger celebrated their 27th anniversary last September. Whether you are a confirmed fan of Old Time music or not, you should check it out. There is so much to see and do.

One of the most charming aspects of the Banjo and Fiddle Contests is its informality. Attendees (whether they are contestants or not) can be found practicing off-stage. This event allows you to bring your guitar, mandolin, banjo, flute or other non-amplified instrument. You can play music alone or join others.

The Banjo and Fiddle Contests is not only for budding new musicians; it is also for the listeners who like music played as if it were in their living rooms. You will see the participants up close studying each other's playing techniques, learning new arrangements of tunes, connecting with audiences on and off stage, associating with other players, practicing, and presenting music formally on stage.

Yes, the contestants and the people who work backstage are the "official" volunteers. They logged 675 hours during the event itself. Not counted are the hours of musical practice spent at home by contestants before the event. Also not counted are the non-contestants, who brought their musical instruments and performed off-stage.

An often quoted fact about the B&F festival is that it has never rained during any of its activities during the day for 27 years. Alex Demas jokes about people asking him about the date of next year's contest so that they can plan their weddings on this usually sunny day.

Go to the 28th Banjo and Fiddle Contest in 2007. Get caught up in the lively stage performances. Take in the atmosphere of music being carried in the gentle breezes from the different corners. Talk to the musicians who are excited about their music. You may even meet the next Natalie MacMaster or Alison Krauss!

**The 27th Banjo and Fiddle Contests: 92 volunteers contributed 675 hours.**

*This newsletter contains stories by Jim Byington, John Curwen, Jim Roberts, Mike Wurm, and Paul Mueller. The editor is Mike Wurm. Become a contributor! Send us your suggestions for future articles or just get on the mailing list. Contact Lowell\_NHP\_Volunteers@nps.gov or 978-275-1740.*



### Many Thanks to Those Who Coordinated, Supervised, and Worked with Volunteers!

The Volunteer Office contains just two employees, but it receives assistance from the Lowell Festival Foundation, Superintendent's Office, the Event's Office, the Tsongas Industrial History Center, the Maintenance Division, Administration, and the Interpretation Division.

Park supervisors of volunteers this year have included Cindy Laurenza, Willie Lavallee, Paul Fontaine, Mehmed Ali, Rick Smith, John Curwen, Thomas Tucker, Jim Byington, Cheryl Pokhrel, William Morton, Anne Dunlavy, and Jim Roberts. Special event coordinators of volunteers were Janet Leggat, Donna Richardson, Alex Demas, John Marciano, Sue Andrews, and many others.

The office also received special assistance in supervising volunteers from the volunteers themselves, particularly during the Lowell Folk Festival and canal cleanup events - Bill Moreau, Jon Geer, Dave Loiselle, Janice Pokorski, Beth Fraser, Pat Bowe, Pat Scanlon, Sue McNamara, Marie Sweeney, Pauline Golec, Mary Laughlin, and many others chipped in to help.

**The credit for a great year needs to be shared with all of you!**



## Special Awards for Exceptional Volunteer Achievements:



B&M's **Paul Kosciolk** accepts from LNHP Superintendent Michael Creasey a special stewardship award. B&M member and park employee-liason Danny Hyde (left) looks on.. Phil Lupsiewicz, photographer

**Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society** members gave over 1,900 hours to the maintenance and interpretation of the historic locomotive and railcar along Dutton St. Their biggest improvement was replacing the exterior walls on the railcar. The society's volunteer work team under the coordination of **Jim Nizgus, Jr.** received a special resource stewardship award from the park, recognizing 15 years of caring for the locomotive and railcar.

The extraordinary volunteer team of **Bill and Barbara Rawnsley** gave over 300 hours in the maintenance and interpretation of the **Moody St. Feeder Gatehouse** to keep that special site in the middle of the downtown open for visitors through the summer and for special events. The Rawnsleys are also recipients of a special volunteer stewardship award plaque for their exceptional commitment to caring for this historic gatehouse gem and providing a model for other gatehouse volunteer adoptions along the canals.



From the left: **Bill and Barbara Rawnsley**, Superintendent Michael Creasey, and Interpretation Supervisor Becky Warren. **Ray Houde, Volunteer Photographer**

Of special volunteer note, too, are the contributions of longtime park



Superintendent Michael Creasey surprises **Dotty and Marie Baillargeon** at a pre-game ceremony at the Spinners Ballpark on August 18.

volunteers, the mother-daughter team of **Dotty and Marie Baillargeon**, in representing the park at an information table during Lowell Spinners home baseball games.

They contributed over 450 hours on summer evenings, helping attract park visitors from the thousands of baseball fans attending the games. Dotty and Marie also contribute major time and energy to the Lowell Folk Festival and other park-city events. They received a special volunteer appreciation plaque for their service to the park and the city at a Spinners game in August.

## Greatly Missed Vic & Ben

**Victor Sherburne: Mill Worker and Trolley Volunteer**



Honored Mill Worker and Trolley Volunteer Vic Sherburne

**Ben Prokuski: Lifelong Man of the Mills, Storyteller, and Weave Room Volunteer**



Busy in good and bad health, an authentic source, a teacher, and a friend to everyone, Ben Prokuski with Francisca DeSousa