



The Lowell Volunteer Partner

Volume 10 Spring 2010 Issue

Lowell National Historical Park



National Volunteer Week

Put your work clothes on, be ready to get your hands dirty and come out to lend us a hand!

Lowell National Historical Park and our partners are looking for volunteers to contribute in our efforts to help make our city a safer, better looking environment for everyone. During the week of April 18th we are hoping you will join us in celebrating National Volunteer Week.

Keep Lowell Beautiful (KLB) annual *Earth Day Event* will be held on **April 18th** from 12:00 - 4:00 at the KLB Community Gardens Greenhouse, 220 Aiken Street. On **April 24th** from 8:00 - 1:00 the *Earth Day Canalway, Riverwalk and Downtown Cleanup* will be held with LNHP, KLB, and LCC. The kick off will be held at Middlesex Community

College from 8:00 - 9:00 AM. Some of our clean-up areas include Northern and Western Canals, Community Gardens Greenhouse, and Kerouac Park. Also, on **May 1st** from 9:00 - 12:00 the *Great American Citywide Cleanup* will be held with KLB and the City of Lowell in neighborhoods.

Get involved and give a little back to your community! Whether it's with a group of friends or you're joining us on your own, every volunteer is appreciated. Help us get rid of the litter and debris along our canal and waterways that have accumulated over this long winter, and be a part of starting off spring 2010 the right way. Be dressed and prepared to get dirty!





National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Lowell National Historical Park

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

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Upcoming Events:

April 24th – *Waterpower in Lowell* – Walking tour with Pat Malone. Come and hear the fascinating story of the “Great Gate”. Walking tour will start at the Visitor Center and walk to Francis Gate.

April 24th 8:30-4:00 p.m. – *Junior Ranger Day* – the kids will do a downtown Earth Day clean-up, a scavenger hunt and explore the fascinating story of the "Great Gate" with Professor Pat Malone and a Park Ranger at Francis Gate.

April 24th 4:30-6:30 p.m. – *Volunteer Appreciation Event* – Please join us in recognizing a few of our outstanding volunteers. This year’s recipients for Lifetime Achievement are: Pauline Golec, Louise Sweet and the Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society and the recipients for Volunteer of the Year are: Miriam Perkins and Barry Green.

May 8th – *Volunteer Field Trip* – come join us on our field trip to the Minute Man National Historical Park in Concord, Ma.

Spotlight: Louise Sweet



In April 2010, Louise Sweet is being recognized with a Volunteer-In-Parks Lifetime Achievement Award for her many years of service to Lowell National Historical Park’s Visitor Center. It takes just a few minutes in her presence to realize not only that she is a kind and gentle person, but also a valuable treasure of local history for Lowell. Louise was the youngest of six children born to a well-established family in Chelmsford Center. She still lives in the family home with an older sister. In 1953, she graduated with her RN degree from the Nursing School at Childrens Hospital in Boston . Louise can remember two of her aunts working in the mills, but of course by this time, Lowell was on a post World War II downward spiral. Her fondest memories are of her days as a young RN when, without realizing it at that time, she entered into the pioneering field of Home Health, or "Visiting Nurses" as it was then called. She explained that an important part of her job was teaching her patients how to care for themselves at home. While doing so she witnessed the evolution of Lowell as many new immigrants arrived in the "old" neighborhoods.



As a single woman, Louise has had the freedom to travel extensively on her vacations, and even did a stint in the Peace Corps, working as a nurse in Paraguay. Louise has worked at the Park for the last 13 years. She’s made friends among the staff, occasionally joining Rangers Tess Shatzer and Amy Glowacki on local skiing excursions. As Tess likes to say, "Louise is every bit the embodiment of her last name". An evaluation Amy wrote while supervising her noted that "Louise’s friendly manner puts visitors at ease" and that she "equally enjoys speaking with elderly guests as well as mentoring our younger student interns behind the desk". Louise used to play golf and tennis, still exercises at the YWCA, walks to the local Chelmsford Library, and dotes on her beloved shelter dog named "Blackie" who is, of course, a mostly-white Shih Tzu.