This is a time for action – not for war, but for mobilization of every bit of peace machinery.

Eleanor Roosevelt, April 16 1954.

Every year in March we celebrate Women’s History Month. Many famous women come to mind, but ranking high on the list is Eleanor Roosevelt. Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was born to privilege in 1884, the very year the United States Army Corps of Engineers completed the Washington Monument which her husband, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, made the centerpiece of the National Park system in 1933 by the Reorganization Act. This year we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the monument’s dedication.

At first very shy, Eleanor blossomed as FDR’s wife, giving him courage in the face of his disability, and empowering him during his Presidency (1933-1945.) She was as amazing as he, and like him, is a towering figure in American and world history. She is the only First Lady, indeed the only woman, featured in a major structure at National Mall and Memorial Parks, Neil Estern’s rather curmudgeonly statue in the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. The lessons of her life still resonate, particularly today.

As a four-term First Lady, she was a tireless advocate for civil rights, and a virtual guardian of the idea that women, including single women, were important elements in society. Like later First Lady, Senator, and now Secretary-of-State Hillary Clinton, she knew women’s involvement in politics was critical to democracy.

After FDR’s death, the American public and politicians alike expected her to continue FDR’s legacy and flourish on her own. With all the terms in the White House she was one of the most accomplished politicians in the Nation. After an initial period of grief, a desire to release her children from restrictions that come from a parent’s life in public office, and a true propensity for humility, she realized she could be a powerful influence for her own causes. When President Truman asked her to carry on FDR’s dream of a United Nations - as the only female in the first U.S. Delegation to the U.N. (1845-52) - she accepted. She turned out to be the delegation’s star, and he dubbed her “First Lady of the World.”

She was one of the few women

Buerger Continued on page 4
Tuesday, March 2  Women In Wartime  5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
American women have served in wartime since the Revolution; women such as Deborah Sampson who impersonated a man to join the Continental Army. Come learn more about Sampson, other individuals, and female units which became prevalent during World War II. Meet at the World War II Memorial. Contact Victor Pillow at 202-286-1624.

Wednesday, March 3  Suffragette City  3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
On March 3, 1913, on the eve of the inauguration of a president few of them could legally vote for, more than 5,000 women marched down Pennsylvania Avenue to demand women’s suffrage in the United States. They were met by jeers, blockades, and even violence. Meet at Washington Monument. Contact Monica Arjev at 202-426-6841.

Thursday, March 4  Living History Program: Presidential Inaugurations  11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
In the past Presidential Inaugurations have not always taken place in Washington D.C., on January 20. Join park rangers in period clothing to celebrate the inauguration of Thomas Jefferson on March 4, 1801. Meet at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact Mike G. Rose at 202-438-9667.

Thursday, March 4  Presidential Inaugural Speeches  12 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m.
Before the 20th Amendment moved the date of the President’s Inauguration, Presidents from Washington to FDR gave their inaugural speeches on March 4th. Join us for a presentation on these great men and their famous words. Meet at the Lincoln Memorial. Contact Nate Adams at 202-438-6640.

Saturday, March 6  A Day with a Ranger  10 a.m. – mid-afternoon
Spend the day with your very own park ranger and learn about the history and architecture of the National Mall. The tour ends on the grounds of the Washington Monument (entrance not included). Meet at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact Brad Berger at 202-438-4173.

Saturday, March 6  Maya Lin: The Woman Behind the Wall  11 a.m., 2 p.m.
A talk on the history of the design and the designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Information on Lin’s other major works will be presented as well. Meet at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Contact Abbey McClain at 202-426-6841.

Saturday, March 6  Women on the Wall  5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
In March 1945 the Allies were seizing victory from the Axis powers. American forces landed on the island of Iwo Jima in the Pacific and they were crossing the Remagen Bridge across the Rhine River into Germany. Why were these events so meaningful? Meet at the World War II Memorial. Contact Paul O’Brian at 202-438-7066.

Sunday, March 7  The Women's Army Corps  1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Learn about the 150,000 women who served in the United States Army during World War II and marked the first time American women were permitted in the U.S. Armed Forces. Meet at the World War II Memorial. Contact Rebecca Karcher at 202-359-1514.

Monday, March 8  First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt  1 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Learn more about First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. as we will examine how she helped President Roosevelt during his presidency and how her work with the United Nations continued his vision. Meet at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Contact Dennis Mosso at 202-528-9605.

Tuesday, March 9  Madame Marie Curie: The Pioneer of Radioactivity  5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Come learn about the life of Marie Curie and how she became the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize by discovering the uses of radium and how it helped during World War I. Meet at the District of Columbia War Memorial. Contact Stephanie Ortiz at 202-426-6841.

Wednesday, March 10  Women In Wartime  5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
American women have served in wartime since the Revolution; women such as Deborah Sampson who impersonated a man to join the Continental Army. Come learn more about Sampson, other individuals, and female units which became prevalent during World War II. Meet at the World War II Memorial. Contact Victor Pillow at 202-286-1624.
Saturday, March 13
A Day with a Ranger
10 a.m. – mid-afternoon

Meet the staff: Ranger George McHugh

 learned to work in the woods at an early age. He worked as a surveyor and later became a park ranger. He is well respected by his colleagues and visitors alike.

Q: How are you involved with the National Mall?

A: As a park ranger, I am responsible for interpreting the history and significance of the National Mall to visitors.

Q: Why is the Cherry Blossom Festival important?

A: The Cherry Blossom Festival is important because it symbolizes the beauty and hope of spring and it brings people together to celebrate.

Me and my family enjoy visiting the cherry blossoms every year. It's a great opportunity to connect with nature and with others who share a love for the beauty of the cherry blossoms.

Q: How many people were involved in the cherry blossom festival this year?

A: This year, the festival was attended by over 1.5 million people. It was a huge success and I'm glad that so many people were able to enjoy the festival.

I look forward to seeing you and your family at the cherry blossom festival next year. It's an event that I will always remember.
in any U.N. delegation. In our age of partisanship and sometimes corrupt politics, her assessment of the legislators and former legislator on the American U.N. Delegation with her seems omniscient. “I am interested in the way our legislators react. I think not having strong convictions they doubt their ability to defend a position which they may take, so they cannot decide on any position and go on and on arguing pros and cons endlessly.” She was as savvy as any diplomat there, and in the end her fellow American Delegates, begrudgingly at first, acknowledged her consistent insights and leadership.

What she accomplished was monumental. She chaired the U.N.’s Commission on Human Rights, which threatened to bog down immediately, but her efforts insured its function. As a U.S. Delegate, she stood for the State Department’s wish for a universal version of the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights. However, she carefully listened to, and learned from what other delegates brought to the table, and was intelligent enough to accommodate philosophical discussion on a variety of views on the foundations of human rights, while keeping her eye on corralling the drafting committee’s focus on the prize. Facing the new post-war Cold War era she surmounted Russian arguments for prioritizing community over individual, and she held firm against Russian insistence on forced repatriation - that thousands of post-war refugees return to countries that were no longer theirs to be treated as traitors. She skillfully survived the fragile issue of U.S. discrimination against Blacks. She understood how to think on a global scale, give and take, or hold the line as necessary, to achieve the central vision. Her combined outreach to all the delegates with a pragmatic get-to-the-goal strategy won “a Magna Carta for all mankind.” The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948.

Her work as Chair of the Commission on Human Rights involved a constant watch over the Declaration’s drafting committee, which she insisted come up with a document all 55 delegations could accept. Her male colleague, French Delegate René Cassin, produced its final draft, and they would jointly share the honor of a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1961 then U.S. Delegate Adlai Stevenson argued again for her to receive the Prize, not only because of her contribution to the Declaration, he wrote, but because “she has become a world symbol of the unity of mankind and the hope of peace.” President Kennedy also pushed for it in 1962. Even after she died in 1962 scores of women not as men but as important in their own right. Through experience, Eleanor Roosevelt had seen that women were equal or more adept at some things than men – compassion, fairness, team work, and diplomacy, and considered an appreciation of those natural abilities a more realistic approach than the traditional concept of “equal.” Her vision reached beyond the 1960s, reaches beyond where we are today, and is still a beacon for equality.

In 1999 the Gallop Organization compiled a list of the most admired persons of the 20th century, and, not surprisingly, Eleanor Roosevelt was near the top and the Status of Women. That Commission helped fuel the second wave of American feminism.

Eleanor’s position in that role was interesting, since, as an ardent advocate of women’s rights, she opposed the Equal Rights Amendment. The Commission’s report was more sophisticated. It went beyond the feminism of the 1960s, which attempted to hinge the status of women on the concept that they were the very same as men – arguing that that they achieve equality on the job by dressing, behaving, and playing political games like men. This stance still held women and government alike hostage to a male-dominant viewpoint. The Commission, rather, urged the President to secure the Nation’s treatment of women as individuals, not as men.

Eleanor Roosevelt at the United Nations
So read the headline in the March 8, 1854 issue of the Washington, D.C. Daily National Intelligencer. On the night of March 5th, a group of persons had stolen a gift stone from the Pope, intended for installation along the Washington Monument’s inside stairway, from a storage shed on the Monument grounds. The shed contained many such stones from around the country and the world, but only the Pope’s stone led to any controversy.

Mid-19th century America had seen the rise of a nativist movement opposed to the increasing influx of Catholic immigrants. The nativists went wild when news of the Pope’s gift got around. They organized, demonstrated, and petitioned against accepting the stone when it reached America. One such petition read in part: “We, the undersigned... believing the proffer of a block of Marble recently made by the Pope of Rome to this country for the Washington Monument, to be totally inconsistent with the known principles of that despotic system of government, of which he is the head; that the inscription ‘Rome To America’ engraved upon it, bears a significance beyond its natural meaning...that this gift of a despot, if placed within those walls, can never be looked upon by true Americans, but with feelings of mortification and disgust...”

One famous nativist group was better known as the Know-Nothings, from their habit of saying “I know nothing”, when questioned about their activities. The Know-Nothings were especially successful from about 1853 to 1857, winning several dozen Congressional seats in the 1856 election.

Suspicion at once fell on them for the theft, but nobody could prove anything. It was believed that the thieves took the stone and dumped it into the Potomac River, after breaking off a few pieces as souvenirs. The Washington National Monument Society, who was in charge of construction at that time, offered a reward of $500 for the capture of the thieves, but nobody was ever caught.

Over a century later, in 1982, a new Pope’s stone was added to the Monument. It was white marble, and read “AROMA AMERICAE”--Latin for “from Rome to America.”

Most accounts of the theft stop at this point, adding that the original 1854 stone was never seen again. Actually, it was, and there are a few other little-known details of the story as well.

For instance, the original Papal intention was to send two stones. One would come from the remains of Rome’s ancient Capitol and the other from the Coliseum. In the end, just one stone reached Washington a few years later, from Rome’s Temple of Concord. It was a pink- and white-veined stone, with an English inscription in gilded Gothic script: “Rome to America.”

Finally, the stone did re-surface again----literally. The June 19, 1892 Washington Post reported how several workers were dredging the Potomac River for new piers, and up came a pink and white stone, with several pieces missing, and the surviving inscription, in Gothic script, “Ro_t_america.” Then, the June 21, 1892 Post reported how the stone had been stolen again!

The original Pope stone may have completely disappeared for good, unless 3 pink and white pieces at the Museum of American History are indeed from fragments broken off in 1854.

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By Ranger John Lockwood

“A Deed Of Barbarism”
National Cherry Blossom Festival
March 27 - April 11, 2010

The National Park Service welcomes you to the 2010 National Cherry Blossom Festival! Start your visit at the Tidal Basin Welcome Area. This convenient location for services offered by the National Park Service and its partners provides visitor services, first aid, children’s activities, food, souvenirs, books and more. Learn about the history of the cherry trees by attending one of the many park ranger programs throughout the park. We have something for everyone! Park rangers and volunteers will be on hand to answer any questions concerning the festival.

Festival Tents: Hours of Operation and Location

Welcome and Information Tent
10 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Every Day)
Tidal Basin Welcome Area

Food Tents
10 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Every Day)
Tidal Basin Welcome Area

Souvenir/Bookstore Tent
10 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Every Day)
Tidal Basin Welcome Area

First Aid Tent
10 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Every Day)
Tidal Basin Welcome Area

Blossom’ Junior Ranger Tent
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Every Day)
Tidal Basin Welcome Area

Family Fun Zone
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Weekends)
Thomas Jefferson Memorial

Washington Area Bicyclists Association,
FREE Bike Valet
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Weekends)
Independence Avenue between 14th and 15th Streets

Note: Dates and hours of operation are subject to change.

Ranger Led Programs: Hours of Operation and Location

Cherry Talks
11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m. (Every Day)
Thomas Jefferson Memorial

Lantern Walks
3 p.m. (Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays)
Departing from: NPS Welcome Tent at Tidal Basin Welcome Area, and from Monument Lodge, east side of Washington Monument Grounds

Bike Tours
Departing:
1 p.m. - 4 p.m. (Weekends)
Thomas Jefferson Memorial

Cherry Chat-Chat Runs
8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. (Weekends except Sunday, April 11)
Departing:
Washington Monument

Family Fun Zone
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Weekends)
Thomas Jefferson Memorial

Remember, Paddles Says: “Please Do Not Pick The Blossoms.”

In Case of Emergency
Call U.S. Park Police
202-610-7500
Lost and Found
202-426-6849

All riders MUST provide their own bike, helmet, and water. The bike tour season begins during the National Cherry Blossom Festival and continues through the last Sunday of November, Saturday, March 27 – Sunday, November 28, 2010.

Cherry Chit-Chat Runs
If you are interested in a more fast-paced exploration of the National Mall and the cherry blossoms, join park rangers for one of our Cherry Chit-Chat Runs. It’s a great way to get your daily exercise and see the park from the perspective of morning’s first light. The tour is comprised of a morning run around the National Mall with stops to highlight the history, beauty, and culture of the cherry blossoms.

While the exact routes and stops along the tour may vary by day, please be prepared for a distance of up to three miles at a good running pace. Also, remember to dress appropriately and bring water.

Family Fun Zone
New this year for the 2010 National Cherry Blossom Festival is the Family Fun Zone. Come join park rangers at the Family Fun Zone and enjoy fun and educational activities in the shadow of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

This year kids of all ages can learn to write Japanese words and letters. You can also learn and explore the trees of this park and others. While we have cherry trees all around us, other national parks have beautiful trees too! Also, don’t forget to leave your mark at the festival. We’ll have a new art station where you can draw and create your own expression of the cherry blossoms!

The Family Fun Zone is located in the big white tent at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

Bloomin’ Junior Ranger Activities
Want to learn about the cherry blossoms? Join park rangers at the Bloomin’ Junior Ranger Tent for hands-on activities that include games, projects, and puzzles that teach children about the Japanese cherry trees, the country from which they came, and the national park that cares for them. Take part and earn a special Junior Ranger badge! The program is aimed at children between the ages of 6-12.

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Along the tour may vary by day, please be prepared for a distance of up to three miles at a good running pace. Also, remember to dress appropriately and bring water.

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What is the Tidal Basin Welcome Area?

This central location provides information, services, and activities for the 2010 National Cherry Blossom Festival. Most services in the Welcome Area are open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Where can I find information once I arrive in the park?

You can obtain information, maps, and publications at the Tidal Basin Welcome Area, the Survey Lodge Ranger Station, or any of the monuments or memorials.

Is there anything to eat around here?

You can find food at the Tidal Basin Welcome Area and concession stands throughout the park. Most of the major Smithsonian museums have café's as well.

Where and when are the fireworks?

The fireworks will take place at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 3 along the Southwest Waterfront along Maine Avenue. The Prelude to the fireworks will start at 5:00 pm.

Where and when is the parade?

The National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade will take place from 10 a.m. until 12 noon on Saturday, April 10. The parade route runs along Constitution Avenue starting at 7th Street and ending at 17th Street, NW.

What is going on at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial?

As you approach the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, you will see evidence of a long-term construction project. The park has begun the process to rebuild the seawall that separates the Tidal Basin from the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Construction for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial has also begun near the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. As a result of these ongoing construction projects, there are a few temporary closures in both locations. Currently, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Plaza and the eastern walkways around the Thomas Jefferson Memorial are closed. The memorial itself remains open.

Where is the performance stage this year?

Because of ongoing construction around the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the Performance Stage has been relocated to the Sylvan Theatre on the grounds of the Washington Monument.

What is the free bike valet?

This free service allows you to spend more time experiencing the attractions of the National Cherry Blossom Festival and less time in traffic. Bring your whole family and take advantage of the free valet bicycle parking that will be offered during the weekends. Brought to you by The Washington Area Bicyclist Association in partnership with the National Park Service.

Is there a free shuttle bus?

Yes, you can park in the middle of the cherry blossoms along East Potomac Park and enjoy free shuttle service from the Hains Point parking areas to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Shuttles run at 20 to 30 minute intervals.

Hours of Operation:

Daily 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
March 27 - April 11
The shuttle is FREE.

Blossom Festival

Frequently Asked Questions About the Festival

Remember,
Paddles Says:

“Please Do Not Pick The Blossoms.”
Self-Guided Walking Tour for March, 2010

Beginning at 18th Street and Constitution Avenue, a short walking tour passes by sites which stand as testaments to Washington’s rise as one of the more beautiful capital cities of the world. The first, Constitution Gardens, is an idyllic backdrop to the National Mall and Memorial Parks with its large lake, framed by winding paths, wrought iron benches, and shade trees. It is the work of prominent landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing, who died before realizing his dream of beautifying the nation’s capital.

Stop 2: At 17th Street and Constitution Avenue stands the Lock Keeper’s House, a remnant of the Washington City Canal which followed the path of Tiber Creek, and connected the Potomac and the Anacostia Rivers. During heavy rains waste overflowed and ran down city streets into the canal. It was filled in and paved over, the prominent parts of which are known today as Constitution Avenue and Washington Avenue, SW.

Stop 3: Crossing 17th Street toward the Washington Monument, one finds a small stone known as The Jefferson Pier Marker, where the Potomac waters once washed closely to the Washington Monument, and marks the clear 90 degree angle intersection of the south facing of the White House and the west facing of the United States Capitol.

Stop 4: Looking east toward the Capitol, one cannot miss the large, red-tiled roof, neo-classical style buildings which dominate the area north of Constitution Avenue. Follow the arrow. This area, Federal Triangle, rose during the Great Depression, a project which provided work to a desperate American labor force.

Stop 5: Turning south, at the terminus of 17th Street stands the John Paul Jones Memorial. Dedicated on April 17, 1912, his statue honors the first American naval officer who forced an enemy ship to strike its colors in battle. This charming memorial blends sculpture and fountains, standing amidst a tree lined traffic circle adjacent to the Tidal Basin.

Stop 6: A gaze to the southwest reveals the Tidal Basin in all its glory. On March 27, 1912, First Lady Helen Taft, and the Viscountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese ambassador, planted the first Japanese cherry trees along the Tidal Basin. Along with the architectural changes, these trees helped transform Washington, D.C. into a crown jewel amongst world capitals.

Other National Parks In Our Area

Glen Echo Park and Clara Barton National Historic Site

Glen Echo, Maryland is a small town located only a few miles north of Washington, D.C. It offers two units of the National Park Service, Glen Echo Park, and the Clara Barton National Historic Site.

Glen Echo Park has a history that extends back into the late 19th century, first existing as a center for cultural enhancement known as “Chautauqua,” then later as a popular amusement park. It is now a place rich with history and a thriving arts community. Visiting the park, one can see architecture from 1891, the art deco period of the 1940s and 50s, as well as one of the country’s oldest working carousels, dating to 1921. There are always activities to be found at Glen Echo, from dances, art and music classes, children’s performances, and park tours and program offered by the National Park Service.

Just a short walk from Glen Echo Park is the Clara Barton National Historic Site, the first national historic site dedicated to a woman. Constructed in 1891, this building has served as a warehouse for the American Association of the Red Cross, its headquarters, as well as a residence for Clara Barton and her Red Cross staff. It is a unique building, both for its architecture and its history. Open year-round, 45 minute tours are given every hour on the hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit the Clara Barton National Historic Site to hear the stories and learn about the house, the Red Cross, and the amazing woman who resided there.

For more information visit...
Glen Echo Park  
www.nps.gov/gjec  
301-320-1400

Clara Barton National Historic Site  
www.nps.gov/clba  
301-320-1410
Each year, the National Cherry Blossom Festival celebrates the friendship between the people of Japan and of our Nation’s Capital. When the cherry trees arrived in Washington, D.C., in early 1910, they were inspected but were found to be diseased and full of insects. To protect the plants of American farmers and growers, the cherry trees had to be burned! Two years later, 3,000 more trees were sent from Japan and workmen began to plant them around the Tidal Basin. The planting continued for several years. The first Cherry Blossom Festival took place in 1935. In the years following, the Japanese people continued to send cherry trees and other symbols of friendship to Washington, D.C.

Can you solve this month’s Mall Mystery?
Find the plaque which marks where the first cherry blossoms were planted. In what year was the plaque placed there?
Go to the Survey Lodge Ranger Station with the correct answer to receive your prize!

The Arrowhead is the National Park Service symbol. Using what you see on the arrowhead, fill in the blanks.

The __________ represents all of the plants that grow and are protected in your National Parks.

The __________ represents the rivers, lakes and ocean areas that are protected in your National Parks.

The __________ represents all of the animals that live in parks and are protected in your National Parks.

The __________ represents the different landforms that are found in your National Parks.

The shape represents many stories from the past and special places in history that are preserved in your National Parks.

C M P H B I L V D P G E S C Z I U M V H L
R L J F Y L P O N Y G R D T F N M V D
Q G H J F A G O D A L J B E S D F G H H
Z X C V R V C V B N M N B L T D J S D D
N B V C X I N B V C J H G I G A F D S A
M N S R Y S Y T L R E A D A T B J I I I
P O T I U E Y R E O L E N S N S F G H D
A S N D F A A A V A V S P I O F G H K A
Y T E G D S A S F G H O D Y T Y U O I
Q W L E T D I I S G T Q I M T Y U I I R
A S A W O N Y O A F Y W R O R E E U Y C
D G N R U S M R D U E T R R Y K J H
D G T I U D F T G S I R Y E T O R H I
F S E E R T Y R E H C F H W H F V G L
D S R G J F G W F H Y U G J E C G C F D
A D N F G P O T O M A C R I V E R C B I
F F B G J A N E T Y J I L H K L V B B P U
C V B N M V F R P I H S D M E I R F O Y

Word Search

BLOSSOM  CHERRY TREES
JAPAN  PAGODA
DAVID FAIRCHILD  ELIZA SCIDMORE
FESTIVAL  FRIENDSHIP
PINK  POTOMAC RIVER
STONE LANTERN  TIDAL BASIN

National Mall Times 9
"Monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

National Park Service Organic Act
August 25, 1916

Potomac Nature Packs

Birds, Bugs and Trees, OH MY!

Discover the wild side of the National Mall with nature packs designed to engage the entire family. Each pack is filled with a sketch pad, binoculars, books, park brochures, maps, and activities for the whole family. These self-guided nature packs allow the whole family to put on their Eagle eyes, and explore the unrepeatable sights and sounds of the National Mall!

Packs are available at the Survey Lodge Ranger Station near the southwest corner of the Washington Monument grounds. Packs are available on a first come, first served basis, and require an adult’s drivers license. One pack per family. Call 202-426-6841 for more information.

McHugh Continued from page 3

gave Washington D.C., a city that still had dirt roads, an identity of its own that allowed it to compete with cities like New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago. In a city of transient status, where even the federal government continually evolves, the Cherry Blossom Festival remains a constant.

Q: What is the most important thing you would like visitors to take away from the festival, and why?

I hope the Cherry Blossom Festival complements their visit to the National Mall, knowing they had an experience that can’t be had elsewhere. We strive to present programs throughout the year that present universal concepts. I want the festival to do the same; while presenting a different experience for each visitor, its beauty and historic importance are universal concepts for all.

Be sure to visit the updated Lincoln Memorial website! http://www.nps.gov/linc

Highlights include a new Lincoln Memorial Construction Flipbook and an Interactive Site. The flipbook utilizes historic photographs to tell the story of the memorial construction from inception to completion. You can experience a virtual walk-through of the memorial, and listen to ranger reflections of the memorial and its history on the Interactive Site.

Old Post Office Tower NHS

The Old Post Office, built between 1892 and 1899, is home to the Bells of Congress, which were a gift from England on our Nation’s Bicentennial. From the observation deck, located 270 feet above the street level, the visitor can get a spectacular view of our Nation’s Capital.

Operating Hours

Summer: Memorial Day through Labor Day
Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
Sunday and Holidays 10:00 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Winter: Labor Day through Memorial Day
Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:45 a.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 5:45 a.m.
202-606-8691

www.nps.gov/opot

Ranger led walking tours of Pennsylvania Avenue

Upon Request:
Saturdays and Sundays
11 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Join a park ranger for an interpretive program to learn more about one of Washington, D.C.’s more impressive and fascinating landmarks, the Old Post Office Tower. Tours are by request. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.

For Whom the Bell Tolls: The Washington Ringing Society and the Bells of Congress

First Thursday of every month 6:45 p.m.

The art of change ringing goes back to the Middle Ages, and you can experience it first-hand at the Old Post Office Tower! To learn more about the systematic ringing of the Bells of Congress, join members of the Washington Ringing Society the first Thursday of each month for a full explanation of the Bells of Congress, why they are here, and how they work. The program will be followed by their weekly practice session. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.

Message from the Superintendent

March is a great time to experience your national park. Our ranger staff presents interpretive programs throughout the park including park-wide walking tours and shorter detailed programs of each memorial.

To learn more about the future of the National Mall, visit the National Mall Plan website, www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan to read current alternatives, express ideas, and follow our progress.

Page through this newspaper to find out more about the many fascinating ranger programs offered throughout the park. Our park staff and volunteers will be glad to answer any of your questions. Thanks for visiting, and have a wonderful experience at National Mall and Memorial Parks.

Superintendent
John Piltzecker

August 25, 1916