



Woodlot Trail Gets a Makeover

This summer, Oxon Cove Park enlisted help from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) to help restore the Woodlot Trail. A SCA DC Summer Crew, consisting of 5 area high school students and a trained crew leader, worked in the park for 5 weeks during the summer. The crew worked hard building a new foot bridge, adding new railings to an existing bridge, and adding new steps throughout the trail. They also removed leaf litter, forest debris,

downed trees, and overgrown grasses and bushes from 0.6 miles of the hiking trail. Their work has made the Woodlot Trail easier to navigate and safer to travel. If you have some extra time, please take a hike and enjoy the hard work and effort put forth by our area youth. If you would like more information about the Student Conservation Association for your high school and/or college-aged child please go to their website at www.thesca.org.

The War of 1812 Comes to Mount Welby



On Sunday, August 16, 2009, fifty visitors participated in the park's first presentation of the program, "The War of 1812 at Mount Welby." The Oxon Hill Farm property was known as Mount Welby, a wheat plantation owned by the Debutts family, during the War of 1812. The program's objective was to present a portrayal of what life was like for the family during the turbulent times of the 1814 Battle of Bladensburg. The activities of the day included Ms. Dory Cunningham's portrayal of Mrs. Samuel DeButts who viewed the sounds and sights of the attack and burning of Washington from the hill on which Mount Welby sits. Using Mrs. Debutts' letters as an

historical reference, Dory gave an emotional presentation of what life was like for a family living so close to a battle of war. Ranger Ron Grission, Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in Baltimore, Maryland, discussed the British expedition on the Potomac River and other military operations in the area. He also conducted a live musket firing demonstration. Ranger Mike Shaeffer discussed the general political atmosphere of the time, Ranger Barbara Wadding served as weapons safety inspector for NPS, and Ranger Ray Whitacre conducted kid's craft activities. Displays and exhibits about the war were viewed in the park visitor center. Another War of 1812 program is planned for the same time next year in August 2010.

Building Bridges for the Challenged

In May 2009, Oxon Cove Park received a generous grant from the National Park Foundation to embark on a new pilot program, Building Bridges for the Challenged. One objective of the program is to develop new ways to improve services to visitors with disabilities in national parks.

Join us each Sunday from 11 am to 1 pm for Building Bridges for the Challenged program. Each week the program will be centered around a specific theme. Experience new things by joining in on the program; your participation will also provide information to park rangers on how to effectively deliver these programs to the challenged. The programs are geared to



special needs visitors in grades pre-k to 12, but all are welcome. Reservations are highly recommended. Please to make your reservations.

Ranger Schaefer engaging students in the Building Bridges for the Challenged program.

America's Best Idea
Let's Take a Walk to Find Out About National Parks

September 27, 2009
12:30 pm to 1:30 pm
All Ages

Setting aside land to be used by everyone has often been referred to as America's best idea. Join us for a national day of service and celebration in your 391 national parks by taking a moderate paced 1.5 mile walk through Oxon Cove Park. We will stop periodically to view outside exhibits and discover why this site became a national park in 1967. We will conclude the walk with a showing of a 5 minute clip from a Ken Burns documentary, **The National Parks: America's Best Idea.**

Our Volunteer Coordinator will be available to answer any questions you may have on how you can help to protect and preserve the park's resources for future generations. *Reservations recommended.*

Oxon Cove Park/
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The park is open every day of the year from 8 am to 4:30 pm, except January 1, Thanksgiving, and December 25.

Program changes can be made without notice.