



The Oasis

The seasonal newsletter of Prince William Forest Park • Volume 1, Issue 11

Lend a hand to America's lands: September 29

The 14th annual coast-to-coast volunteer drive to clean up public lands is now underway!

The 14th annual National Public Lands Day will take place Saturday, Sept. 29, 2007. This is a coast-to-coast effort to mobilize volunteers to care for public lands.

Prince William Forest Park preserves 15,000 acres of piedmont forest and the proud heritage of the Civilian Conservation Corps. This September 29th we are asking on volunteers to lend a hand on a variety of projects from trail work and campground rehabilitation to landscaping and work on historic structures. Instruction, crew leaders, and lunch will be provided.

Registration begins at 8:30 A.M. at the Pine Grove Picnic Area, adjacent to the visitor center. Volunteers will work alongside rangers and park personnel from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. making improvements and major contributions to the natural and cultural resources of the park.

“This is a coast-to-coast effort to mobilize volunteers to care for public lands.”

Volunteers should bring water, sunscreen, gloves, hats, and sturdy shoes. To sign up, please contact Jenn_Kays@nps.gov or at 703-221-7181.

The estimated dollar value of volunteer time is \$18.77 an hour for 2006, based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Independent Sector. Every 100,000 volunteers who participate in National Public Lands Day represent an additional \$1.8 million worth of labor for American lands and for the American people.



Volunteer help Prince William Forest Park clean and maintain this public treasure. Photo courtesy: NPS.

This year's goal is to exceed the 2006 National Public Lands Day numbers of 100,000 volunteers by at least an additional 10,000.

“Public lands serve all Americans, and National Public Lands Day provides a fun and educational opportunity for Americans to return the favor to those lands and the wildlife they harbor,” states Robb Hampton, Director of National Public Lands Day. The event continues the legacy started by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which enrolled millions of Americans to maintain and improve public lands during the Great Depression.

For the ninth consecutive year, Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc. has again enthusiastically volunteered to sponsor the event. This

year, the National Invasive Species Council joined seven federal agencies and over thirty state park agencies as National Public Lands Day Partners.

One third of America's land is in public hands, and may be used for everything from recreation and relaxing to logging and mining for natural resources.

National Public Lands Day is a yearly chance for Americans to take ownership of these lands, which are constantly threatened by human impacts such as pollutants. Events will take place in parks, forests, rivers, lakes, wetlands, cultural and historic sites and neighborhood areas across the country.

Updates and Highlights...

Eagle Scouts Complete Projects in the Park



Breckinridge Rd, before. Photo Courtesy: NPS



Andrew Hull on Breckinridge Rd after completing project. Photo Courtesy: NPS

Since January of 2007, Prince William Forest Park has been the host site for several Boy Scouts looking to advance to their top award, Eagle Scout. By completing their projects here in the park, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) have provided valuable volunteer labor, while developing leadership qualities and enhancing their character. The park has benefited greatly from this relationship with new fences, improved park structures, and upgraded campsites.

- BSA Troop 35 Alex Havens completed boundary sign work and clean up in March, along the newly acquired Williams property on Mine Road.

- BSA Troop 35 Andrew Hull finished his June project by constructing a 371 foot split rail fence along Breckenridge Road.

- BSA Troop 35 Kristopher Hull finished his June Eagle project by replacing eight fire pits at Oakridge Campground.

There are several Eagle projects planned for Troop 189 out of Dumfries, Troop 551 out of Alexandria, and Troop 1367 out of Woodbridge.

Many more Eagle projects are available in Prince William Forest Park. If you know of a Boy Scout looking for an Eagle project, please contact the park for more information at 703-221-7181 or prwi_info@nps.gov.

Why I Volunteer at Prince William Forest Park

By Laura Jevtich, VIP (Volunteer-In-Parks).

My husband and I are avid outdoor people and had just returned from a 6 week trip “out west.” We were looking for new adventures when we discovered Prince William Forest Park. After spending a Sunday hiking in the park, we realized that Prince William Forest Park is a hidden jewel in the midst of the urban Washington DC metro region— its best kept secret. I soon learned that Prince William Forest Park was a national park, with an amazing variety of natural and cultural resources. I wondered if I could work there.



On my next visit to the park, I spoke to a park ranger, who suggested becoming a volunteer, and living in the park! My husband and I did not even know such a thing was possible. So began our volunteer experience.

I started off volunteering 16 hours weekly, and then increased my hours to 32 per week. Volunteering is very similar to working as a park ranger, and the benefits are great. I get to frequently hike trails and be the recipient of the positive feelings and comments I engender from the public.

Many people ask me why I volunteer at such a young age. I say, “Because I can, and want to do so. I want to give back to the country that I love, and this seems like the best way to do it.”



Asleep at the Wheel!

Summer is here, and many are taking to the road for vacations. Whether you are headed to the beach, mountains, or your favorite National Park, please stay alert while driving.

“The National Highway Traffic Safety Commission reports that drowsy driving is responsible for at least 100,000 auto crashes, 71,000 injuries and 1,550 fatalities each year.”

Did you know that drowsy driving can be just as dangerous as drunk driving? The National Highway Traffic Safety Commission (NHTSC) reports that drowsy driving is responsible for at least 100,000 auto crashes, 71,000 injuries and 1,550 fatalities each year.

According to NHTSC, crashes that occur due to sleepiness usually involve many of the following characteristics:

- The accident occurs during late night/early morning or mid-afternoon.
- The crash is likely to be serious.
- A single vehicle leaves the road.

- The crash occurs on a high-speed road.
- The driver does not attempt to avoid a crash and is most likely alone in the vehicle.

Here are a few signs that you may be too tired to drive:

- You can't stop yawning.
- You feel restless or irritable.
- Your mind wanders or thoughts are disconnected and unfocused.
- You have trouble keeping your eyes open.
- You can't remember driving the past few minutes.
- Your driving becomes sloppy (tailgating, weaving).
- You have trouble keeping your head up and your eyes open.
- You hit the rumble strips along the side of the road.

Most adults need 7-9 hours of sleep a night to perform at their best (adolescents require up to 9-1/2 hours). Keep in mind that the human body has two “sleepy” periods. The primary one is between midnight and 6 A.M. The secondary is early to mid-afternoon. Use extra caution while driving during these times.

Some studies suggest that strategies drivers often use to stay awake (rolling down window, turning up radio) are not particularly effective. If you find yourself growing tired, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety recommends that you stop for a caffeinated drink and nap for 20 minutes while you wait for the caffeine to take effect.

Here are some additional tips to help you stay alert:

- Don't skimp on sleep.
- Avoid alcohol or any medications that can make you tired.
- Plan to drive long trips with a companion who can stay awake and talk with you.
- Schedule regular stops every 100 miles or 2 hours.
- Switch drivers when possible!

Remember, safe driving starts with a safe vehicle. Before you begin your journey, be sure your vehicle is in safe operating condition. Wherever your summer travel takes you, arriving safely is the most important part of the trip.

Want to Save a Few Minutes?

Speeding greatly increases the risk of being involved in an accident.

Welcome to Prince William Forest Park. We're glad you chose us as your camping location for the weekend. We know you're tired from your drive and excited to get your camp set up. Would you be willing to risk an accident or a costly violation notice to save six minutes of your time?

The approximate time savings for driving to the campground at 40 mph instead of the posted 25 mph is six minutes. Is saving six minutes of time really worth it?

What if you round a corner and there is a fallen bicyclist in the road or a deer jumps out in front of you? At 40 mph you are

traveling at nearly 60 feet per second. With average human reaction times and ideal conditions for road surface, tires, and vehicle maintenance, it would take a passenger car 164 feet to stop. It would take a pickup truck or SUV 190 feet to stop under the same conditions. Stopping distances are cut in half when traveling at 25 mph. Is 80 to 95 feet really a big deal?

Think about it the next time you sit at a traffic light behind several cars. Picture yourself four or five cars in front of where you are. Now imagine that you drove through all of those cars before you stopped. To that fallen bicyclist, or that deer crossing the



A law enforcement ranger patrols the park. Photo courtesy: NPS

road, 80 feet could be the difference between life and death. An accident at 40 mph will cause damage to your vehicle and quite possibly injury to yourself and family. Six minutes. Are they really worth it?

Slow down and enjoy the scenery. And be sure to buckle up every time you get behind the wheel.

The Passing of a Conservation Hero

Joe Hebda was born July 5, 1914 in Everson, Pennsylvania - near Pittsburgh. The eldest of nine children, he left home at the age of 14 in 1928 to find work to help support his family. In 1934, at the age of 19, Joe joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). He first served in Company 329 at Camp S-51, Pine Grove Furnace, PA from 1934 to 1935.

In July of 1935, he joined Company 2349 at Camp SP-25, Joplin, VA where he was the supply clerk and helped build roads, trails and cabins in Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area, now Prince William Forest Park. He met and married Thelma, a local girl, during his time here with the CCC.

He stayed with the CCC here until 1938, when he joined the United States Navy and proudly served in World War II, with Construction Battalion 59. In July 1949 Joe went to work for the Department of Interior, National Park Service at Prince William Forest Park as a maintenance foreman. In August 1979, after 30 years of service at Prince William Forest Park, Joe retired as Chief of Maintenance, a job that he loved.

After his retirement, Joe continued to volunteer at the park as he was able and contributed to oral histories and donated CCC related items to the park museum collection including these photographs, the CCC saw located above the fire place and his oral history. Joe was presented many awards over the years, but he was most proud of was the award for 'Conservation Champion of the Year 2004' presented by the Friends of Prince William Forest Park in recognition of his life-time of dedication to the park.



Joe was a resident of Triangle, Virginia for 57 years until his move to Stafford in 2002 where he lived with his granddaughter and her family. Joe was a devoted Grandfather and an avid outdoorsman and conservationist. A memorial service was held on Tuesday, August 21, 2007 at Quantico National Cemetery.

The life of Joe Hebda and the life of Prince William Forest Park are inextricably intertwined. We are indebted to him for his service to the park as a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps and for his service to his country as an employee of the National Park Service and member of the US Navy.

A temporary exhibit on Joe's life will be on display in the visitor center for the month of September. The display includes a 1976 Potomac News Article on Joe's life and the oral history contributed to the Prince William Forest Park museum collection.



Coming This Fall...

Chopawamsic Cycle Challenge - Sunday, September 9: The annual Chopawamsic Cycle Challenge will take place in Prince William Forest Park on September 9th to benefit the Friends of Prince William Forest Park. Visit www.fpwfp.org for more details.

Regional Archeologist Presentation - Sunday, September 30: Dr. Stephen Potter, Archeologist for the National Park Service National Capital Region, will uncover the mysteries of Captain John Smith's Map of Virginia, one of America's most famous colonial maps. By using historical linguistics, historical chronology, and new interpretations from ethnohistory and anthropology, Dr. Potter will transform Smith's map from a static geographical representation of Indian settlements to a dynamic cultural landscape upon which to interpret a rapidly changing aboriginal world.

This event will take place at the Cabin Camp 4 Theatre accessible off of Virginia Route 234 on Sunday, September 30th at 3:30 pm. For more information, contact the park at 703-221-7181 or prwi_info@nps.gov.

Dr. Chambers Presents Findings on O.S.S. - TBA

This fall/winter Rutgers University Professor of History, Dr. John Chambers will present his findings on the training activities of the Office of Strategic Services (forerunner to the CIA) in Prince William Forest Park and Catocin Mountain Park.



Dr. Chambers showcases a map of one of the training areas. Photo Courtesy: NPS

The SCA- Not Your Typical Internship

By Carolyn Krippene, SCA Summer Intern

If you had asked me two months ago to describe what an intern did, I would describe a young and eager student scuttling around an office in uncomfortable shoes performing miscellaneous grunt work, such as fetching coffee or taking notes, just to put something on their resume. I thought the only thing interns accomplished were learning how an office works. This image, fed both by the countless complaints of my peers and my own limited experiences, unconsciously followed me as I came to Prince William Forest Park this summer to intern through the Student Conservation Association (SCA). And then I had to toss all of those notions out the window.

There is a big difference between my image of an intern, and what it means to be an SCA intern at a national park. Instead of uncomfortable shoes, I wear hiking boots to work. Instead of fetching coffee, I help fetch GPS coordinates for cultural and natural treasures in the park. Instead of merely building my resume, I am building my character and soul.

The Student Conservation Association has been setting up internships like mine for 50 years now. They connect college students, or recent graduates like me, from all over the country to positions in national parks that best suit their particular skills and interests. There are seven SCAs here at Prince William Forest Park this summer working in Administration, Maintenance, Interpretation, and Resource Management. We flocked to this forest paradise from all over the country with majors including Fashion Design, Biology, and my own particular degree History (See Mom, I can do something with it other than live in a cardboard box!).

My internship is with the Cultural Resource staff, but I spend one day a week working with and learning from the Natural Resource staff as well. This means I spend most of my time within in the park museum collection exploring and helping maintain the archives and artifacts.



SCAs out in the field. Photo courtesy: NPS

Sometimes this means digging through an old box of records and sometimes this means digging through the ground with the regional archeologist for evidence of past human occupation. The rich history of this tranquil forest is astounding.

As a history major it is easy for me to get caught up in the historical significance of the park, but my time with Natural Resources has given me the opportunity to step outside my range of experience and explore the ecosystem around me. Water quality testing and exotic plant management have shown me just how delicate nature can be.

Here at Prince William Forest Park, the amount of work and care that goes into maintaining every tree or historic photograph is encouraging. Although I have

always enjoyed national parks, I never realized how valuable and unique each one's resources are. But I think the most important resource this park has is the amazing people who work hard everyday to preserve, protect, and share the park. From my fellow interns, who are always eager to explore with me, to my supervisors, who see us as more than grunt workers and go out of their way to teach us and give us as many new experiences as possible.

People in every division of the park have eagerly helped in our projects from tree planting, to digitizing historic photos. I may not walk away from here at the end of the summer knowing how an office works, but I will walk away knowing how a community works.

Friends of Prince William Forest Park

It is that time of the year again! The Friends of Prince William Forest Park are gearing up for the 5th Annual Chopawamsic Cycle Challenge on Sunday, September 9th. The bike challenge has been ramped up for 2007 with the ride starting and ending near historic Cabin Camp 4 off of VA 234/Dumfries Road. The ride will take off down Burma Road to make a 12.4 mile loop through some of the most scenic areas of the park. Although most of the route will be on roads, this ride should only be attempted on a hybrid or mountain bike. The challenge is not a race and all levels of riders are encouraged to participate. For registration forms or more information please contact the Prince William Forest Park visitor center or go to www.fpwfp.org. The Friends also need volunteers (age 16 and older) to act as course marshals and provide direction to "Challenge" participants. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Jenn_Kays@nps.gov or at 703-221-7181.

The Friends have been busy this spring. They co-sponsored the Prince William Forest Park 'Paws in the Park' event in April, by providing door prizes for the visitors, water and goodies for the exhibitors, and crowd control. They also sponsored the CIV MIL (the local Civilian and Military Leadership organization) dinner at Cabin Camp 5 in March, providing yet another way for the park to reach out to the local community.

This year the Friends also embraced National Trails Day with a morning of trail clean-up and a picnic. On Saturday, June 2nd the Friends, along with a group of Cub Scouts, and other volunteers, worked to clean-up over a half mile of the historic Washington-Rochambeau Highway (a.k.a. Kings Highway). With almost a century of fallen trees, debris, and erosion this project is an ongoing work effort. With the help of the Prince William Forest Park roads and trails crew, the route once traveled by French and American soldiers during the Revolutionary War resembles a path once again. The Friends will work on this project for the next year or two.



Friends begin clean up of Washington-Rochambeau Highway on National Trails Day. Photo Courtesy:NPS

The next work day for the path will be National Public Lands Day on September 29th. If you are interested in volunteering for this or other projects going on that day, please contact the park VIP coordinator, Jenn Kays at 703-221-7181.

The Friends of Prince William Forest Park is a 501c3 non-profit organization estab-

lished over 10 years ago. Their mission is to support the park as community liaisons, financially, and through volunteer contributions. If you are interested in the activities available through the Friends group, or would like to make a financial contribution, please contact President Mike Walker at fpwfp@comcast.net

Reader's Voice

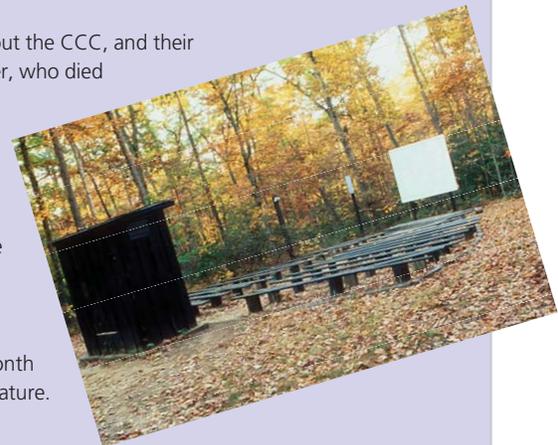
Dear Rangers,

I came to the park with Cub Scout Pack 135, Maury School, Alexandria, who camped in the group area (Oakridge) over the weekend. I want to thank all of the staff at the visitor center— especially the two park rangers at the movie this past weekend. Our boys and the adults had a really wonderful time at the park. Earlier in the day we received some orienteering instruction from a very patient and competent young lady at the visitor center.

I particularly enjoyed the black & white movie about the CCC, and their involvement in the creation of the park. My father, who died a couple of years ago at 85, helped build parks in Indiana (near English, Indiana I believe) working for the three C's, as he called them. He said that it was a godsend for him and his family as he was able to send money home to his family during those difficult times. This was the first time I had seen a movie that actually showed them in action.

We look forward to returning to the park next month for another camping trip and exploring more of nature.

Sincerely,
Gerry Patterson





National Park Service
 U.S. Department of the Interior
 Prince William Forest Park
 18100 Park Headquarters Road
 Triangle, Va 22172-1644



A Note From the Superintendent: Proposed Fee Increase

Dear Park Visitors;

As winter closes, park staff are working hard to ready the trails and facilities for another spring and summer season. Each year we aim to meet the highest standards in customer service and visitor satisfaction. As a unit of the National Park Service, Prince William Forest Park belongs not only to the current generation, but to those generations yet to come.

To continue to meet those high standards in the coming years, we are planning increases in two of our visitor fees in April of 2009. It is our goal to keep the park open and accessible to everyone, without imposing a financial burden.

We propose to maintain the current \$5.00 per vehicle entrance fee and \$3.00 per person walk-in fee for the foreseeable future. In April of 2009, the \$20.00 annual pass will increase to a \$30.00 pass, and the campsite fee at Oak Ridge Campground will increase from \$15.00 to \$20.00. The Interagency Senior Pass (62+) and Interagency Access Pass (for persons with disabilities) will continue to provide a 50% discount at Oak Ridge Campground.

These proposed fee changes will help the park to maintain its current standards of customer service despite rising fuel, utility, and personnel costs. Your entrance fees work to make large-scale capital improvements possible in the park such as the new waterline installed in 2006.

We are collecting public comment regarding this fee change. Please e-mail your comments prwi_fees@nps.gov or call 703-221-7181.

Thank you for your interest and continued support of Prince William Forest Park.

Sincerely,
 Bob Hickman, Superintendent

The Oasis, the official seasonal newsletter of Prince William Forest Park, is released in spring, summer, fall, and winter.

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Comments? Write to:
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 18100 Park Headquarters Road
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Prince William Forest Park Information Directory

- General Park Information 703-221-7181
Visitor Center - Open daily 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Camping 703-221-7181
 Including individual, group and backcountry.
- Cabin Camping 703-221-5843
 Including group cabins and individual rentals
- Travel Trailer Village 800-737-5730
 RV/Trailer camping facility off Route 234 with full hook-ups.
- Ranger-led Programs 703-221-7181
 Including regularly scheduled, special request and education programs.
- Volunteering in the Park 703-221-7181
 Learn how you can help.
- Official Park Website www.nps.gov/prwi
 For the latest information about the park, surf this way.