

CONGRESSIONAL FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL NEWSLETTER

2016
National Park Service
CENTENNIAL



February 2016

Black History Month

This February, and all year long, the National Park Service is inviting guests from all backgrounds to discover the ubiquity of African-American history and culture within our national parks as we honor and celebrate the influence and importance of their lives and accomplishments. Established to protect and preserve the sites and structures significant to all Americans, the National Park Service is honored that this year's Black History Month theme, "Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memory", reflects this most honorable obligation.

Black History Month sowed its roots with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) that was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and Jesse E. Moorland in September of 1915. Their goal was to promote, research, preserve, interpret, and disseminate information about black life, history, and culture to the global community. To aid this effort and to encourage the coordinated teaching of the history of American Blacks in public schools, Woodson and ASALH created "Negro History Week" in 1926, with Woodson setting a new theme every year for this week of recognition and reflection. Over time, support grew for the week-long celebration and eventually evolved into Black History Month, with its theme formulating the context for the discussion and analysis of black life and history during the year.

Woodson is known as the "Father of Black History" for his lifelong devotion to developing recognition and respect within the social sciences for the activities and achievements of African-Americans rather than the culture of neglect that defined the field. The [Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site](#) interprets the life and legacy of Dr. Woodson as it served as his office-home and was the headquarters for ASALH.



Carter G. Woodson, Scurlock Studio Records, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2016

This February we celebrate Black History. Check your local park for events or visit www.FindYourPark.com and search through the nationwide schedule. The [Find Your Park calendar](#) is continually being updated so keep checking back as new events are added every week.

FEBRUARY 12

SYMPOSIUM ON SCIENCE IN NATIONAL PARKS

WASHINGTON, DC

LECTURE BY GARY MACHLIS, NPS SCIENCE ADVISOR TO THE DIRECTOR - THE NEAR-HORIZON FUTURE OF SCIENCE IN NATIONAL PARKS AS PART OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE ANNUAL MEETING.

WWW.MEETINGS.AAAS.ORG

FEBRUARY 12

“AMERICA WILD: A NATIONAL PARKS ADVENTURE” RELEASE

NATIONWIDE

A DAZZLING VISUAL CELEBRATION OF THE COUNTRY'S MAJESTIC NATIONAL PARKS IN IMAX 3D.

WWW.MACGILLIVRAYFREEMAN.COM/PROJECT/NATIONAL-PARKS-ADVENTURE

FEBRUARY 14

FREDERICK DOUGLASS' BIRTHDAY

FREDERICK DOUGLASS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

RECOGNIZING THE 198TH BIRTHDAY OF THE ORATOR AND ABOLITIONIST.

WWW.NPS.GOV/FRDO

FEBRUARY 15

PRESIDENT'S DAY

NATIONWIDE

PARKS ACROSS THE COUNTRY WILL COMMEMORATE PRESIDENTS DAY WITH SPECIAL PROGRAMS.

WWW.NPS.GOV

The National Park Service recognizes the necessity to interpret the stories of all citizens regardless of their heritage. It is with pride that the National Park Service administers the [Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument](#), the [Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail](#), the [Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial](#), and other units associated with the African-American Experience, which commemorate decisive or pivotal moments and acknowledge the sacrifices of those involved, but also serve as an honest account of American history. They allow us to examine the diversity of American life while also reminding us that we are all Americans.

You can learn more about sites associated with the African American Experience and the National Park Service efforts to preserve the stories using the following links:

www.nps.gov/history/aahistory

www.nps.gov/parkhistory/categrs/etnc1.htm

www.aaexperience.org

*Written by Ehren Vance who is a student at Howard University and a Public Affairs Intern in the NPS Communications Office as part of the **Historically Black Colleges & Universities Initiative (HBCUI) Program**. HBCUI is a program initiated by the NPS and was developed to link college students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities to NPS sites and units that have a focus on the African American Experience and culture. To learn more about the program visit:*

www.hbcui.gyfoundation.org

FIND YOUR PARK

FINDYOURPARK.COM

NPS Announces Centennial Challenge Projects

Cost Share Partnerships Grow \$15 Million Appropriation to Nearly \$48 Million

Recently, the National Park Service announced nearly \$48 million of Centennial Challenge projects to help parks across the country improve visitor services and support outreach to new audiences. Congress provided \$15 million for the projects that will be matched by almost \$33 million from more than 90 park partners.

“As the National Park Service enters its centennial year in 2016, Congress and generous partners across the country are making exceptional investments to improve park facilities, enhance their accessibility, and help more visitors – especially young people – discover our nation’s inspiring places and stories,” said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis.

There are 69 projects located at 63 parks in 38 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The project list includes new visitor center exhibits at Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MN); accessible trails at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (CA) and Glacier National Park (MT); and fire

suppression systems at Glen Echo Park (MD) and the Blue Ridge Parkway (NC and VA).

The list includes significant deferred maintenance projects. The project at Golden Gate National Recreation Area in California will resurface the Crissy Field Promenade and includes interpretive signage and seating at a site that attracts more than 1.2 million visitors each year. The project at Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park in Maryland will rehabilitate the Conococheague Aqueduct.



A signature component of the new exhibits at Mississippi National River and Recreation Area will invite visitors to “Fly Like an Eagle”.

In addition, more than \$4 million, including federal and partner funding, will support the [Every Kid in a Park](#) program, more than half of which will go to transporting about 250,000 kids to parks. Project funds will provide increased opportunities for children, especially 4th graders, to experience national parks this year.

The 2016 Centennial Challenge program builds on the successes of 2015, when Congress appropriated \$10 million that the NPS leveraged with more than \$12 million in partner funds to support more than 100 projects.

Jarvis said, “The continued success of this public/private partnership demonstrates the need for Congress to take action on the Administration’s proposal of the [National Park Service Centennial Act](#), which includes the Centennial Challenge, and would further the National Park Service mission to protect, preserve and share the Nation’s most iconic sites with all Americans.”

For a complete list of centennial challenge projects and partners please visit:

<http://www.nps.gov/subjects/centennial/nps-centennial-challenge-projects.htm>

Ready... Set... BioBlitz!

With 409 units across the continental United States and beyond, the diversity of life in National Parks provides endless opportunities for exploration and discovery. A unique opportunity to Find Your Park is through participation in a BioBlitz.

A BioBlitz is an intensive biological survey where teams, working with scientists from numerous disciplines, work together to identify as many species as possible in a short 48-hour period. This “blitz” approach provides an excellent snapshot of the variety of life in a park. Many BioBlitzes often lead to new discoveries including species previously unknown to a region or new migration patterns due to climate change. Citizen scientists will have opportunities to learn more about local ecosystems and the health of the environment in their neighborhoods. Participation in this fun and engaging event by people of all ages creates new generations of citizen scientists and future stewards of our parks.



In celebration of the NPS Centennial, a major BioBlitz, co-hosted by the National Park Service and the National Geographic Society, will be held at parks in and around Washington, D.C. with an accompanying Biodiversity Festival on the National Mall at Constitution Gardens, from May 20-21, 2016. In addition, simultaneous, regional showcase BioBlitzes in different regions of our country, and hundreds of concurrent BioBlitzes in national parks across the United States will be hosted throughout 2016.



BioBlitzes are already scheduled in over 70 parks and the number is growing quickly. For the full list of BioBlitzes and for more information visit

<http://www.nature.nps.gov/biology/biodiversity/bioblitz2016.cfm>



Centennial Event of the Month

Each month this section highlights a park or program Centennial event. Centennial events can be small and intimate, such as a kids program in the local community, or grand, such as a concert or a naturalization ceremony. Either way, the options are endless with more events being added to the calendar every day. Check the [Find Your Park website calendar](#) or your [local park calendar](#) for events near you.

Flora of the National Parks

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, this art exhibit will showcase some of the plant species and communities found throughout the more than 400 national parks. From giant redwoods and aspen forests to endangered Virginia spiraea and water lilies, the national parks contain a diverse representation of the North American flora. Illustrations, paintings, and photography will take you on a tour of the beauty and importance of the American flora.

Exhibit dates: February 18 – October 2, 2016.

United States Botanic Garden

Conservatory West Gallery

<https://www.usbg.gov/exhibits>



Share the Love

It is no surprise that national parks are places where people fall in love and come to express their love. After all, parks are places of beauty and inspire great emotion. To recognize and celebrate some of these special places the Department of the Interior creates an annual Valentine's Day video, and they are accepting submissions for inclusion now. Share your love story! Send your videos and photos of your weddings or proposals in national parks, wildlife refuges, and other public lands to newmedia@ios.doi.gov. Please submit videos and photos no later than Friday, February 5, for a chance to be in their special Valentine's Day video.

[Click here](#) for last year's video.



A wedding couple in Yosemite National Park, California

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Who else is a Congressional Friend of the National Park Service Centennial? You can find a full list of Friends on the [NPS Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs](#) and the [NPS Centennial](#) websites. Know a colleague who may be interested? See our contact below:

Susan Farinelli
NPS Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs
susan_farinelli@nps.gov
202-208-7676
www.nps.gov/legal

Follow Us!

