



Community Bulletin

Boundary Project Completed

A project to rehabilitate portions of the park's exterior boundary has recently been completed by two Student Conservation Association (SCA) interns. Rick Didier, Jr. from Chicago, Illinois and Seth Morphis from Columbia, South Carolina completed the ten-week project that involved inspecting boundary signs and replacing or installing new ones as needed and inspecting survey markers (also known as monuments) and documenting their condition. In forested areas, a narrow white band was painted around trees that contain a boundary sign. Witness trees were marked to facilitate finding survey markers that were buried or not readily visible. Vines, brush, and small understory trees were cleared where needed to delineate the boundary. In a few areas where land has been added to the park, signs were removed as former exterior boundaries became interior boundaries.

The park has a complex boundary that borders residential communities, forested lands, commercial areas, highways, railroads, incorporated towns, two other national parks, a Department of Homeland Security training facility, and agricultural lands. Although the park has a relatively small land area of 3,645 acres, the

exterior boundary is over 70 miles long. The last major rehabilitation of the park's boundaries was completed in 1998-2000 when the boundary was approximately 45 miles long. Since then, boundary signs and survey markers have been damaged or lost due to vandalism and natural conditions, or have become obscured by vegetation. In addition, over 1,200 acres have been added to the park since 2004.

The 2009 SCA boundary project was undertaken in multiple areas of the park including the south section of Loudoun Heights, the Route 340 corridor, Cavalier Heights, the Murphy Farm, Camp Hill, Nash Farm, Bolivar Heights, and the former Jellystone Campground property on School House Ridge. A total of 9.5 miles of park boundary was brought up to good

condition during the course of the project.

Contact Lands Management Office if you have any questions about this project. (304) 535-6038

Support Harper Ferry NHP!

There are many ways to help, enjoy and support Harpers Ferry.

You can:

- Volunteer, maybe become a Volunteer of the Month!
- Donate to the park or Harpers Ferry Historical Association.
- Purchase an item at the bookshop. (proceeds support park programs.)

Thanks for helping out and being part of our team!

Seth Morphis (left) and Rick Didier, Jr. completed the exterior boundary study.



Volunteers of the Month: Victorian Dance Ensemble

For December, Harpers Ferry NHP would like to showcase the significant music and dance contributions of the Victorian Dance Ensemble.

While most of their formal engagements are paid performances, the Ensemble, led by Lawrence Keener-Farley, has volunteered year after year to help visitors step back in time during the park's Yuletide Event. The Victorian Dance Ensemble demonstrates and teaches dances of the mid-19th century. Many of the members belong to Union, Confederate or civilian Civil War reenactment units, while others are interested in the Victorian era or vintage dancing.


The group began in 1995 after a retired school superintendent, teaching Civil War Dance at various community colleges, brought students to the Harrisburg Civil War Expo. Almost immediately the group was asked to give other dance programs and the Victorian Dance Ensemble was born.



The Victorian Dance Ensemble has since grown to over forty dancers and its schedule includes more than two dozen demonstrations and balls each year in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, New Jersey, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Washington, D.C.

For more information on The Victorian Dance Ensemble, look for them on the web at www.civilwardance.org

If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities at Harpers Ferry, please call 304-535-5017.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The history of Harpers Ferry has few parallels in the American drama. It is more than one event, one date, or one individual. It is multi-layered, involving a diverse number of people and events, decisions and actions that influenced the course of our nation's history. Visit Harpers Ferry and step into history.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
P.O. Box 65
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425

Visitor Center
304-535-6029

Harpers Ferry Historical Association Bookshop
304-525-6881

Harpers Ferry NHP Home Page
www.nps.gov/hafe/

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

Harpers Ferry Included in National Trail and Park Projects Funding

Funding from a National Park Service trails program has been awarded to 17 projects where national historic and scenic trails intersect with national parks and other Federal facilities.

“Passage of the 2010 budget enables us to make this year's Connect Trails to Parks awards totaling \$873,000 to these worthy projects.” said Jon Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service. “The program was established in 2008 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the National Trails System and is designed to increase awareness, appreciation, and use of the Nation's federally-designated system of trails.”

At Harpers Ferry NHP a set of stone steps will end the centuries of foot trails that have eroded soil from the Appalachian Trail (AT). (Historic Cliff Trail) This will be the 3rd and final stone step project leading from the

AT heading north to Camp Hill. A 90% volunteer project, the work will be completed by the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Harpers Ferry NHP. The funding will purchase stone slabs to create steps up a 160' slope, stopping erosion and improving visual quality and visitor experience.

For more information about the National Trails System please visit www.nps.gov/nts.

