



project will help the trail connect people and communities to national, state, and local parks, trails, heritage areas, greenways, and cultural resource preservation. The assessment and stabilization would be the first phase in what will be the overall restoration and use of the Odell House as a site to interpret America's War for Independence and the NHT.

On April 14, 2012 Joe DiBello attended the W3R-US Board meeting in Princeton NJ. We reported on short and long term goals, the assistance and coordination role of NPS and affirmed our commitment to the partnership. We emphasized that NPS is one part of the partnership and stressed the importance of state and local action in bringing the trail to life.

W3R-CT is working towards efforts to raise the profile of the NHT and proposes developing a website for the NHT specific to Connecticut. A bill has been introduced at the state level, authorizing CT to apply to the NPS for matching funds to develop a website and related marketing. As always, we welcome proposals from all partners and we encourage you to share your idea with us.

We would like to compile photos of all Washington-Rochambeau NHT events, past and future. Please send any photos you would like included to Samantha Driscoll at samantha_driscoll@nps.gov. You can register for a free Flickr account. Once registered, you will be able to comment on all photos. We ask your help in using the comment section to caption the images and tell more about the place, people, or event!

Please see photos of past events at:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/washington-rochambeau/>



NPS: A Call to Action

The National Park Service is nearing its 100th Anniversary in 2016. National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis has announced the plan A Call to Action to move the NPS into a new century. A Call to Action calls for creative and innovative ways to interpret, experience, communicate, protect, and educate the parks, trails, sites, and resources of the National Park Service.

See the plan A Call to Action at:

http://inside.nps.gov/calltoaction/pdf/C2A_report.pdf

The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail is embracing this plan as we work with communities along the route. Please share your thoughts and ideas with us as we focus on these three goals:

Connecting People to Parks, Action 3: History Lesson

“Expand the meaning of parks to new audiences and provide an opportunity for communities to learn more about their heritage by conducting history discovery events, using oral histories and other methods, ...”

This action is a key goal of the Washington-Rochambeau NHT. We are looking for ways to reach new audiences to tell the story of Generals Washington and Rochambeau, the allied armies, and the people impacted by this event. We have had many successful events in 2011 that helped get the word out, but we must build on and expand the reach of our message.

Connecting People to Parks, Action 5: Parks for People

“Enhance the connection of densely populated, diverse communities to parks, greenways, trails, and waterways to improve close-to-home recreation and natural resources conservation.”

The Washington-Rochambeau NHT connects many of the largest metropolitan areas on the east coast through some of the most densely populated areas in the United States. The NHT also connects a great many national, state, local parks, trails, heritage areas, and greenways on the route and we can use this opportunity to explore innovative ways to connect the NHT with these communities and add cultural resource preservation and interpretation to the natural and recreation resources along the route.

Advancing the NPS Education Mission, Action 17: Go Digital

“Reach new audiences and maintain a conversation with all Americans by transforming the NPS digital experience to offer rich, interactive, up-to-date content from every park and program. To accomplish this we will create a user-friendly web platform that supports online and mobile technology including social media.”

The Washington-Rochambeau NHT will have an official NPS website up and running in early 2012, followed by Facebook and Twitter presence, and a blog for highlighting events, stories, and discussion of the NHT. The Google maps will be accessible from these sites as well, and we wish to pursue plans for an interactive map of the entire NHT.

We welcome your thoughts about the Washington-Rochambeau NHT and how we can implement NPS A Call to Action. We also encourage you to help us develop creative and innovative projects we can work on together.



Announcements

National Trails Day Washington-Rochambeau NHT Event Bolton, CT

Connecticut has an event planned for National Trails Day on June 2nd at Bolton High School at the site of American and French encampments on the Washington-Rochambeau NHT. The Governor, the French Counsel and Congressman Larson are invited to attend, as well as members of the Shelton 2nd Light Dragoons and the Governor's Foot Guard. Congressman Larson will be recognized for his work in enacting the NHT. The public is invited to attend.

Delaware State Trails

WILMAPCO, the East Coast Greenway, W3R-DE and the National Park Service are coordinating on the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT and the East Coast Greenway. The two routes intersect in numerous places in Delaware and WILMAPCO had been very involved in the mapping and signing of the routes. The Northern Delaware Heritage Coalition is working on driving routes and bicycle, pedestrian and transit connections to historic resources such as Cooch-Dayett. For more information contact us or:

Heather Dunigan

Principal Planner, WILMAPCO

850 Library Ave., Suite 100, Newark, DE 19711

302/737-6205 ext. 118

hdunigan@wilmapco.org

See more on their website at <http://www.wilmapco.org/ndhc/>

Public input for 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan

Planners with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation are inviting residents are invited to share their ideas for outdoor recreation and land conservation needs. The following are among the topics relevant to the Northern region: Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, Journey Through Hallowed Ground, ongoing regional connections and trail development, local and regional conservation needs, especially opportunities to preserve rural and agricultural lands, active recreation needs and opportunities, state scenic rivers and scenic byways and existing water trails, including Occoquan, Potomac and Captain John Smith and the Washington Rochambeau NHT.

The Virginia Outdoors Plan is the state's comprehensive plan for meeting outdoor recreation, land conservation and open space needs. Anyone may submit written comments. Email comments to janit.llewellyn@dcr.virginia.gov, or write to: VOP Comments, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, 203 Governor St., Suite 326, Richmond, VA 23219.



Historic Trails Workshop Socorro, New Mexico May 14-18, 2012

Samantha will be attending the workshop titled, “From Line on a Map to Real on the Ground.” This workshop on National Historic Trails (NHTs) has several objectives:

- To understand how the National Trails System Act governs the establishment, preservation, and development of national historic trails;
- To imagine and develop a vision for the preservation and development of a NHT;
- To understand how national historic trails can relate to America’s Great Outdoors (AGO); and
- To begin developing an action agenda linking NHTs to AGO.

We will also look for ways to apply the information and to look for ways to link the Washington-Rochambeau NHT to the ‘A Call to Action’ plan.

National Trails Day June 2, 2012

National Trails Day® (NTD) is the America’s signature annual trail awareness event, coordinated by the American Hiking Society (AHS). It occurs on the first Saturday of June to inspire the general public and trail enthusiasts nationwide to discover, learn about, and celebrate trails. Hosting a NTD event can benefit you and your partner organizations by:

- Generating excitement about your trails
- Motivating volunteers to help
- Facilitating new partnerships on local, state, and national levels.
- Spreading NTD success stories through hundreds of media outlets.

This year National Trails Day® falls on Saturday, June 2, 2012. However, event hosts have the option of choosing a different day to observe NTD if it better suits their program. Here is a simple “how-to” guide for hosting a National Trails Day® event on your land or in your area. More detailed information is available at www.AmericanHiking.org

Outdoor Nation 2012 Summits

The search is on for outdoor activists to participate in the Outdoor Nation 2012 Summits! If you know of young people between the ages of 16 - 28, please alert them to the Outdoor Summits. You are encouraged to promote this amazing opportunity to all of the young leaders within your networks. Outdoor Nation has travel scholarships available for groups of 10 or more to help get everyone to and from the summit without undue financial burden! Please visit: www.outdoornation.org/page/2012-summits
For more information contact: Ivan Levin at ilevin@outdoornation.org.



Patriots of African Descent in the Revolutionary War: Part I **Author's Talk with Dr. Marian T. Lane**

As stated in the press release, “There were anywhere from 5,000 to 20,000 soldiers of African and Native American descent who served under General George Washington in the Continental Forces. Fighting for a country under which they had no legal rights was not an easy road to travel. The stunning new picture book *Patriots of African Descent in the Revolutionary War: Part 1* is fiction, as told by a family historian to his greatgrandson about their family’s service as African-Americans during the Revolutionary War.”

The ASALH- Philadelphia Heritage will host a talk with author Dr. Marian T. Lane, Saturday, May 12, 2012; 1:00- 2:30 PM at Berean Presbyterian Church located at 2101 North Broad Street, Philadelphia PA 19122. All are invited.

Google Maps of the NHT

[Click on the state for map](#)

Massachusetts

Rhode Island

Connecticut

New York

New Jersey, Corridor 1

New Jersey, Corridor 2

Pennsylvania

Delaware

Maryland

Virginia

Washington DC