



Washington-Rochambeau

Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail

October 2012



Yorktown Day Celebrations at the Victory Monument

Recent Events

October 19 was Yorktown Day! The 231st anniversary of America's decisive Revolutionary War victory at Yorktown was marked with celebration sponsored by the Yorktown Day Association and the National Park Service. Superintendent Dan Smith of Colonial National Historical Park did an excellent job presiding over the morning wreath-laying ceremonies at the French monument, patriotic parade, and memorial wreath laying ceremony and pageant of flags at the Victory Monument. Later, the Yorktown Victory Center featured military re-enactors, musket and artillery demonstrations, and hands-on interpretive programs at re-creations of a Continental Army encampment. Dan Smith and the staff of Colonial National Historical Park assured a successful celebration for all of those attending. Joe DiBello, Samantha Driscoll, and Phil Correll were proud and honored to be able to join in the event.

On October 4th, Joe DiBello joined an energetic group of NPS employees who kayaked the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia. They had river views of the Fairmount Waterworks (a National Historic Landmark), the Lower Schuylkill Trail, and the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT.

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On October 12, Holy Family University hosted, “Paris on the Pennypack,” a presentation by Robert Selig, Ph.D. Holy Family University is the location of a historic campsite on the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT. The presentation, organized with the W3R®-PA, was well attended and very informative.

On October 13, a Pennsylvania Historical Marker was dedicated at the Pennypack Creek Bridge in Northeast Philadelphia. The Pennypack Creek Bridge was built in 1697 and is America’s oldest stone arch bridge still in continuous use. The bridge is part of the Washington-Rochambeau NHT as it was used by the Continental and French troops during the march to Yorktown. The ceremony included the W3R®-PA, National Park Service, Holmesburg Civic Association, Friends of Pennypack Park, and the NE Philadelphia History Network. Joe DiBello and Samantha Driscoll attended the event along with staff from INDE National Historical Park. See more here: <http://www.bsmphilly.com/northeast-times/6103-span-of-the-centuries.html>.

Also on October 13, Ursula Reed of W3R®-PA arranged a meeting with Jeffrey Collins of Independence NHP, Dr. Robert Selig, Cindy O’Donnell, and Torben Jenk to discuss development of a Washington-Rochambeau NHT unit for the Common Core Curriculum in Philadelphia. The goal of such a unit is tell the story of the marches of the Continental Army and of French forces from New York and Newport to Yorktown and back between July 1780 and May 1783, on water and on land. The focus will also include the contributions of France as well as of many of the citizens of the United States to the victory at Yorktown on October 19, 1781. The unit is a way to inform and demonstrate to students that the war affected the lives of almost everybody living in the United States, including their own neighborhoods.



Pennsylvania Historical Marker for Pennypack Creek Bridge



Children participating in the festivities



Congressman Robert Brady and other elected officials



On October 20, the Fall Board meeting of the W3R® -US was held in Williamsburg, VA. Reports on the progress made by the state organizations along the NHT trail were provided. We will work closely with W3R®-US over the coming month to work out the procedures for reimbursements for work completed. Sallie de Barcza, Chairman, has appointed a nominating committee to identify future officer candidates and is seeking nominations. For more information, please visit the W3R®-US at W3R-us.org.

On October 23, the W3R®-PA hosted a banner dedication at Historic Belmont Mansion and Underground Railroad Museum, followed by a presentation titled, "Lafayette and the Farewell Tour: Philadelphia and Judge Peters Greet an Old Friend," by Alan Hoffman, President of the Friends of Lafayette and author. Hoffman explored the relationship between Lafayette and Richard Peters, the owner of Belmont Mansion, formerly the Peters Estate. Richard Peters was Secretary of the Board of War during America's War for Independence. The American Women's Heritage Society (AWHS), W3R®-PA, the National Park Service, and the Fairmount Park Council for Historic Sites were in attendance.

NHT News

Dr. Robert Selig, historian of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route, was recently awarded two prestigious awards. On October 20, Dr. Robert Selig was awarded the Les Palmes Académiques, from the French government. The award is for major contributions to French national education and culture and is awarded by the Minister of Education. On September 29, at the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, President General Stephen Leishman honored Dr. Selig with the, "Distinguished Patriot Award." The "Distinguished Patriot Award" is the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution's most prestigious national award. It was established in 1987 and may be given only once by a President General during his tenure in office. The first recipient was Bob Hope in recognition of his many years of entertaining members of the Armed Forces; President Ronald Reagan received the award after he left office in 1989. President George W. Bush was thus honored in 2005, while Frank Buckles, last surviving American Soldier of World War I, received the award in 2009.

Lucy Lawliss, Superintendent of George Washington Birthplace National Monument, shared with us the design for the new Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT bookmark. Eastern National is currently developing a series of bookmarks including Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, Captain John Smith National Historic Trail and the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. We are pleased that the Washington-Rochambeau NHT bookmark is part of this endeavor.

Eastern National has provided us with passport stamps and we will be locating them at Boston NHP in MA, George Washington Birthplace NM in VA, Independence NHP in PA, Morristown NHP in NJ, National Capital Parks and the National Mall in DC, and Prince William Forest Park in VA. Colonial NHP in VA



and Thomas Stone NHS in MD already have WARO NHT passport stamps. Phil Correll has purchased additional passport stamps for the NHT that we hope to distribute at the other locations along the trail. Please let us know if you are interested in having brochures and the passport stamp at your location. We will also locate one here in the US Custom House in Philadelphia.

The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail NPS brochure has won an award! Harpers Ferry Center, the design center for the National Park Service, submitted the Washington-Rochambeau NHT brochure for the 2012 National Association for Interpretation Media Competition. The Washington-Rochambeau NHT received third place in the Site Publication category. Award recipients will be displayed at the NAI National Workshop in Hampton, Virginia, November 13-17, 2012, as well as recognized in Legacy magazine and the NAI Now newsletter. We would like to thank McKnight Design, LLC with writer Amy Pastan and designer Joan Wolbier for their wonderful work. From Harpers Ferry Center, we would like to thank Diane Liggett for all her assistance through the development of the brochure and Janice Wheeler for submitting the Washington-Rochambeau NHT brochure to the competition.

To tell the story of the Battle off the Capes in Virginia, we are exploring the feasibility of commemorating Admiral DeGrasse and the Battle for the Capes at prominent locations for all to see. Nicole Yancey, Washington-Rochambeau NHT liaison in VA, has initiated discussions with communities in Southern VA. Dan Smith, Superintendent of Colonial National Historical Park, has researched past ownership and dedication of the DeGrasse statue at Fort Story. One option may be to move the commemoration, but only if a suitable place can be found and we can secure the funds needed. Nicole has also contacted Williamsburg regarding trail waysides and marking. The NHT team will assist in applying for an ABPP grant for the area. We will also begin dialog with the state to explore ways to connect and enhance the NHT on a statewide basis.

The staff at Valley Forge and Independence National Historical Parks and Joe DiBello are making arrangements for relocating the Washington-Rochambeau display currently located at Valley Forge National Historical Park to its original location at the Independence National Historical Park Visitor Center, located at Sixth and Market Streets in Philadelphia. The Independence Visitor Center will also display Washington-Rochambeau NHT brochures and provide passport stamps. We are experiencing delays due to the extra work brought on by Hurricane Sandy.

Rhode Island is developing four Washington-Rochambeau NHT interpretive panels and they are currently under review. We are encouraging efforts to mark the NHT and will happy to assist to the extent that we can. The Joy Homestead has also invited us to visit in December to see the W3R Marchers off as they trek to Boston in early December to draw attention to the NHT.

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



We've gone digital!

Please visit the official NPS website for the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail: www.nps.gov/waro

'Like' us on Facebook to stay up-to-date on all Washington-Rochambeau NHT news: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Washington-Rochambeau-Revolutionary-Route-National-Historic-Trail/126419804105006>

NPS: A Call to Action

The National Park Service is nearing its 100th Anniversary in 2016. National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis has announced 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 will work with communities along the route to:

- Reach new audiences to tell the story of Generals Washington and Rochambeau, the allied armies, and the people impacted by this event
- Connect the national, state, local parks, trails, heritage areas, and greenways on the route and add cultural resource preservation and interpretation to the natural and recreation resources along the route
- Offer rich, interactive, up-to-date content in a user-friendly web platform that supports online and mobile technology including social media

Online Tourism Guide for the NHT

The NPS website section called, "Things to Do," will act as a tourism guide to the NHT where potential tourists will be able to select the state in which they are planning to travel, and view a list of sites and destinations along the Washington-Rochambeau NHT. **We ask your help in telling us which sites you would like to see included from your state!** The sites should be **open to the public**, and can be federal, state, local, or non-profit. Please send your list of destinations and their corresponding websites directly to Samantha Driscoll at samantha_driscoll@nps.gov.

Google Maps of the NHT Auto Route

The NPS website is now up and running, allowing us to have a more accessible format for the Google Maps of the NHT Auto Route. Please follow this link to the 'Directions' page of the NPS site and click on the state.

<http://www.nps.gov/waro/planyourvisit/directions.htm>



Announcements

National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program 2012 Grant Awards

More than \$1.3 million in National Park Service grants will be used to help preserve, protect, document, and interpret America's significant battlefield lands. The funding from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) will support 27 projects at more than 75 battlefields nationwide. This year's grants provide funding for projects at endangered battlefields from the Pequot War, King William's War, the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, World War II and various Indian Wars. Awards were given to projects in 17 states or territories entailing archeology, mapping, cultural resource survey work, documentation, planning, education and interpretation. Priority was given to those groups submitting applications for nationally significant battlefields.

We have checked the 2007 American Battlefield Protection Program Report to Congress for sites associated with the Washington-Rochambeau NHT. We are happy to report the Washington-Rochambeau Route is listed as a Class A "road, trail, and waterway needing further study." The associated site of the Chesapeake Capes is listed as a Class A "naval and maritime site needing further study" as well as a Class A "battlefield needing further study." There are various battlefields, locations of altercations, and historic sites along the Washington-Rochambeau NHT which may qualify for a 2013 Battlefield Preservation Grant.

Please contact us to discuss projects, sites, or proposals that you think may qualify. We would be happy to assist and support you in preparing an application. To learn more about this very important opportunity, please visit: <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/>

Proposal for Wounded Warriors NHT March in Virginia DOI, DOD, NPS, BLM

The Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail route in Colchester, Virginia is adjacent to the Bureau of Land Management's Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area. Douglas Blankinship, Volunteer & Partnership Coordinator of Bureau of Land Management -Eastern States Office, shared with us an interesting way to reach new audiences to tell the story of Generals Washington and Rochambeau, the allied armies, and the people impacted by this event through working with our Nation's Wounded Warriors in the Washington Metro Area at the Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Fort Belvoir in Northern Virginia and the Marine Corps Base at Quantico.

The agencies could work collaboratively to showcase opportunities for recreation, rehabilitation, and homecoming by sponsoring a march of the wounded Warriors along the Washington-Rochambeau NHT from Mount Vernon to another camp near Colchester on the Bureau of Land Management's Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area. The march would include the Old Guard with their horses and colonial band to add pageantry and get the word out about



the NHT and the nexus of fighting forces then and now. Engaging the military personnel and their families would significantly build on and expand the reach of the historical significance while celebrating the sacrifices of today's military.

This march would, “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,” as outlined in Call to Action goal Connecting People to Parks, Action 3: History Lesson. The march would also meet Call to Action goal People to Parks, Action 5: Parks for People to, “enhance the connection of densely populated, diverse communities to parks, greenways, trails, and waterways to improve close-to-home recreation and natural resources conservation.”

This proposal is an excellent way to honor the living while celebrating the history behind our victory at Yorktown by using this innovative way to connect the NHT with these communities and add patriotism, cultural resource preservation and interpretation to the natural and recreation resources along the route. To add any comments, ideas, or support, please contact Samantha Driscoll at samantha_driscoll@nps.gov.

National Parks Waive Entrance Fees for Veterans Day Weekend November 10-12

America's 398 national parks will offer everyone free admission during the Veterans Day weekend in honor of those that serve and have served in the United States military. “National parks preserve places that commemorate our country's collective heritage – our ideals, our majestic lands, our sacred sites, our patriotic icons – which our military has defended through the years,” said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. “We are grateful for the service and sacrifice of military members, past and present, and honored to tell their story at many of our national parks.”

The Veterans Day weekend is the last of the National Park Service entrance fee free days for 2012. More information is available at <http://www.nps.gov/find-apark/feefreeparks.htm>.

The George Washington Society Program November 7

The George Washington Society invites you to a program by, and reception for, Luke Pecoraro, an archaeologist from Mount Vernon at the University and Whist Club, Wednesday Nov 7 at 6:00 pm. The University and Whist Club is located at 805 North Broom Street, Wilmington, DE 19806. Cost is \$40 per person which includes heavy Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Please RSVP to Kim Burdick at HaleByrnesHouse@aol.com. You can pay at the door.