

September 2010 Highlights of NPS Activities for the Washington–Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail based on the report by Joseph DiBello, Superintendent

CRADA signed with W3R-US: A cooperative agreement between W3R-US and NPS has been completed. Initial funds are being provided through the FY10 National Trails Challenge Cost Share Program and will be matched by local sponsors. W3R priorities at this time include signage for the trail in all states, brochures in visitor facilities, developing educational programs and using GIS for mapping and tours. There will be further discussions at the W3R annual meeting in October.

Grant Proposal: NPS has received a grant proposal and draft agreement from the Benjamin Harrison Society's National Friends and Society of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail to work together to support projects and programs benefitting the NHT.

Brochure: Harper's Ferry Center and their contractors (McKnight Design) prepared a first draft NHT brochure for our review and we have provided initial comments. We will make the draft available for a broader review and preview it at the October W3R meeting.

Logo: Efforts towards developing a National Historic Trail logo are continuing. We have developed a brief report summarizing the efforts to date. Please contact us if you would like to have a look at the logo designs under consideration.

Strategic Workshops: Joe and Samantha drafted a summary of the strategic workshops held earlier in the year. We will use the summary of the workshops and the results of subsequent discussions as the foundation for future strategic planning efforts. We will share a copy with W3R-US and then incorporate broader public input as we move into a more detailed planning process.

We're now on the national trail map! The new National Trails System Map and Guide now includes the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route as a National Historic Trail along with the New England, Arizona and Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trails. If you would like copies of the guide, E-mail Samantha at Samantha_Driscoll@nps.gov or call at 215- 597-2334.

W3R-US Affiliate Trades Land: U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Salazar participated in a September 10 ceremony marking the transfer of 78 acres of land in Valley Forge National Historical Park from the American Revolution Center in exchange for .87 acres of land from Independence National Historical Park, which will be the site of the new American Revolution Center museum.

Local and national preservation leaders gathered at the Fairmount Waterworks in Philadelphia on September 17 to support legislation to fully fund the Land & Water Conservation Fund and the Historic Preservation Fund. Senator Robert Casey said, "The Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped to protect pieces of our Commonwealth's landscape and to preserve some of our greatest national treasures." One of the initiatives highlighted was the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R) National Historic Trail -- covering 685 miles from Newport RI to Yorktown VA, through Philadelphia, where several thousand troops camped near Market Street on what we now know as Schuylkill Banks.

America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative -- The AGO initiative to develop a conservation agenda for the 21st century has wrapped up its summer season of listening sessions across the country. The Obama Administration hosted nearly two dozen events nationwide to gather ideas on how to preserve the outdoors and get more Americans outside. This initiative will culminate in a report to the President with recommendations due in November. You can tell your stories and add your voice to the conversation at <http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/>.

Delaware Trail Summit -- The Delaware Trail Summit will be held on October 14 in Rehobeth Beach, DE. The Trail Summit will offer a variety of educational sessions and a keynote speaker that will focus on matters and issues that affect delivery of trail networks. The Trail Summit provides an opportunity for land planners, trail administrators and managers, trail advocacy groups, trail builders, and other trail enthusiasts to network and advocate for trails in their community as well as learn what we have collectively achieved in the past decade, and to learn about new opportunities, issues, trends, and techniques.

Maryland Trail Summit -- The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is proud to host the Maryland Trail Summit will be held on Tuesday, October 19th, at the Holiday Inn BWI Airport in Linthicum Heights, Maryland. The Summit will bring together trail users from all over the State to discuss the future of trails in Maryland, preview an interactive map and website, work on regional projects, network with other trail users and planners, learn about trails in neighboring states and much more! See <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/land/Trails/FirstTrailsSummit.asp>