



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

Volunteer Hours: As follow up to the fall meeting of W3R in Gloucester, VA, I am assembling information about tracking, valuing and reporting volunteer hours.

Brochure: The NPS Harper's Ferry Center and their contractors (McKnight Design) have completed a first draft of the NHT brochure. Efforts towards developing a National Historic Trail logo are continuing and we have developed a brief report summarizing the efforts to date. Joe and Samantha also have a draft strategic plan and summary of the strategic workshops held earlier in the year. We will use the plan and summary of the workshops as the foundation for future strategic planning efforts and will incorporate broader public input as we move into a more detailed planning process. If you would like to review any of these items, please e-mail Samantha at Samantha_Driscoll@nps.gov or call 215-597-2334.

NPS Appropriations for FY 2011: The National Park Service, along with all other federal agencies, is now operating under a continuing resolution while awaiting final action by Congress on the FY 2011 appropriation bill. The President's FY2011 request provides sufficient funds to maintain visitor services in all areas and to enhance services in a few. The FY 2012 budget is being formulated at this time by an Administration determined to put our Nation

on sound fiscal footing. Although we are operating under a continuing resolution and facing an uncertain future, we are thinking and planning ahead, preparing proposals for work that needs to be completed in future years, including completing and printing the W3R-NHT brochure, comprehensive planning, and GIS mapping of that trail. Given the uncertain and competitive funding situation, we are seeking funds from a variety of sources within and outside of the NPS.

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.

Increasing Requests: We are receiving more and more requests for information, comment and assistance from organizations such as the VA Department of Highways, Maryland W3R, Princeton, NJ, Heritage Areas and the general public. We are doing our best to provide timely, helpful responses and referrals.

W3R Signage in RI -- A concerned citizen reporting a downed W3R sign in Rhode Island and Sandra Redding came to the rescue. She forwarded the request to the maintenance crew for repairs. Similar requests in Rhode Island can go directly to

her. In December, her W3R planning committee will be meeting to discuss plans for Phase II which involves maps, a downloadable PDF file map and interpretive signage along the trail. Sandra Redding, Historic Preservation Specialist, Rhode Island Department of Transportation, can be reached at Two Capital Hill, Room 364 Providence, RI 02903, Ph: (401) 222-2023, Ext. 4438 and via email: sredding@dot.ri.gov

Upcoming Events

13th National Trails System Conference --

The Partnership for the National Trails System has recently announced that the 13th National Trails System Conference will be held in Abingdon, Virginia, May 15-19, 2011. If you are interested in helping organize this important gathering of NST and NHT partners, committees are being organized for program, field trips, a community service project, communications (including marketing and outreach), youth programming, hosting support, and A-V. If you are interested in joining one of the committees contact the Partnership's Julia Glad at PNTSCcommunications@gmail.com.

Celebrate the Holiday Season in Historic Washington Style -- You are invited to kick off your holiday season at the 9th Annual DAR Christmas Open House on Wednesday, December 8 from 5:30 to 8:00 PM at DAR Headquarters, 17th and D Streets NW, Washington, D.C. You are also encouraged to spread the word to your friends and family – the event is FREE and open to everyone!

The festive evening celebration is fun for all ages. Two local choirs – the women's quartet Seraphim and a group of D.C. public school students from the Fillmore Arts Center music program – will be singing holiday tunes throughout the building. Youth dancers from BalletNova will also perform excerpts from "The Nutcracker." Children can play with replica 18th- and 19th-century toys and enjoy complimentary coloring books and crayons.

Parents also rave about "the most accessible Santa in town," who is available for photos with no lines and no charge! Guests can tour the 31 DAR Museum period rooms depicting early American life complete with historic holiday decorations.

For more information about the DAR Christmas Open House, visit the DAR website at www.dar.org/openhouse. For questions, email openhouse@dar.org or call (202) 572-0563.

We'd like to wish you a happy holiday season and share these videos we found on the History Channel website. Have a look and let us know what you think.

<http://www.history.com/shows/america-the-story-of-us/videos/american-revolution>

<http://www.history.com/shows/america-the-story-of-us/videos/american-revolution#yorktown>