



Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail

Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route News

February 2011, by Joe DiBello

The National Park Service, along with all other federal agencies, awaits final action by Congress on the FY 2011 appropriation bill. **We are operating under a continuing resolution.** The President's FY2011 request provides sufficient funds to maintain visitor services in all areas and 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 and are preparing proposals for work that needs to be completed in future years. These include proposals for completing and printing the brochure, comprehensive planning and mapping of the trail. Given the uncertain and competitive funding situation, we will be seeking help and funds from a variety of sources within and outside of the NPS.

Joe DiBello and Samantha Driscoll drafted a **strategic plan and summary of the strategic workshops** held last 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 and comment on the draft please e-mail Samantha at Samantha_Driscoll@nps.gov or call 215- 597-2334 and we will send you a copy. It is also posted on the W3R-US web site www.w3r-us.org.

Samantha is undertaking an **inventory of sites and possible tourism destinations** along the full length of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT. We have also been consulting the Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites, multiple websites, and the state focused historical reports by Dr. Selig. We hope to categorize the sites by national, state, local or municipal management and ownership and also identify sites owned and managed by private organizations. The information collected will hopefully then be translated into Geographic Information System (GIS) maps.

Carolyn Suffern of the W3R-US has developed a spreadsheet that will be used for tracking and **reporting the many volunteer hours dedicated citizens are putting towards this effort.** We in NPS are grateful for all you do and we hope you will report your valuable contribution of time.

Kim Burdick (W3R-US) created a **Facebook site for the W3R-US** that has dozens of photos of activities that the W3R-US supported or coordinated during the past decade. Visitors to the site have added comments and photos. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/W3R-Washington-Rochambeau-Revolutionary-Route/185127584842354>

On February 6 through 11, Joe DiBello completed the **Leadership for the 21st Century program** at Harvard University, John F Kennedy School of Government Executive Education. The focus was to provide a new perspective on "leadership". The content, participants and faculty were very impressive and I highly recommend attending if you have the opportunity to do so.

Joe DiBello attended a February 23 meeting in Philadelphia with Lanny Patten and Ursula Reed of the W3R PA Chapter to discuss **future activities regarding the NHT in PA**.

Bill Poindexter of Adventure Cycling had discussions with several of us to discuss possibilities of **biking the NHT**, which will certainly add a dimension and new partners to the trail experience. Timing some of the biking activities with events planned by the Marchers offer some exciting possibilities for sharing building awareness and sharing information about the NHT.

On February 24, Dr. Robert Selig presented an interesting discussion regarding **African Americans in America's War of Independence** to a group of 40 people at the Historic Fairmount Water Works in Philadelphia. Joe DiBello and Sheri Jackson from the NPS Underground Railroad Network attended.

The **America's March to Yorktown** marchers are planning a **June 2011 to October 2011 walk along the NHT**. We think this a great opportunity to feature a series of local events and engage local communities along this more than 700 mile route. A major re-enactment is being planned at Mount Vernon and may offer a tremendous opportunity to invite elected officials and government leaders. We are looking for ways that NPS can help or participate. Please let Joe know if you have any suggestions or ideas.

The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, led by Superintendent Don Briggs, is planning a route between Mount Vernon and Prince William which also shares resources and constituents with the Washington-Rochambeau NHT. **They have invited us to participate in a workshop to plan and walk the route**. This may also offer an opportunity for the Marchers and bicycle enthusiasts to participate in a reconnaissance trip to help plan the route from Mount Vernon to Prince William Forest Park and beyond.

We continue to receive more and more requests for information, comment and assistance from organizations and the general public. We are doing our best to provide timely, helpful responses and referrals. We are also moving ahead with plans to **get the NPS web page up and running** and we are exploring the application of social media.

=== Announcements and Opportunities ===

NEA Offers Community Planning Grants

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is offering grant opportunities for community organizations and local governments to help with regional planning and community improvement. Our Town is intended to help communities build new vitality, economic vigor and livability around the arts. A limited number of grants, ranging from \$25,000 to \$250,000, are available for "creative place making projects." The application deadline is April 25. For more information, please visit

<http://www.nea.gov/Grants/apply/OurTown/index.html>

The 1772 Foundation Grant Applications opened for the following focus areas on September 1, 2011:

African-American History - In partnership with the Northeast Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the 1772 Foundation offers up to \$350,000 in construction grants to African American sites. The 1772 Foundation will accept one-page letters of inquiry via their website through April 1, 2011. Invited sites will be notified via email to submit a full application by April 15, 2011. Deadline for applications: June 25, 2011. Grant notification: July 2011

Historic Preservation - In cooperation with the New Jersey Historic Trust, the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, and Preserve Rhode Island, funding in the form of 1:1 matching grants up to \$15,000 are available for exterior painting, security and fire detection systems, roof and window restoration, sill repair/replacement, and chimney re-pointing for sites in NJ, CT, RI. The 1772 Foundation will accept one-page letters of inquiry via their website through April 1, 2011. Invited sites will be notified via email to submit a full application by April 15, 2011. Deadline for applications: June 25, 2011. Grant notification: July 2011. For more information:
<http://www.1772foundation.org/content/1772/announcements/announcementsfor2011matchinggrants.pdf>

Save America's Treasures Grants Announcement

The National Park Service (NPS) and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH) jointly announced the awarding of \$14.3 million in federal competitive Save America's Treasures (SAT) grants. The grants are made in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and Save America's Treasures' private partner, the National Trust for Historic Preservation. With the grants, 61 organizations and agencies will conserve nationally significant cultural and historic sites, buildings, objects, documents, and collections. A list of the recipients and their projects can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/treasures>.

DCNR Invites Developers, Students to Create Mobile Apps for ExplorePAtrails.com

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and its partners are inviting developers and students to enter a new contest to develop mobile apps for the ExplorePAtrails.com website. Deadline for entries is April 15.

"Pennsylvania has thousands of miles of trails for its citizens and visitors to enjoy," said Brenda Barrett, DCNR's Director of the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation. "While there is great information and maps of the trails available on the Internet at ExplorePAtrails.com, this contest will help us take the next step to make trails information available to mobile users." The contest is designed to generate creative and innovative entries that combine existing trails data with other datasets and user driven content. Developers who build contest entries can take advantage of statewide trail information recently compiled on ExplorePAtrails.com.

The contest is being co-sponsored by Harrisburg University of Science and Technology and the Pennsylvania Tourism Office. In addition to recognition, the winner will receive an Apple iPad. For more information, visit the Mobile Apps Competition webpage at <http://www.iexplorepatrails.com/iExplore/> or contact Charles Palmer, Executive Director of the Center for Advanced Entertainment and Learning Technologies at Harrisburg University, by sending email to: cpalmer@HarrisburgU.edu or Tom Ford, DCNR, by sending email to: thoford@state.pa.us.

The Park Stewards Program

The National Park Foundation has announced The Park Stewards Program which places high school educators in national parks for immersive learning experiences during the summer months. The program:

- Serves as a catalyst for national parks to form public/private partnerships
- Helps teachers enhance and expand their content knowledge and curriculum base;
- Enables students to form meaningful connections to national parks
- Provides national parks with a service-learning model that can be replicated with additional groups and community members

For more information: <http://www.nationalparks.org/npf-at-work/our-programs/stewards/>

Request for Proposal - due: March 15, 2011.

Questions? Contact: Carolyn Hill, Program Director, at 202-354-6471; Email: chill@nationalparks.org

America's Best Idea Grant Program

The National Park Foundation is pleased to announce its most recent request for proposal for the America's Best Idea Grant Program. Through this grant program, the Foundation wants to help connect underserved audiences with our national parks in meaningful and sustainable ways. National Park System units, offices and programs are invited to request funding for programs and initiatives that will strengthen the National Park Service's ability to develop or strengthen partnerships with these communities. You may find examples of the previous year's projects on the Foundation website. Due March 25, 2011. For more information:

<http://www.nationalparks.org/npf-at-work/our-programs/best-idea-grants/>

If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Hill, Program Director, at 202-354-6471 or by email at chill@nationalparks.org.

=== News and Events ===

NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

Water trails, or blueways, are a great way to get people down to the water, and help communities connect to their waterways. The National Park Service is currently helping local efforts to create water trails in 48 communities across the country through its Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program. Waterways played a huge role in the Washington- Rochambeau Revolutionary Route and there may be opportunities to combine paddling and history along the route. NPS issued a newsletter about water trails and you can view it online. Please let me know if you are interested in pursuing this idea further. <http://www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/rtca/>

Lock, Stock & Barrel: The World of the Continental Soldier

Hosted by Valley Forge National Historical Park

On March 26, Valley Forge National Historical Park will offer a unique and captivating look at the life and culture of the Revolutionary War soldier. This special series of presentations is aimed at historians, students, historic site staff, teachers, volunteers, re-enactors and all others with an interest in America's past. The program brings together some of the nation's leading Revolutionary War authorities in a discussion on artifacts, campaigns, army life and the experiences of those involved in America's struggle for freedom. Schuylkill River Heritage Area members are being offered a special rate for this event! They can attend for the entire day on March 26 for \$100--a \$30 savings. As this rate is only available to SRHA members, in order to take advantage of it you must call Diane Ward at 610-453-7688 or email dward@membership-matters.com.

www.nps.gov/vafo/supportyourpark/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&PageID=287991

2011 National Trails Conference

The National Trails Conference will be held from March 15 through 17, in Asheville, NC. The conference includes 40 informative concurrent sessions by experts in the field of trail construction, maintenance, monitoring, planning, design, and management. Several days of pre-conference and post-conference workshops offer additional training. For more information, please visit www.trailbuilders.org/conference.

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. Contact the Partnership's Julia Glad at PNTSCcommunications@gmail.com if you are interested in joining one of the committees.

<http://www.pnts.org/news-and-events/save-the-date-for-the-national-scenic-trails-workshop>

American Trails Network

Learn how you can support trails by joining the American Trails network. American Trails is committed to bringing you all the vital news about funding and policies that affect you. Watch for our ongoing alerts about the budget process, and breaking news on federal transportation funding. Please join our efforts to document the value of trails and bicycle / pedestrian facilities as transportation infrastructure, and be an active and positive voice in the reauthorization process, economic stimulus proposals, and Federal land management agency budgets. Learn how you can help support trails and share the latest information with your networks.

<http://www.americantrails.org/support.html>

Trails crossing roads: new and cool trail solutions photo gallery

Potential hazards exist every time a trail crosses a street or roadway. Some trail and bikeway crossings use the same warnings and crosswalks as standard pedestrian crossings. Others use creative signs to warn trail users to stop and be alert to motorized traffic. Standard red stop signs are generally used on trails where they cross roadways. See examples from a variety of trails across the United States. Read more and see photo gallery.

<http://www.americantrails.org/photoGalleries/cool/30-trail-road-crossing-signs.html>

General Comte de Rochambeau Statue

The statue of the American Revolutionary War hero, General Comte de Rochambeau, in Lafayette Park, Washington, D.C., was erected in 1902. Read details about the statue at

<http://www.nps.gov/whho/historyculture/rochambeau.htm>.

You can view a video of the unveiling of the statue at <http://vimeo.com/3123233>

Lewis and Clark NHT

A study is looking at the Lewis Clark Eastern Legacy, a proposed extension of the Lewis and Clark National historic trail. A segment goes from Washington D.C. to Philadelphia along the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail. More information about the study is available at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/eastern-legacy-srs>