



## **Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail**

### **Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route News**

March 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 the brochure; begin comprehensive planning; and preparing maps 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](mailto: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 at [www.w3r-us.org](http://www.w3r-us.org).

Samantha is undertaking an inventory of the route and 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. Here's a Google Map of the PA Route. The maps and information will then be translated into Geographic Information System (GIS) maps.

Kim Burdick (W3R-US) created a Facebook site 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. The W3R-US Facebook site is open to Facebook members only. If you are already a Facebook member the link below will take you to that site. If you are not a Facebook member, the link will take you to a page where you may register for membership on Facebook. There is no fee for membership and the information required to register on Facebook is minimal.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/W3R-Washington-Rochambeau-Revolutionary-Route/185127584842354>

The Marcher's 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. For example, a major reenactment is being planned at Mount Vernon on September 9, 10 and

11. We are looking for ways that NPS can help or participate in an event in your community. Please let Joe or the Marchers know if you have any interest or ideas.

Lanny Patten, Chair of W3R PA, is in touch with Valley Forge to discuss a proposed donation of a bust of General Duportail for display. Duportail came to America from France to aid in the War for Independence. Duportail was first commissioned colonel of engineers and later was promoted to brigadier-general. In 1778, after consultation with his staff, Washington decided to go into winter quarters with his army on the hills of Valley Forge. Generals Knox and Duportail agreed Valley Forge presented a good strategic location for the troops. Knox established the general lines of the camp and Duportail worked with him to develop the details. Prior to the siege at Yorktown, Washington met with Rochambeau, de Chastelleux, Knox and Duportail, to plan the defeat the British.

On March 14, Sal Lilienthal, Director of the Bicycle Tour Company, based in Kent CT visited our office. Sal provided an overview of the Revolutionary War biking routes he has laid out and would like to publish. Several of the routes follow the Washington Rochambeau Route. I informed Sal about the American Revolution Center and about Bill Poindexter's bicycling initiative so that they could coordinate.

On March 15, I participated in a conference call with the Potomac Heritage Scenic Trail Association. The group is planning a walking route from Mount Vernon to Prince William Forest Park. An area workshop is being planned for May 4th or 5th to discuss routes. I provided contacts for Mount Vernon and the Marchers. I will continue to coordinate with Don Briggs, Superintendent of the Potomac Heritage Scenic Trail, as we plan our work in Virginia.

Joe spoke with Jamie Bosket, at George Washington's Mount Vernon about collaborating with them on events they have planned for Sept 9, 10 and 11 including an encampment, reenactment, and ceremony commemorating the events that occurred there. We discussed coordinating projects with the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, the Marchers and bicyclists. Plans include inviting a number of elected and government officials in Interior and the National Park Service.

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 building awareness and sharing information about the NHT. Check out Bill's blog for updated information.

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.

On March 27, Joe visited Suffern NY at the invitation of Carolyn Suffern. She introduced me to the town and to Craig Long, the town's historian. Carolyn's ideas have stimulated discussion and they are certainly more aware of the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail and the tourism potential. We hope community interest grows and they become engaged in the dialog about the future of their downtown and the community.

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>

### **PA 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](mailto:cpalmer@HarrisburgU.edu) or Tom Ford, DCNR, by sending email to: [thoford@state.pa.us](mailto:thoford@state.pa.us).

### **The 2011 Kodak American Greenways Awards**

Do you know an organization that is working to create or improve a greenway, trail or waterway? Apply for a Kodak American Greenways Award grant, and your organization could receive up to \$2,500 in grant funds and recognition that comes with selection by this prestigious national program.

The Eastman Kodak Company, The Conservation Fund and the National Geographic Society team up each year to present the Kodak American Greenways Awards Program. One major element of the Program involves "seed" grant awards to organizations that are growing our nation's network of greenways, blueways, trails and natural areas. These projects connect Americans to the outdoors and their heritage.

For 2011, the Program anticipates awarding up to fifty percent of the grants to those greenways projects that demonstrate the convergence of economic prosperity and the environment. The vitality of a community depends not only on its economic prospects but also on the quality of its natural environment and outdoor recreational space. Previous recipients have undertaken projects that included the design of a water trail and tourism guide in Columbia, NC; the conversion of an abandoned rail line into a multi-use public trail along the historic Mission Zanja irrigation canal; planting flowers along a community trail to brighten an impoverished neighborhood of Los Angeles; and creating a county-wide greenway and tourism plan in Joe Daviess County, IL. Please see the application for full details and to apply for consideration of your greenway project for Kodak American Greenway Award funding.

### **Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Meetings**

Suzanne E. Copping, Project Manager, Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail extended an invitation to attend public planning sessions they are sponsoring. We share route locations and interested parties in many places in Maryland and Virginia. Here's a link with more information about the meetings

### **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 rivers and water trails. Please let me know if you are interested in pursuing this idea further.

### **13th National Trails System Conference**

The Partnership for the National Trails System has announced the 13th National Trails System Conference will be held in Abingdon, Virginia, May 14-18, 2011. For further information about the Partnership and to register go to [www.pnts.org](http://www.pnts.org) If you have questions email [PNTScommunications@gmail.com](mailto:PNTScommunications@gmail.com) or call 414-617-2525.

### **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>

### **Connecticut Markers on the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route**

We are working with the CT Forest and Park Association to provide a map for their trail month activities brochure. There are a number of trail related events in CT home which is home to three National Trails and we hope to have Washington Rochambeau NHT prominently listed. CT has developed a Washington Rochambeau Trail brochure and there is a publication about trail markers in CT [www.hseh.org/CT\\_MARKERS.pdf](http://www.hseh.org/CT_MARKERS.pdf)

**A Revolutionary War Battle and Camp**, May 14th and 15th, 2011 at Ridley Creek State Park in PA Skirmishes and activities will be ongoing with a battle at 1:30 and 4:00 on Saturday and 2:00 on Sunday. Activities include hearth cooking, cannon demonstration, American and Loyalist hospitals, and musket ball making. ...

<http://www.colonialplantation.org/RevWar.htm>