



Currents

Summer Youth Programs Help Park Get It Done

Two dozen young people joined us this summer to gain work experience, build trails, clean up storm blow-down, and learn about careers in the National Park Service.



Left: Students from the NPF "America's Best Idea" grant-funded Home-stretch program were joined by the Youth Conservation Corps and NPS Academy interns for a farewell float.

Supporting organizations included **Greening Youth Foundation**, **Student Conservation Association**, **Youth Conservation Corps**, **NPS Academy**, and the **National Park Foundation**. For one student's perspective on the grant-funded Home-stretch program, see page 2 below.



Left: Thumbs up for safe boating! NPS Academy interns LaSade Neal (center) and Ayana Brown with Supt. Patty Wissinger at Island Ford.

Superintendent's Corner

Summer Safety on the River

Island Ford-- With this year's wet spring and summer, the river is running higher than usual. Heavy rain can also raise bacteria levels. Check our web site for real-time **water** and **bacteria** levels before you float, and always wear a life jacket. Enjoy the river and be safe this summer!

--Patty Wissinger,
Superintendent, CRNRA

Volunteer Focus: Summer Splash is July 27th!

Morgan Falls to Powers Island-- Come join us and the City of Sandy Springs for the **Sixth Annual Summer Splash!** This easy six-mile float takes paddlers from Morgan Falls to Powers Island. The Summer Splash is a family-oriented event aimed at getting first-timers out on the river. A free shuttle is provided; you can bring your own boat or rent one from an outfitter. Visit the **park website** for more information, or call 678-538-1200 to sign up!

Below: Choose your own adventure--we need volunteers to help with everything from traffic control to getting boats out of the water to signing up participants. Send an email to mary_beach@nps.gov to volunteer!



UPCOMING RANGER-LED PROGRAMS

July 13-14: Flying Colors Butterfly Festival Chattahoochee Nature Center, 10 AM - 3 PM

July 12, August 9: Campfire and Night Hike Program Sibley Pond (Sope Creek), 8:30 to 10:30 PM

July 19, 20, 24, 25, August 16: Paddle with a Ranger Powers Island to Paces Mill, 5:30 to 8:30 PM

Reservations required for all programs: call 678-538-1200.

For a complete list, check our website at <http://www.nps.gov/chat/planyourvisit/events.htm>

NEW GEORGIA LAW: LIFE JACKETS MANDATORY FOR AGE 12 AND YOUNGER

All children under 13 must **wear** a life jacket at all times while on a moving boat. All people aged 13 or over must **have** a US Coast Guard-approved life jacket with them on the water. As in previous years, all persons must wear life jackets on the river between Buford Dam and Highway 20, and just below Morgan Falls Dam. Click [here](#) for more water safety information from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

KEEP ON PACKING IT OUT!

Paces Mill, Cochran Shoals, Medlock Bridge, Jones Bridge
 --The amount of time and money saved by the "Pack It Out" program at Chat-tahoochee River is evident in the amount of trash we still collect at Paces Mill, Cochran Shoals, Medlock and Jones Bridge. We appreciate all our visitors who are doing such a great job of keeping the park clean by remembering to bring trash bags and taking their litter home.



One day's worth of trash at Paces Mill fills a pickup truck.

Homestretch Youth Crew Works Hard, Plays Hard



Above: Homestretch crewmembers at work on the Island Ford trails.

Island Ford, Gold Branch, Paces Mill, Johnson Ferry North--In June, six local high students enrolled in the Homestretch program. Funded by a National Park Foundation grant called "America's Best Idea," the program taught the students job skills and introduced them to careers in the National Park Service. As one crewmember put it, "The whole month was a good experience. Starting from day one we as a group learned a lot of new things about trails. Since I been here I learned how to work harder and finish what I started. I really wasn't a nature guy, but after this program was over I am the **best** nature guy alive." The students plan to start a National Parks Club when they return to school in the fall.



What does this have to do with bats? Click [here](#) to read about a biologist's night trip on the Hooch!

Laser Scanning Project to Document Akers Mill Ruins

Akers Mill--This summer, laser scanning will be used to document the remains of one of the early flour mills on the Chattahoochee River. The project requires coordination with vegetation management, because the site hosts a Georgia state-listed plant species of concern. The vegetation management work on site has been done primarily by volunteers under the direction of park biologists. Akers Mill is located on the Rottenwood Creek Trail and was probably active during the Civil War. Archeologists believe that it was converted to steam power before going out of use.



Left: Akers Mill ruins with vegetation cleared away.

Right: A transit-like device is used to scan the building by emitting millions of laser bursts. Each burst is measured to produce a point cloud image, which is integrated with high definition digital photography to produce a very accurately measured record of the building.

