



Education Update Spring 2009

Bi-Annual Newsletter of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Education Branch

Bridging the Watershed is a Great Partner in Education

This fall over 400 students and teachers visited the park to participate in Bridging the Watershed (BTW) field studies. Bridging the Watershed is an outreach program of the Alice Ferguson Foundation, in partnership with the National Park Service and area schools. The program's purpose is to provide personally meaningful, educational experiences that connect students to their place in the natural and cultural world.

BTW and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park have developed a wonderful partnership that benefits the students of surrounding school districts. BTW Educators and Harpers Ferry Rangers work together to give students a hands-on experience that meets state curriculum standards for WV, MD, and VA schools and also connects students to their natural world and the park.

Five modules are offered in the park. They are:

- Alien Invaders: assessing exotic invasive species
- Don't Get Sedimental: runoff and sediment in the river
- Water Canaries: assessing benthic macroinvertebrates
- Watershed Watchdogs: assessing water quality
- Park-specific module called Water Power.

In order to participate in BTW field studies, teachers must attend a BTW summer teacher institute. These summer institutes prepare teachers to incorporate one or more of the BTW stand-alone curriculum modules into science courses. During these institutes, participants will explore the Potomac River watershed to learn about the local history, geology, and ecology and how to work with student investigations in the BTW

curricula. During the institutes, teachers conduct a field study in their participating parks to collect and analyze authentic data. This summer, the institute for Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and Monocacy National Battlefield will be June 15-18, 2009. Teachers can earn a stipend and graduate or MSDE credit for participating in the institute. For more information, visit the Bridging the Watershed website at www.fergusonfoundation.org.



Volunteering in the Education Branch

If you love history, the environment, and children, you can find many opportunities to assist the education branch at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park!

As a volunteer you will be able to choose how you can best contribute your time and skills.

Opportunities include:

- Leading education programs for K-12th grade students
- Assisting with office work
- Developing new education programs and resources for teachers.
- Assisting staff with special events
- Videotaping and photographing programs
- Assisting students with researching, planting, and tending a 19th century garden
- Conducting orientations for visiting school groups
- Leading hikes for visiting middle

school students

- Building shelves, cots, benches, etc. for use with education programs and materials
- Creating backdrops and murals for education programs
- Conducting research on topics in history, environmental science, education, or other related fields.

For more information please contact Amber Kraft by phone at 304-535-6293 or by e-mail at Amber_Kraft@nps.gov.

A Note from the Teacher's Desk: Catherine Bragaw, Education Program Manager

I wanted to share with you our vision and mission. I am hoping that this will give a better understanding of who we are, what we are about, and our goal to assure Harpers Ferry is one of *America's Greatest Classrooms*.

We believe all children deserve great parks and excellent educational experiences in our parks. We believe that in the meanings of these places, and through the voices of the past, the American story becomes real. It is in these stories that human spirit finds inspiration and insight.

We believe that in our parks young people can listen to the sound of America and in doing so can find their own voice. We believe in our parks, our young people can understand the struggle to build America and in doing so, find who they want to become. In this place and with us we hope that our young people can find the soul of America and in that discovery begins the shaping and the becoming of a new generation.

To ensure this our staff is dedicated to:

- ❖ Emphasis on learning rather than process
- ❖ Enhanced pedagogical understanding
- ❖ Improved teaching techniques
- ❖ Greater content knowledge
- ❖ Empowered team work
- ❖ Increased staff fulfillment
- ❖ Positive, energized growth
- ❖ Excellence in delivering place-based education

Catherine Bragaw
Education Program Manager

John Brown's Raid 150th Commemoration

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the John Brown Raid at Harpers Ferry, many special events will be going on for teachers, historians, and families. A few highlights are listed here. We hope you will be able to help us commemorate this historic event.

April 18 - "A Prelude to History" The Wedding of Virginia Kennedy

A full day of programs and activities focusing on the arrival of Captain John Cook to Harpers Ferry and his marriage to Virginia Kennedy. Highlights of this day include family and youth activities and a dramatic presentation entitled, "My Conspirator," the life of Captain John Cook as told by his sister, Kate.

Classroom Lesson Plan of the Month Contest

Help commemorate the sesquicentennial of the John Brown Raid at Harpers Ferry by creating an engaging lesson plan for your students. Your innovative lesson must cover some aspect of John Brown or the raid at Harpers Ferry. Submit your lesson plan for a chance to win a book courtesy of the Harpers Ferry Historical Association. This contest is open to all K-12 teachers. For complete rules please visit www.nps.gov/hafe/forteachers/john-brown-lesson-plan-contest.htm.

John Brown's Raid: Invasion at Harpers Ferry, Summer Institute for Teachers

From June 22-26, 4th-12th grade teachers can participate in a one-week workshop that will enable them to walk in the footsteps of John Brown and others involved in the raid on Harpers Ferry. Participants will be eligible for 3 hours of graduate credit. For applications and detailed

information on the institute, visit www.nps.gov/hafe/forteachers/teachers-institute.htm.

July 11-12 - Kennedy Farm Open House

The 150th anniversary of the arrival of "Isaac Smith" and sons. The afternoon will include tours, demonstrations and refreshments. This event is sponsored by the Kennedy Farm Foundation. More information can be found at www.johnbrown.org/toc.htm.

July 12-14 - Web & Onsite Teacher Institute

We are currently working in partnership with American Public University System to offer an institute that will be three days on site at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park combined with online work requirements. This course will be a graduate level history course with a curriculum and instruction component. More details on this exciting new professional development opportunity will be coming soon. Please check www.nps.gov/hafe/forteachers/teachers-institute.htm for updates.

October 16-18 - Sesquicentennial Commemoration of John Brown's Raid

Three days of public events focusing on the thirty-six hours of the raid on Harpers Ferry 150 years ago. The weekend will include music, drama, scholarship, living history, family and youth activities, and ranger conducted programs.

Information on these and other events commemorating the 150th anniversary of the raid can be found at www.johnbrownraid.org.

20th Annual School House Ridge Program



Our staff is excited to share a milestone with you! This year marks the 20th annual School House Ridge Program in partnership with Jefferson County, WV fifth grade classes.

Established in 1989, the School House Ridge Program was created to increase understanding and appreciation for nationally significant historic events that occurred in the community surrounding Harpers Ferry. A student field experience was developed and presented by the park and its teacher partners.

Later, a teacher/ranger cadre produced a week long curriculum guide to assist teachers with the unit.

Including this year's students, over 12,500 students, teachers, and chaperones of Jefferson County will have participated in the School House Ridge field experience. During this experiential learning event, students explore a significant Civil War story that occurred in their own community – the 1862 Battle of Harpers Ferry. Crucial to the 1862 Maryland Campaign, this battle provides compelling lessons on the human experience in war.

Revised lesson plans for the field experience and a pre-visit school experience were piloted in 2003 and 2004. These revisions, developed with local educators,

incorporate multi-learning modalities and student-directed teaching techniques. The revised education field and pre-visit experiences immerse students in the role of one Union soldier from the 126th New York Regiment. Through role-play, each student can gain greater insights into individual soldier experiences. During the field trip, living history stations connect students intellectually and emotionally to the personal and national significance of a regimental unit during battle and surrender.

As we lead students onto the Bolivar Heights battlefield this May to learn about their history, we shall not forget those teachers, administrators, and volunteers who make this field experience possible.



National Park Service
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The Education Update is the biannual newsletter of the Harpers Ferry NHP Education Branch. The Education Branch at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park offers education programs geared toward wide and varied audiences. Programs connect participants of all ages to the resources and stories of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Internship Opportunities at Harpers Ferry NHP

The education department at Harpers Ferry NHP is proud to announce our 2009 summer internship positions available for college students.

An education intern will be working on interpreting the many themes within the park, which include:

- How human endeavors affect natural landscapes.
- The Industrial Revolution.
- John Brown's 1859 Raid and the Civil War military and civilian history.
- African American history, Storer College, the Niagara Movement, the Civil Rights Movement.
- 18th, 19th, and 20th century life.

This is an excellent experience for anyone interested in education,

public history or environmental science!

Interns are eligible for free dormitory housing and a weekly reimbursement.

Please pass the word along to any students that you feel would be a good candidate.

Questions can be directed to the Education department at (304) 535-6283.





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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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Comments?
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New On-line Reservation System

We are delighted to announce that we will soon have an online education reservation system thanks to the help of intern Jeremiah Alexander!

For those of you who have a short planning period or a lunch break to plan a complex day full of programs and logistics, we hope that this new system will provide you with an efficient and seamless process. Of course, if you prefer the paper copies, we will keep those available as well. The pilot phase of this new reservation system will occur this spring and we plan to have a finalized system in place by fall 2009.

The idea of online reservations at Harpers Ferry came from many of *your* comments on our feedback forms over the past few years. As we begin this new system, we welcome your continued input and feedback.

For questions, concerns, or feedback please contact Autumn Cook at 304-535-2908 or Autumn_Cook@nps.gov.

Spread the Word

Tell all the teachers you know about the fun and exciting programs being offered by the Education Staff at Harpers Ferry NHP!

