



The Oasis

The seasonal newsletter of Prince William Forest Park • Volume 1, Issue 12

Prince William Forest Park - A Year in Review

Throughout 2007, park staff and volunteers worked together to protect park natural and historical resources and provide visitors with a positive park experience. This December 2007 edition of *The Oasis* highlights the many accomplishments of park staff throughout the year from each of the park work divisions: Maintenance, Cabin Camps, Interpretation, and Resources Management.

Maintenance

Buildings, Utilities, Roads & Trails

The 20 person Buildings and Utilities (B&U) staff accomplished many projects this year. This summer, B&U staff removed 26 old wayside exhibits and installed 29 newly-designed waysides throughout the park (shown right). Much of their year was spent on preserving the historic structures in the park.



A new wayside recently installed at a trailhead. Photo courtesy: NPS



Of note was the stabilization project of the historic Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) stable, built in 1938 (shown above). The roof had major rot damage and the structural strength was compromised by the weight of many layers of shingles. The stable is one of 49 structures in the Historic Camp Orenda (Camp 3) District listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

B&U staff also worked hard this spring to open the historic theater building at Cabin Camp 4 to camp users. The theater



is shown above in use in the 1940s by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), forerunner to the CIA, which temporarily used the park during World War II. B&U staff installed and painted new door hardware and stained and painted the entire exterior and interior doors and trim. New handicapped accessible bathrooms were also installed. B&U staff also rehabilitated 17 historic cabins in Cabin Camp 4, replacing roof shingles and repairing wood siding.

10 historic cabins in Cabin Camp 2 received new asphalt architectural shingles, which simulate the cedar wood shake roofs that were original to the cabins. They also removed the entire roof structure of a central bath house in Cabin Camp 5 and changed the roof design from a flat tar and gravel roof to an asphalt shingle pitched roof.

Staff worked with the Youth Conservation Corps crew of 15-18 year olds to repair the foot bridge on South Valley Trail located under the concrete bridge on Scenic Drive. The trail bridge has been resurfaced with TREX, a recycled plastic lumber product. Staff also installed new entrance signs at Travel Trailer Village, and at cabin camps 1 and 4 that are exact replicas of the original signs. The B&U staff look forward to another banner year in 2008!

Winter Family Fitness

The time of year has arrived when many of us begin our annual winter hibernation. Fight the temptation to succumb to lazy days in front of the television and venture out into one of Virginia's best kept secrets—Prince William Forest Park, a unit of the National Park Service.

Avoiding outdoor activities will lead to missing out on experiencing the wondrous vista of a transformed landscape. The piedmont forest, once a vibrant labyrinth of deciduous hardwoods and conifers, now appears almost barren—yet beautiful in its own unique way. Only during winter can one actually *see the forest through the trees*. Gullies, ridges, and rocks once hidden beneath a gentler season's ground-cover are now revealed—merely awaiting rediscovery.

Prince William Forest Park provides numerous opportunities for fitness during this wonderful season. Try “Fools Gold,” a moderately difficult hike that provides a glimpse of the site of the former Cabin Branch Pyrite Mine. The mine was closed in 1920. In 1995, the National Park Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Commonwealth of Virginia worked together to reclaim the polluted site, protecting the Quantico Creek watershed. This 3 mile scenic hike offers an ideal blend of natural beauty and hidden history. Along the way hikers will see remnants of some of the mine's 70 buildings, an old family cemetery, sealed mineshafts, and possibly a variety of wildlife. Be certain to stop by the visitor center to pick up a “Cabin Branch Pyrite Mine” brochure and a “Fool's Gold” trail map to discover the mine's fascinating history.

If hiking boots are not your footwear of choice, the park also offers snow-shoeing and cross-country skiing opportunities, when mother nature cooperates. These activities are permitted on all of the 9 miles of unpaved roads in the park and on the main park roads when snowy conditions close them. There are a few things to remember when venturing outdoors in winter:

National Parks Help Decorate White House Christmas Tree

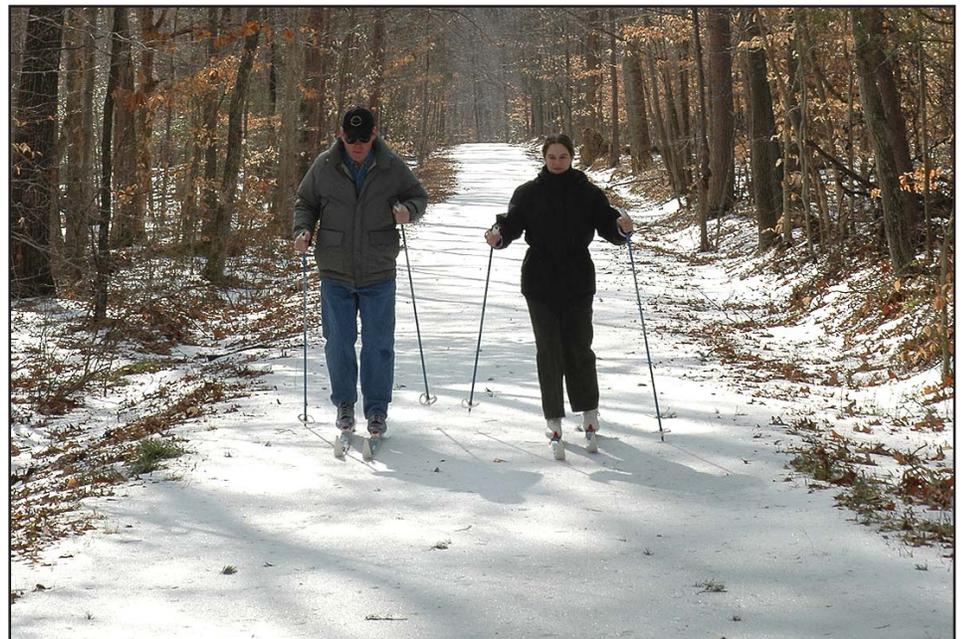
This fall, Prince William Forest Park staff received notification that First Lady Laura Bush had requested specially-designed ‘national park’ ornaments to decorate the White House Christmas tree. There are 391 units of the National Park Service and Prince William Forest Park staff were proud to showcase the special resources of this park through holiday art.

Matthew Lawrence, a local artist, volunteered to decorate the gold Christmas ornament with characters he had also drawn for the new junior ranger booklet (due to be published this spring). Matthew's charismatic characters represent different eras in the history of Prince William Forest Park, from the colonial era to the Great Depression to the present day. He hand painted the ornament with images of a ranger and children crossing the bridge on the South Valley Trail that is often called the ‘Michelangelo’ or ‘arch’ bridge.



A volunteer hand painted the ornament. Photo courtesy: NPS

The bridge is one of the most photographed sites in the park. In recognition for his artistic talent and dedication, Matthew attended an event at the White House where ornament artists from around the country met with the First Lady. Visit www.whitehouse.gov/holiday for photos of the National Park ornaments.



The park offers many opportunities for fitness during the winter. Photo courtesy: NPS

- Stretch and warm up. Cold temperatures may make muscles tighter and therefore more prone to injuries.
- Layer your clothing. This is the best way to insulate the body from the cold, while allowing the option of removing the top layer, should the need arise.
- Hydrate. Drinking plenty of liquids is just as important in the winter as it is in the warmer seasons.

Park Is Site Of National Orienteering Event

Under three days of beautiful skies (November 2-4), the Quantico Orienteering Club (QOC) hosted the 2007 US Sprint and US Individual Orienteering Championships in Prince William Forest Park. It was the culmination of over one year of careful coordination and cooperative planning with park staff. The 2007 Championships attracted a record 500+ participants from 11 countries who enjoyed the beauty of the park and its natural and recreational resources.

Orienteering is an outdoor sport in which participants use a map and compass to navigate on foot (or in some cases by other means) around a course composed of a series of checkpoints. Exercising both mind and body, orienteering appeals to all ages and skill levels. It is also both environmentally benign and perhaps the ideal antidote to “nature deficit disorder,” the term coined by author Richard Louv in [Last Child in the Woods](#). The book draws attention to the increasing lack of connection between children and the outdoors.

The recent event was certainly an excellent example of the wide appeal of the sport. Participants ranged in age from 6 to 81 and 35% were female. Course participants were



A beginner makes his way through the course. Photo courtesy: Keg Good

evenly spread over the ten course levels, ranging in difficulty from “beginner” to the advanced “world ranking” elite class. Participation set a new record in part due to the history of previous orienteering events at the park, along with smaller scale local events held every year (such as those coming up in January and February of 2008). Championship events have been successfully hosted in the park for over 30 years, most recently in 2002.

Historically, the Quantico Orienteering Club started as an outgrowth of the Physical Fitness Academy at the nearby Quantico Marine Base in 1967. Now, 40 years later, QOC has grown into a nonprofit organization holding over 20 public orienteering events per year throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, along with a variety of educational outreach efforts primarily involving schools and youth groups. For more information about QOC, visit the QOC website at <http://qoc.us.orienteering.org>.

Non-Native Fish Discovered in Park



The Northern Snakehead fish. Photo courtesy: NPS

During the week of September 17th, biologists from the National Park Service and ecologists from the Fairfax County Storm Water Planning Division discovered the presence of the non-native, northern snakehead fish (*Channa argus*) in Quantico

Creek, within Prince William Forest Park. Two northern snakehead fish, measuring 9 and 11 inches, were captured and removed during a routine annual fish survey. The

Park personnel are concerned about the impact of the Northern Snakehead fish on native fish habitats...

survey took place downstream from the confluence of Quantico and South Fork Quantico Creeks, approximately one half mile west of Dumfries, VA. The northern snakehead is an invasive fish species with a ferocious appetite that threatens native fish habitat in the park and across the region.

The park Resource Management Division has an active forest health program that monitors and manages non-native invasive species. Park pest control activities include the eradication of invasive plant species and non-native insects such as the Gypsy Moth. Park personnel are concerned about the impact of the northern snakehead fish on native fish, and are exploring possible management alternatives.

For more information or if you see a northern snakehead fish in the park, please contact the Prince William Forest Park Resource Stewardship office at 703-221-3406.

Cabin Camp Update

The Cabin Camp Division at Prince William Forest Park had a very busy and exciting year. The camps were bustling with activity this spring and summer as groups of all ages occupied all five cabin camps. Throughout the year, over 23,000 visitors stayed overnight in a historic cabin camp!

Despite the hustle and bustle of checking groups of campers in and out of the camps and keeping the camps stocked and prepared, cabin camp employees and volunteers managed to accomplish many other important tasks as well. These include improvements such as the replacement of old bed frames and mattresses, the removal of out-of-service dishwashers and the installation of new stainless steel counters. Cabin Camp staff also purchased five new drum grills that are now available for rental, and new garden carts to provide campers with an easy way to transport luggage and supplies from the parking lot to the cabins.



Cabin Camp 5. Photo courtesy: NPS

The cabin camp division welcomed the assistance of several wonderful volunteer cabin camp hosts, who dedicated much of their time, effort, and heart to the camps and their campers. Their hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated!

The cabin camps will open for 2008 as part of a multi-day effort from the last weekend of April into the beginning of May. We are seeking volunteers (groups are encouraged!) to assist with preparing the camps for opening day in late March.

If you are interested in taking part in the opening of the cabin camps, please call Volunteer Coordinator Jenn Kays at 703-221-7181.

The Year in Resource Management (Natural & Cultural)

The Resource Management Division underwent major changes in 2007. Gone are seasonal Biological Science Technicians James Pieper and Laura Lakeman, and newly arrived is Division Chief, David Hayes, who joined us from Denver, CO.

This year's natural resource highlights include a terrific summer seasonal program and the unfortunate discovery of the snakehead fish in Quantico Creek. Resource staff also discovered four new colonies of the small-whorled pogonia, the only federally listed 'threatened' species in the park. Thanks to the addition of many Student Conservation Association (SCA) interns, the natural resources program accomplished numerous goals in 2007. In the spring, SCA intern Erica Carlsson conducted a restoration project at the Pyrite Mine site. Assisted by volunteers and other SCA interns, Erica coordinated the planting of 1,000 plants at the Pyrite Mine site. During the summer, SCA interns Gavin Richards, Rehanon Nehus, Sam Jones, and GIS Technician Allison Carlstrom worked to complete an ongoing stream bank project, monitor water quality, survey all road features, and chemically treat over 20 acres of invasive plant species. The 2007 team was truly fantastic!

Cultural (*historical*) Resources staff were included in a large National Park Service Digital Imaging Project. Experts from the NPS digitized 300+ maps, photos, and objects. The digital images will be accessible for use by park employees for research and interpretation. Many of the images will be used in an upcoming on-line museum, part of the National Park Service's Museum Management Program, which will showcase the park museum collection. To view current on-line museums, visit www.nps.gov/history/museum. Curatorial manpower was strengthened with the addition of Carol Anne Krippen, an SCA intern, who completed a 12 week internship with the cultural resources staff.

The park staff has been busily reviewing drafts for two exciting research projects that will be finalized soon. The first study,

Spies in the Park, by Dr. John Cambers of Rutgers University, researches the Office of Strategic Services training practices in the park during WWII. The second study, *Conserving Place, Prince William Forest Park, 1900-1945*, finalizes the *Prince William Forest Park: The African American Experience* study that began in the year 2002.

National Public Lands Day a Success



Children plant a tree on National Public Lands Day. Photo courtesy: NPS

A big hearty thank you to everyone that pitched in one way or another to make the 2007 National Public Lands Day a success! Many volunteers and Friends Group members participated in leading projects, while others contributed their efforts behind the scene. Approximately 60 volunteers of all ages pitched in to help the park complete a large variety of projects in just one day.

What exactly was accomplished by staff and volunteers on that beautiful fall day?

- Two cabins in Cabin Camp 3 had the exterior completely stained; one had the interior floor treated with linseed oil.
- One footbridge on the Piedmont Forest Trail was taken down and half of it was rebuilt using recycled materials.
- The Washington-Rochambeau route/Potomac Path/King's Highway cultural resource had approximately 1/2 mile of brush cleared by the Friends of Prince William Forest Park and park staff.
- South Valley Trail between the western most concrete bridge on Scenic Drive and

Continued on page 5 ...

High Meadows Trail was brushed back and a re-route was completed by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, re-opening this stretch of trail that had been closed for some time.

- Large sections of logs were placed on the reclaimed slope of the Pyrite Mine to assist in creating a better environment for native trees to grow and to inhibit the growth and proliferation of a non-native species.

- Approximately 78 native plants were installed at two park quarters as landscaping and approximately 100 feet of two rail, split rail fence was installed at another site.

- Four park benches were assembled (by a 1 man team!) and placed at the visitor center.

- Surplus concrete blocks were organized on pallets and several hundred feet of brush and vegetation was removed from the maintenance area perimeter fence.

In total, 332 volunteer hours were contributed by 63 Volunteers-In-Parks (VIPs). This is the equivalent of a week's worth of work for 8.3 full time employees!

Thanks to one and all for making the day a success!



Volunteer assembling a bench on National Public Lands Day. Photo courtesy: NPS

My Time As A Student Intern by Jamina Winston



Intern Jamina Winston collecting macroinvertebrates in the field. Photo courtesy: NPS

When I received the call telling me I was chosen as an SCA (Student Conservation Association) intern for Prince William Forest Park I was ecstatic. I had never worked in a National Park before. Although I was filled with excitement, I was a bit uneasy about going to a park that I had never even heard of and to travel from Arizona. I am glad that I chose Prince William Forest Park, or rather that the park chose me. The small size of the park allowed me to meet everyone across all divisions. This is something that is not always possible in larger parks. Everyone here was welcoming, helpful, and caring. I am amazed that more people do not know about this oasis.

Since my time here began in mid September, I have completed many tasks for the park. My biggest accomplishment was creating a park science curriculum for high

school students. This will allow visiting students to learn about science behind the Cabin Branch Pyrite Mine that operated within the park at the turn of the century. As part of the program, students will stay overnight in our historic cabins, test soil and water at the Pyrite Mine site, and conclude whether the 1995 reclamation of the mine was successful at creating an ecologically-benign mine site.

The SCA has been a great opportunity. I would recommend this experience to anyone who may be interested in conservation work. They offer thousands of opportunities for people of all ages and interests to work in over 50 professional fields in all 50 states. This organization has allowed me to experience many things that I may not have otherwise been able to. Visit www.thesca.org for more information.

Your Fee Dollars at Work

In 2007, funds collected at the park entrance and campgrounds were reinvested in park improvements, in addition to paying for the seasonal employees that collect the fees. Picnic tables and grills were replaced at sites in Oak Ridge Campground and Telegraph Picnic area (\$28,960); a new dock was put in on Lake 4 for use by the users of Camp Pleasant (Cabin Camp 4)(\$8,080); repairs to the historic Infirmary building in Camp Pleasant (\$130,000); and replace-

ment of the heating and air conditioning system and windows in park headquarters building (\$21,000).

Park entrance, annual pass, and campground fees are used for projects such as deferred maintenance needs and projects with a high visitor connection content. Thank you for taking care of your neighborhood national park!

Interpretive Program Attendance up by 65%

The Interpretation Division had a fun and productive year and increased interpretive contacts by over 65%. In FY2006, 1,659 people attended ranger-led programs in the park; in FY2007 that number rose to over 4,000 people. Throughout the summer, staff provided three weekly programs to the visiting public: a Saturday night campfire program, a Tuesday morning 'Discovery Walk' for youngsters, and a Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning hike. For the first time, park staff presented first run, family-friendly movies on Friday nights. These movies were sponsored by the Friends of Prince William Forest Park and all had themes related to the park resources. Hundreds of people attended these programs. Some of the more popular interpretive programs developed by park staff included Letterboxing, Operation Prince William Forest Park (PRWI), Spies in the Park, Build-a-Tree, Home-Sweet-Home and a Fire Ecology Hike which interpreted the 318 acre burn area from a 2006 wildland fire.

A "Welcome to the CCC" campfire program was developed this year. It took visitors through the first day of a CCC-enrollee and directly linked visitors to one of the most important aspects of the park's history. In July, the park hosted a concert by the Little Union Baptist Church choir. This was an important event as the church was once located within the park boundary.

Another large undertaking this year was the completion of the \$180,000 wayside plan. The plan, multiple years in the making, was finalized and the first 29 waysides were installed by the maintenance staff.

Staff developed rack cards that were professionally printed along with five new informative brochures. Through a volunteer agreement, the park obtained drawings for its new junior ranger booklet (still in design phase). The drawings depict children from throughout the park's historical eras.

The Interpretation staff also worked with the Cultural Resources staff to 'rediscover' two 16mm films in the park collection and to convert them to DVDs. The first, *The*



Ranger Corinne gives her popular "Operation PRWI" program. Photo courtesy: NPS

Human Crop, was a 1936 National Park Service propaganda film that promoted the founding of this park as a recreational area for urban populations. The second film, *The Story of Prince William Forest Park*, was a 1950s film promoting the use of the park by social service agencies as a place for lifelong learning. Both films can be viewed at the visitor center daily from 9 am to 5 pm.

Throughout the year, the park interpretation staff hosted multiple events. 'Paws in the Park' featured over 20 exhibitors on

dogs, safety, and multiple police K-9 teams. Over 200 visitors attended the event which aimed at curbing 'dog-off-leash' issues in the park. Park interpreters also staffed a table at the Prince William County Fair, Prince William County Earth Day, and Forest Park Science Days. Park staff also spoke at 10 middle and elementary schools for career day programs. Many thanks to our seasonal employees, Student Conservation Association interns, and volunteers who made this past year such a success and to our wonderful visitors!

Centennial Challenge to Benefit Park

President Bush announced the National Park Service Centennial Challenge initiative on August 25, 2007. This bold initiative seeks to provide funding of up to one million dollars per year for 10 years ending in 2016. 2016 will mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Park Service. President Bush is challenging Americans to partner with the NPS in the form of matching funds for identified projects.

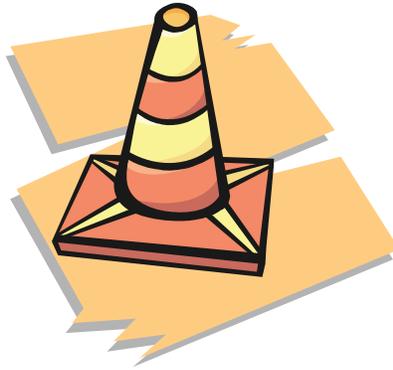
Prince William Forest Park has two projects that have been approved so far. The first is to further our partnership with the Alice Ferguson Foundation to enhance the Bridging the Watershed (BTW) program with local high schools. The second, as yet unfunded project, seeks funding and a

partner to implement a visitor access from Route 234. An Environmental Assessment completed in 2006 identified the preferred alternative for a visitor access point from Route 234 at Waterway Drive as a parking lot with access to a trail head. Further funding is required to complete an engineering design, and then construction funds to implement the design.

Additional funding for park operating budgets will go to hiring additional seasonal staff. Three positions within visitor services and three positions in maintenance are targeted. These positions are seasonal appointments of 1040 hours and recruitment began in early December. Visit www.nps.gov/prwi for more information.

Safety Corner: If You Can't Do it Safely, Don't Do it!

Have you ever heard this before? Ask any employee here at Prince William Forest Park and they will tell you they definitely have! Safety plays an integral role in our ability to meet our mission of protecting park resources and facilitating their use by the public. Park management and staff have personally demonstrated their commitment to a safe workplace, which in turn provides the visitor with that same safe place. Controlling hazard exposures that may affect employees also has a positive affect on your experience as one of our many visitors.



Our goal in safety remains the same: to build a culture that creates a safe and healthy environment in which to work and live. Prince William Forest Park has been the proud recipient of the National Capital Region's Safety Excellence Award for 5 out of the 6 past years. These awards are visual reminders of our daily commitment to working safely. We want you to have a safe, enjoyable experience each time you visit the park. At work or play, safety all the way! Think ZERO – when it relates to accidents & injuries.

A Deer in the Headlights

Prince William Forest Park is home to a variety of wild animals, including the white-tailed deer. While visiting the park please be especially careful and on the look-out for these beautiful animals. In winter, an increase in deer activity brings deer closer to roadways and increases the possibility of a deer-vehicle collision. Keep in mind that the white-tailed deer interactions may peak during the fall breeding season, during which they increase their travel habits in order to find a mate.

With that in mind, here are some tips to help avoid the possibility of collisions, and make your drive and visit safer.

- Always drive with caution and anticipate deer when driving through the park.
- Deer are most active at dawn and dusk, but they may cross roads at any time of the day. If you encounter a deer on a roadway, slow down and look for others; deer seldom run alone!
- Deer are unpredictable - they may re-cross back from where they came. Wait until the road is clear before proceeding.
- Always use your high beams at night when there is no opposing traffic because high beams illuminate the eyes of deer on or near a roadway and provide a greater motorist reaction time.

Human fatalities are more likely when motorists swerve to avoid deer and collide with roadside obstacles or oncoming traffic.

Did you know?

- There are an estimated one million deer-vehicle collisions annually in the United States, resulting in thousands of injuries, and sometimes death.
- A deer is visible less than 200 feet from your vehicle. It takes a car about 317 feet to stop at 55 MPH under optimum conditions.
- If a collision with a deer appears inevitable, do not maneuver to avoid impact. Deer may counter-maneuver. Brake firmly and stay in your lane. Human fatalities are more likely when motorists swerve to avoid deer and collide with roadside obstacles or oncoming traffic.
- Always keep your eyes moving; never focus only on the middle of the road. This will give you a better span of view.



A Whitetail Deer. Photo courtesy: NPS

White tail deer can often be seen grazing along road sides and, specifically, in and around the visitor center in the misty, early morning hours. Please remember that while deer may seem relaxed and tame, they are wild animals. While you may feel free to view deer from a safe distance, please do not approach them or attempt to feed or harass them in any way. This mission of the National Park Service includes protecting our park wildlife and park staff are thankful for your cooperation.

Friends of Prince William Forest Park Reach Great Heights

The Friends of Prince William Forest Park kicked off September with the Chopawamsic Cycle Challenge. This year's annual fundraiser raised over \$1200 to be used for park events and projects. The Cycle Challenge began at the baseball field in Cabin Camp 4 and wrapped around Scenic Drive to finish back at the ball field. The event featured prizes and lunch provided by the International Mountain Biking Association and Friends member Scott Scudmore. The event attracted over 50 riders of all ages. Participants included cyclists from all over the region and youth organizations such as Young Marines and Trips for Kids.



Riders rise to the Chopawamsic Cycle Challenge. Photo courtesy: NPS

Several Friends members participated in National Public Land's Day on September 29th. The group worked to clear the Washington Rochambeau Trail of debris – an ongoing project the group started in June. Friends member Martin Bomar also worked to build new benches for visitors, now placed in various areas of the park.



Twenty-one Friends members and their guests toured the National Mall in Washington, D.C on October 21st (shown above). Led by Friends member and Prince William Forest Park volunteer Bill Harris, the group was taken on a special tour of the Washington Monument. Bill and National Park Service Ranger Kristi Thiel led the group down the 896 steps through the stairway lined with 193 memorial stones dating as far back as 1848. The group also walked to the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial for a very personal view of the memorial and the history of the site. The group is already planning the October field trip for 2008 to be announced this spring.

Join the Friends on March 29th for the Virginia celebration of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The group will be hosting a dinner in recognition of the alumni, family, and friends of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Virginia.

The dinner event is open to the public. For more information please visit the Friends of Prince William Forest Park website at www.fpwfp.org.



The Friends are a group of park enthusiasts who promote and protect Prince William Forest Park. All are welcome to join this fun and dynamic group. Monthly meetings are held at the Prince William Forest Park Visitor Center at 1pm the first Sunday of every month. Visit the newly redesigned Friends website at www.fpwfp.org.

Visitor's Voice

Dear Rangers,

I just wanted to express my appreciation. My daughter (age 7) and I just spent a night camping in your backcountry area. We also visited your visitor center, where she completed the workbook and became a junior ranger. Your park is a real treasure, being so close to my home in Washington DC. And your staff is wonderful: helpful, friendly, and professional. Even your website is great. Keep up the good work! I look forward to my next visit!

-Joe
Washington DC





National Park Service
 U.S. Department of the Interior
 Prince William Forest Park
 18100 Park Headquarters Road
 Triangle, Va 22172-1644



A Note From the Superintendent: Proposed Fee Increase

Dear Park Visitors;

Throughout this winter, park staff will working hard to ready the trails and facilities for another spring and summer season. Each year we aim to meet the highest standards in customer service and visitor satisfaction. As a unit of the National Park Service, Prince William Forest Park belongs not only to the current generation, but to those generations yet to come.

To continue to meet those high standards in the coming years, we are planning increases in two of our visitor fees in April of 2009. It is our goal to keep the park open and accessible to everyone, without imposing a financial burden.

We propose to maintain the current \$5.00 per vehicle entrance fee and \$3.00 per person walk-in fee for the foreseeable future. In April of 2009, the \$20.00 annual pass will increase to a \$30.00 pass, and the campsite fee at Oak Ridge Campground will increase from \$15.00 to \$20.00. The Interagency Senior Pass (62+) and Interagency Access Pass (for persons with disabilities) will continue to provide a 50% discount at Oak Ridge Campground.

These proposed fee changes will help the park to maintain its current standards of customer service despite rising fuel, utility, and personnel costs. Your entrance fees work to make large-scale capital improvements possible in the park such as the new waterline installed in 2006.

We are collecting public comment regarding this fee change. Please e-mail your comments to prwi_fees@nps.gov or call 703-221-7181.

Thank you for your interest and continued support of Prince William Forest Park.

Sincerely,
 Bob Hickman, Superintendent

The Oasis, the official seasonal newsletter of Prince William Forest Park, is released in spring, summer, fall, and winter. To receive this newsletter via e-mail, visit www.nps.gov/prwi and click on 'e-mail us.'

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Prince William Forest Park Information Directory

- General Park Information 703-221-7181,
Visitor Center - Open daily 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Camping 703-221-7181
 Including individual, group and backcountry.
- Cabin Camping 703-221-5843
 Including group cabins and individual rentals
- Travel Trailer Village 800-737-5730
 RV/Trailer camping facility off Route 234 with full hook-ups.
- Ranger-led Programs 703-221-7181
 Including regularly scheduled, special request and education programs.
- Volunteering in the Park 703-221-7181
 Learn how you can help.

Official Park Website www.nps.gov/prwi
 For the latest information about the park, surf this way.