

The Nor'easter

National Parks & Partners Making a Difference

The Nor'easter is published quarterly in partnership with Eastern National.

National Parks in the Northeast Region

Where a country was born and a nation came of age

Regional Director's Corner

Dear Friends,

Thank you all so much for your support of this great Region and your support for me. I have learned so much about this Region from the National Park Service workforce and from our partners; and the more I learn, the prouder I am of all you are accomplishing.

I am truly excited about this newsletter which is produced with the help of one of our principal partners, Eastern National. Improved communication can only strengthen our team, and through this publication, I hope to inspire understanding, appreciation and respect for what the NPS and its partners can achieve for these special places in the Northeast.



Mary A. Bomar serves as the advocate for an incredible legacy of history, beauty and fragility. Of seven National Park Service (NPS) regions nationwide, the Northeast Region is the most densely populated and welcomes at least 55 million visitors each year.

Covering thirteen states, the Region has an annual operating budget of over \$200 million and more than 3,500 employees.

She was confirmed as Regional Director on July 21, 2005. Bomar leads a talented corps of professionals, headquartered in Philadelphia.

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operate, collaborate and communicate in the service of conservation. This region is a model for using this approach, which is known as Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton's 4Cs.

If the noblest motive really is the public good, I am honored to lead a group who consistently put the parks and the public first. This newsletter will help me place this region, our NPS team and our partners front and center — showing just what great work we do to ensure our visitors, our stakeholders and our special places receive the very best service possible.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Bomar
Northeast Regional Director

The National Park System in our 13-Northeastern states serves as a gateway to the American experience. Stretching from where the sun first touches North America to the far reaches of the Ohio River, the region encompasses America's largest number of national heritage areas and national historic landmarks, its richest national park museum collections and its most visited urban national parks. Distinct from the vast western parks, America's heritage in this region is best defined by the sheer numbers of people with whom we coop-

Gettysburg National Military Park

Ground Broken for New Museum and Visitor Center

Ground was broken on June 2, 2005, for a new state-of-the-art museum and visitor center adjacent to the Gettysburg battlefield.

"The groundbreaking ritual marks the end of one phase of the project and the beginning of another," said **Robert A. Kinsley**, chairman of the board of directors of the Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum Foundation, which is funding and building the facilities, and will operate them for 20 years. "We will see you back on this site for the opening of the museum in 2007."

The 139,000 square foot, \$68.3 million facility has been designed to blend into the rural Pennsylvania countryside. It is sited at a low point in the terrain so it will not be visible from major interpretive points on the battlefield. Cooper Robertson & Partners of New York City is the design architect; LSC Design of York, Pa., is the architect of record.

"Today we celebrate a partnership that will help ensure that the treasures of Gettysburg National Military Park are forever preserved," said **Fran P. Mainella**, director of the National Park Service, which is working in partnership with the Gettysburg Museum Foundation to preserve the resources of the park, to tell the story of the Gettysburg Campaign, and to give visitors a deeper, more lasting appreciation for what happened here.

Ground was broken at what will be the front door of the new facility when it opens in late 2007. Members of Pennsylvania's Congressional delegation, along with representatives from National Park Service Washington and Northeast Regional offices, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Borough of Gettysburg, Cumberland Township and Adams County joined representatives from the Foundation and Gettysburg National Military Park for the formal groundbreaking ceremonies. Many of the more than 250 private foundations, corporations and individuals that have made donations to the project also participated.

"Gettysburg has long deserved a museum and visitor center that properly honors the sacrifices of the men who fought here, that preserves the artifacts and archives from



[above] Groundbreaking at Gettysburg, left to right: Paul Hoffman, deputy assistant secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior; U.S. Rep. Todd Platts (Pa.); Robert A. Kinsley, chairman, Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum Foundation Board of Directors; John Latschar, superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park; U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum (Pa.); Robert C. Wilburn, president, Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum Foundation; Fran Mainella, director, National Park Service. [right] saluted by Civil War re-enactors.



"Today we celebrate a partnership that will help ensure that the treasures of Gettysburg National Military Park are forever preserved"

—Fran Mainella

that era in our nation's history, that excites and inspires new generations of visitors about what happened here, and that helps visitors understand how the events of that era connect to what is going on in our world today," said Gettysburg Foundation President **Robert C. Wilburn**.

The new museum and visitor center represents the heart of the foundation's "Campaign to Preserve Gettysburg," which will help protect the resources of the park and help visitors better understand the sacred ground of Gettysburg, America's most revered Civil War battlefield.

"We want to create a sense of place that evokes the emotions of 1863, while also meeting visitors' expectations of a 21st-century museum experience," Wilburn said. "The building will showcase the battlefield and encourage visitors to go outside and explore the historic landscape." Exhibits will immerse visitors in the stories of the battle and the Civil War era. These stories will be told — in the words of the participants — from the perspectives of the commanders, the common soldiers, the civilians and the war correspondents.

The campaign will fund not only the design and construction of the new Museum and Visitor Center, but also the restoration of the Gettysburg Cyclorama painting, preservation of the park's extensive collection of Civil War-era artifacts and archives, and the return of portions of the battlefield, as closely as possible, to their 1863 appearance.

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Gettysburg

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As of June 1st, the Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum Foundation has identified more than \$75 million in commitments to support the fundraising campaign.

Of that total:

■ \$11.9 million — 15.9 percent — has been appropriated by Congress.

■ \$20.5 million — 27.3 percent — comes from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

■ \$42.6 million — 56.8 percent — comes from the private sector.

Of the private sector funding, \$12 million is being borrowed from commercial lenders and the remainder is in-hand from the private foundations, corporations and individuals. Many of the campaign's donors have committed \$1 million or more. They include: The Kinsley Family Foundation, Marguerite and Gerry Lenfest, Ford Motor Company Fund, The McCormick-Tribune Foundation, The History Channel, The Boeing Company, The Coca-Cola Company, Gettysburg Tours, The Sumner T. McKnight Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts.

For more information on the project go to: www.nps.gov/gett or www.gettysburgfoundation.org



Regional Director Mary Bomar, Congressman John Murtha and NPS Director Fran Mainella share a light moment at Gettysburg.

Appomattox Manor Part of Petersburg National Battlefield



[above] On Tuesday, May 24, Mary Bomar, Regional Director for the Northeast Region of the National Park Service signed the Record of Decision (ROD) on the General Management Plan at Petersburg National Battlefield. A brief ceremony was held and a few invited officials presented comments about the impact of the GMP on their respective communities. Invited guests, the media and the general public witnessed the signing and light refreshments were shared afterwards. Pictured from left to right, Greg Horwedel, administrator, Dinwiddie County, Va; Annie Mickens, mayor of Petersburg, Va; Dr. Joseph Leming, chairman, Prince George County Board of Supervisors; Bob Kirby, superintendent, PETE; Mary Bomar, Regional Director; Jerry Smith, maintenance worker, PETE; Chris Calkins, chief, Division of Interpretation, PETE.

The Northeast Museum Services Center (NMSC) provides technical assistance to parks in the Northeast Region. A team from NMSC recently completed a technical assistance project at Petersburg National Battlefield to prepare the historic Appomattox Manor in Hopewell, Virginia for a line-item construction project to install a fire suppression system.

Appomattox Manor was occupied by General Ulysses S. Grant and Union troops in 1864. The house belonged to Dr. Richard Epps, and his family retained ownership of the site until transferring it to the NPS in the 1970s. The NMSC team moved the historic collections to a new storage facility at nearby Fort Lee. The team conducted two site visits, one in October of 2004 and the

second in May 2005, following up on several important recommendations identified in the Collection Management Plan for PETE created by NMSC in Fiscal Year 2004.

The NMSC team included Senior Curator, Mark Isaksen, Museum Specialist Alicia Paresi Friedman, Museum Technician Jessica Costello, Student Intern Jennifer McCann, and Historian Louis Hutchins. Assisting the team was Archeologist Jason Huggins and Beth Aucuff, from the Fort Lee Archeological Curation Facility, part of a Department of Defense military base adjacent to the park. The partnership with the new facility at Fort Lee enabled the park to safely store their museum collections in a secure and stable location within close proximity to the park.

Working closely with PETE Curator Jimmy Blankenship, the technical assistance team helped to relocate all the museum collections in storage and on exhibit at Appomattox Manor. The park maintenance division organized a crew to assist our team with some of the heavy lifting during the move. The move required expert packing and crating of many fragile items, including furniture, paintings, carpets, rare books and decorative objects. In addition to temporarily removing items from the parlor, library and dining room, the crew also permanently moved museum collections stored in the basement and second floor of the house, including many boxes of archeological materials recovered from excavations at the park.

In May 2005, the team returned to complete the rehousing of museum collections that will remain in storage at Fort Lee, and to transport the furnishings and decorative objects back to Hopewell for reinstallation into the parlor and library of Appomattox Manor. The historic house is scheduled to reopen to the public in mid-June. By consolidating museum collections into the new storage facility at Fort Lee, the park can eliminate multiple storage locations that did not meet NPS standards. The team also reboxed the archeology collections into archival boxes and bags and cleaned the entire collection of historic books on exhibit at Appomattox Manor. Before leaving PETE, the NMSC team prepared a final inventory of the park museum collections in the new Fort Lee storage facility, and reorganized the storage equipment into the most efficient plan possible.

NMSC technical assistance provides parks with specialized professional curatorial expertise and strengthens the capabilities of park staff to manage complex projects. With assistance targeted to meet the needs of each park project, NMSC can help to enable partnerships and cooperative agreements to enhance the museum program at a park.

21st Century Relevancy

The African Burial Ground National Historic Landmark

The U.S. General Services Administration and the National Park Service announced in April the selection of a design submitted by Harris Architects, Rodney Leon designer, for the memorial that will mark the site of the African Burial Ground in lower Manhattan. Buried thirty feet below the city that grew up atop it, the African Burial Ground was an invisible landmark that came to light when the construction of a new federal office building led to the disinterment and reburial of 419 sets of remains. The memorial planned for the site seeks to keep alive the memory of those who are buried there, what they endured, and what they achieved.

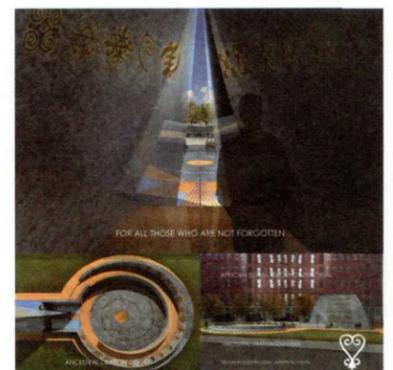
“We’re truly grateful to Deputy Director Don Murphy who is a great supporter of this project,” said Regional Director Mary Bomar. The NPS project is managed by Tara Morrison. Keith Everett and Dennis Montagna served on the selection committee that chose from among five finalist designs. Montagna chaired

the committee that also included GSA colleagues from throughout the nation.

The Park Service also led the effort to determine what kind of memorial the public wanted to see at the site by conducting a series of five Public Forums in June 2004, one in each of New York’s boroughs. During these, the public was able to see presentations by each designer and comment on the designs both verbally and in written form.

With public input that the June forums provided, the designers spent the summer revising and developing their designs in preparation for another round of public comment. Throughout September 2004, the public was able to see the completed designs at six locations throughout the city, as well as online, and submit evaluations of them. Nearly five hundred people provided written critiques of the designs. Transcriptions of the public’s written responses to the five designs are available at

www.africanburialground.com



Artist's renditions of memorial design. Rodney Leon, architect.

Mary Bomar

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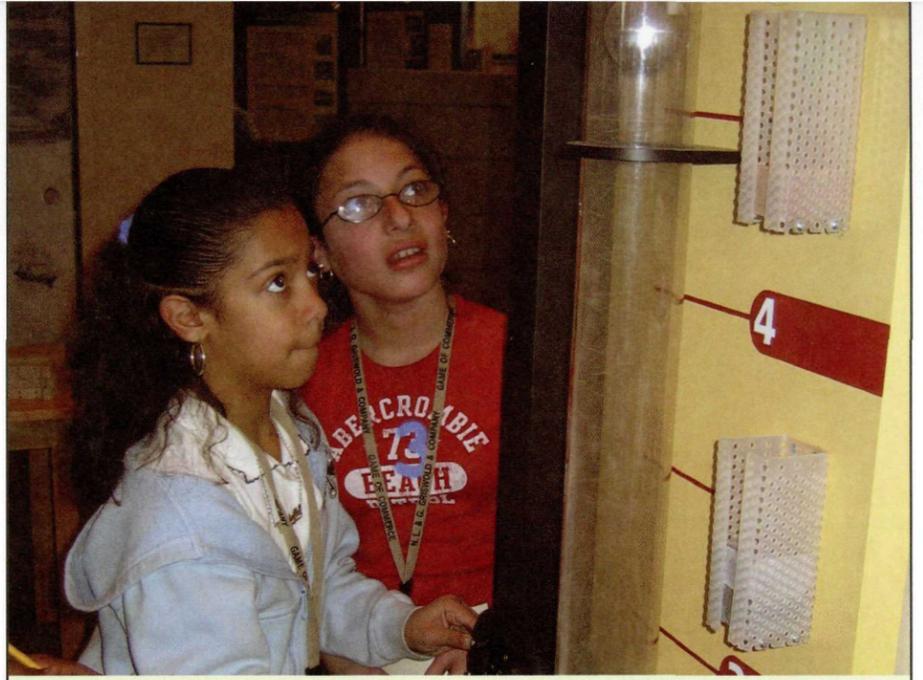
NPS Director Fran Mainella visits with Regional Director Mary Bomar

In addition to the oversight of more than 20 percent of the entire National Park System, her staff provides overall guidance for the region's cultural, natural and historical resources — focusing on design and planning services, scientific studies, visitor management, administration of concessions, interpretation and educational services.

Her team also contributes its counsel and expertise for the stewardship of America's heritage — sites identified as National Historical Landmarks or listed on the National Historic Register. This includes the Wild and Scenic Rivers and National Trails Systems, as well as National Heritage Areas.

Prior to her regional assignment, as superintendent of Independence National Historical Park, Bomar oversaw the most important historic buildings in America: Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, First and Second Banks of the United States and other sites that figured prominently in America's struggle for independence and the development of our nation.

Bomar began her NPS career in 1990 at Amistad National Recreation Area and while there, was charged as a "circuit rider" helping many parks in the NPS Intermountain region. Other positions included Assistant Superintendent at San Antonio Missions, Superintendent of Oklahoma City National Memorial and NPS Oklahoma Statewide Coordinator before being named as superintendent of Independence in 2002.



Fourth grade students from New York City's PS 13 experiment with National Parks of New York Harbor Education Center materials tester.

Northeast Region Education

Program Coordinator Patti Reilly reports that Brooklyn College and the College of Staten Island of the City University of New York continue their collaboration with the National Park Service (NPS) to develop the National Parks of New York Harbor (NPNH) Education Center. Opened last October, the Center is successfully serving the New York Harbor region's K-12 student population, in-service and pre-service teachers of grades K-12, higher education faculty and students, non-formal educators and the community as a whole.

management excellence



Regional Director Bomar, Ranger Bradley Clawson and DEWA Asst. Superintendent Doyle Nelson.

Northeast Regional Director Mary A. Bomar presented awards to two park rangers at this year's Chief Ranger's Annual Law Enforcement Training course held at the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge, PA. At this ceremony, Supervisory Park Ranger Bradley Clawson of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area was recognized as this year's recipient of the Northeast Region's Harry Yount Award for Excellence in "Rangering." At this same ceremony, the Regional Director's Visitor Protection Award for Excellence was presented to Park Ranger Tadgh McNamee of Gateway National Recreation Area.

The Harry Yount Award is "a peer recognition award that is given to an individual whose overall impact, record of achievements, and excellence in traditional ranger duties has created an appreciation for the Park Ranger profession on the part of the public and other members of the profession." Receiving his award in the presence of seventy of his peers, Regional Director Bomar cited Brad for his many tangible accomplishments at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

The Regional Director's Visitor Protection Award for Excellence is presented to individuals who, over a sustained period, utilize their skills, training and knowledge in making significant contributions to the protection of visitors at the park or regional level. Tadgh McNamee of Gateway National Recreation Area was recognized for his many contributions in fostering positive relationships with state and local law enforcement agencies, improving the timeliness and quality of intelligence and his commitment to improving park ranger counter terrorism training.



Loyalty and length of service matters. While visiting Richmond NBP, Regional Director Bomar, joined by Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod, presented length of service awards to a number of employees including maintenance worker Joe Temple.

Nor'easter Team

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Northeast Region personnel joined by Deputy Regional Director Sandy Walter (seated) welcome graduate students at BP launch

NPS Launches Its First Formal Business Plan for the Northeast Region



Chief of Staff John Maounis, Kristin McConnell, RD Mary Bomar, Sara Eisenstat, and John Houston.

The Northeast Region (NER) again broke the mold when Regional Director Mary Bomar launched a business planning effort this summer. For the first time in the NPS business plan project's 8-year history, one servicewide center, one servicewide program, and one regional office were included with 9 parks nationwide (three NER parks: Fire Island NS, Valley Forge NHP & Saint-Gaudens NHS) in the business planning process. "Business plans have long been a valuable tool for individual parks. I am proud that this is the very first regional plan in the National Park Service under the NPS Business Plan model," Bomar said.

A goal of management excellence and service have defined the work of the three graduate students Sara Eisenstat (Yale), Kristin L. McConnell (University of Texas) and John Houston (Stanford). Expected to be available by the beginning of 2006, the plan will provide the Northeast Region both a powerful communications tool and operational baseline knowledge for future decision-making.

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National Parks & Partners Making a Difference

The Northeast



New Museum for Bunker Hill Monument: Regional Director Mary Bomar presided at a groundbreaking ceremony at Boston National Historical Park on June 13. From left to right, Oram Sylvia CEO Martin Goetzler, Charlestown Historical Society President Arthur Hurley, Bunker Hill Monument Association President James Conway, Boston National Historical Park Superintendent Terry Savage, Northeast Regional Director Mary Bomar, Grand Lodge of Masons Grand Master Jeffrey Hodgdon, U.S. Representative Michael Capuano, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino. Hundreds of people joined in the celebration marking the beginning of a new museum for Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown.



New Investment in the National Parks of New York Harbor: The National Park Service has increased its investment in twenty-two national park destinations in the greater New York-New Jersey Metropolitan area. NPS has established an office and hired its first executive director, **Maria Burks**. She will serve as the commissioner of the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Federal Hall, Governors Island, Castle Clinton, Grant's Tomb, Hamilton Grange, Theodore Roosevelt's Birthplace, St. Paul's Church (Eastchester) and the 26,000-acre Gateway National Recreation Area (including units in Jamaica Bay, Staten Island and Sandy Hook (NJ)). Together these parks now serve more than 20 million visitors a year.



George Price Confirmed as Superintendent of Cape Cod National Seashore: After serving in the position since February, George Price became in June the new superintendent of Cape Cod National Seashore. In making the announcement, Regional Director Bomar said, "George Price has had an amazing career developing partnerships and working with communities to focus on resource protection and develop visitor services at a number of national parks. A natural interpreter, George encourages civic engagement wherever he works. His work with the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership demonstrated what teamwork could do under challenging conditions. He will bring his passion for cooperative conservation to Cape Cod National Seashore."



Linda Cook Appointed Superintendent of Weir Farm National Historic Site: Linda Cook, a fifteen-year National Park Service veteran, is the new superintendent of Weir Farm National Historic Site (CT). On June 20, she replaced Randy Turner who became superintendent of Morristown National Historical Park (NJ) in January. Cook's most recent post, superintendent of the Alaska Affiliated Areas, included two partnership parks: the Aleutian World War II National Historic Area on the Aleutian Chain and the Inupiat Heritage Center in Barrow, Alaska. With ties to New England, the Heritage Center is legislatively affiliated with New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park (MA). She currently serves on the NPS's National Education Council and is devoted to seeing that education and the NPS become synonymous and that all avenues to create fabulous opportunities, partnerships, products and programs.



Sagamore Hill's Gay Vietzke Named New Superintendent of Fort MCHenry and Hampton On June 13: Gay Vietzke, a thirteen-year veteran of the National Park Service (NPS), became superintendent of two national parks in Maryland: Fort MCHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in Baltimore and Hampton National Historic Site in Towson. During her NPS career with the National Park Service, Ms. Vietzke has served in a broad range of positions, all with extensive responsibility for the preservation and interpretation of America's heritage. Most recently, she has held the post of Superintendent of Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, home of President Theodore Roosevelt, located in Oyster Bay, NY.

Regional Roundup



National Parks in the Northeast Region

Where a country was born and a nation came of age