The Battlefield Dispatch

Boat Patrol Roll-Out for Moccasin Bend National Archeological District

With the addition of Moccasin Bend National Archeological District nine years ago, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park envisioned having a small boat for observation, shuttling VIPs and personnel, maintenance and protection efforts on the Tennessee River and on the nearby waterways. However, several years went by with no boat. It was not until the summer of 2009 that the Ranger Division, supported by previous Park Superintendent Shawn Benge, began moving forward to secure funding for a boat.

The first vision was to have a pontoon style boat that would be primarily used to shuttle VIPs and employees to points along the Tennessee River. However, the Ranger Division had a different vision, one rooted in protecting and preserving the national archeological district. With the assistance from the rangers, a sixteen foot G3 boat was ordered in the summer of 2009, and the park took possession of it in November.

Having possession of this useful piece of equipment was very exciting! Although the park had several employees with knowledge of how to trailer, launch, operate, and maintain a boat, certain certification and training was needed. The official training is called the Motorboat Operation Certification Course (MOCC). It is a twenty-four hour, mandatory training program which all federal employees must attend and pass in order to operate a government watercraft.

During the fall of 2011 the Ranger Division started moving forward to organize a MOCC. Very few instructors were located in the Southeast Region and were unavailable during the warmer months. By early 2012, Chief Ranger Todd Roeder set aside funding for the class, and Ranger Todd Milsaps was selected to organize the class and set the wheels in motion.

The MOCC was not just designed for law enforcement rangers, but was open to maintenance personnel as well. From the beginning, the boat was designed for all-purpose utility and not strictly for patrol or law enforcement needs.

In May of 2012, five law enforcement rangers and two maintenance employees from the park participated, trained, and graduated from the MOCC. In-class training was held at the Chickamauga Battlefield Maintenance Compound, while the hands-on boat portion was held on Chickamauga Lake at Booker T. Washington State Park.

Throughout the summer of 2012 and into the fall, law enforcement park rangers have conducted multiple boat patrols along the Tennessee River at Moccasin Bend and along Lookout Creek. These patrols proved beneficial for the new operators and for the boat. Within the first few boat patrols this summer, several resource cases were made along Lookout Creek.

After several patrols, rangers found that some improvements were needed, such as a hydraulic jack plate to lower and raise the 40 hp Yamaha outboard motor, a marine radio, depth-meter, and spotlight.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park’s boat program has started. The boat is kept in a responsive ready state and will certainly benefit from patrols yet to come.
Finding the Federal Road on Moccasin Bend

How does a person, or an agency like the National Park Service (NPS) for that matter, find something that is not readily visible to the naked eye? Here is a small snippet of how a portion of the 1805 Federal Road was located on Moccasin Bend.

In 2012, the Friends of Moccasin Bend National Park (FOMB), cooperating with Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park (CHCH), requested that a study be conducted in order to reconstruct the historic Federal Road on Moccasin Bend; this was a road used to remove over one thousand Cherokees in 1838 and used again in 1863 to bring much needed supplies to Union soldiers besieged in Chattanooga. The NPS wishes to interpret this important piece of American History by establishing a visitor-friendly historic trail corridor across the Federal Road.

The study was conducted by a local archeological consulting firm utilizing three different phases of investigation to complete the project.

According to the study, the first phase was historical in nature. Researchers collected and scanned maps and documents that were not currently reported in any other historical documentation of Moccasin Bend.

Phase two was digitizing the assembled information into Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software, while the metadata was placed in Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) compliant format. Constructing and assembling historical base maps in GIS was also completed during this phase.

The final phase of verification occurred through ground reconnaissance using GIS and Global Position Systems (GPS) technology. GIS software, a Laser generated Digital Elevation Model (DEM) and an 1863 United States Coastal Survey (USCS) map were all juxtaposed to assist in the reconnaissance.

Additional information on the uncovering of the historic Federal Road on Moccasin Bend will be forthcoming in the next issue of the Battlefield Dispatch.
Making a Difference on Lookout Mountain

This year Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park recognized Mark Brobston as Volunteer of the Year. A resident of Lookout Mountain, Mark began volunteering for the National Park Service (NPS) in August of 2011. Since then, he has donated over 250 hours to maintaining visitor safety and interpreting the history of Lookout Mountain and its trail system.

The historic resources and the recreation opportunities on the Lookout Mountain trails first piqued Mark’s interest in volunteering. An Appalachian Trail thru-hiker from 2003, he understood the importance of hiking and enjoying the outdoors. The Civil War history found all around his home on Lookout Mountain encouraged his interest beyond just the recreation opportunities, drawing him to learn about volunteering for the NPS. In fact, living within minutes of the entire Lookout Mountain trail system uniquely positioned Mark to care for the trails and his dedication to preservation and serving his community has truly been shown over the last year.

In addition to regular trail patrols, during the extreme heat waves during the summer of 2012, Mark took the initiative to place several coolers of ice water at key trail intersections on Lookout Mountain. He offered the water for free to hikers on the trails, proving his dedication to visitor safety.

Not content to only patrol trails, in November Mark offered to help open gates on Lookout Mountain and began opening those at Cravens House and the Sanders Road Picnic Area every morning. As the first person to inspect the areas in the morning, Mark has helped note a number of law enforcement and maintenance concerns. While opening the Sanders Road

bathrooms, Mark noted running water and issues flushing toilets. These issues turned out to be a failed pipe in the water system. Mark’s observant volunteering helped catch the water leak and saved the Park thousands of dollars in wasted water.

For his actions serving visitors on the trails and his observant actions, Mark was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award for Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park for 2012 during the October 16 Park VIP recognition dinner. As of the writing of this article, Mark has also been nominated for the 2012 Tennessee Governor’s Volunteer Star Awards for Hamilton County. Good luck at the state level, Mark!

Mark was not the only volunteer to serve in 2012. With all the numbers tallied, 876 people contributed over 12,600 hours to the park. Thanks to all who helped make the park a safe and educational place to visit!

If you are interested in volunteering, visit www.nps.gov/chch and click on “Support Your Park” or call the volunteer coordinator at 423-752-5213 ext. 137.

**Commemoration of the 149th Anniversary of the Battles for Chattanooga**

In 1863, Union and Confederate forces fought for control of Chattanooga, known as the “Gateway to the Deep South.” Confederates were victorious at nearby Chickamauga in September. However, renewed fighting in Chattanooga that November provided Union troops victory and control of the city.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park
P.O. Box 2128 (Mailing)
3370 Lafayette Road (Shipping)
Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742

Phone
706-866-9241

Website
www.nps.gov/chch

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

Some great programs are occurring in November to commemorate the 149th Anniversary of the Battles for Chattanooga. On November 17 and 18, park rangers and volunteers will provide tours, walks and talks in order to help educate visitors concerning the sacrifices made by Union and Confederate soldiers during the siege and battles over the city of Chattanooga, Tennessee. In addition to the guided-programs, living historians will be providing artillery and infantry demonstrations throughout both days.

Rangers and volunteers will also be providing special programs between November 23 and November 25, most of which will occur on the same ground fought over 149 years previous.

Please note that ALL programs take place outdoors and that visitors are strongly encouraged to wear supportive, comfortable footwear, dress appropriately for the weather and bring a bottle of water.

All programs are subject to change. Please check at the visitor center information desk for additional information.

Please visit Lookout Mountain Visitor Center, Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center, www.nps.gov/chch, or scan the QR Code below to receive a complete schedule of events program for the commemoration.
Upcoming Winter Programs

**Saturday, November 10 @ 2 p.m.**
“A Walk Down Memory Lane – Units on the Battline”

**Monday, November 12 @ 2:00 pm**
“The Enlisted Men of the Civil War – Where Do I Sign Up?”

**Friday, December 7, Evening**
Holiday Open House - Cravens House

**Friday, December 14, Evening**
Holiday Open House - Cravens House

For additional information concerning regular and/or special programs taking place at any of the units of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, please visit the “Schedule of Events” section of the park website at [www.nps.gov/chch](http://www.nps.gov/chch). You may also call Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center at 706-866-9241 or Lookout Mountain Battlefield Visitor Center at 423-821-7786 to receive more information.

Another great way to keep up-to-date on programs and other occurrences within the park is through Facebook!

Follow the Park on Facebook! [http://www.facebook.com/chchnps](http://www.facebook.com/chchnps)