The Battlefield Dispatch

The Battles for Chattanooga
A Step Back in Time

By Park Ranger Christopher Young

Visitors making the trip to Chattanooga to commemorate the 151st Anniversary of the Battles for Chattanooga on November 22-23, 2014, may experience a different type of program when visiting Point Park atop Lookout Mountain.

In 1864, Chattanooga served as a supply base for Union armies as they marched to Atlanta and beyond. This year, park staff and living historians will focus on the occurrences in and around the city during this fourth year of the Civil War.

Throughout the weekend, as visitors enter Point Park, they will be greeted by Union artillerists and infantrymen drilling. Picket posts will be positioned throughout the park, re-creating their historic roles in guarding against any potential threats from Confederates. Additionally, there will be formal artillery programs daily at 10:30 am, 1:30 pm, and 3:30 pm, and formal infantry programs at 11:30 am and 2:30 pm. These programs will include firing demonstrations.

On Sunday, visitors are invited to join park rangers to learn about Civil War photography, discuss the 13’ x 30’ James Walker painting “The Battle of Lookout Mountain,” or journey to the Bragg Reservation on Missionary Ridge for a special tour.

The Cravens House will be open both days with programs emphasizing journalism and the destruction of the property after the battle.

Since Sunday, November 23, marks the 151st anniversary of the Battle of Orchard Knob, Park Historian Jim Ogden will be leading walking tours of Orchard Knob. He will discuss the first of three days of desperate fighting between Union and Confederate forces for control of the city.

Eastern National Bookstore will host Dr. Frank Varney and Ron Lowery at the Lookout Mountain Battlefield Visitor Center. They will be available to sign their books throughout the weekend.

On Saturday, at 10 am, inside Point Park, there will be a special program focusing on Civil War photography. At 1:30 pm, a ranger-guided bicycle tour to Orchard Knob and the Chattanooga National Cemetery will begin at Warner Park in Chattanooga. Feel free to bring your own bike or reserve a bike for FREE by calling Outdoor Chattanooga at 423-643-6888 or email info@outdoorchattanooga.org.

For more information about programs, including locations and specific times, please contact the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center at (706) 866-9241, the Lookout Mountain Battlefield Visitor Center at (423) 821-7786, or visit the park webpage at www.nps.gov/chch
The Friends of Moccasin Bend Welcome Michael Wurzel

By The Friends of Moccasin Bend

The Friends welcome Michael Wurzel as our new executive director.

Wurzel brings a variety of experience in non-profit management, land conservation, and civic involvement to the Friends. He has served as Land Steward for the Lula Lake Land Trust on Lookout Mountain, overseeing trail building projects, leading volunteers, and managing property.

Prior to that, he served for two years as Conservation Director for the Southeastern Climbers Coalition Land Trust, managing conservation, strategic partnerships, fundraising, grant writing, membership development opportunities, and communications.

The new executive director also coordinated environmental education, volunteer tree planting, and Citizen workshops for Chattanooga’s Department of Urban Forestry. An Eagle Scout, he worked for three summers as an environmental educator and conservationist in Cimarron, NM; as an instructor for the Boy Scouts of America Roving Outdoor Conservation School and Leave No Trace program; and did conservation work at the Philmont Scout Ranch and for the National Forest Service.

Wurzel is a summa cum laude graduate of the University of the South at Sewanee, TN, where his studies emphasized environmental policy.

He earned a master’s degree in biological and environmental science at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He serves on the boards of the Cumberland Trail Conference and River Rocks Festival.

“We are extremely pleased to have Michael at the lead in our work with the National Park Service on developing outstanding visitor experiences and facilities on Moccasin Bend,” said Dan Saied, president of the Friends of Moccasin Bend board of directors. With a passion for the outdoors and for local history, and a strong foundation in environmental and land conservation, he brings outstanding skills and enthusiasm to our mission.”

Upcoming Events at Moccasin Bend

**Monday, November 10, 7 PM UTC University Center Auditorium OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FREE OF CHARGE**

**THE TRAIL OF TEARS:** A CHEROKEE PERSPECTIVE
TROY WAYNE POTEETE
Supreme Court Justice, Cherokee Nation, Director, National Trail of Tears Association

Why do the Cherokee people commemorate and mark the Trail of Tears, that tragic chapter in their history? Join us to hear the historian and storyteller Troy Poteete discuss their painful remembering of the Removal and how he and his people draw upon it in facing the challenges of contemporary life.

Questions? Call 423.322.0914

Co-sponsored by UTC’s Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Geography
Generously Underwritten by Greg Vital

Join your neighbors to experience a NEW perspective from Chattanooga’s NEWEST public space:

Site of the future Moccasin Bend Visitor Center.

2:00 until 4:00 PM
Monday, November 10, 2014
across from 133 Hamm Road
on Chattanooga’s NorthShore.

Special Guest: Troy Wayne Poteete
Supreme Court Justice, Cherokee Nation
& Executive Director: National Trail of Tears Association
Giving Back – Volunteers Make the Difference

By Park Ranger Will Sunderland

What does a visit to a national park mean to you? Are there ways that you give back to the park when you visit?

This year, at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, more than 900 volunteers contributed nearly 13,000 hours—the equivalent of more than six full-time employees! These volunteers, of all ages and from all backgrounds, have made a lasting impact on all who visit the park. Here are a few photos and highlights from the last year!

Above: Boy Scouts participate in the Civil War Trust Park Day 2014, some of the 126 people donating over 300 hours

Left: Living history volunteers fire from the historic rifle pits on Lookout Mountain during the 150th anniversary of the Battles for Chattanooga

Below: Local youth participate in the 21st annual Southeastern Climbers Coalition Workday at Sunset Rock

Right: Volunteer and librarian Gayla Brewer with her 2014 Tennessee Electronic Library Trainer of the Year Award

Right: Employees from Shaw Industries wash historical tablets during the United Way Day of Caring

Right: Students from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga clear vegetation from archaeological sites on Moccasin Bend

How Can You Change the World? Volunteer!

By Park Ranger Will Sunderland

A core mission of the National Park Service is to engage visitors in the Volunteers-in-Parks (VIP) Program, encouraging people to both explore parks and to engage in giving back in service. Last year across the National Park System, nearly 250,000 volunteers contributed over 6.7 million hours of their time and expertise, helping to preserve, protect, and interpret the national parks.

So who can volunteer? Anyone! Individuals, groups, families, students, and more work side-by-side with National Park Service employees at more than 400 parks from Maine to Hawaii, Alaska to Florida, in big cities, small towns, and remote wilderness. Information about volunteering can be found online: www.nps.gov/getinvolved/volunteer

In 2016, the National Park Service will mark 100 years of “preserving unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of future generations.” As we look forward to the National Park Service Centennial, is there a way you can volunteer in your community or in your local national park? We invite you to explore opportunities across the country at www.volunteer.gov!

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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.

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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.
By Historian Jim Ogden

Prisoners taken yesterday reported this morning at 3,500…with 52 cannon, 5,000 stand small-arms, 10 flags.

This was a section of the report Assistant Secretary of War Charles Danasent to Washington, D.C. from Chattanooga on November 26, 1863. In addition to the hastily retreating Confederate army, the captured enemy soldiers, arms, and flags were further indication of the extent of the victory gained the evening before on Missionary Ridge. Within days, the captured cannon (forty, not fifty-two) were displayed as trophies of war along the 300 block of Walnut Street in Chattanooga, opposite Union headquarters at the Richardson House. A closer look at these pieces provides other insights too – insights into the extent to which most white Southerners were committed to the idea of Confederate Independence and the extent to which the Confederacy was rapidly industrializing to thereby achieve that independence. At least half of the captured cannon were products of Southern foundries produced since the beginning of the war (it is possible that some of another eleven were Confederate products also). All nineteen of the 12-pound Napoleons, by that point the standard artillery piece, were Southern products; thirteen of them were of the distinctive Confederate pattern. This collection of trophies was further evidence of why the war had been so hard fought to this point – leading to the conclusion that only with the destruction of the growing Southern military-industrial capacity would the war come to a close.

Chattanooga was the gateway to the new Confederacy’s industrial heartland; with the victories on Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, the “Gateway City” was in Union hands and the foundries and arsenals that produced those now-trophy cannon, and dozens of others, could be targeted directly.

Left: Confederate artillery captured at Chattanooga line the 300 block of Walnut Street

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The Battlefield Dispatch is a quarterly publication of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

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By Park Ranger Todd Milsaps

As we jump into the winter season, peak outdoor visitation begins to taper down. It gives us a chance to reflect on how our operations here in Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park have progressed during the course of the year and begin preparing for the upcoming season.

One of our newest operations is the Bike Patrol Program, which allows us to better protect our visitors and our resources. The Volunteer Bike Patrol works under the direction of the Ranger Bike Patrol. These two branches collaboratively patrol the areas of the park in which the greatest concentration of visitor and resource needs are identified, including special events and programs.

The Ranger Bike Patrol Program raced into the next level of professionalism this year by partnering with the Chattanooga Police Department’s Police Bike Patrol Unit and becoming Certified Police Cyclists. This was accomplished through completing an intensive International Police Mountain Biking Association’s (IPMBA) 40-hour certification course.

As a collateral program, the Ranger and Volunteer Bike Patrol units increased their presence from last year’s inaugural season by making over 650 combined visitor contacts and assists and logging over 200 hours total on the bikes. A sampling of these contacts ranged from dogs being off leash to dehydration rescues; from directions and park information to identifying suspicious activities.

As the weather begins “changing gears,” and you are out enjoying the battlefield, look for the gray shirts of the Ranger Bike Patrol or the bright yellow shirts of the Volunteer Bike Patrol. “We Brake For Visitors!”

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Bike Patrol Ramps Up and Rolls On

Ranger Milsaps participates in the certification course