



Fort Vancouver National Historic Site News from Your National Park

Spring/Summer 2013

New exhibits and programs soar at Pearson Air Museum

Between February 27, when Pearson Air Museum opened under National Park Service management, and late April, the museum received over 2,500 visitors! The museum is **free** to the public, and is open **Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM**. The museum is also available as an event space, and the NPS is in the process of permitting several private and community events.

On March 27, a new exhibit titled *Army Boots and Army Wings* opened on the museum's mezzanine. This exhibit tells the story of Vancouver Barracks and the birth of Pearson Field as an Army Air Corps base.

In May, *Straight-Grained Soldiers*, an exhibit on the history of the Spruce Mill at Vancouver Barracks, will open in the museum. The Spruce Mill was built during World War I by the Army's Spruce Production Division. The mill produced aviation-grade lumber used to build Curtiss JN-4 "Jenny" airplanes for pilots in training, and DeHavilland DH-4 airplanes for combat overseas.

On **May 11**, students from the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, in partnership with the NPS, will perform *Captain Midnight Flies Again*, a popular aviation-themed radio serial from 1939. This fun and **free** event will take place at the museum **at 2:00 PM**.

The NPS has also developed a walking tour telling the history of Pearson Field, and is working to promote reading among young people with a Reading Ranger program.



What's Happening at Fort Vancouver

Captain Midnight Flies Again, a 1939 Radio Play
Pearson Air Museum
May 11

Museum Collections Open House
At the reconstructed fort
May 11, June 8, July 13,
August 10, September 14, October 12

Cultural Demonstrations
At the McLoughlin House in Oregon City
May 11, June 8,
August 10, September 14

Memorial Day Ceremony
East Vancouver Barracks
May 27

Children's Cultural Parade
Reconstructed fort and Park Road
May 31

National Get Outdoors Day
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
June 8

Public Archaeology Field School
Village/South Barracks
June 18-August 3

Independence Day
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
July 4

Buffalo Soldiers Presentation
July 18

Campfires and Candlelight
At the reconstructed fort
September 14

For more information on our special events and programs, contact the Visitor Center at (360) 816-6230.



Learn historic crafts at Cultural Demonstrations at the McLoughlin House



This summer's **free** Cultural Demonstrations at the McLoughlin House in Oregon City will teach visitors a variety of popular arts and crafts from the Victorian era. Each month, these demonstrations feature a different type of art or craft - some that are still popular, and some that have nearly been forgotten. Upcoming topics include:

- May 11:** Ribbon Flowers
- June 8:** Shell Work
- July 13:** Covered Tape Measures
- August 10:** Lavender Wands
- September 14:** Fish Scale Embroidery

To learn more about this exciting and popular program, contact the McLoughlin House at (360) 656-5151.

Celebrate National Get Outdoors Day, June 8

Celebrate **free**, healthy, active outdoor fun in your urban national park on **Saturday, June 8th, 2013**, from **10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**. Experience traditional and non-traditional outdoor activities presented by the National Park Service and partners, including Clark County, the City of Vancouver, REI, the Parks Foundation of Clark County, and the U.S. Forest Service, at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site - your Gateway to the Great Outdoors.

National Get Outdoors Day at Fort Vancouver NHS also includes the annual Brigade Encampment, where costumed interpreters re-enact the springtime return of Hudson's Bay Company fur brigades to Fort Vancouver. For more information, call (360) 816-6230 or visit <http://go.usa.gov/29cQ>

Want to learn more about Fort Vancouver?

Find us online at www.nps.gov/fova and on Facebook and Twitter:

www.facebook.com/fortvancouver

@FtVancouverNPS

Download the Fort Vancouver Mobile App for iPhone and Android to discover even more!



Stroll back in time at Campfires and Candlelight



Travel back to the 1840s amid the glow of lanterns and the crackle of the campfire, as over 150 costumed reenactors bring the past to life at Campfires and Candlelight, the park's largest living history event of the year!

Held this year on the evening of **September 14, 2013**, this event chronicles the night in September, 1846, when the American ship *USS Shark* wrecked at the mouth of the Columbia River, with the British Hudson's Bay Company organizing a relief effort from Fort Vancouver.

First, stroll through Army and civilian camps, full of military music and blasts of black powder, to learn about the history of Vancouver Barracks over the last 160 years. Then, tour through the reconstructed fort, bustling with shipwreck relief plans, to interact with costumed cooks, blacksmiths, clerks, doctors and more.

Admission to this event is **free**. For more information and exact hours, call (360) 816-6230. Follow Fort Vancouver National Historic Site on Facebook for updates as the event nears!

This summer's Public Archaeology Field School excavates in the Village



From June 18, 2013 through August 3, 2013, students from Portland State University and Washington State University Vancouver will work with National Park Service archaeologists to excavate in the multicultural Fort Vancouver Village. Students will participate in all aspects of archaeological field and laboratory work, from laying out and excavating units with shovels and trowels, to cleaning, identifying and analyzing artifacts. This year's students will also participate in an ongoing project to create condition reports on headstones in the Old City Cemetery, one of the oldest cemeteries in the City of Vancouver.

The excavation site is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday. Directions to the dig site can be found in the Contact Station inside the reconstructed fort.

From August 3rd to the end of September, avocational archaeologists from the Oregon Archaeological Society will work in partnership with the National Park Service to continue the excavations, which will remain open to the public.



Improvements to the East and South Barracks enhance historic buildings

Memorial Day, 2013, will mark the one year anniversary of the transfer of the East and South Barracks from the U.S. Army to the National Park Service. In the last year, many improvements to the historic barracks buildings have been undertaken, including securing windows and doors to protect the buildings from pests and weather during the rehabilitation process, lead remediation, building repairs, and patching leaks in the barracks' antiquated water mains, saving as much as 1.2 million gallons of water per month.

This summer, the park is scheduled to receive funding to replace the roof, correct structural deficiencies, and paint the former post headquarters, known as Building 991. Later in 2013, the National Park Service expects to complete site planning and access design work that will provide a blueprint for future road and parking improvements.

With these infrastructure improvements, the East and South Barracks will move towards being safe, sustainable, and accessible.



NPS Archaeologist Dr. Doug Wilson discusses the use of waterways by indigenous and colonial peoples on a tour on the Lake-Lewis Water Trail, an RTCA project.

National Park Service projects benefit our local community outside park boundaries

The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program has helped numerous communities in the area with their locally-led conservation and outdoor recreation projects. Most recently, the NPS partnered with the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department to plan and develop the Lake-Lewis Water Trail. The NPS also manages the Land and Water Conservation Fund state and local assistance program (LWCF), which provided \$3.2 million in support, enabling cities and counties in Southwest Washington to purchase land for public use, as well as to improve access and use of public parks through trail improvements, ball field creation, and other outdoor recreation construction and renovation projects.

Since the creation of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve in 1996, the NPS has been a strong supporter. The NPS has provided \$8.6 million in funding to further the goals of the Reserve, including approximately \$3.54 million towards the rehabilitation of properties owned by the City of Vancouver, such as the O.O. Howard House and the Red Cross Building.

Fort Vancouver Volunteer Brett Oppegaard wins National Park Service's Hartzog Award



Dr. Brett Oppegaard (pictured above (right) with National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis (left)) received the national 2012 Hartzog Individual Service Award for the more than 5,000 volunteer hours he has donated to Fort Vancouver National Historic Site over the past four years. This award recognizes the nation's top National Park Service volunteer. Dr. Oppegaard, in partnership with National Park Service staff, has led the creation of the Fort Vancouver Mobile application for iPhone, iPad, and Android devices.

Additionally, this spring Dr. Oppegaard, an Assistant Professor at Washington State University Vancouver, and Fort Vancouver NHS Chief Ranger and Historian Greg Shine were the recipients of the John Wesley Powell Prize for their work on the Fort Vancouver Mobile application. The Powell Prize recognizes excellence in the fields of historic preservation and historic displays in the federal government.

The Fort Vancouver Mobile app is available as a free download for iPhones and Android.