Ranger Lynette Wins Tilden Award

Park Ranger Lynette Webber is the recipient of the 2016 Freeman Tilden Award. She received the National Park Service’s most prestigious interpretive honor for the multi-faceted “Missing in the Copper Country” program.

The annual Freeman Tilden Award recognizes outstanding contributions to the public through interpretation and education by a National Park Service employee. The award was created in 1982 to stimulate and reward creative work that results in positive impacts upon the visiting public. It is named for Freeman Tilden who has inspired generations of interpreters and whose *Interpreting Our Heritage* continues to be a definitive text for the discipline.

“Missing in the Copper Country” transports people back in time to the boom years of the Keweenaw by superimposing historic images onto present-day photos to highlight landscape and building changes and losses through the years. The series is a visual history of change and a reminder that today’s empty lots once hosted a thriving community.

Her program research included studying maps and historic photographs, meeting with community members, and visiting sites to pinpoint locations and ensure accuracy. She also researched the history of each building to provide relevant context for the images. Photos were then posted on social media sites and used in temporary exhibits, walking tours, and illustrated programs.

Lynette also fueled the interest of local youth and engaged them in the project. She worked with high school students to convert social media posts into interactive ESRI Storymaps so that visitors could take self-guided tours on mobile devices.

“Lynette used a creative combination of tools and methods to spark enthusiasm and trigger additional historic preservation efforts in the community,” said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis.
Join middle-school student Megan on her journey to explore and understand the 1913-14 Copper Miners’ Strike.

In 2014, as the strike’s centennial commemoration came to an end, Keweenaw National Historical Park produced an independent film about the strike with a local design student from Finlandia University. The eight-minute film follows Megan as she strives to learn more about the tumultuous event that took place throughout the Keweenaw’s copper range, including her hometown. On her quest, she is guided by her teacher to history professor Larry Lankton, who helps Megan learn about the strike by investigating primary sources and key strike locations. The film is geared toward grades 5-12 and features strike locations throughout Houghton County, and was a collaborative effort between local educators, archival institutions, historians, National Park Service staff, the film producer and director, and Megan the student herself. The result is a close look at primary sources, the importance of perspective, and how the past can inform our understanding of current events.

The film is located on the Keweenaw National Historical Park webpage under Multimedia Presentations: https://www.nps.gov/kewe/learn/photosmultimedia/studying-history.htm
An accompanying curriculum is being developed and will be posted on the park’s webpage soon.

If you have any questions or comments about the film or other media you would like to see developed by the park, please email or call us. We’d love to hear from you!
Save the Date for Copper TRACES 2017!

What is it?
Copper TRACES is a fun educational field day for fourth graders put on by Keweenaw National Historical Park in Calumet, MI. The event will take place in late May 2017 and will last all day. The field day engages students through a variety of hands on activity stations - all of which meet Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations! Every station your students attend will be accompanied by a pre-visit activity to prepare them for the field day. Pre-visit activities will be distributed about a month before the event and will provide background information to familiarize your students with the topic materials before they arrive to the park.

What does the TRACES in stand for?
Technology, Research, Art and Music, Community, Environment, and Service! These themes are the focus of the field day. Every educational station your students attend will focus on one or more of these themes.

What does it cost?
Nothing! Thanks to grants from the National Park Foundation and the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission, there is no cost for your students to participate in this event. Plus, a healthy free lunch will be provided to students, teachers, and chaperones. Transportation to Calumet will need to be arranged by the school, but will be fully reimbursed.

Is there anything else I need to know?
Your class may need to be split up into smaller groups. Since stations are limited to 30 minutes each, we like to keep group sizes down to about 10 students. This ensures students are able to fully engage in activities, and makes the logistics of station rotations easier on chaperones. You are responsible for recruiting at least one chaperone for each of your groups. The event is outdoors and will happen rain or shine, so make sure you and your students are prepared for all types of weather.

When can I register for Copper TRACES?
Soon! We are fine-tuning the sign up process now, but we will make sure to contact you with more information once online registration opens.

To learn more visit:
www.nps.gov/kewe/learn/education/classrooms

Contact Ranger Emma Woodruff at:
(906) 483-3042 or email:
emma_woodruff@nps.gov

Left: Kids break “copper ore” during the 2016 TRACES event. (Bill Fink Photography)
Hosting more than 400 fourth graders over two days is no easy task but that’s what happened during the 2016 Copper TRACES event designed to reach the next generation of Park stewards. Park volunteers were essential to the day’s events.

After completing volunteer orientation in the previous weeks, volunteers led student groups through the Red Jacket Road construction zone, helped station leaders with hands-on, interactive learning stations, and ensured all students stayed safe and had fun. Volunteers also provided personal interactions and connections, helping to engage with enthusiastic young students, and create a memorable park visit.

Some of the same Copper TRACES volunteers returned to staff the Park Service information desk at the Quincy Mine for the 2016 season. After greeting visitors, they answered questions about the tours and history of the area and provided park orientations while sharing the knowledge gained during Copper TRACES. This ensured visitors had a good foundation for their own exploration of the Keweenaw Peninsula.

As we look forward to the 2017 season and the next Copper Traces event, we at Keweenaw National Historical Park would like to thank all of those volunteers who made 2016 a resounding success. You helped us connect with the next generation of NPS stewards!

If you would like to volunteer with Keweenaw National Historical Park, please contact Valerie Newman at (906)483-3028 or email: valerie_newman@nps.gov.