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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Visitor,

We are very excited about the numerous ways that you can connect with your parks as National Capital Parks-East moves into 2012. Throughout the year, opportunities abound. Here are some highlights in the coming months:

• We invite you to attend the 194th birthday celebration for Frederick Douglass at the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site. Learn about the life and legacy of one of the great civil rights activists of the 1800s. His work and philosophy resonate today. Musical performances, living history demonstrations, historical discussions, lectures, and youth activities will make up this fun filled day. (Details on page 11)

• The National Park Service is seeking your comments about the General Management Plan for the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site. A public meeting to present the plan and to receive your feedback will be held on February 22. (Details on page 11)

• From April 24th, many park sites will participate in the 24th Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup. We will all line up around the Potomac or one of its tributaries. A clean, healthy river provides better drinking water, recreational opportunities, helps the environment, and creates a better habitat for wildlife. In just a few hours, you can make a big difference. Help out at a cleanup site near you. (Details on pages 13-14)

• On April 28th, bring your family and friends to the Anacostia Park. The National Park Service and the Smithsonian Institution will host the first annual Anacostia River & Jazz Fest. You can paddle on the Anacostia, try your hand at fishing, listen to world-class jazz musicians, and learn about the recreational, cultural, and natural treasures throughout the Anacostia watershed. The day will be filled with music and activities for all. (Details on page 14)

• Through advances in technology, our park rangers are not only serving visitors who come to our parks but are reaching out to students across the United States. National Capital Parks-East has created a studio utilizing a teleconference system that allows students and teachers, while at their school, to interact with a park ranger and learn about the park’s unique resources. (We recommend that you use a standards-based, stand-alone videoconferencing machine i.e., Polycom or Tombari). For more information, please visit http://www.nps.gov/fodt/index.htm.

It’s hard to believe that spring is around the corner. Please take a few moments to walk, bike, hike, paddle, camp, and explore the parks of National Capital Parks-East. Spending time in the parks can improve your health and expand your mind.

Thank you,
Alexy Romero
Superintendent

Mission

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country.

Did you know that National Capital Parks-East is one of almost 400 national parks found all across America?

Become a Volunteer!

Do you want to give back to the park that gives you so much? Have you ever thought of volunteering your time and talents to the National Park Service? NACE? Become a steward of the park by joining the VIP Volunteers-In-Parks program at National Capital Parks-East (NACE).

Volunteers contribute not just to the mission of the NPS, but to the communities they serve. NACE VIP job opportunities are as diverse as the parks. VIPs welcome visitors to the parks, conduct guided tours, assist with special events, maintain trails, serve as campground hosts, work with computers, and much more.

NACE offers a wide array of historic, cultural, and recreational areas that are part of Washington, D.C., and its eastern environs. The park is comprised of over 8,000 acres of federal land range from community parks and national historic sites to unique wetland ecosystems, meadows, and mature hardwood forests.

Contact the park at 202-690-5185 to find a coordinator near you or visit us at www.nps.gov/nace and click on the volunteer link.

Special Services

NACE makes every effort to provide access to all of our facilities and programs for the broadest possible range of visitors. From children and the elderly to those who are physically challenged, NACE strives to create inclusive opportunities for all people. For detailed information on special services, visitors should contact the park’s Accessibility Coordinator at 202-690-5185.

For Your Information

Hiking and Camping

As you take in the park’s beautiful scenery, think ahead, be prepared and stay safe.

• Check the weather forecast before heading outdoors for a hike. It is not safe to hike when thunderstorms or heavy snowfall is expected. Immediately seek shelter if hazardous weather approaches.

• Carry drinking water. Don’t drink from streams, springs, or lakes without first properly treating the water.

• Observe wildlife from a safe distance. Don’t try to get too close to wild animals.

• Stay on the trail – if you leave it, you may get lost.

• To help prevent food poisoning keep cold foods cold and hot foods hot. Don’t store perishable foods in a hot car.

• Clean all surfaces and utensils that come into contact with raw meat or meat juices before reusing them.

• Wash hands frequently when preparing food, and before serving and eating.

• Keep children away from grills and lighter fluid, and keep grills away from flammable materials.

• Be aware of tiny deer ticks that carry Lyme disease and know which symptoms to watch out for. When in a potentially infected area, apply insect repellent, wear light colored long-sleeved shirts, pants, and socks.

• Only build a fire in designated grills or fire rings.

• When extinguishing a campfire, let it die down then break-up the coals or logs, spread the pieces, and soak them with water.

Park Regulations

To help protect park resources and ensure an enjoyable visit for everyone, please follow park rules and posted regulations.

• Pets are welcome in all areas of National Capital Parks-East (NACE), except at Ocean Cove Park. Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet and under control at all times.

• Discharging firearms anywhere on NACE lands is unlawful.

• Please dispose of your garbage and other refuse in trash containers or take it with you when you leave.

• For your safety while hiking, stay on the established trails and watch your footing at all times.

• Prevent damage to resources by bicycling on paved roads and designated bike trails only.
Anacostia River

Anacostia River is a major tributary of the Potomac River, which is a major estuary of the Chesapeake Bay. The river flows through the city of Washington, D.C., and is one of the largest and most important waterways in the United States. It is a significant natural resource for the city and its residents, providing recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, and aesthetic value.

Baltimore-Washington Parkway

Baltimore-Washington Parkway is a major highway that connects the city of Baltimore, Maryland, to the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. It is one of the busiest and most important roadways in the United States, carrying millions of vehicles per day.

Capitol Hill Parks

Capitol Hill Parks are a group of parks located in the heart of Washington, D.C., near the U.S. Capitol and other important federal buildings. These parks provide a green oasis in the midst of a bustling urban environment, offering visitors a place to relax and enjoy nature.

Carter G. Woodson Home NHS

Carter G. Woodson Home NHS is a National Historic Site located in Washington, D.C., which commemorates the life and work of Carter G. Woodson, the “Father of Black History.” The site was established in 1992 to preserve Woodson’s home and study center, which served as a hub for African American studies and research.

Civil War Defenses of Washington

Civil War Defenses of Washington is a group of forts and earthenworks that were built to protect the nation's capital during the Civil War from 1861 to 1865. These defenses consisted of a complex system of fortifications, including earthworks, batteries, and guns, that were strategically placed to protect key points of entry into the city.

Fort Washington Park

Fort Washington Park is a Civil War-era fort that was built to defend the west side of the Potomac River, which serves as the nation's natural border with Virginia. The fort was completed in 1864 and consists of 160 acres of land.

Piscataway Park

Piscataway Park is a natural area that is located in Prince George's County, Maryland, and is one of the largest parks in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. The park offers a variety of recreational opportunities, including hiking, biking, and fishing, as well as scenic views of the Potomac River.

Shepherd Park

Shepherd Park is a park located in the Northwest quadrant of Washington, D.C., and is one of the oldest parks in the city. The park is named after Revolutionary War hero John Peter Van Ness, who was known as “Shepherd” due to his reputation for caring for the sick and wounded.

Sutland Parkway

Sutland Parkway is a parkway that is located in the northern part of Washington, D.C., and is one of the longest parkways in the city. It extends from the northern tip of the city to the national mall, providing a green belt that connects the city to the Potomac River.

Beyond the Capital — A Visitor's Guide to National Capital Parks-East

This section of the book provides a guide to the national parks and historic sites located in the eastern part of the United States, including the Anacostia River, Baltimore-Washington Parkway, Capitol Hill Parks, Carter G. Woodson Home NHS, Civil War Defenses of Washington, Fort Washington Park, Piscataway Park, Shepherd Park, Sutland Parkway, and a variety of other parks and historic sites throughout the region.
### Park Partners & Cooperating Associations

#### Eastern National

**Eastern National is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit ‘cooperating association’ that supports National Capital Parks-East and other National Park Service sites. Eastern National assists the educational and interpretive mission of the National Park Service primarily by procuring, distributing, and selling educational material in retail outlets located in national parks. Eastern National also assists by providing supplemental funding for land and artifact acquisitions, special events, educational and interpretive programs, and research grants. Since its incorporation in 1948, Eastern National has donated over $100 million to the National Park Service, in the form of direct donations and grants.**

**Contact Information**

470 Maryland Drive, Suite 1
Fort Washington, PA 19034
215-283-2113
www.easternnational.org

#### Student Conservation Association

**The Student Conservation Association (SCA) provides high school students, college students, and others with meaningful conservation service opportunities in parks and other protected places, in our national parks. Students enjoy adventure, gain experience, and make a difference. SCA has made an invaluable contribution to the beautification and conservation of the parks and National Capital Parks-East.**

**Contact Information**

1300 North Kent Street, Suite 102
Alexandria, VA 22312
703-524-2441
www.sca.org

#### Accokeek Foundation

**The ACCOKEEK FOUNDATION operates the National Colonial Farm, located in Accokeek Park. The Farm was established by the foundation in 1958 to educate people about farm life. It is a recreation of a middle 18th century tobacco dwelling, an 18th-century tobacco farm, a smokehouse, a public fishing pond and a scenic overlook with a view of Mount Vernon, the former home of President George Washington. The Ecosystem Farm offers educational opportunities through the Center for Land-Based Training.**

**Contact Information**

4800 Bryan Point Road
Accokeek, MD 20607
301-283-2113
www.accokreek.org

#### Living Classrooms of the National Capital Region

**Living Classrooms Foundation strengthens communities and inspires young people to achieve their potential through hands-on education and job training, using urban, rural, and maritime environments.**

**Contact Information**

515 S Street SE, Suite 222
Washington, DC 20003
202-488-0420
www.livingclassrooms.org

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www.sca.org

#### Sewall-Belmont House and Museum

**The Sewall-Belmont House and Museum is the site where suffragist leader Alice Paul and the women of the National Woman’s Party led the fight for equal rights for women in the United States and throughout the world. The National Woman’s Party was instrumental in gaining the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution giving women the right to vote.**

**Contact Information**

144 Constitution Avenue NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-546-1210
www.sewalbeltom.com

#### Earth Conservation Corps

**Earth Conservation Corps (ECC) is a non-profit youth development and environmental service organization located on the Anacostia River. ECC provides underprivileged young people with hands-on life skills, education, career, and environmental training with an overall goal to facilitate the restoration of the Anacostia River and its surrounding communities.**

**Contact Information**

1800 North Kent Street, Suite 102
Arlington, VA 22209
703-524-2441
www.thecca.org

#### Aquatic Resources Education Center

**The AQUATIC RESOURCES EDUCATION CENTER is located in Anacostia Park adjacent to the Anacostia Skating Pavilion. The Center is cooperative partnership between the District of Columbia’s Fisheries and Wildlife Division, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service.**

**Contact Information**

1900 Anacostia Drive SE
Washington, DC 20020
202-535-2260
www.dish.gov/dish/wcp

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www.sca.org

#### Living Classrooms of the National Capital Region

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Washington, DC 20003
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### Articles

#### Clean Up Planned For Former NPS Site Along Anacostia River

**By Emily Ferguson, Environmental Protection Specialist, National Capital Parks-East**

In December 2011, the National Park Service (NPS), in partnership with the District of Columbia, reached a proposed agreement with Washington Gas Light Company (Washington Gas) to clean up the land formerly owned by NPS and to prevent contamination from reaching the adjacent Anacostia River. This proposed agreement is subject to public comment and is currently pending before the United States District Court for the District of Columbia (Court).

The impacted land was formerly part of Anacostia Park, an urban waterfront park along the Anacostia River in Washington, D.C. The “Federal and District of Columbia Government Real Property Act of 2006” transferred the NPS land to the District of Columbia. Despite the transfer, NPS continues in its role as lead agency under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) responsible for overseeing cleanup of the site.

Immediately adjacent to the former NPS property is land owned by Washington Gas, which manufactured gas on its property from 1888 until the mid-1980s. Environmental investigations have confirmed that contamination extends from the Washington Gas property through the former NPS property into the Anacostia River. Contaminants generated from the many years of gas production on the site include metals, oil, tar, coal, and other related contaminants. These manufactured gas by-products were placed on the NPS property as fill material or were transported via groundwater movement through the site.

Once approved by the Court, the signed agreement will require Washington Gas to remove up to three feet of contaminated soil covering the former NPS land. The excavated areas then will be re-filled to the current surface elevation to accommodate the area’s proposed recreational uses. Washington Gas also will conduct a comprehensive investigation to determine if groundwater is an ongoing source of contaminants into the Anacostia River and to characterize site-related contaminants in Anacostia River sediments. Clean up of contamination in groundwater and sediments in the Anacostia River will be addressed in a future settlement or enforcement action following remedy selection by NPS.

For more information about this site located in National Capital Parks-East, please use the following link:

http://www.nps.gov/nacosta/parkmgmt/washingtongas.htm

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**Beyond the Capital — A Visitor’s Guide to National Capital Parks-East**

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**Beyond the Capital — A Visitor’s Guide to National Capital Parks-East**
Civil War Washington Teacher Fellowship Program

By Braden Paynter, Park Ranger, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site

Every summer for the past four years, teachers from across the country have come to the nation's capital to see the Civil War in a new light. The Catherine B. Reynolds Civil War Washington Teacher Fellowship Program hosts approximately fifty teachers, giving them the opportunity to explore the DC area and America’s defining conflict in the cradle of the Union. This summer, the program will add a third session serving between 65 and 75 teachers.

The program is a partnership between several local sites. Ford’s Theatre National Historic Site, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, President Lincoln’s Cottage, the National Mall and Memorial Parks, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society and Tudor Place Historic House and Garden team up for a week that is all about perspectives. Slaveholding Confederate sympathizers at Tudor Place saw a different war than the former slave Frederick Douglass did. The myths of Lincoln that began with his assassination at Ford’s Theater are different than the life of Lincoln remembered at Lincoln’s Cottage.

The program also tries to expand the ways teachers feel comfortable exploring these different perspectives. Teachers analyze historical maps and documents; but the program aims to expand their idea of what can serve as primary sources. Artworks, objects, speeches, and landscapes all become crucial parts of seeing the Civil War in Washington. Going on a “slave’s view” walking tour of Georgetown and climbing through a historic earthwork on the city’s outskirts gives teachers a strong sense of just how Southern and vulnerable the nation’s capital was during the war. Hearing Frederick Douglass’s words on the front porch of his house, or Lincoln’s at his home, gives the words new depth.

The program is open to teachers of grades 3 to 12, including history, English, drama, and media and technology. So if you know an interested teacher, encourage them to attend. It is a week they won’t forget.

SESSION I (K-5th Grade) Evening of June 24-June 29, 2012
FREE for qualifying DCPS and Public Charter School Teachers $300—commuter registration

SESSION II (Boarders, all grades) Evening of July 8–July 13, 2012
$600—shared room and airfare $1000—single room and airfare

FREE for qualifying DCPS and Public Charter School Teachers $300—commuter registration

Registration deadline is March 30, 2012

Applications are available at: http://www.fords.org/home/education/teacher-programs/professional-development

Nathaniel Green wins National Park Service 2011 Youth Volunteer Service Award

by Wayne Phillips, Park Ranger, Anacostia Park

Nathaniel (Nate) Green, a volunteer at the Anacostia Skating Pavilion, within National Capital Parks-East, was the recipient of the National Park Service’s 2011 George and Helen Hartzog Youth Volunteer Service Award. Nate better known to his friends as “Little Man” has been volunteering at the Anacostia Skating Pavilion for the past five years. Over the years, he has provided a spectrum of front line visitor services at the pavilion including presenting nature-based programs, conducting routine maintenance, and distributing skates.

During his time at the pavilion, Nate has been instrumental in piquing the interest of other young men and women as to how they too can volunteer with the National Park Service. Nate’s outgoing personality, his knowledge of park operations, and his willingness to work often result with parents, teachers, and group leaders wanting to know how they can get other youth involved in National Park Service programs.

Nate was the youngest award winner this year and was honored by National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis at the Madison Hotel in Washington, D.C. The ceremony took in October 2011. Nate has also volunteered in other parks within National Capital Parks-East, such as Fort Dupont Park, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, and Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens.

Mary McLeod Bethune’s Legacy:
An Intercultural Youth Experience to Understand Race in the 21st Century

By Dr. Joy Kinard, Central District Manager, National Capital Parks-East

The Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site held a three day Youth Leadership Workshop October 14-16, 2011, at the Council House and Colonial Farm’s Education Center located in Accokeek, Maryland. This workshop brought together diverse facilitators with Native American, African American, and Latinx roots who reached out to local high school youth from the Metro Area. The goal of this workshop was to teach youth how to believe in themselves as future leaders and share the likenesses we all have as members of the human race. This project was made possible in part by a grant from the National Park Foundation through the generous support of Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation, The Anschutz Foundation, and The Ahmanson Foundation.

The Youth Workshop kicked off with an introduction to the National Park Service and Mary McLeod Bethune NHS on the evening of Friday, October 14, 2011 at the Council House. On Saturday, October 15, 2011, the workshop moved to the Colonial Farm’s Education Center with opening remarks by the National Park Service Director of Youth Programs, Mr. George McDonald, followed by Dr. Gabrielle Tayar, curator of the National Museum of the American Indian. She gave a brief lecture on her ancestry connected to the Piscataway Indians and how the location of the workshop played a major role in the history of Native peoples of the Chesapeake area. The thirteen participants were then introduced to the many youth programs available to them in the National Capital Region, such as the Youth Conservation Corps, Youth Ambassadors Program, Volunteer in the Parks program, and Student Conservation Corps managed in National Capital Parks-East. Afterwards, the youth went outside under a canopy tent and learned the meaning of Mrs. Bethune’s Last Will and Testament. Through songs and storytelling, they created a talking stick and reflected on Bethune’s moral principles and values that guided her; for example, love, faith, hope, the challenge of developing confidence in one another, a thirst for education, a respect for the uses of power, faith, racial dignity, and the desire to live harmoniously with your fellow men.

Later sessions included learning about the struggles of African American leaders that were at the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement. Youth digitally captured their experience through testimonials given on site:

“...this was how baking up so early in the morning,” stated Miss Myla Clay, as she learned that the National Park Service cares to preserve her ethnic interests. She further states, “I’m learning stuff that you can’t find in any history class.” That day ended with a highlight spotting two eagles that live in the area.
**“Fire on the Potomac”**

**Kickoff to the War of 1812 Bicentennial Celebration at Fort Washington**

By Wesley Gant, Park Ranger, Fort Washington Park

On December 4th, 2011, Fort Washington hosted Mr. Patrick O’Neill, a local author and researcher, for a program about the War of 1812 on the Potomac. An audience of 50 was on hand to hear about the events that occurred before and after the destruction of the original Fort Washington on August 27, 1814. The first Fort Washington was built in 1808. Construction of the structure that stands today began in September 1814.

The program began with a lecture at the park’s visitor center, where Mr. O’Neill shed light on the situation faced by the Fort Washington garrison. During August 1814, while a British Army maneuvered inland toward the capital, a fleet of British warships ascended the Potomac River to threaten and destroy the fort. On August 27, 1814, Fort Washington was destroyed by its own garrison when the British ships arrived. After occupying the city of Alexandria, the British fleet faced American artillery batteries at White House Landing (on the grounds of the modern day Fort Belvoir in Virginia), and Island Head, Maryland, as they sailed down the Potomac River. The Battle of White House Landing took place from September 3-5, 1814. During the battle, David Porter (former Captain of The Essex) and sailors from the U.S. Navy, Virginia Militia, and a detachment of U.S. artillery from Fort Washington, attempted to “annoy or destroy” the British fleet. The battery of guns placed at White House Landing kept up a bombardment of the 10 British warships as they passed the bend in the river near Fort Washington. The British fleet included 21 prize vessels captured from the city of Alexandria, the ships carried goods, and a number of slaves that had fled to the British ships in search of freedom. Mr. O’Neill has drawn his research from the British ship logs and correspondence of the American commanders and hopes to publish them in a book in the future.

After the lecture, the group took a short Ranger-led walk to the fort as it relates to the events of 1814 at Fort Washington. The path highlighted how the structures and landscape of the park have changed since the original fort was destroyed in 1814.

Future War of 1812 Bicentennial commemoration events at Fort Washington are being coordinated with the War of 1812 Bicentennial Planning Committee. Fort Washington Park is a unit of National Capital Parks-East.

To learn more about Fort Washington and about future programs please contact the site at 301-763-4600 or visit: http://www.nps.gov/fowa

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**Community Garden Program**

By Kevin F. Barry, Park Ranger, Fort Dupont Park

The Fort Dupont Community Garden Program is now accepting applications for community garden permits. Community members interested in obtaining a garden plot must register for and attend one of our garden orientation meetings at the Fort Dupont Activity Center during the winter of 2012. For information on obtaining a garden permit, please call the Fort Dupont Activity Center at 202-426-7723 or email: Kevin_f_barry@nps.gov

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**Recurring Events**

**MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE COUNCIL HOUSE TOURS**
Sunday, February 5, 1:00 p.m.
All Ages
202-426-7723
Visitors can tour the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House. Please contact the site for tour details.

**FREDERICK DOUGLASS HOME TOURS**
Friday, February 10, 2:00 p.m.
All ages
202-426-5796
Ranger-led tours are the only way to see the inside of the Frederick Douglass house. Tours are ticketed, and there are a limited number of tickets available for each tour. Ticket prices are available by reservation or on a first-come, first-served walk-in basis. Visitors are strongly encouraged to make a reservation to guarantee their place on the tour. Tours last approximately 30 minutes. Visitors are encouraged to arrive at least 20 minutes early to pick up tickets at the Visitor Center and use restrooms.

**PISCATAWAY PARK**
Piscataway Park is open from dusk to dawn daily, year round.

**NATIONAL COLONIAL FARM AND THE VISITOR CENTER (PISCATAWAY PARK)**
Mid-December to Mid-March
The Visitor Center is open weekend only, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from mid-December to mid-March. The National Colonial Farm exhibit site is closed for the winter season, mid-December to mid-March.

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**February**

**A TACTICAL CIVIL WAR**
Fort DeRussy
Sunday, February 5, 1:00 p.m.
All Ages
202-426-7723
With advancement in weaponry, the tactics of war changed. Join a ranger for a talk at the Fort DeRussy Earthworks and learn how the Civil War generals adapted to the changing battlefield. Onsite parking available, 5200 Glover Road NW, Washington, D.C.

**FORT WASHINGTON TOURS BY THE FORT WASHINGTON GUARD**
Fort Washington Park/Visitor Center
Saturday, February 11, 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.
All Ages
301-763-4600
Volunteers in Civil War uniforms will provide tours from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Depending on the weather a musket demonstration will be provided at 1:00 p.m.

**FREDERICK DOUGLASS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**
Frederick Douglass NHS-Visitor Center
Saturday, February 11, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
All Ages
202-426-2566

**WHAT’S THAT, HABITAT?**
Greenbelt Park-Ranger Station
Saturday, Feb 11, 1:00 a.m.
All Ages
6 to 8
RSVP at 301-344-3548 or 3044-
Meet Park Ranger Debbie to learn and identify the basic needs of food, water and shelter for the wildlife animals in the park.

**SLAVERY AT MT. WELBY**
Oxon Cove Park-Visitor Barn
Saturday, February 11, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
All Ages
301-899-1776
Meet Oxon Cove Park used to have enslaved people who were forced to work here. Come hear some of their stories and learn about what life was like for enslaved people throughout this area. Let’s take a real look at some of these less-talked-about topics.

**FORAGING FOR TREASURES**
Alice Ferguson Foundation-Farm House
Tuesday, February 14, 7:00 p.m.
301-422-2665
Bill Saworoff will share the secrets of finding mushrooms in our neighborhood. He will talk about how to find the tasty treasures and how to stay healthy by avoiding the dangerous ones. Valentine treats will be served.

**JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM: ART WORKSHOP**
Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS
Saturday, February 18, 1:00 p.m.
Ages 8 to 12
202-673-2402
Junior Rangers, join an art workshop with facilitator, Gina Marie Lewis. Come on out and share your talents or discover your art abilities. You may be surprised with the final outcomes!

**READING STORIES WITH RANGER STEPH**
HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS!
Oxon Cove Park-Visitor Barn
Monday, February 20, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
All Ages
10 and accompanying adults
301-839-2176
Every third Monday of the month, come listen to stories, sing songs, and enjoy other activities. This month, join Ranger Steph as she takes you to the different places that people and animals have lived at Oxon Cove Park over the years. Get a tour of the farmhouse where the DeBuitt family lived 200 years ago. Meet in the Visitor Barn.

**CARTER G. WOODSON HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC MEETING**
African American Civil War Memorial and Museum, 1925 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.
Events

Wednesday, February 22
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
All Ages
http://parkplanning.nps.gov/woodsgnp

National Capital Parks-East will host a public meeting to present the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site General Management Plan and to gather public input and comment. The plan describes alternatives for development, visitor use, and management of the nation- historic site. The general management plan and environmen- tal assessment will be available for public review during the pe- riod of February 13 to March 13, 2012 on the National Park Service Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/woodsgnp.

BLACK SCIENTISTS & INVENTORS
Greenbelt Park-Ranger Station
Saturday, February 25
2:00 p.m.
All Ages
RSVP at 301-344-3548 or 3734
Park Ranger Debbie will present a video on Black Scientists and have an open discussion.

CIVIL WAR DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON BIKE TOUR
Fort Dupont Park-Activity Center
Saturday, February 25
10:00 a.m.
Ages 10 and up
202-426-7723

This mountain bike tour will journey along the Civil War Defenses of Washington Hiker-Biker Trail. The off-road trail takes riders through many parks exploring the Civil War earth- works and urban forest. Minimal experience riders and kids are welcome. Please bring a bike, helmet, and water. Parking is available at the Fort Dupont Park Activity Center, Fort Dupont Drive SE, Washington, D.C. 20020.

WHO BELONGS ON THE FARM?
Oxon Cove Park-Visitor Barn
Sunday, February 26
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
All Ages
202-426-6905

Sheep, cows, pigs, chickens… and deer! Which of these ani- mals doesn’t belong on the farm? Discover the difference between wild and domestic animals. Find out which forest animals are of- ten found at Oxon Hill Farm or in the surrounding parkland. Enjoy a puppet show and a rangers-led tour of the farm. Meet at the Visitor Barn.

ESCAPE OF AN ASSASSIN
Fort Stanton
Sunday, February 26
1:00 p.m.
All ages
202-426-7723

Join a ranger at Fort Stanton to learn how John Wilkes Booth fled the capital after assassinating President Lincoln. Parking at the Anacostia Museum, 1901 Fort Place SE, Washington, D.C.

March

FORT WASHINGTON TOURS BY THE FORT WASHINGTON GUARD
Fort Washington Park-Old Fort Washington
Fort Washington, MD
12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Ages 4 to 8
RSVP at 301-344-3548 or 3734

Join Park Ranger Debbie in the classroom and pick your favorite book to read.

WOMEN AND THE POWER OF THE PEN: A PROGRAM TO CELEBRATE WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH
Oxon Cove Park-Visitor Barn
Sunday, March 5
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
All ages
301-839-2176

Joan Kenny, winner of the 2011 Woman Artist of the Year Award, will discuss the work of 19th- and 20th-century black female artists. Participants will then have an opportunity to write a poem inspired by a selection of pieces from the artist’s exhibition.

LITTER WE KNOW
Greenbelt Park-Ranger Station
Saturday, March 3
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
All Ages
RSVP at 301-344-3548 or 3734

Join Park Ranger Debbie along with participants, will collect litter in the park and evaluate the effects of pollution.

April

ARTILLERY FIRING DEMONSTRATION
Fort Washington Park-Old Fort
Sunday, April 1
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
All Ages
301-763-6600

Ever wonder how Civil War cannons were fired? The Fort Washington Guard in period uniforms will demonstrate and explain the procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American artillery. The park has two artillery pieces: a 6-pound field gun and a 12-pound moun-
tain howitzer. Fireings will be at 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.

WILDFLOWER IDENTIFICATION
Kenwood Aquatic Gardens-Visitor Center
April 7 & 14
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
All Ages

Meet at the visitor center and bring your lunch (no alcohol or refrigerator available). Recognize flowers and their families using the field guide of your choice. The course is a be- ginner's one using field flow- ers in the park and some wet- land plants. Contact Park Ranger Kate Bocco for additional information.

GENTLY WRITTEN: THE POETRY OF MRS. DEBUTTS
Oxon Cove Park—Visitor Barn
Saturday, April 7
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
All Ages
301-839-2176

Mrs. DeButts, who lived on the land that is now Oxon Cove Park two hundred years ago, wrote a lot of neat things for us to read. Come explore some of her viv- id writing. We’ll explore the park together and see what Mrs. DeButts wrote as we write poems of our own.

24TH ANNUAL POTOMAC RIVER WATERSHED CLEANUP
Saturday, April 14
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
The Potomac River Watershed Cleanup includes hundreds of site locations through- out Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. Volunteers will be supplied with trash bags and gloves. Help join the efforts to en- sure clean land, safe water and healthy lives for us all! For more information, to volunteer, or to sign up for a cleanup site, please visit www.pwrc.org.

Events
for your organization! Wear old clothes and shoes/boots that you don’t mind getting wet and muddy. Bring work gloves and rakes, if you have them. No need to pre-register. Just join us in this much-needed effort! For more information, go to www.fergusonfoundation.org.

EVENTS

**CLEAN UP POTOMAC RIVER WATERSHED**
Fort Washington Park—Visitor Center
Saturday, April 14
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
All Ages
301-839-1176

Join in helping to clean up the Potomac River. Last year’s event removed over 20 tons of trash from the river. Wear boots, gloves, and clothing appropriate for slippery and wet conditions. You need to pre-register. Just show up and join in this effort.

**SPRING WALK**
Greenbelt Park—Dogwood Trail
Saturday, April 14
10:30 a.m.
All Ages
RSVP 301-344-3948 or 3944

Join Park Ranger Debbie to discuss the wonders of springs on the trail.

**ALICE FERGUSON FOUNDATION’S 24TH ANNUAL POTOMAC RIVER WATERSHED CLEANUP**
Oxon Cove Park—Parking Lot
Saturday, April 14
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Ages 18 to adult (Children are welcome if accompanied by an adult.)
301-839-1776

Do your part to help clean up the Potomac River Watershed by picking up trash down at Oxon Cove. Earn service hours needed by your organization! Wear old clothes and shoes/boots that you don’t mind getting wet and muddy. Bring work gloves and rakes, if you have them. No need to pre-register. Just join us in this much-needed effort! For more information, go to www.fergusonfoundation.org.

**READIN STORIES WITH RANGER STEPH: WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD!**
Oxon Cove Park—Visitor Barn
Monday, April 16
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Ages 0 to 5, and accompanying adults
301-839-1776

Every third Monday of the month, come listen to stories, sing songs, and enjoy other activities. This month, get ready for Earth Day as we focus on our wonderful world and how we can keep it wonderful. It’s never too early to start being a steward of our national parks. Meet Ranger Steph in the Visitor Barn.

**GARDENING WITH WILDFLOWERS**
Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens—Visitor Center
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 21
All ages
202-426-6905

Join the Junior Rangers at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens to learn about the many flowers and plants that thrive in our area. Participants will participate in hands-on activities and take home their own wildflower seed packets. Free and open to the public. No registration required.

**JAZZ FEST**
Fort Dupont Park—Activity Center
Saturday, April 21
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
All Ages
301-246-2723

Come out to Fort Dupont Park for a day full of music and activities. The event will feature live Jazz music, paddling trips, fishing demonstrations, and many other opportunities to learn about the treasures of the Anacostia River and National Capital Parks-East.

**AMERICA’S BEST IDEA: LET’S TAKE A WALK TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL PARK WEEK**
Oxon Cove Park—Parking Lot
Sunday, April 22
12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
All Ages
301-839-1776

Reservations recommended

Setting aside land to be used by everyone has often been referred to as “America’s Best Idea.” Join us for a moderate paced 1.5 mile walk through Oxon Cove and discover why this site opened its gates to all and became a national park in 1967. Our Volunteer Coordinator will be available after the walk to answer questions on how you can help to protect and preserve the park for the enjoyment of future generations. Meet at the parking lot. Please wear comfortable shoes and clothes for walking.

**ANCOSTIA RIVER & JAZZ FEST**
Anacostia Park—Skating Pavilion
Saturday, April 21
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
All Ages
301-839-1776

Come out to Anacostia Park for a day full of music and activities. The event will feature live Jazz music, paddling trips, fishing demonstrations, and many other opportunities to learn about the treasures of the Anacostia River and National Capital Parks-East.
## Activities at your fingertips

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