News Along the Trail

Research is underway on the study of the routes of the Washington-Rochambeau NHT through Massachusetts. Alan Hoffman, Chair of W3R-MA and President of the Lafayette Society, will meet with Boston National Historical Park and the Washington-Rochambeau NHT in the coming months to discuss ways in which Boston NHP, the NHT, and the Massachusetts Lafayette Society can work together in the future to educate the American public about this important, but often forgotten, part of our early history.

Joy Homestead, along the Washington-Rochambeau NHT, will be participating in the 28th Annual Rhode Island Statewide Historic Preservation Conference as a destination on the Revolutionary War Bus Tour on April 27th. The tour of Joy Homestead will be a great tool to get the word out about the NHT. For more information: [http://www.preservation.ri.gov/pdfs_zips_downloads/conf_pdfs/13program.pdf](http://www.preservation.ri.gov/pdfs_zips_downloads/conf_pdfs/13program.pdf)

Todd Levine has been appointed the Connecticut state coordinator for Washington-Rochambeau NHT. Todd works for the CT State Historic Preservation office and will be coordinating CT efforts along the NHT. We look forward to working with him and all of our partners. Todd can be reached at the State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Economic & Community Development via e-mail at Todd.Levine@ct.gov and by phone # 860-256-2759.
The Washington-Rochambeau NHT has submitted an application for the National Park Foundation’s 2013 Active Trails Grants Program. The active Trails Program promotes healthy living by getting people out and active on the trails. The Washington-Rochambeau NHT application is to create bike trails along the NHT in Connecticut, connecting with nine Revolutionary War themed trails planned by a team including Sal Lilienthal, owner of The Bicycle Tour Company, and Professor and author Mary Collins. The routes, including the NHT, will be part of an interactive website which will allow potential tourists to match their riding ability to easy, moderate, and difficult sections of these historical routes. The NHT will form the main artery within the network, and will also connect the New England National Scenic Trail, Appalachian National Scenic Trail, the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor, Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, and various historical sites along the route. Our application will help promote the Connecticut Tourism Board’s new motto, “It’s Still Revolutionary.”

The wayside exhibit program for the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail in New York is still underway. There were some delays caused by damage from Hurricane Sandy in the Hudson River Valley, but the project is back on track. The new schedule has a tentative date for the wayside exhibits to be ready in the early months of 2014.

Be a part of Path Through History Weekends in New York! Path Through History Weekends highlight sites in a statewide celebration of New York State’s history. Heritage Weekend will join Governor Cuomo’s new Path Through History initiative, and become Path Through History Weekends, June 1-2 and 8-9. More information about these exciting weekends will be coming to you soon! For any questions, please email hrvg@hudsongreenway.ny.gov.

The New Jersey chapter (W3R®-NJ) of the National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association, Inc. (W3R®-US) sponsored a breakfast and lecture on Saturday, March 2nd in Princeton, NJ at the Nassau Club. The speaker was William Welsch, co-founder of the Congress of American Revolution Round Tables. The topic was “George Washington’s Other Generals.” Welsch, formerly on the faculty of Montclair University in New Jersey is now a resident of Richmond, VA. He presented a lively and amusing overview of some of the nearly eighty individuals who achieved the rank of General during the Revolutionary War. The talk was peppered with quotes regarding how the generals regarded one another.
A site cleanup is being conducted by E.I. DuPont De Nemours & Company in Pompton Lakes and Wanaque, **New Jersey**. A Preassessment Screen for the site is being pursued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and includes $5,000 to be used by the NPS to assess Washington-Rochambeau NHT resources and related Revolutionary War resources in the area.

Dr. Robert Selig will be giving a lecture at Morristown National Historical Park in **New Jersey** on Thursday, 9 May 2013 at 7:00 p.m. It is Part II of the lecture given two years ago and covers the two armies’ movements on the NHT from Morristown to Trenton in August 1781.

On Feb 22, Ursula Reed and Joe DiBello met with Christopher Linn of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission in **Pennsylvania** to discuss the NHT and its inclusion in the regional trail network [http://www.dvrpc.org/RegionalTrailsProgram/](http://www.dvrpc.org/RegionalTrailsProgram/) and the Circuit Trail [http://connectthecircuit.org/](http://connectthecircuit.org/). We will continue to work closely with the East Coast Greenway, the 9-11 Trail, and pursue opportunities to get the word out about the NHT to coordinate our efforts as work progresses.

Also in **Pennsylvania**, the staff at Valley Forge and Independence National Historical Parks are making arrangements for relocating the Washington-Rochambeau display currently located at Valley Forge National Historical Park to its original location at the Independence National Historical Park Visitor Center. The Independence Visitor Center will also display NHT brochures and provide passport stamps.

Bills have been introduced in Congress which would designate several historic buildings and **Delaware** sites, along with acreage along the Brandywine Creek, as the First State National Historical Park. Based on an initial look it seems that the NHT connects with the proposal and perhaps provides future opportunities for collaboration.

Nicole Yancey, the W3R® liaison in **Virginia**, has initiated discussions with the state and communities to introduce the NHT and explore its use as a connector and tourism promotion tool. We will be arranging a meeting in Virginia to discuss possibilities of linking revolutionary sites along the corridor in the state. We are also working with Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail to review plans for Route 1, coordinate signs and displays at Mason Neck and Meadowood, develop an event or program with Wounded Warriors and explore other opportunities for coordinating trail planning and interpretation in Virginia.

Two American Revolution Grant Applications were submitted to the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) for **Virginia** sites. One by Gloucester County, Virginia’s Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism seeking funding to evaluate resources associated with Gloucester Point, Virginia and the 1781 Battle of the Hook. The other by the Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Department focused on the 1781 Battle off the Capes. Both the Gloucester Point Battle of the Hook and the Chesapeake Bay Battle off the Capes were critical to the siege of Yorktown that resulted in the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and ultimately American Independence.
Updates on the NHT

While we anxiously await the resolution of the budget, we are continuing to move ahead cautiously in these times of reductions and constraints. We are working to develop partnerships, to get the word out about the NHT and diversify the source of funds to help finance and carry out trail related projects and initiatives. Please let us know if you have suggestions or know of opportunities for us to work on together.

The Partnership for National Trail System (PNTS) and the American Hiking Society (AHS) organized a trails week in Washington DC from Feb. 8-14, 2013. The week included their committee meetings, board meetings, and visits to Capitol Hill. Separate but concurrent, are federal interagency trail meetings and NPS trail staff meetings were held which Joe DiBello attended on February 12th.

Each year the National Park System plans and projects its needs for project funding in the coming five years. This year’s Servicewide Comprehensive Call was for projects being requested primarily for FY 2015 through FY 2019. The Washington-Rochambeau NHT team submitted a total of twenty-two proposed projects valued at over $3 million. Some projects require matching funds from supporters of the NHT. The projects include developing management and interpretive plans for the overall NHT; completing resource studies for each state, individual state brochures, development of a wayfinding sign system; creating an overall Washington-Rochambeau NHT guidebook and documentary film; developing cell phone tours; and supporting state and national events and preservation activities.

It seems a long way off, but starting in 2025 we will mark the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War. It is never too early to begin thinking about opportunities to reach out to new partners, strengthen existing relationships, and/or engage new audiences. Please let us know if you are interested in participating in a discussion about how we might coordinate and connect events to commemorate and reflect on the anniversary.

We would like to compile photos of all Washington-Rochambeau NHT events, past and future. Please send any photos you would like included to Samantha Driscoll at samantha_driscoll@nps.gov. You can register for a free Flickr account. Once registered, you will be able to comment on all photos. We ask your help in using the comment section to caption the images and tell more about the place, people, or event!

Please see photos of past events at:

http://www.flickr.com/photos/washington-rochambeau/
We’ve gone digital!

Please visit the official NPS website for the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail: [www.nps.gov/waro](http://www.nps.gov/waro)


NPS: A Call to Action

The National Park Service is nearing its 100th Anniversary in 2016. National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis has announced A Call to Action to move the NPS into a new century. A Call to Action calls for creative and innovative ways to interpret, experience, communicate, protect, and educate the parks, trails, sites, and resources of the National Park Service.


The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail will work with communities along the route to:

- Reach new audiences to tell the story of Generals Washington and Rochambeau, the allied armies, and the people impacted by this event

- Connect the national, state, local parks, trails, heritage areas, and greenways on the route and add cultural resource preservation and interpretation to the natural and recreation resources along the route

- Offer rich, interactive, up-to-date content in a user-friendly web platform that supports online and mobile technology including social media

Online Tourism Guide for the NHT

The NPS website section called, “Things to Do,” will act as a tourism guide to the NHT where potential tourists will be able to select the state in which they are planning to travel, and view a list of sites and destinations along the Washington-Rochambeau NHT. **We ask your help in telling us which sites you would like to see included from your state!** The sites should be open to the public, and can be federal, state, local, or non-profit. Please send your list of destinations and their corresponding websites directly to Samantha Driscoll at samantha_driscoll@nps.gov.

Google Maps of the NHT Auto Route

The NPS website is now up and running, allowing us to have a more accessible format for the Google Maps of the NHT Auto Route. Please follow this link to the ‘Directions’ page of the NPS site and click on the state. [http://www.nps.gov/waro/planyourvisit/directions.htm](http://www.nps.gov/waro/planyourvisit/directions.htm)
Items of Interest

Washington and Rochambeau in Liberty’s Kids Episode #36 “Yorktown”

Liberty’s Kids is an animated educational historical fiction television series originally broadcast on PBS Kids from 2002 to 2003. The following links will take you to Part 1 and Part 2 of Episode #36 entitled, “Yorktown.” The Washington-Rochambeau NHT is explained in conjunction with the siege of Yorktown, resulting in a very entertaining cartoon!

EPISODE 36: “Yorktown”
PART ONE: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzAyaPP95zw
PART TWO: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBCdzPtfVdU

National Water Trails System Application for Designation

There is a new National Water Trails System. Water trail managers can apply for designation through an easy online application, and visitors can learn more about designated trails through a photo gallery, dynamic stories, and videos. An interactive map and new search functions make it easy for users to find national water trails throughout the country. Visit the new site at www.nps.gov/watertrails

Jamestown’s Legacy to the American Revolution
March 2013-January 2014

More than 60 objects destined for exhibit at the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown will be on display in “Jamestown’s Legacy to the American Revolution,” opening March 1 at Jamestown Settlement, a museum of 17th-century Virginia. The special exhibition, which continues through January 20, 2014, examines the lives of Revolutionary War-era descendants of people associated with 17th-century Jamestown, the first capital of colonial Virginia. Work is under way on the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, which will replace the Yorktown Victory Center by late 2016. Colonel Richard Taylor, who served with the First Virginia Regiment of the Continental Army, and Captain Edward Travis IV, who served in the Virginia navy, are featured in “Soldiers and Sailors.” Most Virginians who fought in the war were either militiamen or soldiers of the Continental Line. Virginia’s small naval force operated chiefly to keep the state’s rivers and the Chesapeake Bay safe from the British navy and to assist in the transport of supplies for the Continental Army. For more information, call (888) 593-4682 toll-free or (757) 253-4838 or visit www.historyisfun.org.
Preserving African American Historic Places
National Trust Primer

To help local advocates preserve African-American historic sites, especially those individuals new to preservation, the National Trust has published a basic primer, Preserving African American Historic Places. This 24-page publication presents an overview of traditional preservation networks and their roles, offers tips on how to get preservation underway in your community, and looks at the various legal and financial tools that help protect historic properties. The booklet also includes six case studies to illustrate various strategies for preserving and honoring historic places associated with African-American history. Download the pdf at http://www.preservationnation.org/forum/library/public-articles/PB_AfricanAmericanSites.pdf

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Community Conservation Partnership Grants
Applications due April 10, 2013

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will begin accepting applications for the 2013 round of Community Conservation Partnership Grants on January 9. The deadline for applications is April 10.

For grant applications and instructions, visit the DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Grants webpage or contact the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation’s Linda Manning by sending email to: Linmanning@pa.gov.

National Trust for Historic Preservation Small Grant Program
Applications due February 1, June 1, or October 1, 2013

In 2012, the National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded more than $1 million to nearly 200 projects across the country through its small grant program. The majority of funding comes from the National Trust Preservation Fund which supports preservation planning and educational projects. Nonprofit organizations and public agencies that are members of the National Trust at the Forum or Main Street level are eligible to apply.

Grants typically range from $2,500-$5,000 and require a dollar-for-dollar match. This match can be a grant from a foundation or other organization, funds raised from local support, or any other revenue source. The National Trust Preservation Fund is made up of many endowed funds that are specific to states and/or regions, but all applicants use a common application form. There are three annual deadlines for the National Trust Preservation Fund: February 1, June 1, and October 1. There are also special funds with a single deadline each year. Please visit: http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/find-funding/documents/preservation-funds-guidelines-eligibility.html#.UQFqRR35jkR. Please contact us to discuss projects, sites, or proposals that you think may qualify.