

ANNUAL NARRATIVE FOR KENNESAW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK 2000

Administration

The year started without a glitch, Y2K did not present any problem to the park or staff at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. That was thanks in part to the administrative staff working closely with the regional communications staff to assure all our computer, alarms and other digital equipment was able to handle to change. It all went perfectly.

2000 was a year of transition for the staff. Our Chief Ranger Richard Hanks, transferred to Fort Donelson as Superintendent. In the interim, several rangers were given the role of acting chief. Lila Roybal was the first to get the assignment, however she transferred to Big Cypress before her acting position was over. Richard Biurgren followed Roybal in the acting position until it was filled in October. Lloyd Morris was transferred in from Martin L. King, Jr. N.H.S., as the new chief.

In addition, Anthony Winegar was hired in a full time law enforcement position from the Visitor Use Assistant position he had held for nearly a year. Willie R. Johnson was hired into the new Historian Trainee position during this period as well. A permanent part-time position in maintenance has been advertised and will be filled early in 2001. Two awards were given. Vince Farist, Maintenance Mechanic, was given a "STAR," award for his continued excellent work coordinating maintenance activities. Nancy Milton, Administrative Officer was given a Quality Increase for the quality of her work in addition too, handling all the additional workload generated by new computer programs, Y2K issues and personnel actions required over the past year.

The budget was spent to one-half of one percent as mandated by our budget standards. With several vacant positions during the year, we were able to attend more training, purchase and upgrade many expensive equipment items and complete planning for the networking of our park computers. Following so many years of tight budgets because of little flexibility with permanent positions, it was nice to have that ability to purchase some of the things we needed but had been unable to fund over the past several years. All the funds allocated to the park through PMIS were expended on the projects intended. The administrative officer and budget clerk are to be commended for their handling of the budget and fiscal matters during 2000.

A tremendous effort was placed on updating and completing inventory lists for each division. With the many transfers, it was a painstaking effort by the administrative officer to assure proper record keeping on all the capitol items throughout the park, including sensitive items. Many old items that were no longer serviceable were destroyed according to federal property regulations. We were also able to add a skid-loader to our fleet of maintenance vehicles. The unit was purchased with several attachments including a small backhoe for trail and roadway drainage maintenance.

The Administrative Audit Team selected Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park as one of their first to audit under the newly revised standards. That audit was conducted in the spring of 2000 and everything was found to be in order.

Maintenance

The Southern Pine Beetle still causes a great deal of concern among the park pine groves. It is an estimate, but somewhere in the area of 3,000 trees were felled this year near roads, trails and other developed zones. The park was also hit with two ice storms that blocked roads, trails and parking lots for almost two weeks.

The maintenance crew spent most of January and February cleaning up from the storm damage caused by these storms. Otherwise the winter was mild one.

The maintenance staff increased its vehicles by one when a new skid loader was purchased from year-end funds. It is small enough to be used on the trails in some of the steep areas that suffer from erosion. It can also be used along the edge of the historic fields and boundary for clearing of vegetation that creeps into the historic zones. The loader will also be used for trenching when replacing water lines, sewer lines and the like. It can also be used as a tool to keep the fire breaks open along the boundary near homes. It is a tool that will see a lot of service here.

In addition to the normal routine duties, this year the maintenance staff reorganized with the transfer of the Chief of Operations. Vince Farist was assumed the duties of maintenance mechanic as a leader and now directs the day to day activities of the crew. This has greatly reduced the cost associated with maintenance operations and has allowed the other two staff members to become much more involved in the decision making and daily operations.

The parks safety program continues to be run from the maintenance division by Safety Officer Harold Rogers. For the first year in over a decade, Kennesaw Mountain did not have one lost time injury. Regular safety meetings and an emphasis on safety among the entire staff has given everyone the sense that they are responsible for the safety program.....at least their portion. It will now be necessary for us to continue with that thought in order to keep accidents down and morale up.

During the year, maintenance, under contract, cleared almost two miles of boundary near a subdivision that backs up to the park. We will now be able to get hand crews and the new skid loader into that area to keep in clean, reducing the potential for serious fires from leaving the park. Only a few places along the boundary are not touched by homes and most of the undeveloped areas are wetlands, or to steep to build on.

The maintenance crew placed the new artillery display in front of the visitor center. It consisted of three guns placed on the north-facing patio with one facing west near the front doors. The carriages were all cleaned and painted by court workers and boy scouts and the maintenance crew anchored the carriages to prevent accidental breakage.

The maintenance crew was again supplemented by the use of court workers and trustees from the Cobb County Jail. The system works well for very labor intensive projects including vista clearing and boundary work. Harold Rogers and Keith Conley are the primary supervisors of the trustees.

Ranger Activities

With the Chief of Operations leaving, the ranger division reorganized, back under a Chief of Interpretation and Resource Management. The new chief hired in October was Lloyd Morris. Since he did not enter on duty until late in the year, he did not have time to make much of an impact on the operation. He was surely welcomed by the other law enforcement staff as two of them had been answering all the calls and incidents for over six months.

Despite being short-handed, the two protection people left on the staff following the transfers of Roybal and Hanks, continued to produce the same number of cases that all four did. They also managed to investigate a rash of car break-ins at various trailheads within the park. There were never any arrests made but the suspects must have been caught elsewhere because the break-ins stopped about mid-fall. In addition, the two rangers worked a tough suicide that involved multi-jurisdiction searches over three days. The body was found in the park near the CSX Railroad tracks.

Park rangers continued to support the public safety effort countywide by involving themselves in the county public safety week and awards. In addition the chief ranger continued to support the county chief's association by attending the regular monthly meetings. Rangers attended briefings with the county police to stay abreast of county police actions and trouble spots. Rangers continued to support the other two

metro parks in an informal way, assisting with special events and incidents taking place in the other two parks. The informal arrangement has worked very well.

A new intern was hired this year; Benita Green will assist in the interpretive operations once she enters on duty in the park in February 2001. Benita has a Masters Degree in History and should be a valuable asset to the interpretive staff.

Living history programs continued to draw big crowds. With over three hundred different volunteers, the park was able to have a number of programs and a variety that drew as many as 300 per cannon firing. Willie Ray Johnson was hired during the year as the new park historian replacing Marilyn Hause-Loftis. Mr. Johnson was also sent to black powder training at Fort Smith, Arkansas and is now in charge of the black powder programs in the park.

Rangers also participated in their first RAD (Rangers Against Drugs), program in three years. Benita Green attended and taught several classes at Peterson Elementary in southwest Atlanta. The kids were excited and perhaps the most interesting thing was the return of a high school student who attended on the first classes of RAD at Peterson. She returned to attend the graduation of her little sister from the fall 2000-RAD class. She said others in her class she knew took drugs but she did not and all her friends did not use drugs as well.

Rangers, under the direction of Willie Johnson, moved a rare cannon tube into the visitor center for display. The tube was photographed in the rebel works near Atlanta in October 1864. That tube was conserved and placed on a new carriage for display in the new museum, but for the time being, it is in the lobby.

Management

During 2000, the park management was quite busy with defending the park boundaries from continued encroachments. In addition to the regular issues such as Dallas Highway, efforts were again revived to widen a portion of Stilesboro Road, a historic military approach road and heavily used commuter road through the park. The Stilesboro issue is settled for now.

The City of Marietta has asked for a right-of-way through the park to place a 15-inch waste water line from the Burnt Hickory Road to the western park boundary and tie onto the Cobb County system. The city was advised the park was not interested. They persisted and we will allow them to study the route, mark it and they will support all the costs associated with the project.

The park worked with the City of Marietta on the replacement of the Noses Creek Bridge at Burnt Hickory Road. The Bridge was closed for approximately two months. All vehicle traffic had to be rerouted including park visitors. The new bridge is in and traffic movement is back to normal in that area.

The Strategic Plan 5-Year Plan was updated during the calendar year 2000.

The Park Superintendent continued to serve on the following boards in 2000: Cobb County Youth Museum, Cobb County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Kennesaw Civil War Museum, Marietta Kiwanis and Georgia Kiwanis Foundation. The Park Superintendent also continued to work with the following partners: Friends of Kennesaw Mountain, Kennesaw Mountain Historical Association, Kennesaw to Stone Mountain Trail Committee, National Trails Day Committee, NPCA's Community Partners, Georgia Civil War Commission, and National Audubon.

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park was designated the first "Important Birding Site," in the State of Georgia by the National Audubon Society. Birders from all over the state and region were on hand for the ceremony in November. Kennesaw is important because of the declining populations of warblers throughout the nation and the great numbers of them seen here in the spring and fall during migration.

Park management is mitigating the effects of a trail that would lead out of a new subdivision on the northern end of the park, known as the Ridenour Subdivision. The developer wants a trail into the park for the public but also for his new residents which will include a variety of home types. Townhouses, single family homes and apartments, as well as office space, and small town complex with commercial stores will all be located on these eighty-eight acres. The development did leave thirty acres undeveloped for protection of some earthworks and a natural area for their residents. The park position to date has been to study it but not allow it if it is not open to the entire public.

The City of Marietta, City of Kennesaw and the park are all studying the possibility of a shuttle between the Kennesaw Civil War Museum, Marietta Museum of History and the Kennesaw Mountain National Park. So far, there have not been any decisions made but it would be a help to the park who suffers from parking problems.

Progress on the Kennesaw Mountain to Stone Mountain Trail got its first boost. Almost a million dollars was secured to study the trail and perhaps build the first mile or so from the park entrance to Kennesaw Avenue. It would be a great help to be able to connect to the existing sidewalks now on Kennesaw Avenue to assist visitors in getting to the park from Marietta without using a car. The trail, when finished would connect the three metro national park sites as well as the Carter Presidential Library and the Stone Mountain Park, a state supported park area.

2000 Quarterly LEO Assessment					
OFFENSE CODE	OFFENSE	1ST QTR	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	4TH QTR
					TOTALS
	ARSON			1	
020010	ASSAULT		1		
	ASSAULT WITH FIREARM			1	
060110	ARPA		3	1	
	ARSON AND ABETTING		1		
062004	VANDALISM	3			
070021	POSS OF MARIJUANA	6	6		1
070053	POSS OF CONTROL SUBST				1
071250	POSS DRUG RELATED OBJ				
080000	FRAUD				
149901	THEFT GOVT PROP				
149902	MISSAWHOP GOVT PROP				
145000	THEFT FROM AUTO				1
150000	THEFT OF AUTO	2		2	
191000	RAPE				
209951	PUBLIC INDECENCY	2		3	1
229903	SHOTS FIRED	1			1
250001	SOLICITING				
262001	DISORDERLY CONDUCT			4	
260100	DOG ATTACK				
269900	PUBLIC INTOX				
270001	D.U.I.				1
290051	CRUELTY TO CHILDREN				
300001	UNDERAGE POSSESSION	5	5		3
301001	GIFT TO A MINOR		1		
302001	OPEN CONT/POSS ALC BEV	4	5		6
321001	CLOSURE	68	58	28	16
332001	TRESPASSING				
341000	IMPOUND	4	8	2	3
340001	ABANDONED VEHICLE	1	2		
379910	ILLEGAL CAMPING				
400002	DOG OFF LEASH	13	12	1	
	POSS OF WEAPON	1			
	INTERFERING		5	2	
410001	FALSE INFORMATION				
430001	EXPLOSIVES				
500003	DISOBEY LAWFUL ORDER				
530001	POSS OF METAL DETECTOR			3	
535901	POSS OF NAT RESOURCES	1	2		
535902	DEST OF NAT RES				
590001	LITTERING	6		2	2
	Degradation To Fed Property			1	
650001	TRAV OFF DESIG ROADWAY	4	3	1	2
652001	NO PROOF INS	9	5	9	4
661001	FAIL TO STOP AT ACCIDENT				1
670009	BLOCK HAND ACCESS				
670010	PARKING	50	30	13	
	NO SEATBELT		4	1	
690001	NO LICENSE IN POSS	6		1	
691001	REVOKED LICENSE	1			
690003	EXPIRED LICENSE	1			
692001	SUSP DRIVERS LIC	1	1		2
699930	ALLOW UNLIC DRIVER				
699950	UNLAWFUL USE OF LICENSE				
	Violate License Designation			1	
701001	FOLLOW TOO CLOSELY	1		2	1
701020	OBSTRUCTING TRAFFIC	3	2	1	
702005	PASS ON SHOULDER	4			
704020	SPEEDING	8	7	1	1
719925	TWO HEADLIGHTS REQ	4			
719931	TWO TAILLIGHTS REQ	1	2		
719940	NO BRAKE LIGHTS	2			
720000	DISREGARD TRAFF DEV	5		3	
723002	FAIL TO YIELD	1	2	3	1
	NO TURN SIGNAL				1
730010	UNSAFE OPS	15	4	4	4
800000	TRAFFIC ACCIDENT	3	4	6	5
740003	CONCEAL LIC PLATE				
740010	EXPIRED TAG	14	6	1	1
740005	NO TAG	1	1		
760010	WARRANTS				
772001	WILDLIFE				
809900	ACCIDENT/OTHER				
819900	AIRCRAFT INCIDENT				
820400	FIRE UNKNOWN CAUSE				
	Car Fire			2	
840000	ASSIST OTHER AGENCY		2	3	2
842000	ASSIST VISITOR	7	12	4	
850900	DAMAGE TO GOVT PROP				1
861000	FATALITY				1
862000	SUICIDE	1			
900030	HAZARD				
910001	INJURY				2
910011	EMS	9		1	1
930010	PROPERTY LOST			1	
930020	PROPERTY FOUND				
	Recovered Stolen Vehicle			1	
960020	SEARCH	3			1
973000	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	1	2		
980000	UNSECURE INSTALLATION	3	4	1	
	PROTECTION PROGRAMS				
	DEMENTED PERSON				1
	COMPLAINT				1
999900	OTHER	3	4	1	
999997	ORIG EDUCATION				
	TOTAL	278	205	112	69
					664