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## Director's Note

Several years ago I was on an extended canoe trip in the wilds of Manitoba, Canada. The granite bedrock rimming each sparkling lake, the beautiful loons and their haunting cries, the spectacular sunsets...all of it made you feel as if you were the first person to ever float that little piece of heaven. But we weren't, of course. Several hundred years ago, the first people to visit left their mark on the rocky outcroppings, the red hue of a hand print surviving the centuries. Beautiful in its simplicity. However, those first people weren't the only ones eager to leave their mark. The second set of

pictographs left all of our mouths gaping. "Mike" had spray-painted his name in black right across an ancient drawing.

This month, our newsletter is focusing on stewardship of cultural and natural resources. Ultimately, that's really what we are all about as interpreters. We strive to create magic for people, and in doing so make personal connections to our resources. And in the end we hope everyone who is touched will be a better steward of those resources. Remember, Mike is out there...maybe in your audience.

## Stewardship Through Interpretation at George Washington Birthplace National Monument

By Alan Hageman

What is stewardship and how can our parks promote stewardship on shrinking budgets? Merriam-Webster (2014) defines stewardship, in part, as "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care."<sup>1</sup> This idea of stewardship is intrinsic with the founding of the National Park Service in 1916 which stated its purpose thus: "...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."<sup>1</sup>

Washington Birthplace National Monument in 1930 the concept of stewardship was inherent in its enabling language which included preserving the birthplace of George Washington and an 18<sup>th</sup> century Virginia Tidewater working plantation.



When Congress established George

## Helping Our Land Heal

Contributed by John Shafer

Helping Our Land Heal: A Natural Capital Stewardship Model is a cooperative project sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority to restore ecosystems and foster stewardship. The project is focused on developing tools to restore our natural areas and their biodiversity and educating residents about their role in taking care of our valuable natural resources. Natural resources can also be called Natural Capital – assets that provide valuable ecosystem services to include clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat, quality of life benefits and increased property values. Natural capital is not self-sustaining and needs the help of all

residents to relieve the stresses caused by human activities, overabundant species like white-tailed deer and non-native invasive species.

For additional information on this initiative follow the below links.

Deer Management Explained:  
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resource-management/holh.htm>

Poster Interactive Link:  
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resource-management/helping-the-land-heal-poster.htm>

## Stewardship Through Interpretation (continued)

The establishment of the Birthplace was actually the vision of a group of ladies acting under a charter known as Wakefield Association desiring to revive an overgrown and almost forgotten former plantation that happened to be the birthplace of the “Father of Our Country.”

There are different ideas for protecting and preserving our national treasures such as Washington’s birthplace but one method that may not receive adequate attention is that of interpretation. If interpretation is arguably unappreciated and underfunded, it is certainly not a new idea and has existed in the Park Service from its beginning. In April 1953, NPS director Conrad Wirth reinforced the importance of interpretation stating that “protection (comes) through appreciation, appreciation through understanding, and understanding through interpretation.”<sup>1</sup>

connection between stewardship (or resource protection) through interpretation, it is just as probable that park planners and interpreters at all government levels agree that their staffing and budgets are inadequate at providing sufficient levels of interpretation. How then can a park enhance its interpretation?

At George Washington’s Birthplace recent success has been achieved through a partnership with the Heritage 4-H club. Through 4-H, youth of all ages learn and perform colonial crafts under the mentorship of park interpretive staff and adult volunteers. Colonial crafts include blacksmithing, spinning and weaving, sewing, colonial era games, music, open hearth cooking, agricultural skills, and other assorted activities associated with a Tidewater plantation.

During any calendar year, approximately eight special events are scheduled along various seasonal themes, “Spring on the Plantation,” for example. During these events, 4-H parents and youth volunteers in period clothing populate the park’s historic area and engage in the many activities that occurred on the plantation in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Events are promoted ahead of time and, barring unfavorable weather, are generally well attended by the public representing all ages.



If we agree with Director Wirth on the

Continued on next page



### Where in the Region

Find out where this picture was taken by turning to the last page.

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## Stewardship Through Interpretation (continued)

The 4-H club enhances visitors' experience above the typical day where an interpretive ranger provides hourly tours; 4-H supported events are active, vibrant, and highly engaging. Interaction between 4-H and the public is continuous and includes public participation, and both formal and informal interpretation. Park interpretive staff, also in period clothing, work alongside 4-H volunteers although one or two staff members usually remain in their regulation uniform so that visitors can easily identify staff.

Visitors often travel a considerable distance to attend the events and comments are always very favorable.

The park's 4-H club has received formal external recognition. Park Ranger Dick Lahey received the NPS Northeast Region's "Leader in Interpretation" award for initiating the 4-H partnership through the Virginia Tech Extension Office. In 2013, 4-H adult volunteer Debbie Lawton received the NAI Chesapeake Region "Outstanding Interpretive Volunteer" award.

The sum of the 4-H partnership in achieving this interpretation-stewardship relationship is two-fold. One is that visitors receive an

enhanced experience that is well beyond the park's ability to provide on its own. Second, there exists a growing crop of 4-H volunteers who are preserving colonial skills while developing a life-long appreciation for colonial era history and culture.

The 4-H/Park partnership also clearly achieves the goal of the noted author, Freeman Tilden, which he puts forth as follows: "...the clear duty (is) not merely to preserve the piece of hallowed ground, but to make it full of meaning to the visitor. This is *interpretation*. In the very place, surrounded by the very memorials, you enjoy by understanding. From that fuller understanding follows a sense of personal custody. 'This is my legacy. I must protect it.' Thus interpretation becomes also an instrument of the safekeeping of our parks."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Retrieved from Merriam-Webster on-line dictionary (2014) on April 8, 2014 at <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/stewardship>

<sup>1</sup> The National Park Service Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 123, and 4), as set forth herein, consists of the Act of Aug. 25 1916 (39 Stat. 535)

<sup>1</sup> Conrad Wirth directive to all NPS field offices, April 1053

<sup>1</sup> From *Interpreting Our Heritage*, Fourth edition, by Freeman Tilden, UNC Press, 2007 (P. 190)

## Vernal Pool Exploration

Eight interpreters trekked into the shallow water, facing downward, eyes darting, totally absorbed in the hunt. So it was on Friday, April 11 as we explored numerous vernal pools at Bull Run Regional Park guided by Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority naturalists David Garcia and Casey Pittrizzi.

The following is a list of sightings during this Beltway chapter session as noted by Alonso Abugattas: "We saw one pickerel frog, lots of singing and mating American toads (and their egg strings), wood frog eggs and tadpoles, spotted salamander egg masses, an upland chorus frog and some egg masses that had tadpoles emerging (a lifer for me), a spring peeper with many calling, and some non-amphibian vernal pool stuff too like waterfleas (*Daphnia*) and fingernail

clams. We never confirmed the water tiger and dragonfly larvae. Also had a box turtle shell, various wildflowers, water snail eggs, water striders, and water beetles. That's what I recall. Not a bad haul at all!"



Exploring vernal pools, photo by Casey Pittrizzi, NVRPA



## Workshop Wrap-up: Westmoreland, Watermen, and Wildlife

By Alan Hageman

I was honored to participate in the NAI Region 2 Workshop at Westmoreland State Park, Virginia, in March. This was my first workshop experience and I was not disappointed. It is likely I share with many of the participants in listing Doug Elliott as one of the high points of the workshop. I purchased and just began reading Doug's book, *Wildwoods Wisdom: Encounters with the Natural World* (1992) and find that Doug's writings and illustrations absorb the reader equal to his presentations and nature walks.

Doug possesses the characteristics found in other successful interpreters which include a keen sense of observation, a child-like sense of curiosity, and a joy for learning from a variety of people who share his passion for the natural world. The sum of this is Doug's enthusiasm and

ability to communicate his knowledge in a manner that captivates his audience.

It is evident when listening to Doug and reading his writings that he owes a lot of his knowledge and appreciation to the people who he has walked with over the years. In a sense, that is what the whole workshop was all about, for it afforded all of us the opportunity to become acquainted with other interpretive

professionals and absorb each other's knowledge and experience. Whether informal early morning bird walks or formal breakout sessions, the workshop was a continuation of knowledge sharing and the ultimate benefactors will be our site visitors who will certainly enjoy an even better product and then hopefully invest themselves as stewards of our unique places.

I wish I could promise my participation at the next Region 2 Workshop and perhaps I will be there. However, like so many others, my agency wrestles with tight budgets, travel ceilings, and short staffing levels. Nevertheless, it is my hope, not just for me, but for the many other interpreters out there, that we can participate in a great number and all benefit from one another. As Enos Mills, the great early interpreter expressed: "may our tribe increase."



## NAI Region 2 Awards for Outstanding Professional

At the Chesapeake Region's 2014 Workshop at Westmoreland State Park, two of our colleagues were recognized for their excellence in interpretation.

### Amy Henry – Outstanding Interpretive Manager

Amy Henry received the Outstanding Interpretive Manager Award. Amy has worked for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for over 25 years. In her current position as Coordinator of Maryland TEAM (Teaching Environmental Awareness in Maryland) DNR she brings awareness to over 6500 students a year that they can do something to help clean up the Chesapeake Bay. The team, made up of volunteers of different backgrounds, is trained by Amy to help children understand and enjoy nature. By

exploring things like the importance of plants rooted in soil to prevent erosion, discovering horseshoe crabs and oysters, or meeting a bonafide Chesapeake waterman, the volunteers find ways to relate the students' experiences to the Bay, instill in them an interest in further exploration, and answer the ever-important "So What?" question. As a gifted interpreter and manager Amy is able to impart her passion for nature to those she trains and supervises so they can pass it on to the students of Maryland.



## Jan Cornwell – Outstanding Part-time Interpreter

Jan Cornwell, a Naturalist Instructor at Claude Moore Park, Loudoun County Virginia Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, received the Outstanding Part-time Interpreter Award. Jan has been an Instructor at the park for six years. Her work leading school field trips, teaching preschool nature classes, and more has always been excellent. In recent years, Jan has created a number of new experiential field trips especially tailored for homeschool students, which explore both the natural and cultural resources at the park. Additionally, Jan created and developed along with other park staff a special event celebrating the colonial heritage of the park's 1779 Lanesville Ordinary. Jan designed Ordinary Times, Life in Colonial Lanesville to allow visitors to try out

many of the daily tasks at Lanesville. Jan took charge of the kitchen, where she and her pre-teen volunteers, wearing period dress, prepared recipes for cooking outdoors over a fire. Guests got a chance to knead bread as well as smell and see the herbs from the garden that were used in the recipes. Other staff members and volunteers demonstrated and helped visitors try spinning, weaving, woodworking, playing with colonial toys, and writing with quill pens. The event is so popular it is held semi-annually in the park. Jan's high quality, multi-sensory, creative ideas and implementation have taken what was a static colonial house and brought it to life with lively family oriented activities which allow visitors to step back in time. Jan Cornwell's dedication to fully interpreting Claude

Moore Park has once again made it the center of colonial life in eastern Loudoun County.



## Fun at the Region 2 Workshop (Pictures by Parker McMullen-Bushman, Cynthia Rabbers & Tina Driskell)





# Calendar of Events

## Cypress Knees and Sharks' Teeth

Monday, June 2, 2014  
10a.m. – 1:30p.m.+  
Battle Creek Cypress  
Swamp Sanctuary, Prince  
Frederick, MD

Walk among almost 100 acres of one of the northernmost stands of bald cypress trees in the United States. Tania Gale, site naturalist and Region 2 officer, will lead us on the boardwalk through the unique resources of Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary. Meet at Battle Creek Nature Center.

Following the tour, we'll gather for an early "bag" lunch. Rekindle friendships with local interpreters as we gather in the site's picnic area.

Then, we'll head to Flag Pond Nature Park. Tania will orient us to the park and share local fossils. Millions of years ago, sharks,

whales, crocodiles and other creatures inhabited the waters and shores of this area. To the sharp-eyed visitor, sharks teeth and other Miocene fossils may be found along the park's shoreline. Afterwards you can head for home or test your eyesight as you explore the beach on your own. Low tide is 1:30pm.

To register, please contact Beltway Chapter Co-chair Mona Enquist-Johnston at mogar@cox.net.

The session is limited to 25 participants. Bring a bag lunch. Carpooling is encouraged. Session held rain or shine. If there are thunderstorms, we can't go to the beach. If you need to reach anyone on the day of the event, contact Tania at Battle Creek Nature Center 401-535-5327.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary and Flag Pond Nature Park are operated by the Calvert

County Natural Resources Division.

• Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary is located at 2880 Gray's Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678. For directions and to learn more about the site go to <http://calvertparks.org/>

• Flag Pond Nature Park is located at 1525 Flag Ponds Parkway, Lusby, MD 20657. For directions or to learn more about the site go to <http://calvertparks.org/fpp.html>

[September 22-25, 2014 | Charlotte, North Carolina](#)  
Discovery Place Education Studio

## Social Interpretation: Graphic Design and Social Media

[August 18-19, 2014 | Charlotte, NC](#)  
Freedom Park, Mahlon Adams Pavilion

This Edition's "Where in the Region" pictures were contributed by Alan Hageman and go along with his article on Stewardship at George Washington Birthplace National Monument.

To have your site included in "Where in the Region" send one or more pictures to: [ChesapeakeChat@gmail.com](mailto:ChesapeakeChat@gmail.com) and be sure to indicate your location.

## Events in Nearby Regions

### Certified Interpretive Guide Workshops

[July 14-17, 2014 | Charlotte, North Carolina](#)  
Discovery Place Education Studio

[August 26-29, 2014 | Milford, Ohio](#)  
Cincinnati Nature Center

## Submitting Material for the Chesapeake Chat

Each edition will be theme-based so if you have something to contribute short or long refer to the table below for upcoming deadlines and themes. Submissions for other sections can be sent at any time but if it fits in with a particular theme send it by that edition's deadline otherwise it will be used for a future edition.

Recommended lengths for submissions:  
500-600 words for articles  
100 words for each tip or trick

Pictures should be submitted as an attachment to your email. Other materials may be sent in the body of your email or as an attachment.

If you have any suggestions for a theme for future newsletters, please send your suggestions or requests. Themes can be anything related to interpretation that would be of interest to the region.

Newsletter submissions including calendar items should be sent to:  
[ChesapeakeChat@gmail.com](mailto:ChesapeakeChat@gmail.com)

	Deadline	Theme
Winter Newsletter	January 15	
Spring Newsletter	April 15	
Summer Newsletter	July 15	Planning for Teacher Workshops
Fall Newsletter	October 15	Natural History Interpretation in the Urban Environment

### .NAI Region 2:

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Virginia  
West Virginia

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.interpnet.com/2/](http://www.interpnet.com/2/)



National Association for  
Interpretation Region 2  
Chesapeake