



FIELDREPORT

Mid-Atlantic Region | Spring-Summer 2016

Scenic, Wild Delaware River

Geotourism Initiative Launches

By John Beljean

In August 2015, NPCA began working on an exciting new geotourism initiative in partnership with National Geographic, the National Park Service, and local communities in the upper and middle Delaware River region. The **Scenic, Wild Delaware River** initiative aims to promote visitation and stewardship of the culturally, historically, and naturally significant places in this region anchored by three national parks—the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and the Middle Delaware National Scenic River.

“Our Scenic, Wild Delaware River geotourism initiative not only brands the middle and upper Delaware River region as a destination for responsible, meaningful tourism, it also will help us sustain our unique history and culture,” said Geotourism Stewardship Council member Carl Wilgus, president and CEO of Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau in Pennsylvania.

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The Second Century National Parks in the Mid-Atlantic Region

By Melanie McDowell

August 25, 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service to steward America’s natural and cultural heritage. The 76 national parks in the Mid-Atlantic region include monuments, battlefields, memorials, rivers, and trails that capture defining moments in our country’s history and offer life-long opportunities for learning, recreation, inspiration, creativity, and adventure. Over the decades, NPCA has helped to build this remarkable system, and we remain committed to our mission to protect and enhance these treasures during the National Park Service’s second century.

As we approach this anniversary, several dedicated advocates and community leaders in the Mid-Atlantic region shared with us their hopes and vision for the next one hundred years of the Park Service.

“On a global scale, we must build connections between children and parks, so that the generations behind us grow up with an ethic of stewardship,” said **Susan Sherman, president of the Shenandoah National Park Trust**. “At the local scale, we must

create opportunities to build and strengthen relationships between parks and their gateway communities.” As the leader of one of Shenandoah’s key partners, Susan recognizes the importance of park experiences and partnerships for inspiring the future caretakers of these special places. The Trust sponsors



many such activities throughout the year. As someone who daily sees the impacts on the park of critical, chronic funding shortfalls, Susan also expressed her hope that national parks receive adequate funding from Congress in the future.

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Top: National Geographic and NPCA are working with leaders in communities along the middle and upper Delaware River to launch the Scenic Wild Delaware River geotourism initiative. ©Nicholas Tonelli
Right: Participants enjoy views of Washington, DC from the Potomac River and find their voice for the national parks at NPCA’s “Paddle the Potomac” alternative happy hour. ©NPCA

FIELD REPORT

SPRING-SUMMER 2016

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Virginia, West Virginia

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Heirs to a Most Glorious Heritage



By Joy M. Oakes,
Senior Director, Mid-Atlantic Region

I'm grateful for the national parks legacy handed down to all Americans. The system's centennial this year inspires renewed commitment to ensure these places are protected, connected, and restored so that those who come after us also can be inspired by our shared American story.

A National Parks Second Century Commission report in 2009 summarized the opportunities and challenges the system faces: "National parks today serve purposes and provide benefits far broader than were envisioned for them a century ago. They also face threats to their survival not imagined in the beginning. But their mission remains fundamentally important to America, and

grows ever more vital as ecological and social challenges demand solutions."

In this *Field Report*, you can read about how that mission and those challenges play out in our region, and how NPCA partners with our members and other community leaders to address those challenges.

Theodore Roosevelt said it well: "We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune."

Thank **you** for doing your part for our national parks!

"We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune."

- THEODORE ROOSEVELT

HAVE A PHOTO OR COMMENT TO SHARE? We welcome photos from members enjoying national parks, particularly those in the Mid-Atlantic region. We also appreciate feedback on our *Field Report*. Share your digital photos, comments, and ideas with us via email: midatlantic@npca.org

Scenic, Wild Delaware River

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National Geographic defines geotourism as “tourism that sustains or enhances the geographic character of a place, its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage and well-being of its residents.” National Geographic has worked with 22 other communities around the world, from Yellowstone to Sri Lanka, on geotourism initiatives.

The **Scenic, Wild Delaware River** region will join the ranks of other travel-friendly geotourism destinations with the formal announcement of the initiative, and the public launch of an interactive MapGuide in May. See DelawareRiver.natgeotourism.com to discover more than 600 sites including culinary all-stars, natural wonders, recreational opportunities, entertainment options, historic places, artisan communities, local foods, and more. Scenic, Wild Delaware River MapGuide website users will be able to create custom itineraries based on recommendations by local community members.

Last summer, NPCA and stakeholders formed a Geotourism Stewardship Council—a local body of influential voices and thought-leaders with personal and professional investment in the region’s prosperity and sustainability. The Council supports economic development, promotes tourism centered on the region’s culture, and works to foster stewardship and conservation.

Thirty-seven Council members represent the diverse public and private interests throughout the nine-county project region—Sussex and Warren Counties in New Jersey; Delaware, Orange and Sullivan Counties in New York; and Monroe, Northampton, Pike and Wayne Counties in Pennsylvania. This diverse group has led decision-making about the **Scenic, Wild Delaware River** MapGuide, and is designing and leading the success of the project’s long-term efforts.

In recognition of the economic and community wellness benefits associated with a sustainable Delaware River and river communities, following the MapGuide launch the Council will promote events and projects that help advance the long-term health and enjoyment of the river, the region and its national parks.

A generous William Penn Foundation grant plus Claneil Foundation funding have underwritten the initiative’s start-up costs.

**LEARN
MORE**

**Discover the Scenic, Wild Delaware River at
DelawareRiver.natgeotourism.com/**

Below: Congressional staff, local officials, and community leaders enjoy a tour of Peters Valley School of Craft in Layton, NJ during a tour of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area hosted by NPCA, NPS, and partners. ©NPCA **Bottom:** The Delaware River provides important year-round habitat for the American bald eagle. ©dalhethe | istockphoto





Speak up for
National Parks

“Find Your Voice” is NPCA’s initiative to educate, engage and empower new national park advocates to ensure America’s favorite places continue to thrive into their next century. The Mid-Atlantic staff organizes events throughout the year to support this effort and inspire the next generation of advocates to find their voices for our national parks. For more information on NPCA and to “Find Your Voice” in our region, go to www.findyourvoice.camp/.



Above: Volunteers show off their muscles at a “Find Your Voice” event at Rapidan Camp in Shenandoah National Park, August 2015. ©NPCA **Right:** New park advocates “Find Their Voice” at Anacostia Park with Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell at a Martin Luther King Day clean-up event sponsored by the Student Conservation Association. ©NPCA



Help Protect Our National Parks

After years of critical and chronic funding shortfalls, the FY16 Congressional appropriations agreement in December 2015 began to reverse that trend, and provide parks additional funds needed to make repairs, greet visitors and promote their safety, and take care of natural and cultural treasures. The bill included \$15 million for the Centennial Challenge program, initiated under President George W. Bush and renewed in the last couple of years under President Obama.

ASK

Please contact your House and Senate members and ask them to support robust funding in FY17 to protect our national heritage, including funding for the Centennial Challenge.

Capitol Switchboard
202.225.3121



Say It (the NPS Centennial) With Flowers

Above: NPCA supporters joined President & CEO Theresa Pierno (fifth from the left) for a tour of the 2016 Philadelphia Flower Show, “Explore America: 100 Years of the National Park Service.” The group enjoyed the exhibits, and learned about NPCA’s work to protect and promote our national parks. ©NPCA

The Second Century: National Parks in the Mid-Atlantic Region

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“My greatest hope for the second century of national parks is that the American people learn that the National Park Service is their heritage agency, that people understand that our common history is as equally important as our natural and scenic identity, and that the places which commemorate that history can inspire them as much as do the great scenic parks,” said **John Reynolds**, who retired from the **National Park Service** after a 39-year career. Since retiring, he has served on the boards of the Presidio Trust, the Student Conservation Association, the Chesapeake Conservancy, and the Flight 93 National Memorial Federal Advisory Commission, among others.

“One of the remarkable things about the National Park System is that it preserves places where heroic and inspirational acts of citizenship and civil disobedience took place—acts that were provocative in their day and that often are challenging for us to think about now,” said **Deirdre Gibson**, **chief of planning and resource management at Valley Forge National**

Historical Park, and co-recipient of NPCA’s 2010 Stephen Tyng Mather Award. “Places like Selma, Stonewall ... the sites associated with Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement, Manzanar, and so many more illustrate difficult lessons that never lose their relevance,” she continued. “The very fact that as a nation we have chosen to preserve these places sends a signal to citizens that it’s important to continue to ask questions about who we are as Americans and also crucial to continue to act on our ideas and beliefs.”

Judy Xanthopoulos, former staff for the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation, and a member of NPCA’s Mid-Atlantic Leadership Council, envisions a Park Service that prioritizes education, inclusion, youth engagement, and stewardship. “The greatest investment that we could make is with young people,” Judy said. “I would love to see the National Park Service cultivate a new generation of supporters.”

“We must work to make parks welcoming and accessible to our growing diverse

population,” she continued, “with the hope that in 100 years, the National Park Service’s personnel, objectives, and visitors will be reflective of our population.”

“Over the years, (my husband and) I have accompanied many people of all ages on their first visit to a national park,” she concluded. “... Visiting a park is an opportunity to change a person’s trajectory... the ‘first’ visit is so significant and personal for many people. Those of us who have visited many national parks perhaps have forgotten the impact that a first visit can make.”

The next century will provide new opportunities for citizens, visitors, and advocates to learn about, connect with, help steward, and enjoy our treasured spaces. Whether you are reflecting back on your first park visit, or planning your next, we look forward to sharing another 100 years of park moments with you.

Below: The Centennial Challenge program helped fund rehabilitation of Hawksbill Observation Point in Shenandoah National Park, with matching funds provided by Shenandoah Park Trust.
©Jon Bilous | Dreamstime



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Dorothy Canter



The Board of Trustees of National Parks Conservation Association is pleased to honor Dorothy A. Canter, Ph.D. with the Sequoia Award, which recognizes individuals who have made an extraordinary, long-term commitment to NPCA in the areas of philanthropy, volunteer service, and programmatic and policy impact. During her nearly three decades of service, Dorothy has been a leader on all fronts.

Dorothy served on NPCA's board of trustees for several terms and on the State of the Parks Advisory Board, and now serves on both NPCA's National Council and Mid-Atlantic Leadership Council. She was a leader in "Renewing Our Promise," NPCA's first capital campaign. Dorothy led an NPCA two-day symposium and tour regarding the "Ritchie Boys," top-secret military intelligence personnel in WWII, after which she founded the Friends of Fort Hunt Park, where top priority prisoners of war were interrogated, and led that group for three years. She and her husband, Jerry, are loyal and generous donors, and last year hosted a reception and dinner celebrating the extraordinary leadership of ordinary people who have shaped America's remarkable National Park System.

NPCA is hosting a special luncheon to celebrate Dorothy on June 2. For more information, please contact Eric Olson at 202.579.2155 or eolson@npca.org.

Above: Mid-Atlantic Leadership Council members Dorothy Canter and Edwin Fountain at the "Extraordinary People, Extraordinary Places: Individuals Who Made Our National Parks" lecture and dinner sponsored by the Canters at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC, June 2015. ©NPCA

Mid-Atlantic Staff News

John Beljean joined NPCA in July 2015 as Delaware River field representative, a new position. Previously, John worked with Bloomberg LP in New York City and also provided executive coaching for small business owners. For the past four years, he served as a seasonal interpretive ranger at Delaware Water Gap NRA.

Sam Chiron is NPCA's senior communications coordinator, and has supported the Mid-Atlantic team since July 2015. Before joining NPCA, Sam worked as a legislative staffer on Capitol Hill and as a press staffer on presidential and Senate campaigns.

Stephanie Heidbreder joined the Mid-Atlantic team in January 2016 as the Chesapeake field representative, a position previously held by Ed Stierli, who now directs NPCA's "Find Your Voice" initiative. Stephanie comes from Casey Trees, a Washington, D.C.-based urban forestry non-profit, and previously served as a George Melendez Wright Climate Change Fellow for the National Park Service.

As senior manager of Foundation Relations at NPCA since October 2015, **Julie Hogan** writes and manages grants and develops fundraising strategies for regional and national programs, including the Mid-Atlantic. Before NPCA, Julie worked for a non-governmental international child advocacy organization.

In January 2016, **Amanda John** came to NPCA as Pennsylvania & Delaware program manager with a background in campaign management, policy work and organizing. Amanda has worked for the Potomac Conservancy and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, where she led policy and advocacy efforts to protect water quality in Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania at local, state, and federal levels.

Melanie McDowell joined the Mid-Atlantic team as senior coordinator in March 2015. Melanie came to NPCA from the Anthropology Department at Washington University in St. Louis. Previously, she worked with the Missouri Botanical Garden, AmeriCorps St. Louis, and AmeriCorps NCCC, where she focused on education, conservation, disaster relief and volunteer management.

Eric Olson serves as the director for Trustees for the Parks, and became Mid-Atlantic director of development in September 2015. Eric engages NPCA's most generous supporters to protect our national parks. Eric came to NPCA from the Smithsonian Institution.

Below: The Mid-Atlantic team enjoys a hike in Greenbelt Park, MD in March 2016. Left to right: John Beljean, Eric Olson, Pam Goddard, Joy Oakes, Sam Chiron, Julie Hogan, Dan Blamer, Stephanie Heidbreder, Melanie McDowell, and Amanda John. ©NPCA



Historic Jamestown: A Park in Peril

By Pam Goddard

Crown jewels of our National Park System are at a crossroads. Decisions made now about development just outside the borders of a number of national parks could forever change these incredible places. National Parks Conservation Association launched our “Parks in Peril” initiative www.npca.org/parksinperil to convince President Obama to leave a lasting national park legacy for his administration by acting now to protect threatened national treasures from proposals by outside interests that would forever mar our heritage.

Colonial National Historical Park in Virginia includes Jamestown Island, Yorktown Battlefield, and the Colonial Parkway—sites that reflect the earliest beginnings of our shared American story. Since 2012, NPCA has fought to stop Dominion Virginia Power from building a new super-sized electric transmission line here across the James River and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

Dominion claims the new transmission line is needed to meet the region’s energy needs. However, working with Princeton Energy Resources International, NPCA published two analyses of Dominion’s plan (in November 2015 and January 2016) that reveal:

- The new transmission capacity Dominion seeks to build represents more than four times the total capacity of the Yorktown plant Dominion plans to close; yet
- Electricity use in the area during peak demand on hot summer days has dropped in 2012, 2013 and 2014;
- Because Dominion is proposing much more capacity than is needed, the costs of alternatives are exaggerated. The proposed alternatives are similarly over-sized, hence their costs are greater than those of more reasonably scaled alternatives; and
- Dominion has failed to consider adequately the role that proven strategies for increasing efficiency, managing electricity demand, and installing solar could play in meeting the region’s electricity needs.

In order to protect Jamestown’s historic landscape, NPCA has asked Dominion to build a more appropriately sized project in a different alignment, or as a submerged cable under the James River, but Dominion remains committed to this harmful project.

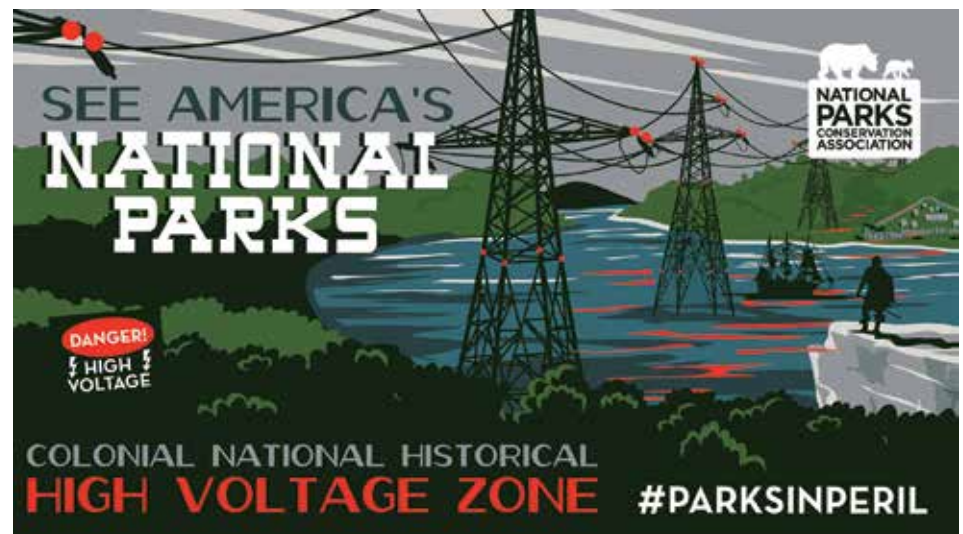
Last December, National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis wrote to Lieutenant General Thomas Bostick of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, stating, “Running power lines through the landscape where the earliest days of American history were written will forever change the ability of

Americans to experience and understand our nation’s earliest days....On the eve of the centennial of the NPS, this proposal has become one of the most serious threats to our nationally significant historic resources. This nation has only one Jamestown.”

Director Jarvis continued, “We urge the USACE to deny the permit for the proposed overhead line and to encourage Dominion Virginia Power to further examine the many other solutions available through an Environmental Impact Statement.”

TAKE ACTION

To learn how you can help protect Historic Jamestown and Colonial National Historical Park, visit www.npca.org/advocacy/7-protect-historic-jamestown-from-transmission-towers



Below: The proposed Dominion Virginia Power transmission line would cross the James River and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail at Jamestown, destroying the historic character and potentially threatening endangered species. ©Blackghost600 | Dreamstime





MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL OFFICE

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming NPCA Events in the Mid-Atlantic

MAY 4, 5, AND 19

Geotourism Celebrations and Map-Guide Release, NJ, NY, PA: Join NPCA, National Geographic, and community partners at events for the National Geographic Scenic, Wild Delaware River geotourism initiative, delawareriver.natgeotourism.com/.

MAY 20-21

BioBlitz, Constitution Gardens, National Mall, DC: Join NPCA, the Park Service, and National Geographic Society for this event in which teams of volunteers will work with experts to identify as many species of plants, animals, fungi, and other organisms as possible.

MAY 20-21

BioBlitz, First State National Historical Park, Wilmington, DE: Join NPCA, the Park Service, and The Nature Conservancy in this 24-hour event in which teams of volunteers work with experts to identify as many species of plants, animals, fungi, and other organisms as possible.

MAY 24-25

Choose Clean Water 7th Annual Conference, Annapolis, MD: Learn about clean water solutions while participating in workshops and field trips. choosecleanwater.org/our-conference/2016

JUNE 4

Clean the Bay Day, Fort Monroe, VA: Join NPCA, Fort Monroe Authority and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for the *Clean the Bay Day* service event. Volunteers will clean up litter and debris on the beaches surrounding Fort Monroe National Monument.

JUNE 16

Paddle the Potomac, Washington, DC: Join NPCA and Potomac Conservancy at an alternative happy hour. Participants will learn about ways to advocate for clean water and the region's national parks, then canoe, kayak or stand-up-paddleboard.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

JUNE 25

Reclaim Our River Eco-Paddle, Nanticoke River, Riverfront Park, Laurel, DE: Explore the Nanticoke during a guided paddle. Learn about wildlife, water quality, the Captain John Smith trail, and NPCA's Freedom to Float campaign.

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For more information about events in your area sponsored by the National Park Service, go to www.nps.gov, click on "Find a Park," and search for the park by name or state. For an updated list of NPCA-sponsored events in the region, go to www.npca.org/events. For updated information about NPCA's advocacy campaigns, contact any of our offices (see p.2).

