

SkylineViews

Winter 2009 The Newsletter of Shenandoah National Park Trust

Shenandoah National Park Trust Honors Ken Burns

A childhood visit to Shenandoah National Park was transformative for award-winning filmmaker Ken Burns. On a weekend morning “earlier than I can ever remember getting up,” Burns recalled, his father drove him to Shenandoah—his first national park. “I can still remember his hand in mine going down those trails,” he said.

Burns recounted his childhood impressions of Shenandoah for 260 guests at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel in Staunton, Virginia on March 6, 2009, at an event co-hosted by Shenandoah National Park Trust and WVPT. Guests were treated to a 30-minute clip from Burns’ documentary series, *The National Parks: America’s Best Idea*. He impressed upon guests that, as he toured the country promoting the series, he was especially pleased to have the opportunity to share his intimate memories of Shenandoah with our group.



Help support Shenandoah!

Purchase your copy of *The National Parks: America’s Best Idea* DVD, CD soundtrack or companion book from our partner, Shenandoah National Park Association, at www.SNPBooks.org

Congressman Bob Goodlatte; Virginia Senators Edd Houck and Creigh Deeds; Acting Director of the National Park Service, Dan Wenk; and Martha Bogle, Superintendent of Shenandoah National Park, were special guests.

“This is the first country in the world that ever set aside land, not for kings and the rich, but for everybody and for all time,” Burns said. “The national parks are democracy, or the Declaration of Independence, applied to the landscape.” Burns also pressed the message that these are our parks to enjoy—and protect. “All that’s required of us is that we visit this property once in a while...and that we pass it on to our children, that we put it in our will.”

Burns ranks Shenandoah as one of the 10 national parks every American should visit, and has identified it as one of his two personal favorites.



NEW license plates will benefit our Park. See back page for details.

Shenandoah National Park Trust is devoted to developing and supporting projects and programs that foster appreciation of Shenandoah National Park, enhance the visitor experience, and preserve the Park’s natural and historic resources.



Who's Who?



Trust Hires New Executive Director

On March 1, the Trust welcomed Susan Sherman as its new Executive Director. Sherman spent the last 10 years in non-profit fundraising and brings an array of talents to the position, including grant-writing, marketing, project management, and event planning. With bachelor's and master's degrees

in environmental science and environmental education, respectively, she has dedicated the majority of her career to conservation-oriented issues.

Sherman recalls her first contact with Shenandoah National Park, which preceded her relocation to Charlottesville from Chicago in 1995. "The only thing I knew about Virginia was that Shenandoah National Park was located there. With my background, I thought it would be a good place to begin my job search. Nothing panned out at that time, but I tucked it away as a 'maybe someday' possibility. Now, nearly 15 years later, I am thrilled to be working with the Trust and the staff of Shenandoah National Park."

One of Sherman's first priorities was to establish an office in Central Virginia. In April, the Trust hung its shingle in downtown Charlottesville. An open house was held in July. The office at 414 E. Market Street sports a permanent exhibition of large-format black and white photographs of Shenandoah National Park by landscape photographer Hullahen Williams Moore. The public is welcome to view the pictures (and visit the office) weekdays from 9 to 5.

Shenandoah National Park Trust

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Shenandoah National Park Superintendent Celebrates First Anniversary

In September 2008, Martha Bogle became the 10th Superintendent of Shenandoah National Park, replacing Chas Cartwright, who left Shenandoah to become Superintendent of Glacier National Park.

Born and raised in Tennessee,

Bogle has a deep connection to the Southern Appalachians. "I love these mountains. They have held a special place in my heart my entire life," she remarked.

Bogle has worked as Park Ranger, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Interpretive Specialist, Chief of Visitor Services, Assistant Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, and Superintendent over her 30 years with the National Park Service. Her postings have included Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Everglades National Park, and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Bogle has significant experience working with national parks "friends" groups and is a tremendous asset to the Trust. She is deeply committed to helping foster a successful partnership between Shenandoah National Park and the Trust.

Putting Your Gift to Work in Shenandoah



Your gift to the Trust will support projects like the ones below.
For a list of recently funded projects, visit our website at www.SNPTrust.org.

AIR QUALITY LEARNING STATION

Air pollution is a chronic challenge in Shenandoah National Park. Particulates and toxins from power plants and other industrial facilities blow into the Park and are deposited on the land and in the water with rain and snowfall, threatening wildlife habitat and historical resources and reducing visibility from the mountaintops. On bad air quality days, visitors' health is also jeopardized.

The Park has an extensive array of air quality monitoring equipment and has been collecting data for three decades. The data provide important information on pollution trends in the Park and they are often used to inform regulatory agencies' considerations of permit applications for industries whose emissions could affect Shenandoah.

The Park's primary air quality monitoring station is located in one of its most visited destinations—Big Meadows—yet the wealth of information collected there is not shared with the public in an intentional way. Park staff therefore propose to establish an interactive learning station at Big Meadows. A self-guided trail would surround the monitoring site with educational displays describing air quality issues and the history of the Park's monitoring program; identifying the monitoring instruments visible to visitors; and demonstrating how the data make a difference in protecting Park resources and visitors' health.

TEACHER – RANGER – TEACHER PROGRAM

The National Park Service offers a highly effective program that aims to link school children with their national parks through their teachers. The Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Program brings educators into the Parks for two summers and provides instructional forums on a variety of topics. Donning Park Ranger uniforms, the teachers then prepare and present educational programs in the Park. They are also required to share their Park experiences back in their classrooms.

Example: In 2008, a Rappahannock County teacher helped develop and present Shenandoah's first family camping seminars. The teacher helped procure equipment and supplies, assisted with marketing materials and registration, taught the seminars, set up and broke down the tents, prepared the menus and cooked the meals, and camped overnight with the participating families. In the summer of 2009, the teacher returned to Shenandoah to assist with a pilot project that brought under-served schoolchildren to camp in the Park. Back at school, this teacher has shared his experiences with his students and colleagues—providing insight into the wealth of educational opportunities available in Shenandoah National Park. As a result, Rappahannock schools are taking advantage of Park programs more than ever before.

Shenandoah National Park would like to make its Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Program available to more educators. The costs associated with this program reflect a stipend, lease of a government vehicle, and a uniform allowance for two teachers over two years.



Shenandoah to be Featured on New Quarter

Next year, the U.S. Mint will begin producing a new series of quarters, one from each state, each one depicting a national park or other federally preserved area. We are very pleased to report that Shenandoah National Park will be featured on the Virginia quarter. The Mint consulted with governors and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to select the sites.



The quarters will be issued sequentially, one every 10 weeks, in the order in which the featured area was established as a national park or protected area. The Virginia coin will be 22nd in the series and will come into circulation in 2014.



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We Did It!

Our new license plate design was so popular that we exceeded the minimum order required by Virginia's Department of Motor Vehicles to start the production process. A special thanks to Massanutten Resort, Tiger Fuel and ARAMARK for their group purchases.

If you were one of the 400 people or businesses who placed your order over the summer, you should have your new plates by early 2010. At that point, the plates become available to all Virginians through DMV—start checking their website in January (www.dmv.state.va.us).

Our next challenge is to reach 1,000 (which includes our initial 400). Once we surpass 1,000, every additional set of plates sold or renewed will generate \$15 to support Shenandoah. Other national park partner groups are generating hundreds of thousands of dollars a year from their license plate campaigns. Now we have the opportunity to do the same for Shenandoah. Thank you for your support!

