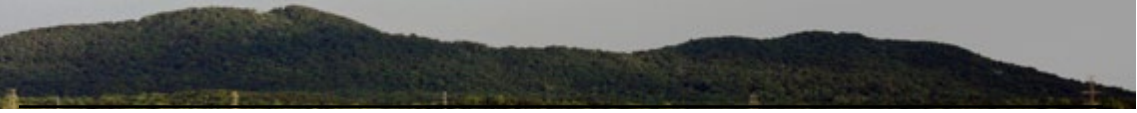




EARTHWORKS



Volume 14, Issue 7

July, 2020

Great News!

As noted in several emails over the past 2 weeks, the Park is gradually approaching a full open status. Currently just about everything is open, except the Mountain Top Parking Lot, the Mountain Rd. and the Visitor Center itself. The restrooms are now open and the Mountain Top Trailer Store is now open as well - seven days a week, from 10 am to 5 pm.

In addition, the NPS/KEMO staff continue to provide Virtual programming on their Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/KMNBP>.

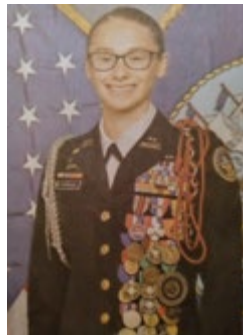
July Work Day Cancelled.

As we continue under the throes of Covid-19, our upcoming July work day has been cancelled.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Great News!
- 1 July Work Day Cancelled.
- 1 Congratulations, Jennifer Harnage!
- 1 KMTC Trail Work Days
- 2 NPS Social Distancing Posters.
- 2 Recent Park Visitors
- 2 Top 15 Waterfalls In Georgia
- 3 Five Years Ago
- 3 New Seasonal Staff Members At NPS/KEMO
- 4 Friends of KMNBP Update
- 4 Friends of KMNBP
- 5 A Special Thanks!
- 5 Wanted: Membership Chair!
- 5 Crew Leader & Trail Ambassador Positions Available!
- 6 2019/2020 Fund Raising
- 7 Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club Calendar
- 7 Register for Our Work Days!
- 7 Mark Your Calendars!
- 8 Trail Club Begins To Work On The Trails Again
- 9 Sherman's Battle For Atlanta
- 10 Then & Now....
- 10 Contact List - Updated 9/24/19
- 11 Quarantines In The CCC Camps
- 15 *The Trees (The Sentinel)*
- 16 Sponsors/Partners Corner
- 16 August Newsletter Deadline

Congratulations, Jennifer Harnage!



It was announced in Marietta Daily Journal of 6/20/2020 that Hillgrove HS Graduate Jennifer Harnage has received an appointment to the US Naval Academy at Annapolis. This is a high honor and is awarded for superior achievements in academic, extra curricular activities and community service. Ms. Harnage was a member of Hillgrove High JNROTC and according to her instructor and mentor

LCDR Ronald Hojnowski, "it was his pleasure to guide her, but she did the work." In fact "Ron" said that she did very many trail work days with KMTC.

It is with great pleasure that KMTC congratulates Jennifer upon her appointment. Ron said that she is destined for great things and to be a terrific Naval Officer.



Thank you, Jennifer, for working with KMTC and the many Hillgrove students who help out at Kennesaw Mountain. Lt. Commander Hojnowski said that he couldn't be more proud of having mentored her for the last four years. As he said, "we are lucky to have young people like Jennifer on our side."

Semper Fidelis,
Doug Tasse, Commandant
L/Cpl. Squire "Skip" Wells Detachment 647
Marine Corps League

KMTC Trail Work Days

While we're still in the throes of this pandemic, it is difficult to contemplate how we can get volunteers back into the park and working on needed projects - and we have a lot of them as a result of all of the rain we've gotten during the last few months. We are working on ways to get you all back to the park to work on them. Hopefully by October we'll have some definitive plans. In the mean time, we are forming small work crews using our Crew Leaders only to tackle some of the issues. Stay tuned!

Fred Feltmann



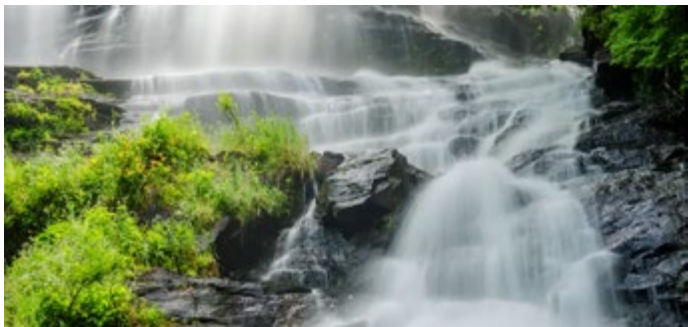
Recent Park Visitors

Fred Finzer documented some of our recent visitors to the Park.



NPS Social Distancing Posters.

Check out the above posters as well as other posters on the Coronavirus at <https://www.washingtonian.com/2020/05/20/the-national-parks-new-social-distancing-posters-are-hilarious-and-perfect/>.



Top 15 Waterfalls In Georgia

Green Global Travel sent us a link to a story they published recently regarding the top Waterfalls in Georgia.

<https://blueridgemountainstravelguide.com/north-georgia-waterfalls/>

For this and other travel info, you can find info on their Facebook page - @GreenGlobalTravel on FB, @GreenGlobalTrvl on Twitter).

“Earthworks” is published monthly by the Kennesaw Mountain Trails Club.
Editor: Fred Feltmann
 770-516-9120
E-mail: faf1948@bellsouth.net
Additional Volunteers needed! Call today!

Five Years Ago

The Trail Club has no work day scheduled, visitor center closed, virtual park programs; all this isn't the way it was five years ago. If you don't think so just go to the Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club web site and read the 'old' newsletters. Actually that is something that's fun to do during 'shelter in place'.

I've been thinking about five years ago when at this time there was joy and also a tragedy that affected the park. Joy was that the Trail Club was awarded and honored with a trip to Washington DC to accept the Hertzog Award for 'Best Volunteer Organization' in the National Park System. See the August 2015 edition for coverage. It was a busy time as there were numerous groups working at the park. We had the Americorps workers also the Student Conservation Association camping and working here (see same 8/15 edition) plus a trail day and 151st battle commemoration. And of course the Fourth of July activities.

The tragedy was that a young man who was a faithful volunteer with the Living History program and frequent hiker and runner at the park was killed in the domestic terrorist attack in Chattanooga, Tn. 7/16/2015. Lance Corporal Squire 'Skip' Wells was well liked and was dedicated to service and friendship to all. In fact if you do look at that August 2015 edition you'll see him soaking wet and ready for the Fourth Of July parade (which was canceled due to lightning and rain) and also on page 14 (as a member of the artillery crew) of the same newsletter. Indeed a wonderful young Marine who will forever be remembered by we who knew him.

We're very fortunate to have the newsletter to look back and refresh our memory or to get a sense of what went on years ago and up to present. Truth be told I have enjoyed writing articles for many years, it's easy to do and as 'Fred' notes anyone can submit an article and pictures. If you've helped out at the park in the past or even up to now write it up to let others know and for 'history'. Glad that we have the freedom to do this; it does take some effort to get things done and it is great to read about what it was and the people who did it.

Here's hoping that you'll stay safe, be well and look forward to a bright future (but sure will miss the fireworks this year!).

Doug Tasse



New Seasonal Staff Members At NPS/ KEMO

I am pleased to announce that we have two new seasonal employees in the maintenance division. David Browne has joined our maintenance staff as of June 7, 2020.

David is originally from Louisiana, and previously worked at Lowes Home Improvement in Alpharetta, Ga. where he was an inventory control manager in charge of shipping and receiving merchandise. David also served in the U.S. Army as an E5 sergeant (9/2005-9/2013), he served on the security detail in Fort Myer, Va. David has experience as an carpentry, heavy equipment operator, and electrical.

Justin has joined our maintenance staff as of June 22, 2020. He is from Pennsylvania, where he worked for Upper Dauphin Vinyl. There he built decks, fences, operated heavy equipment for landscaping grading and snow removal. Justin has experience with roofing, masonry work, laborer, framer, assembly worker, and carpenter.

Both David and Justin are like an Army swiss knife, they can do it all. They are both very personable with a calm demeanor. Both are eager to roll their sleeves up and get to work.

We are excited to have David and Justin as a member of our team.

Carlos Hurston

Facility Manager

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park



Friends of KMNBP Update

I have been hiding out at home for what seems an eternity but the end seems to be coming, albeit very slowly. Can't wait to get back to volunteering at the park.

Last Wednesday I met with our new park superintendent Lindsay Phillips and gave her a presentation on our Friends Group. She says she had a friends group at Andersonville that was a great help to her and hopes we can be also.

We did discuss moving from the "handshake" agreement to a formal friends of the park agreement and she is meeting with regional to push it forward. Also, she arranged to place our marketing info in the park kiosks so visitors to the park can scan our QR code and be taken to our website to join and make a donation.

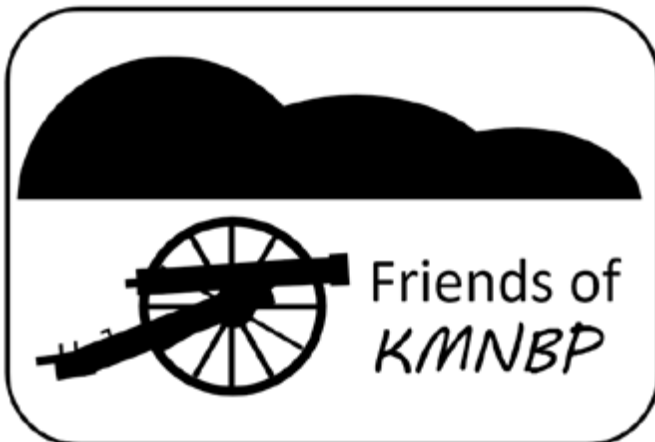
We also discussed what to do with the money we raised for the June Battle of Kennesaw event. She wants to roll that money over and keep it in reserve for other projects later in the year.

We still need volunteers for a few tasks:

- A person on Facebook to administer our Facebook page and post interesting photos and comment there and to our Instagram and Twitter accounts
- A person or two to visit local businesses and hand out brochures seeking their membership

And as always, we are looking for long term volunteers to help run the organization. They will be involved with activities such as membership acquisition, fund raising, board members, endowment committee members and disbursements committee members. Please discuss this opportunity with your friends.

Scott Mackay
Friends of KMNBP



The Friends of KMNBP's mission is to raise funds to support programs and projects at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

Your Membership helps to fund this mission.

Please join us.

Our website is FriendsOfKMNBP.org.

Visit to find out more info, to donate, or to sign up for one of our Board positions or to register as a member of the Friends organization.

Our Mission:

The mission of the Friends of KMNBP is to work in partnership with the National Park Service and the local community to raise annual funding for projects and activities in the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

Programs supported: Outdoor Education
KEMO Trail Club
Living History
Trail Ambassadors

Open Positions: Membership Chair
Audio File Transcriber
1-Year Board Members
Facebook Page Admin.

Contact Scott Mackay for info/details:
box2105@mindspring.com

A Special Thanks!

Each year we have various groups who come out and help us. Henceforth, we will make every attempt to list your group here for the current/past fiscal year. If you are participating as a group, be sure to let us know when you are registering!

Following is a list, in alphabetical order, of the groups who participated during Fiscal 2018 (October 2017- September 2018 and Fiscal 2019 (October 2018- Present):

FY 2019

ALLATOONA HS NJROTC
ATLANTA OUTDOOR CLUB (AOC)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 008 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 144 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 200 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 277 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT) (3 PROJECTS)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 287 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT) (2 PROJECTS)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 433 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT) (2 PROJECTS)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 442 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 445 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 540
BOY SCOUT TROOP 540 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT) (3 PROJECTS)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 545 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT) (2)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 700 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 797
BOY SCOUT TROOP 797 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT) (2 PROJECTS)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 1011 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUTS T 8880
BOY SCOUT TROOP 8880 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
CUB SCOUT PACK 204, MARIETTA
CUMBERLAND SCHOOL
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
FLIGHTWORKS
FRIENDS TO THE FORLORN PITBULL RESCUE
GEORGIA TECH
HARRISON HS BETA CLUB
HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL KEY CLUB
HARRISON NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
HILLGROVE HS NJROTC
KENNESAW MOUNTAIN HS
KENNESAW MOUNTAIN HS HOPE
KENNESAW MOUNTAIN HS NJROTC
KSU
KSU BETA ALPHA PSI
MARIETTA HS
MT PARAN CHURCH
PACESETTER STEEL
SCA



SPRAYBERRY HS HOPE
TRUST
US ARMY
VOLUNTEER KSU
WHEELER HS
WOODSTOCK HS NJROTC



FY 2020

ALLATOONA HS NJROTC
BOY SCOUT TROOP 89
KING'S ACADEMY HS ARMY JROTC
HILLGROVE HS NJROTC
POPE HS - NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
RIVER RIDGE HS
RIVER RIDGE HS ARMY JROTC
TRUST (KSU)
WALKER HS

Our June Work Days were cancelled because the coronavirus.

Wanted: Membership Chair!

"The Friends of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park is looking for a personable, self-starting, take-charge volunteer to lead their membership team. [Contact Scott Mackay at box2105@mindspring.com.](mailto:box2105@mindspring.com)"

Crew Leader & Trail Ambassador Positions Available!

Contact Bill Gurry (regarding Crew Leader positions) or Janie Brier (Trail Ambassador positions) if interested.

Bill Gurry - trails@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

Janie Brier - ambassador@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

2019/2020 Fund Raising

Your volunteer hours help greatly for the many projects we do in the park and we greatly appreciate you contributing your “sweat equity” alongside our 80+ staff volunteers who routinely support each event. We are a non-profit all volunteer organization. However, like any business, we do have bills to pay.

Many of our projects are funded by the park or through grants we apply for. These funds are typically targeted for specific projects and do cover the big expenses such as rocks, stone dust, dirt, wood beams, bridges, fences, and such. But, after all the big stuff is paid for, we still have need to cover our day-to-day operating expenses for things like saw blade sharpening, fuel, tool repairs, equipment maintenance, work gloves, bug spray, drinking water, snacks, and porta-potties, along with basic business expenses - e.g. insurance. For these expenses, we rely on your donations.

Each year we kick off a new round of fund raising and this is the 2020 big “ask.” We need your help with this, even small donations help. We will conclude this drive at the end of FY 2020 (September, 2020).

As we approach our 18th year in operation, we ask you to please think ‘20’, like \$20.. \$40.. \$60..... \$200... \$2000. All donations to the Trail Club support our work at the park, and are tax deductible.

We are a nationally recognized club - having been presented the highest award in the National Park Service in 2014, “The Hartzog Award for Volunteer Group.”. There are several ways to donate:

- Use Guidestar on the bottom of our home page on the Trail Club website <http://www.kennesawmountaintrailclub.org>
- Subscribe to Amazon “Smile” where they will donate to us based on your purchases <https://smile.amazon.com/> - look for KEMO Trails Corps
- Send a tax deductible contribution to:

Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club*
Attn: Tom Okerberg
Whitlock Accounting Services
739 Kennesaw Avenue NW
Marietta, Ga. 30060

ALSO: Please check with employers about matching donations.

* Corporate name is KEMO Trail Corps, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization.



Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club Calendar

Date **Time** **Location** **Event**

All Work Days and events at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park are cancelled indefinitely at this point.

All trails are now open. All parking lots, except the Mountain Top Parking Lot and the Mountain Rd, are now open. The restrooms at the Visitor Center are now open - the Visitor Center itself is still closed.

The Park staff is conducting Virtual Events on their Facebook Page - https://www.facebook.com/pg/KMNBP/posts/?ref=page_internal

We will send out an email when events warrant a restart of work days and events and when the Visitor Center reopens.

The Mountain Top Concession Stand is now open daily from 10 AM till 5 PM.

Register for Our Work Days!

Be sure to register online for our Work Days at <http://signup.com/go/VvavYQj>. By registering, we can be better prepared with the amount of tools, bottled water, gloves, etc. on hand.



Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming Work Day Schedule:

All planned work days for the upcoming months have been cancelled until further notice.

If your school, church, business, or community organization would like to schedule a special work day as a team building or public service activity once we resume our work day schedules, e-mail us at kmtctrails@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org at least 4 weeks in advance. Trail work can be performed any day of the week.

We work closely with the Park Service and assist the park staff by providing critically needed volunteer effort to install signs, build bridges, and maintain the 20+ miles of trails. Since our beginning in 2002, the Trail Club has donated over 45,000 volunteer hours to Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

We hope to see you at a work day as soon as we return to

our normal scheduling!



Trail Club Begins To Work On The Trails Again

We began working on trail issues again the last 2 weeks of June, albeit with work crews made up of crew leaders only. One effort was completed by Eric and Danny. They worked together to clear a potential trail hazard - a fallen tree blocking a part of trail near Powder Springs and Cheatham Hill Rds.



*Top left - before. Top right - walk around to get past the fallen tree.
Above 2 photos - clean-up in process. Below - after.
Photos by Danny Leigh*



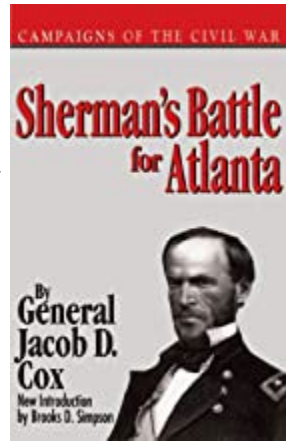
Sherman's Battle For Atlanta

Book review by Jay B. Haney
Sherman's Battle for Atlanta by General Jacob D. Cox, Da Capo Press, 1994. (Originally published in 1882 by Scribner's under the title Atlanta as part of the series *Campaigns of the Civil War*.)

"After more than a century, Jacob Cox's Atlanta remains an essential book on one of the pivotal campaigns of the Civil War."

--Gary W. Gallagher, Civil War Historian, University of Virginia

Written by a division commander in Schofield's Army of the Ohio, this firsthand account is a primary source for virtually every subsequent treatment of the Atlanta Campaign. Atlanta was written before publication of the 178 volume Official Records (OR). Cox wrote with a concise, clear style. His personal records and memory of the campaign are verified by the scholarship of the OR. The military actions and maneuvers are expertly described. The reader would benefit greatly by using current maps of the campaign while reading the text. The maps included are excellent topographically, but do not include troop movements.



Atlanta is an excellent narrative of the campaign but, the main reason to read this book is that it gives descriptions of what campaigning in the Civil War was like. These descriptions are without equal to other works I have read on this campaign.

For example: Sherman was an excellent artist. On the walls of the drafting department at West Point are the best efforts of Cadets through the years. Sherman's drawings are among the best of the best. By 1864 Sherman had not lost his touch.

"Cheery and undisturbed, as if the most ordinary business was going on, the General sat upon a log and sketched upon a leaf of his pocket memorandum book a map of the supposed situation, for the use of the officer leading the column. Its firm delicate lines, and neat touches, even to the fine lettering of the names of houses and roads, showed how completely his nerves were unaffected by the night of battle and storm..."

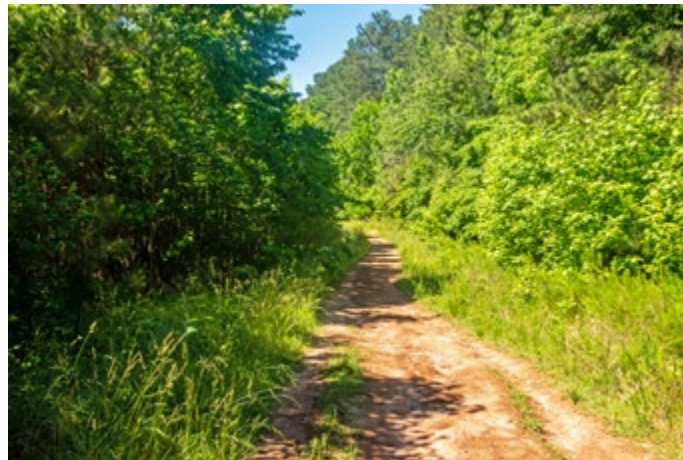
--Atlanta, p.75





Then & Now....

There used to be a large meadow west of the Cheatham Hill Rd Parking lot - photo, above was taken 8/10/13. The photo was taken on the western side of the meadow, facing east.



This is the same location, but looking west from the eastern end of what used to be the meadow - photo, above, was taken 5/31/20. The only part of the meadow remaining is this section of fire road leading to the Ward Creek Bridge.

Contact List - Updated 9/24/19

POSITION

President
 Vice President
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Trails Director
 Community Volunteer Director
 Communications Director
 Newsletter Editor
 Information/Technology Director
 Trail Ambassador Director
 Plants Director
 Fundraising Director

NAME

Donald Olds
 Robert Willoughby*
 Robert Brier
 Tom Okerberg
 Bill Gurry*
 Rena Bailey
 Fred Feltmann
 Fred Feltmann
 Jerry Givan
 Janie Brier
 Danny Leigh
 Scott Mackay

E-MAIL

president@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
vp@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
secretary@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
treasurer@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
trails@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
volunteerdirector@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
comdirector@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
comdirector@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
webmaster@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
ambassador@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
plants@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
fundraising@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

Amazon Smile
 Website

<https://smile.amazon.com/>
<http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org/>

Facebook Page

<http://www.facebook.com/kmtcsocial>

Volunteer Sign-up website*

<http://signup.com/go/VvavYQj>

* updated

QUARANTINES IN THE CCC CAMPS

In the world today the word “quarantine” is used on a daily basis and every American has an understanding of what “quarantine” means due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From 1933 - 1942, quarantines were in place in some CCC camps in order to prevent the spread of serious contagious diseases. Quarantines were necessary for scarlet fever, spinal meningitis, mumps, and measles in the CCC camps. All camps were at risk due to the crowded conditions in a camp of two hundred enrollees and additional supervisory personnel. Furthermore, the medical staff at these camps did not have the advantage of modern medical protocols including vaccines, drugs, and medical equipment.

The Army had vast experience in the prevention of contagious diseases in confined spaces, especially in the barracks. CCC regulations issued by the War Department required instruction in the basic principals of hygiene and sanitation. Instruction was usually done by the company commander with the assistance of the medical staff. CCC regulations also addressed personal hygiene. Teeth were to be brushed at least once a day. Fingernails were to be cut short and kept clean. Hands were to be washed before each meal and after using the latrine. Each enrollee was to bath at least once a week. Hair was to be kept short. Clothing and bedding had to be clean.

Scarlet fever, a bacterial illness, developed in some CCC camps. Camp BR-11, Camp Bridgeland, in Bridgeland, Utah, was assigned to the Moon Lake project. An enrollee contracted scarlet fever and the camp was quarantined from March 8, 1935 until March 29, 1935. At Camp SP-19 on Cape Cod near Brewster, Massachusetts, cases of scarlet fever were present in 1936. Company 1189 was quarantined for the month of March. According to Director James McEntee's annual report, the number of scarlet fever cases were reduced by 1939. There were a total of 378 cases of scarlet fever that year.

Spinal meningitis, an inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord, was a serious threat in the CCC camps. On January 7, 1936, Camp SCS-1, Company 1503, in Moscow, Idaho, was placed in strict isolation when nineteen year old enrollee, Ralph Hafer, died of spinal meningitis. Food was delivered to the edge of the camp, unloaded, and given to the medical staff. Company 1325 at the Bear Valley Camp, S-109, near Strasburg, Pennsylvania, was quarantined for spinal meningitis in 1935. CCC Company 1758 arrived in Dent County, Missouri, on October 27, 1933. In the barracks, 40 square feet of space was allowed for each man. On October 30, 1933, an enrollee who bunked in Barracks No. 2 developed signs of spinal meningitis and was transferred to the hospital at Rolla, Missouri. The diagnosis was confirmed and the man died on November 2, 1933. The company was placed under a working quarantine to extend for ten days following the development of the last case of this

disease. The Camp Medical Officer examined all men daily and special care was taken not to overwork or fatigue the men. No secondary cases developed and the quarantine was lifted after the ten day period had elapsed. Spinal meningitis reappeared in this camp on March 25, 1934, with the development of a single case followed by a second case on March 26, and another case on March 27. Two of the patients died. Upon notification of this outbreak, the Commanding General of the Missouri District and the District Surgeon immediately visited the camp. Instructions were issued for the reduction of the overcrowding in the barracks. To accomplish this, tents were set up and the number of men in each barrack was reduced from 42 to 30. The Corps Area Commander ordered the camp quarantined with the quarantine to extend until ten days after the appearance of the last case of meningitis.

There were medical heroes in the camps. Camp SP-11, Company 3663, in Superior, Wisconsin, was placed under quarantine for spinal meningitis from December 11, 1935 until December 27, 1935. Enrollee Strehlow was stricken with the disease and all hope for his recovery was given up. Dr. Harold F. Oakes, First Lieutenant, Med Res., did not give up hope and labored untiringly night and day. During the night, he would sometimes make a trip from the camp to Superior when the weather was twenty degrees below zero. The medical association of Superior recognized Dr. Oakes' efforts and invited him to read a paper before the group and to be an honorary member of that body. No doubt Enrollee Strehlow owed his life to Dr. Oakes!

Camp newspapers often had columns featuring medical matters. *The Hackamorian* of Company 977 in Canby, California, had a column titled “Pill Box News”. Other CCC newspapers featured first aid tips and information on specific diseases. In its “Hospital Notes”, the *Crystal Camp Crier* reported an outbreak of spinal meningitis. A quarantine went into effect for forty days. In the August 14, 1936, issue, it was reported that the medical team was testing an antivirus serum with the men being used as “human guinea pigs.” Director James McEntee's annual report of 1939 cited twenty-seven cases of spinal meningitis. These cases occurred in all Corps areas with the exception of the First Corps area (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont). The rate per 1000 men was one-third of that of 1938.

There were mumps and measles outbreaks in the CCC camps, too. Camp SP-4, Company 1723, at White Water State Park, in St. Charles, Wisconsin, was quarantined for a month with measles and mumps in May 1934. Camp S-109, at Bear Valley, near Strasburg, Pennsylvania, was quarantined for German measles in 1934. Sanitation was a serious problem in some camps. In January 1940 Camp F-4, Company 1687, in Eddyville, Illinois, had forty cases of mumps and was quarantined. A year later in January 1941, an inspector noted that sanitary conditions of the barracks

Continued on Page 12

and the personal sanitation of the enrollees was "far below standards." He reported filthy bed linen, dirty foot lockers, and improperly laundered clothes. Fifty per cent of the company "short sheeted" using only one sheet on the bed. Some slept on a bare mattress. Shoes were never cleaned. Also, the boys were not bathing enough. It was no surprise that within weeks of the inspection, Camp Eddyville was under quarantine for spinal meningitis.

MAuch like today's stay-at-home orders, the CCC boys received stay-at-camp orders. However, not all enrollees complied with quarantine restrictions. In March 1939 at Camp SP-11 in Makanda, Illinois, the contracted CCC surgeon, Dr. Andrew Esposito, had seen enough cases of mumps in the hospital to warrant a working quarantine for Company 696. The Giant City State Park enrollees were not allowed to leave the camp for a specified number of days. Thirty-five men went AWOL and faced disciplinary hearings as a consequence.

In 1940 the Army studied former CCC enrollees who had enlisted in the Army. An unintended consequence of the CCC was that the majority of former enrollees were largely immune to common diseases due to exposure in the CCC. It was also noted that CCC men had all learned the essentials of personal hygiene and sanitation.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: The current COVID-19 is challenging for all of us, but we'll get through it! On behalf of the CCC Legacy Board of Directors, it is our hope that all CCC Legacy members and their families will stay safe and healthy. Remember the motto of the CCC boys: **We Can Take It!!**

Martha Smith, a retired special educator, grew up in the Allegheny National Forest of Pennsylvania where fourteen Civilian Conservation Corps camps were located from 1933 - 1942. Martha is co-author of *From The Forest To The Battlefield*, an extensively researched book, featuring the life stories of forty former CCC enrollees who were awarded the Medal of Honor during World War II. Also, she is the author of *GPS CCC Tour of the Allegheny National Forest* available at visitor centers throughout the Allegheny National Forest. Martha is a CCC historian and researcher who serves on the Board of Directors of CCC Legacy, the only nonprofit organization in America dedicated to preserving the heritage of the Civilian Conservation Corps. New members welcome! More information available at ccclegacy.org

Following is an excerpt from her book,
From the Forest To The Battlefield.
"Printed with permission of CCC Legacy"

VAN T. BARFOOT



BIRTH DATE: June 15, 1919

BIRTH PLACE: Edinburg, Mississippi

DEATH: March 2, 2012

MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION: Carano, Italy. May 23, 1944.

RANK: Technical Sergeant

UNIT: Company L, 3rd Battalion 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division

YEARS OF SERVICE: March 16, 1940 - 1974

AWARDS: Medal of Honor, Purple Heart (3), Silver Star, Bronze Star, Others

CCC: SCS-3, Lexington, Mississippi. October 1937 - April 1938. P-227, Timber, Oregon. April 1938 - September 1939.

VAN T. BARFOOT

It can be said that Van T. Barfoot defended the Stars and Stripes his entire life. This patriotic man was born Van Thurman Barfoot on June 15, 1919, in Edinburg, Mississippi. Later in life he would change his name to Van Thomas Barfoot. He was the sixth child born to Sim (1883-1969) and Martha Elizabeth Barfoot (1884-1976). Van grew up on a thirty-five acre cotton farm along with five sisters and three brothers. The Barfoot's were hard workers with the children often being dismissed from school at noon to

Continued on Page 13

Van T Barfoot

Continued from Page 13

work in the fields.

As a boy Van was one the best frog hunters in the Pearl River swamps. In a 1944 War Department interview, his father recalled many dinners of frog legs, the product of Van's hunting trips with a carbide lamp and a .22 rifle. He also was a good shot with a twelve gauge shotgun and hunted squirrels and ducks. When not working in the fields or hunting, the young Barfoot enjoyed sandlot baseball. Van attended Edinburg Elementary School and completed eighth grade. Inspired by a devout Christian mother, Van regularly attended the Church of God. His grandmother was Choctaw, but Barfoot himself was not an official member of the Choctaw nation. Although he was eligible, his parents never officially enrolled him.

CCC EXPERIENCE

Barfoot signed on with the CCC at Yazoo City, Mississippi, on October 8, 1937. He was assigned to Camp SCS-3, Company 4426, in Lexington, Mississippi. Van reported that he previously had been a laborer for eight months working on a school building. The twenty-five-dollar allotment was sent to his father, Sim Barfoot, in Carthage, Mississippi. The eighteen-year-old Van was a good sized CCC boy at six foot three inches and weighed in at 166 pounds. With the average enrollee being five foot six inches and weighing approximately 130 pounds, Barfoot towered over his fellow workers! At the time of his enrollment, Van indicated his occupational preferences were general mechanic or stock farmer. At SCS-3, Barfoot received excellent performance ratings in KP and soil conservation work. Barfoot completed his enlistment period on April 11, 1938, and reenrolled for another six months.

This time Van was assigned to Camp Reehers, P-227, Company 5461, in Timber, Oregon. Barfoot spent a week at conditioning camp at Fort McClellan, Alabama, and then spent four days traveling from the 4th Corps area to the 9th Corps area. Camp Reehers was located above the Nehalem river within a forest of huge Douglas fir, cedar, alder, and maple trees. The area would later become the Tillamook State Forest. The CCC men improved roads, built trails, constructed telephone lines, and maintained fire breaks. Van received excellent ratings as a camp utility man from April 1938 through May 1939. Barfoot had found his niche in the CCC and reenrolled on October 1, 1938, and once again on April 1, 1939.

His size and speed were an asset for boxing matches in the CCC and later in the Army. Van was a fire crew leader from May until September 1939 with satisfactory ratings. He was appointed assistant leader on July 1, 1939. While at Camp Reehers, Van took classes in arithmetic, grammar, writing, forestry, woodworking, electricity, carpentry, photography, and journalism. He received V.G. (Very Good) grades in every class. His avocational interests were reading, movies, and softball. He told the camp adviser he was anxious to get ahead in life. The adviser reported that Barfoot was honest, dependable, and had very good personal qualities as well as a good interest in the education program. The camp superintendent reported Barfoot was "dependable and a very good worker." Barfoot attempted to reenroll one more time in September of 1939 and was sent to conditioning camp at Fort McClellan, Alabama. However, he was discharged on September 24, 1939, when deemed "ineligible for reenrollment because of length of service." After two years in the Civilian Conservation Corps, it was time to move on.

MILITARY EXPERIENCE

In March 1940 Van T. Barfoot walked to the Leake County courthouse to enlist in the Army. He was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division. After basic training he participated in maneuvers in Louisiana and Puerto Rico. Barfoot was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to the newly activated Amphibious Force Atlantic Fleet in Quantico, Virginia. The unit was deactivated in 1943, and Van was then assigned to the 157th Regiment, 45th Infantry Division which shipped out to Europe.

In the final push to defeat the Axis powers of Italy and Germany, the Allied powers invaded Italy in a series of three landings. The Italian Campaign, often called the Road to Rome, turned into a long, brutal slog through treacherous mountain terrain. Technical Sergeant Barfoot earned a Bronze Star for valor during Operation Husky, the amphibious assault of Sicily, in July 1943. Two months later, he participated in Operation Avalanche, the invasion of southern Italy with the landing at Salerno.

Barfoot was awarded the Silver Star for action on December 9 and 10, 1943, near Pozzilli, Italy. While guiding a nighttime reconnaissance party, Barfoot discovered German machine gun nests. He attacked one nest with his Tommy gun and killed two crew members. He silenced another nest with a hand grenade. The next night he led another party into German territory and destroyed another machine gun emplacement. He killed three crew members and captured two German soldiers. Sergeant Barfoot was now well prepared for the last landing in the series, Operation Shingle, the landing at Anzio.

In late January 1944, the 157th landed at Anzio and began moving inland rapidly. The Allied advance was stopped at times by counterattacks by German reinforcements. By May of that year, Barfoot's unit had spent several weeks in a defensive position near the town of Carano. During this time Barfoot conducted patrols day and night where he mentally mapped out the terrain and minefields in front of enemy positions.

Early in the morning of May 23, 1944, Barfoot's unit was ordered to attack. Lead squads approached the German minefields under heavy fire. Technical Sergeant Barfoot requested to lead a squad as he was very familiar with the lanes through the minefields. Advancing on a line through shallow ditches and depressions in the terrain, he destroyed a machine gun with a hand grenade. Then he moved to the next gun emplacement where he killed two soldiers and wounded three others. When Barfoot approached the third machine gun position, the Germans manning the gun surrendered after watching Barfoot's methodical assault.

Later in the day, the Germans, in retaliation, organized a counterattack sending three Mark VI tanks toward his platoon. Standing seventy-five yards in front of the lead tank, Van disabled the tank by destroying the tread with a bazooka grenade launcher. He then killed three of the German tank crew members with a Thompson submachine gun as they attempted to escape. The other two tanks abruptly changed direction having witnessed the destruction. Next Barfoot continued further into enemy territory and destroyed a recently abandoned German fieldpiece with a demolition charge placed in the breach. Sergeant Barfoot ended his day by helping two seriously wounded men from his squad walk nearly a mile to safety. This kid from Mississippi had a full day capturing a total of seventeen enemy soldiers and killing seven.

On June 21, 1944, Barfoot was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. By September his unit had moved from Italy to the

Continued on Page 14

Van T Barfoot

Continued from Page13

French Rhone Valley. There Barfoot was ordered to division headquarters where he was informed he had been awarded the Medal of Honor. Given a choice of returning to the United States for the ceremony or receiving the medal in the field, Van chose the latter so his men could attend. Lieutenant General Alexander Patch awarded him the medal in Epinal, France, on September 28, 1944. Throughout his military career, Barfoot was always considerate and fiercely loyal to his men.

Barfoot remained humble about his World War II heroism throughout his life. "People say I did something miraculous. I don't think so. I don't think I did any more than any good American would do." Barfoot would often be asked how he found the courage to perform such heroic actions on the battlefield. His response was, "Why should I fear when I have the Lord? The Lord will look after me." A man of deep faith, Barfoot carried a pocket Bible from his wife's mother throughout the war. He would read the Bible to his men. At each military post, he taught Sunday School.

MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty on 23 May 1944, near Carano, Italy. With his platoon heavily engaged during an assault against forces well entrenched on commanding ground, 2d Lt. Barfoot (then Tech. Sgt.) moved off alone upon the enemy left flank. He crawled to the proximity of 1 machinegun nest and made a direct hit on it with a hand grenade, killing 2 and wounding 3 Germans. He continued along the German defense line to another machinegun emplacement, and with his Thompson Submachine gun killed 2 and captured 3 soldiers. Members of another enemy machinegun crew then abandoned their position and gave themselves up to Sgt. Barfoot. Leaving the prisoners for his support squad to pick up, he proceeded to mop up positions in the immediate area, capturing more prisoners and bringing his total count to 17. Later that day, after he had reorganized his men and consolidated the newly captured ground, the enemy launched a fierce armored counterattack directly at his platoon positions. Securing a bazooka, Sgt. Barfoot took up an exposed position directly in front of 3 advancing Mark VI tanks. From a distance of 75 yards his first shot destroyed the track of the leading tank, effectively disabling it, while the other 2 changed direction toward the flank. As the crew of the disabled tank dismounted, Sgt. Barfoot killed 3 of them with his Tommy gun. He continued onward into enemy terrain and destroyed a recently abandoned German fieldpiece with a demolition charge placed in the breach. While returning to his platoon position, Sgt. Barfoot, though greatly fatigued by his Herculean efforts, assisted two of his seriously wounded men 1,700 yards to a position of safety. Sgt. Barfoot's extraordinary heroism, demonstration of magnificent valor, and aggressive determination in the face of point-blank fire were a perpetual inspiration to his fellow soldiers.

LIFE AFTER WORLD WAR II

Lieutenant Barfoot headed home to marry the love of his life, Norma Louise Davis. Norma, a school teacher, frequently wrote letters to Barfoot's parents during the war. They had become engaged while Van was stationed in Virginia but agreed to delay their marriage until after the war. The ceremony took place in Mathews, Virginia, on November 4, 1944.

Having grown up in the segregated South, Barfoot was noted for a comment he made in 1945 regarding Afro-Americans. Theodore

G. Bilbo, a staunch segregationist, asked Barfoot if he had much trouble with African American soldiers during the war. To Bilbo's embarrassment Barfoot responded, "I found out after I did some fighting in this war that the colored boys fight just as good as the white boys. I've changed my idea a lot about colored people since I got into this war and so have a lot of other boys from the South."

Van T. Barfoot served in both the Korean and Viet Nam wars. In 1960, at the age of forty, Barfoot completed flight training as a Major and was assigned to the legendary Howze Board. The Board, named after General Hamilton H. Howze, was tasked to review and test integrating helicopters into the Army. Formally known as the Tactical Mobility Requirements Board, this group established the idea of air mobility and modern Army aviation.

During the Viet Nam War, Barfoot again answered the nation's call as Deputy Aviation Officer. During 1967-68, he flew 177 combat hours as a helicopter pilot, earning eleven Air Medals and the Legion of Merit. He was a Senior Army Aviator in both fixed and rotary wing aircraft with fourteen years of aviation service.

Blake Mcllwain, reflected on his time with Barfoot at Fort Hood in 1965. Mcllwain was thirty-five years old at the time and Barfoot's executive officer. "Physically he is a big man, about 6-foot-7, dark hair when I knew him because he is Choctaw, but he has blue eyes," Mcllwain said. "Believe me, he didn't have to tell you to do something twice. He had that look about him and the physical stature to go with it. But usually, he was gentle and soft spoken." Furthermore, Mcllwain stated, "Van Barfoot is one of the most spectacular human beings that ever lived. His advice to me was, 'Take care of your troops and they will take care of you... He inspired me to go to Viet Nam and be what I can be.'" Barfoot and Mcllwain went their separate ways in Viet Nam with Mcllwain piloting helicopter gunships with the 1st Cavalry Division and Barfoot commanding an aviation battalion. Barfoot's advice to Mcllwain would serve him well for three tours of duty in Viet Nam.

In 1974 Barfoot retired as a Colonel and senior Army Adviser to the Virginia Army National Guard. A highly-decorated soldier, Colonel Barfoot had dedicated thirty-four years of his life to his country.

RETIREMENT LIFE

Van T. Barfoot lived a quiet, rural life with his wife, Norma, on a farm in Amelia County, Virginia. He maintained a vegetable garden, filled bird feeders, and enjoyed catching catfish in his private pond. On March 20, 1992, Barfoot's beloved wife, Norma, passed away. She was sixty-nine years old and they had been married for forty-eight years.

In the summer of 2009, Van moved to the Richmond suburbs to be closer to his daughter, Margaret. Van faithfully awoke each morning at 6:00 A.M. to raise the American flag with a military salute on the lawn of his Henrico, Virginia, townhouse. At dusk, he lowered and folded the flag, hugging the triangular bundle to his chest as he walked back inside.

Barfoot's entire life was rooted in Christian faith. He read the Bible up to three times daily and recalled reading his Bible before and praying through the action that earned him the Medal of Honor. "I always say, 'They held my hand.' That is, my mother and my wife. And anything I accomplished, it was based on Christian love."

In a 1999 Richmond Times-Dispatch interview, Barfoot stated his close-knit, churchgoing family was his anchor. "That's the basis of my life as a commander and a civilian. Furthermore, I like to tell about life without war stories. I've always had something more

Continued on Page 15

Van T Barfoot Continued from Page14

important in my life than war and the military.”

Upon his death in 2012, his daughter, Margaret, described her father: “He was a very selfless man, a fiercely independent man. Although the military was a large part of his life, that wasn’t him. He was all about family and faith and honor. He believed in serving in the community. He was always out in the community.”

HONORS

The Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center is named after Colonel Barfoot and Carl Sitter, both of whom are Medal of Honor recipients. Colonel Sitter, like Colonel Barfoot, served in both World War II and the Korean War. The Center is located on the campus of the McGuire Veterans Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia.

On October 9, 2009, the portion of the Mississippi Highway 16 that runs from Carthage to Barfoot’s hometown in Edinburg to the border between Leake and Neshoba counties was named the Van T. Barfoot Medal of Honor Highway. At the time of the highway dedication, Barfoot said, “Don’t place me on a pedestal. I am just a country boy who grew up at Rye’s Creek and was very fortunate that God has been very good to me.”

THE FLAG CONTROVERSY

Van Barfoot made national headlines in 2009 when he erected a twenty-one foot flag pole at his residence without the permission of the Sussex Square Homeowners Association in Henrico County, Virginia. The Association allowed angled poles attached to houses but did not address other flag poles in its bylaws. Van Barfoot was threatened with legal action unless the pole was removed “for aesthetic reasons.” After his son-in-law reported the story to a local radio station, the news story was soon picked up by national news networks. “There’s never been a day in my life or a place I’ve lived in my life that you couldn’t fly the American flag,” Barfoot said in an interview with the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. The ninety year old veteran contested the order and the ensuing furor drew the support of veterans, two Virginia senators, a former Virginia governor, and White House Press Secretary, Robert Gibbs. The newspaper ran an article about the dispute and asked readers their opinion. There were 147,171 responses with 96 percent in favor of Barfoot being allowed to fly the flag any way he wanted. Consequently, the homeowners association dropped its request on December 8, 2009, and Barfoot continued to fly the American flag.

FINAL SALUTE

Van Thomas Barfoot died on March 2, 2012, at age ninety-two. He tripped near his front door and hit his head on some bricks. A skull fracture led to bleeding of the brain, resulting in his death. Barfoot was survived by his daughter, Margaret, three sons: Jim, Van Jr., and Odell; a sister, Freddie; twelve grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Colonel Barfoot is buried at H.C. Smither Memorial Cemetery in Hudgins, Mathews County, Virginia.

In memory and in respect for Barfoot, Governor Robert McDonnell ordered that both the American flag and the flag of the Commonwealth of Virginia be lowered at half mast over the Capitol building at sunrise on March 5, 2012, and remain at half mast until sunset.

Governor McDonnell championed Barfoot’s flag dispute back in 2009 when he signed legislation, sponsored by Senator Richard Stuart, that prohibited homeowners associations from banning the proper display of the United States flag. This was a tribute to a patriotic man who said, “In the time I have left, I plan to continue to fly the American flag without interference.” He did!

The Trees (The Sentinel)

By
Fred Feltmann
4-8-92

(Hawk Mountain, on the Appalachian Trail)

Silent Sentinel,
250 years of witnessing,
Living on the Appalachian Trail,
Experiencing God’s hand upon the Land.

Tornados,
Windstorms,
Lightning,
Ice Storms;
Each have taken their toll.

Silent Sentinel,
250 years of witnessing,
Living on the Appalachian Trail,
Experiencing the coming and going of Mankind.

Cherokee Indians roamed this land,
Hunting and fishing,
Caring for this Earth.
Knowing it was their life blood.

French and Spanish came,
Ravishing the land,
Taking what they could, and moving on.

The English came,
Fought over it, and lost.

The Americans came and settled in,
And fought among themselves.

Silent Sentinel,
250 years of witnessing,
Living on the Appalachian Trail,
Experiencing Man’s presence.

War.
Greed
Pollution.
His painfully slow process of learning.
Learning that what Nature provides,
Can be lost.
Forever.

This Silent Sentinel,
Having the heart of an oak,
Strives on, though only now barely alive.

It is home now to robins,
And other of God’s creatures.

Many of his brethren,
Pines, Dutch Elms, Dogwoods, Birches, and American Chestnut
Smitten by the hand of God, and Nature, and Man,
Lay crumpled and broken around him.

Silent Sentinels of Time.

Silent Sentinel,
250 years of witnessing,
250 years of setting an example.
250 years of waiting, watching.

Hoping to see the Right hand of God.
Hoping that all who pass this way,
Will some day realize how precious a moment is.
And stop.

If for a brief instant.
And witness the Hand of God upon this Land.

Sponsors/Partners Corner

Many thanks to our Sponsors and Partners for their support!

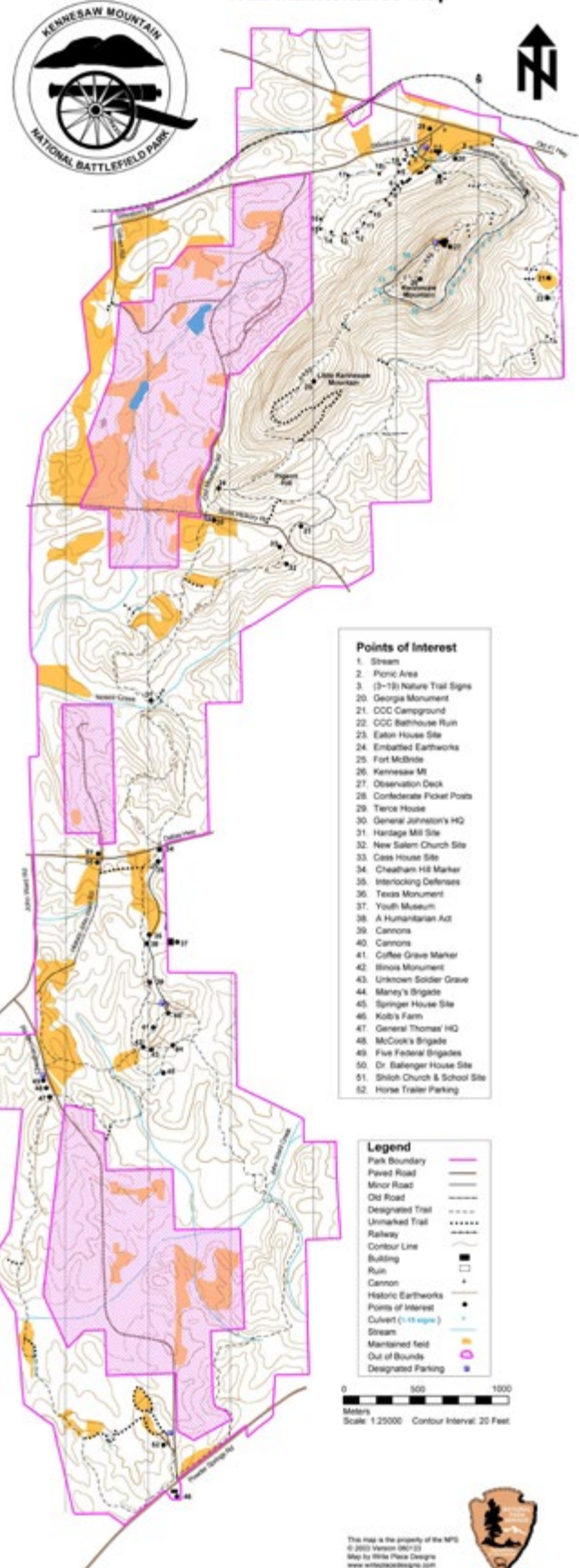


<http://americanhiking.org>



KENNESAW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

Trail Maintenance Map



August Newsletter Deadline

If you wish to have an article published in the August Newsletter, please submit it to Fred Feltmann at faf1948@bellsouth.net no later than July 20th!

PS Even if you're just a "volunteer," you can also present an article for publication - and you won't be the first!