

November
2014

Tubman Partners Joint Newsletter



Lawn view, Tubman UGRR State Park Visitor Center and Administrative Buildings. e caption text here.

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An Update On Harriet Tubman UGRR National Monument

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and also provide you with information about the park. My name is Brian Joyner, acting superintendent for the National Park Service at Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Monument (NM). I graduated with a degree in History from University of Maryland (Go Terps!) and went to high school at Oxon Hill Senior High School in Oxon Hill, MD, just up the road from signer of the Declaration of Independence John Hanson's residence. I've already met some of our partners and area residents and look forward to meeting with all of you. The Tubman NM staff will host a series of events over the course of the fall and winter months. In the meantime, feel free to contact me at brian_joyner@nps.gov, 410-228-2677, extension 29.



National Park Service staff @ the Blackwater Visitor Center

Through an interagency agreement, Refuge Manager Suzanne Baird has been kind enough to provide National Park Service (NPS) with office space in the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Visitor Center. We are excited to work with our sister agency in preserving and interpreting this cultural and natural resource. Over the next several months, the two agencies will be collaborating on resource management and interpretative programming opportunities. To reach NPS, please call 267-838-2376.

National Underground Railroad Program Arrives

As many of you are aware, the [National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program](#) (NTF), established in 1998, is relocating to Dorchester County. The program, formerly housed in Omaha, NE, is now administratively connected with the national monument. Two staff members will be located here: Diane Miller, the program manager for the national program and Eola Dance the new Northeast Region NTF coordinator. Diane is a PhD candidate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and career historian for NPS.

She will arrive in spring 2015. Please say hello to Eola Dance, now reporting to the NPS office located at the Blackwater Visitor Center. Also career NPS, Eola will build upon the good work of Sherri Jackson who continues to support NTF as the Southeast Regional NTF coordinator. Eola can be reached at eola_dance@nps.gov with questions regarding NTF nominations, programs and research; learn more about Eola and the regional program below.



Public Meetings on Tubman Site Begin in Winter 2015

NPS will host a series of public meetings to garner feedback from the community as we begin to develop the foundation document for the [national monument](#). The [foundation document](#) aims to answer critical questions for managing a site such as:

- What is the purpose of this monument/park unit?
- Why was it included in the national park system?
- What makes it significant?
- What are its fundamental resources and values?
- What legal and policy requirements, special mandates, and administrative commitments apply to this monument/park unit?
- What are the monument's key planning and data needs?

Public engagement is a crucial component to a successful foundation document. We will be working with the Northeast region's park planning office to schedule the document development. Tubman is scheduled to begin after the new year. As a more definitive timetable is offered, I will share it with you. Please visit the [national monument's website](#) for up-to-date information.

Maryland Park Service Visitor Center Exhibit Design is Near Completion

On October 22-24, staff from Tubman NM and the NTF participated in a 3-day workshop on the

exhibit design for the Harriet Tubman UGRR State Park Visitor Center with Haley Sharp Design. Participants included staff from Maryland State Archives; Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Maryland Tourism; NPS Northeast Regional Office of Interpretation, Education, and Volunteerism; and NPS Harpers Ferry Design Center; as well as scholars Dann Broyle, Spencer Crew, and Lois Horton. The design is roughly 75% done and currently on schedule to finish fabrication, which will coincide with the opening of the Visitor Center in 2016.

Meet Eola Dance

Greetings from the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program! It is a pleasure to officially join the HATU planning team as your Northeast Region NTF Program coordinator, please visit www.nps.gov/ugrr to learn more about the over 540 sites also listed in the network. As the coordinator, I will provide technical assistance to Underground Railroad sites in Cambridge, MD, as well as sites throughout the region from Virginia to Maine.

Since 2008, I've been deeply engaged with those who advocate for preserving the history of the Underground Railroad, and the life and legacy of Harriet Tubman. Having served a 2-month detail with NTF in the spring of 2014, I was certain I wanted to contribute to furthering the vision of what the Tubman site could be and building the network of related sites through programs, documentation, and research.



I join you from Hampton, VA where I served as the first Chief of Visitor Services and Resource Management, at Fort Monroe National Monument (FOMR). As a 13-year NPS employee, I've had the opportunity to interpret and manage several historic sites with shared history in the pursuit of freedom and equality: Frederick Douglass National Historic Site (NHS), Maggie L. Walker NHS, Carter G. Woodson Home NHS, Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS and several battlefield and forts in the Chesapeake Bay Region. In addition to a BA in History from Southern University A & M College, I've studied Public History at Howard University, as well as Museums and Historical Archeology at George Mason University. I'm currently a distance learning MA Candidate at Savannah College of Art and Design in Historic Preservation, focusing on the impact of climate change and sea-level rise on preserving and protecting cultural resources. Having just completed the [foundation document](#) planning process at FOMR I look forward to sharing with you in the richness of the Underground Railroad history, landscape, and opportunities for dialogue.

Meet Dana Paterra

A native of the Eastern Shore, I have 12 years of experience interpreting natural and cultural resources as well as four years of park operations and management experience. I earned my bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from the University of Virginia.

My career and family have taken me from my hometown of Chincoteague, VA to St. Charles, AR and Charleston, SC, where I gained experience working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state agencies, and county government. My most recent position as a park manager near Charleston, SC, provided me the opportunity to manage former rice and tea plantations for wildlife while preserving and interpreting the important cultural resources of the park. A career of multidisciplinary work in biology, interpretation, and management as well as personal interests and passions prompted me to pursue this professional opportunity with the Maryland Park Service. As the Park Manager for the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park, I look forward to working with the community and partners to help provide a state of the art

interpretive facility and inspirational destination along the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway. I can be reached at Dana.Paterra@Maryland.gov and 410-228-2124.



Updates from Our Partners

Construction of Tubman State Park Visitor Center is Underway

If you traveled down Golden Hill Road lately, you may have noticed that progress continues at a steady pace on the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park Visitor Center and Administration Buildings. Concrete work began in late October and the construction project remains on schedule to be completed in early 2016. Plans for the 17-acre State Park site include the 16,000 sq. ft. [LEED Silver-rated](#) Visitor Center and Administration Buildings, a Memorial Garden, and a picnic pavilion. (see image at the top) The selected design, "The View North", was developed from a concept that expresses the importance of moving northward to escape the circumstances of slavery. Most notably, the design solution splits the building program into two structures that frame the view of the Memorial Garden as visitors approach.



The exhibit building will be the primary destination for visitors. The exhibits focus on Tubman and the Underground Railroad Resistance Movement from the Maryland perspective. The exhibit process and the building construction are occurring simultaneously to allow for close coordination between the exhibit contractor and the architect to ensure that the design of the exhibit space and the exhibits are compatible.

The state is collaborating with partners, stakeholders, community members, and family members to ensure adequate opportunity for input through meetings and conference calls. As the design phase nears conclusion, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD-DNR) will continue to work with the NPS to guide the exhibit development and production forward to create the most provocative, engaging, and compelling visitor experience possible.

Addition to Blackwater Visitor Center is Complete

Yes, the new wing of the Blackwater NWR Visitor Center is complete and the new exhibits have been installed! Refuge Manager Suzanne Baird, invites everyone to come out to see the expanded Visitor Center and new exhibits. The Eagle's Nest Bookstore, managed by the Friends of Blackwater, has also moved back into the Visitor Center. A great time to come out to see all of the new exhibits is at the upcoming Open House sponsored by the Friends of Blackwater. The "Eagles

Nest Nature Store Open House & Craft Show" at Blackwater NWR is Saturday, December 6, 2014 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. There will be crafts, art, carvings, book signings, children's activities, music and more. Visit the Friends of Blackwater website for more information <http://www.friendsofblackwater.org/>.



NPS Centennial 1916-2016

In 2016, NPS will mark its first century of service to the American public. The Centennial is more than a celebration, it is an opportunity to reconnect with a public that has changed dramatically since Woodrow Wilson signed the legislation that created America's Best Idea. The goal is to **engage and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates**, through a marketing and public relations campaign. This takes place at sites like Tubman-UGRR NM, working with the community to prepare NPS for the next generation and prepare the next generation for NPS.

[For more information, visit the Centennial website](#)



Harriet Tubman UGRR NM
Harriet Tubman UGRR State Park
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

<http://www.nps.gov/hatu>

Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world--Harriet Tubman

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