

From the Lee Ranger District

George Washington and Jefferson National Forests
Winter, 2004



The More Things Change...

...The more they stay the same! As I looked back on the last few **Volunteer Newsletters** I noticed we have been having water troubles in our recreation areas for several summers - either an over abundance or lack of. This year is no exception. Rain this summer opened up a new sinkhole at Trout Pond Rec Area that had to be filled quickly before it spread under the road to the campground. We also had to fill the reservoir at the visitor center because of another leak and try to determine why our spring at Elizabeth Furnace changed locations. Drought or no, feast or famine it seems our quest for the “perfect” water system continues.

Through all the challenges of water and weather this season, you, our volunteer staff came through it all with enthusiasm, teamwork and smiles! Each year you bring new ideas, fresh faces and the energy to help us through yet another plumbing leak or major weather event - such as Hurricane Isabel. For this we on the Lee Ranger District give you a hearty **Thank you!**

I hope everyone is enjoying the new year and in a part of the country that is warm and dry! If the Farmer’s Almanac is to be believed - we here in Virginia are in for a humdinger of a winter!

Lee Web Site Address:

www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/gwj/lee

Come visit us! Keep current while away on your travels!

Inside this Issue:

Lee web site Address

Web News	2
Massanutten VC	2
Trout Pond	2
Elizabeth Furnace	3
Massarock	3
Other News	3
New Employees	3
Leave No Trace	4
Volunteer Schedule	5

Web News

The Matzeks have struck again! This summer Bob and Nancy spent 3 months tweaking and tuning the Lee Ranger District web site. When you explore the Lee's Web site you are viewing there fine handiwork! They also created a brand new web site for the Shenandoah Valley Inter-agency Wildfire Prevention and Education Team. This web site is sponsored by the Forest Service, National Park Service and Virginia Department of Forestry.

One of our goals is to make our web site the place to go for all your district information needs. In fact - this newsletter is posted on-line on the volunteer web page!

The Matzeks have helped bring us into the 21st Century! Thank you Bob and Nancy!

Massanutten Visitor Center

We had a lot of new faces at the Visitor Center this year - volunteers and a new SCSEP! Everyone worked together to provide our visitors a top-notch experience along with good information. The Greenes, Murrays, Hensens, Driscolls and Don Janes get our biggest thank yous for doing a fabulous job! Don Janes spent the month of June digitizing our 3,000+ slide catalog! That was an enormous job.

Roy May is our newest SCSEP stationed at the Massanutten VC and brings a smile and wealth of knowledge about the local area and the forest. He joins Viola Stroupe, Harold Williams and Anna Walter in staffing the VC and working on the cleaning crew during the winter. We couldn't find a more dedicated and fun crew!

This year, in cooperation with the National Park Service and Virginia Department of Forestry we hosted a group from the Student Conservation Corps at the Visitor Center. There were 4 college age kids from different parts of the country who spent the summer talking to people at our various county fairs about fire prevention. All total they talked to about 25,000 people!

We are looking forward to another great year in 2004!



Trout Pond Recreation Area

What a busy year we had at Trout Pond. The season started off with a wonderful day in May when over 200 people came to Rockcliff Lake to enjoy our annual Kid's Fishing Day. Despite the rain and sinkholes people kept coming all summer! They had a wonderful time thanks to your hard work and dedication.

The biggest adventure at Trout Pond came late in the summer when Preston's eagle eye SC-SEP crew discovered a sinkhole opening under the road leading up to the family campground. Several days later, the campground was cleared, the road closed and several loads of gravel were dumped under the road to stop the progression of the sinkhole from collapsing the road. If you have ever wanted to see geology in action this is the place to come. Beauty and excitement all in one place!

Please let Preston know if you need any uniform items before April 15, 2004. Also make sure you confirm your volunteer dates. Preston handles his own volunteer scheduling.

Mark your calendar!

The Forest Service turns 100
years old in **2005!**

Elizabeth Furnace Recreation Area

We had several new faces at Elizabeth Furnace and just as many familiar ones! This year the Henkes, Cooners, Wilson, Ethridges, Noonans, Snodgrasses and Schultzes helped us meet and greet our visitors and provide them a quality camping experience! Thanks to all for a wonderful summer.

Hurricane Isabel did a little damage to the trees near the cabin, but the most noticeable damage was to Group Site C. It is actually hard to tell if the trees fell during Isabel or during the 50 mph winds we had a few weeks later!

We are working on redesigning the Pig Iron and Charcoal Interpretive trails. We plan to make the trails accessible to wheelchairs and strollers where possible and redo all the interpretive signs so they can stay up year round!

The Elizabeth Furnace Festival was rained out for the first time in 9 years! We are grateful we had such hardy volunteers to brave the wet weather.

We are looking forward to seeing you in 2004.

Massarock Trail Crew

Not satisfied to rest on their laurels this summer, the Massarock crew were again hard at work blazing new trail across the Lee Ranger District. This year, the volunteer trail crew completed 2-miles of new trail on Great North Mountain Trail. The crew camped at Trout Pond Recreation Area and commuted to the trail head each day.

Last year we held the dedication of the 70-mile Massanutten Trail, of which 32-miles were built by the Massarock Crew. Over the winter, this trail was designated as a National Recreation Trail! Very few trails have the stature to receive this honor! Good Job folks - You should be proud of your accomplishment - we are proud of you!

If all goes as planned the phantom Massanutten Trail Patch should be available this spring.

Other News:

The plans for our new office and Civilian Conservation Corps Interpretive Center are progressing slowly but surely. Hopefully by early spring we will have more news.

Driving a Government Vehicle

If you plan to drive a government vehicle during your volunteer stay, you must have a letter signed by your supervisor stating that you have permission to drive. This letter is good for only 30-days and must be accompanied by a valid state driver's license. If you will be on the district for more than 30-days it is your responsibility to have your supervisor renew your permission to drive letter.

Background Check Forms and Agreement Forms

If you have never filled out a Background Check form tell your supervisor. This is a new requirement for volunteering on NF lands.

Same goes for Volunteer Agreement forms. You should have an agreement form signed by the District Ranger within the past several years. If not we can renew yours very easily!

Please Welcome our New Staff

Forest Service

Charlie Burke, began working in the Lee Office as our new receptionist in November, 2003. He retired in August from the Naval Security Group Activity, Sugargrove WV. He brings with him close to 25 years of top notch military experience! Welcome Charlie!

SCSEP Hires

We have 3 new folks starting work this spring. Janet Cardwell, Lawrence Parker and Marvin Golladay.

We give these new folks a hearty welcome to the Lee Ranger District!

LEAVE NO TRACE!

This coming summer, we will be promoting a Forest Service program of outdoor ethics. Leave No Trace is not new, but has recently broadened it's outreach to front country areas as well as wilderness.

There are seven basic principles that are easy to explain and easy to follow. Please take a look at these and consider how you might include these messages into you various contacts with visitors. For more information visit: <http://www.lnt.org>

1. Plan ahead and prepare

- Know the regulations & special concerns for the area you plan to visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards & emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Visit in small groups. Split larger parties into groups of 4-6.
- Repackage food to minimize waste.
- Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of flagging.

2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable Surfaces include established trails & campsites, rock, gravel, dry grass or snow.
- Protect Riparian areas by camping at least 200 ft. from lakes and streams.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary

In popular areas: Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites; walk in single file in the middle of trail, even when wet or muddy; keep campsites small. Focus activity where vegetation is absent.

In pristine areas: Disperse use to prevent creation of campsites and trails and avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

3. Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, Pack it out. (Including toilet paper and hygiene products.)
- Deposit and bury solid human waste in cat holes dug 6 - 8 inches deep at least 200 ft. from water, camp & trails.
- To wash yourself, carry water 200 ft. from water, use biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

4. Leave What you Find

- Preserve the past; observe, but do not touch, cultural or historical structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures, furniture or dig trenches.

5. Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted use established fire rings, fire pans or mound pans.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter the ashes.

6. Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. This is harmful to the animal by altering natural behaviors and exposing them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely
- Control pets at all times or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young or winter.

7. Be considerate of other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.
- Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise"

Aldo Leopold's, A Sand County Almanac

2004 Volunteer Schedule

Check the dates of arrival and departure -- Are they what you thought they were?

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
MVC			Jonas	Jonas	Jonas	Jonas	Jonas
			Murray??	Driscoll	Hensen		
EF	Henke	Henke	Henke	Noonan	Noonan		
	Smith	Smith	Cooner	Snodgrass	Snodgrass		
Cabin		Driscoll	Driscoll	Ethridge	Schultz		
Web			Matzek	Matzek	Matzek	Matzek	

If you know anyone interested in volunteering during the open months please let me know or ask the folks to call Stephanie (540) 984-4101, sbushong@fs.fed.us

Uniform Requests:

The 2004 uniform order will be placed in late April. If you need to replace any shirts, baseball cap or windbreaker let Stephanie know by April 15, 2004. sbushong@fs.fed.us or (540) 984-4101. I have a lot of button down shirts (old style) in unisex sizes. If you want those instead of the polo shirts I'm happy to use up my supply since the budget is going to be bare bones (yes, worse than usual!!) this year.

Uniform changes:

- All new nametags will be plastic.
- Baseball caps will be on request - many people aren't wearing their caps.
- For people with who are sensitive to sun exposure, long sleeve polo shirts are rumored to be in the horizon. Let me know ASAP if you NEED one.

*And Speaking about
Volunteers...*

We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give. -- Winston Churchill

I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve. -- Albert Schweitzer

It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself. -- Ralph Waldo Emerson

A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens - citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization. -- George Bush

Lee Ranger District
109 Molineu Road
Edinburg, VA 22824
(540) 984-4101