



THE QUARTERLY COURIER

Official Newsletter of the
FRIENDS OF MINUTE MAN NATIONAL PARK

AUTUMN
2007

A NAME CHANGE ROOTED IN HISTORY: FRIENDS OF MINUTE MAN NATIONAL PARK

The recently expanded Board of Directors of the Minute Man National Park Association voted to change the name of your organization to the **Friends of Minute Man National Park**. The new name clearly identifies the purpose of the group, which will make it easier for prospective members and others to quickly understand what we are here to do. While the "Association" name existed for eight years, its precursor was "Friends of Battle Road." Hence we are rooted in history!

Under any name, the Friends of Minute Man National Park exists to support the Park, and the Board is determined to increase support in multiple ways. Among the clarified goals of the Friends is to improve the visitor experience and the Park's educational offerings, as well as to increase the Friends' support of the Park through advocacy, grants and funds for restoration

and preservation, and the provision of more volunteers to leverage the Park's existing staff. The hope is that the Friends' impact will become more visible throughout the Park in 2008 and into 2009 – which is the 50th Anniversary of the Park's creation!

As you know, the Friends of Minute Man National Park is a membership organization. The Board has recommitted itself to revitalizing the benefits to our members with a wider range of membership levels featuring special discounts, events, and other opportunities. We are particularly looking forward to a Family Day to be held in 2008. With our sights set on 1000 members by September 21, 2009, the Friends are eager to welcome new members. Please see page 3 to learn more about the exciting new benefits and how to join.

Kathleen O'Connor, President

Friends of Minute Man National Park

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*Chief of Planning
and Communications*

BATTLE ROAD HEROES



The Guild of Historic Interpreters brings history to life at "Heroes of Battle Road," a biannual event sponsored by the Friends in April and October. See p. 3 to learn more about the Guild.

Friendly Faces: People and Places Around the Park

Friendly Faces is a new column created to introduce members of the Friends of Minute Man National Park, the work they do, and their most beloved spots in the Park. To kick off this new feature, we've interviewed Doug Detweiler, a Concord resident, retired entrepreneur, and Treasurer of the organization.

Standing in front of one of the most recognizable landmarks within the Park, Doug Detweiler describes what he believes is the main draw for visitors. "North Bridge is a symbol of liberty and democracy. We get people from Palestine, Jordan, Israel, Uganda, Nigeria – people from all over the world – coming from societies struggling for independence, seeking a clearer understanding of the principles of liberty and democracy as they were formed here in the 1700's, and the interesting circumstances that got the nation started on such a selfless basis."



Doug Detweiler by his favorite place: North Bridge

Detweiler has been a member of the Friends for three years. He learned about the group through park Superintendent Nancy Nelson, after inviting her to address the Concord Rotary club. Since then, Detweiler has dedicated himself to the Friends. It would be impossible to name everything Detweiler has done for the Friends, but his stand-out achievements include connecting the group with the Community Action Partners of Harvard Business School Alumni for two rounds of evaluation, consultation, and planning, and working on and conducting tours for potential partners. He actively networks with similar National Park associations throughout the country and is overflowing with passion and ideas to help the Friends reach as many people as possible.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WRITE GRANTS

If you have experience writing grants for not-for-profit organizations, we could use your help. Please call Linda Anderson on 978-318-7822 or email Linda_Anderson@partner.nps.gov. Thanks!

NPS "Daylights" a Stream on Sunnyside Lane



Visitors along the Battle Road Trail are familiar with the Elm Brook wetlands area, a place in the Park that brook trout and American eel call home. What they may not realize is that, for decades, a section of an Elm Brook tributary on the south side of Route 2A in Lincoln has been contained by an underground pipe, inhibiting the natural cycles of the wetlands. Now it has been "daylighted," or returned to the surface.

Since the summer of 2006, the NPS has worked with the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game's Riverways Program and the Town of Lincoln to restore the stream to its natural state by removing underground culverts, re-creating 600 feet of natural stream

channel, removing non-native, invasive plants, establishing native vegetation, and enhancing natural hydrology by restoring surface flow in the stream's headwater wetland.

Our readers will appreciate the significance of this site located within the "Brooks Farm" cultural landscape and historic waterways that influenced troop movement on the opening day of the American Revolution on April 19, 1775.

Lou Sideris, Chief of Planning and Communications, is thrilled by the project's success. "One of the issues we are working on with the new General Management Plan is getting better visitor use of interesting places on the south side of Route 2A. This stream is one of those places."



Friends of Minute Man National Park Membership Levels and Benefits

Individual (\$30)

- ★ Subscription to *The Quarterly Courier*
- ★ Invitations to members-only events
- ★ Discounts on Friends programs and lectures

Family (\$50)

Everything included above, PLUS ...

- ★ *Junior Ranger Booklet* guides for children
- ★ Invitation to the Friends' Annual Family Day

Minute Man (\$100)

Everything included above, PLUS ...

- ★ Free admission for four to one Friends event
- ★ Invitation for two to a Colonial Reception with Park staff and Friends board members

Patriot (\$500)

Everything included above, PLUS ...

- ★ Free admission for four to *all* Friends events
- ★ Invitation to the Colonial Dinner with the Park Superintendent and Friends board members

"1775" Society (\$1775)

Everything included above, PLUS ...

- ★ A personalized tour of Minute Man NHP (led by a Ranger and a Friends board member) for up to eight guests, reception following
- ★ Framed, limited edition photograph of the Hartwell Tavern

Guild Gallimaufry

Founded in 1999, The Guild of Historic Interpreters, a volunteer arm of the Friends, has sought to create and present innovative interpretive programs for the Park. Members specialize in 1st and 3rd person character roles, portraying daily aspects of period life, usually of the 18th century. They also assist Park staff in conducting education programs and meeting mission goals.

During the 2007 season, The Guild continued the ever-popular *Heroes of Battle Road*, now in its 9th year; held *1774 Town Meetings* in Concord, Lincoln, Acton and Sudbury; held Hartwell Players 18th century concerts; and hosted *Hartwell Halloween*, a storytelling and music event. New programs included *Abigail and Billy*, during which Mrs. Adams visits her brother Capt. William Smith in Lincoln; *The Magistrate*, a 1773 local court with miscreant cases; and *Song & Cider*, an 18th century music and apple beverage making festival. Oh...and by the way, a gallimaufry is 18th century speak for a hodgepodge.

*D. Michael Ryan, Director,
The Guild of Historic Interpreters*

1000 by 9.21.09

Our goal is to have **1000 Friends** on our membership roster by **September 21, 2009**, in time to celebrate Minute Man National Historical Park's 50th Anniversary. To achieve this ambitious goal, **we need your help!** Show your support for the Friends of Minute Man National Park. Simply send in this form with a check to start or renew your membership today.

Yes! Sign me up for the Friends of Minute Man National Park as:

____ **Individual** (\$30) ____ **Family** (\$50) ____ **Minute Man** (\$100)
 ____ **Patriot** (\$500) ____ **"1775" Society** (\$1775)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Ph: _____

Email: _____

Please mail form
with payment to:

FMMNP
174 Liberty Street
Concord, MA
01742

Thank you!

MMNHP Welcomes New Chief of Interpretation and Education



Leslie Obleschuk, Chief of Interpretation and Education

Say hello to Leslie Obleschuk, Minute Man National Historical Park's new Chief of Interpretation and Education! Leslie has superlative qualifications to take the reigns at Minute Man. She most recently was Chief of Education at Lowell National Historical Park, overseeing an extensive program at the Tsongas Center with over 60,000 students per year. Prior to that she was Education Specialist at the Olmsted, Longfellow, and Kennedy National Historic Sites, Site Supervisor at Kennedy NHS, and Park Ranger at Independence NHP in Philadelphia. She has a Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from UMass Lowell.

Leslie is here at an opportune time. Your Friends of Minute Man National Park recently worked with the Community Action Partners, a volunteer organization of Harvard Business School alumni, to evaluate ways in which Minute Man could further its mission. A key finding in their report was the recommendation to build upon the park's education program and develop a new Educational Center at the park. Leslie will be an invaluable part of achieving this goal.

Leslie is a key figure in the National Park Service; she was instrumental in creating the Interpretive Development Program which provides training for Interpretive Rangers. She developed modules on interpretive talks and developing and presenting curriculum-based education programs. These training modules set the standard for the entire Park Service.

Leslie is married and has two children aged 20 and 17. She sings soprano in her church choir, attends all of her son's high school marching band events (he plays sousaphone), enjoys reading mysteries, collecting cookie recipes, scouting colleges, visiting historic sites, and leading a church history project for their upcoming 100th anniversary.

We are very glad to welcome Leslie to our team.

Lou Sideris, Chief of Planning and Communications, Minute Man National Historical Park



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Friends of Minute Man National Park
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Concord, MA 01742
978-318-7822



The mission of the Friends of Minute Man National Park is to preserve the birthplace of the American Revolution and inspire visitors to learn the causes, events and continuing impact of the War and its principles of Liberty and Democracy. The Friends work side-by-side with the Park and supplement the Park's work with volunteer and financial resources.

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