

Partners & Progress at Gettysburg

By Joy M. Oakes

wenty years ago, a 307-foot-high observation tower loomed over the historic battlefield in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Utility lines laced the sky, Civil War-era artillery carriages rusted in the fields, and the "Home, Sweet Home" motel welcomed overnight guests on the fields of Pickett's Charge. Visitors crammed the park visitor center and the parking lots

In 1999, the National Park Service adopted a new plan with a clear directive: Return the battlefield to its 1863 appearance...

on the heights of historic Cemetery Ridge, while the National Park Service's largest collection of Civil War artifacts quietly moldered in the visitor center's basement. Monsieur Philippoteaux's huge Cyclorama painting slowly deteriorated in a flat-roofed building ill-suited for central Pennsylvania's snow and rain. Vegetation obscured the battle's site lines, historic orchards had disappeared, and many battlefield-era structures—in need of significant maintenance—hid behind modern exteriors.

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If These Parks Could Talk

Remembering the Civil War Overland Campaign of 1864

By Alan Spears

ne hundred and fifty years ago this spring, two large armies stirred from their winter camps in central Virginia and prepared again for war. Leading one of the armies was Ulysses S. Grant, the hero of Vicksburg and the Savior of Chattanooga. Summoned east by President Lincoln, appointed to the rank of Lieutenant General, and given command of all Federal troops including the 120,000 soldiers who comprised the Army of the Potomac, Grant now prepared to move his army south to engage troops led by the Confederacy's best general, Robert E. Lee.

The bloodletting began on May 5, 1864, in an unforgiving landscape known as the Wilderness. In those densely thicketed woods, the best-laid plans of generals on both sides vanished as quickly as the sunlight. Large formations of men accustomed to fighting on relatively open fields became lost in the undergrowth. Privates became their own generals in combat that more closely resembled "Indian fighting" than that seen at Antietam or Gettysburg. The butcher's bill for the two days of inconclusive slaughter exceeded 29,000 casualties on both sides.

What made the Battle of the Wilderness a watershed event was Grant's decision on May 7th not to retreat—as so many Union

commanders had after their first encounter with Lee—but, instead, to continue the fight by marching his men south towards Richmond. His decision would inaugurate a bloody, two-month-long sequence of battles against Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at then little-known places such as Spotsylvania Courthouse, Bethesda Church, and Cold Harbor.

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Top: Local and national leaders, including NPCA, are working together for clean water in the streams and rivers of the Chesapeake region. These cooperative efforts benefit the 55 national parks in the Chesapeake, and their plants and animals. ©David Kay | Dreamstime.com **Above:** Soldiers at rest after a drill, Petersburg, VA. ©Library of Congress



SPRING-SUMMER 2014

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Mid-Atlantic Regional Office

777 6th Street, NW • Suite 700 Washington, DC 20001 www.npca.org/mid_atlantic

SENIOR REGIONAL DIRECTOR **Joy M. Oakes**: 202.454.3386

MANAGER, CORPORATE & FOUNDATION RELATIONS **Liz Ackley**: 202.454.3393

SENIOR MANAGER, CHESAPEAKE & VIRGINIA PROGRAMS Pamela Goddard: 202.454.3365

SENIOR MEDIA RELATIONS MANAGER
Alison Heis: 202.454.3332

SENIOR PROGRAM COORDINATOR **Katherine McKinney**: 202.454.3328

SENIOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Carole Southall: 212.617.2922

CULTURAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR
Alan Spears: 202.454.3384

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE **Ed Stierli**: 202.454.3339

MANAGER, PENNSYLVANIA AND DELAWARE PROGRAMS **Matt Elliott**: 215.327.2529 1500 Walnut Street, Suite 502, Philadelphia, PA 19102

Member Services Team

1.800.628.7275 • npca@npca.org

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Staff News



NPCA's new President and CEO: Clark Bunting

Clark Bunting, NPCA's new president and CEO, took the helm last fall after 26 years at the Discovery Channel, most recently as president and general manager. Clark has been actively involved in the environmental community during the course of his career. On a more personal level, Clark is an avid fan of our national parks. Some of his fondest park memories include childhood adventures at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Michigan and, more recently, trips to visit his daughter in Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. Clark talks about his ties to national parks, and the future he envisions for NPCA.

Q: What inspired you to take this new role? A: The legacy of the parks is inspiring. I admire the scale, the scope, and the sheer ambition. Right now, NPCA is in a unique

position to build on that legacy, with the Park Service centennial coming up in 2016 and NPCA's own centennial just three years later. To play some small part in the tradition of these parks and in their continued relevancy to future generations is incredibly important to me.

Q: What opportunities do you see for NPCA in the coming years? A: As we consider the upcoming milestones, we need to figure out what that second century will look like for NPCA and the parks. We must respect the culture, history, and big risks that people took to set aside these important and inspirational places, and create an ethic for how to manage them. I also think NPCA and the National Park Service ought to be more or less reflective of America as a whole. We should look like the demography of America, with an emphasis on engaging young people.

To play some small part in the tradition of these parks and in their continued relevancy to future generations is incredibly important to me.

Q: How can we make parks and park advocacy relevant for more people?

A: In this country, we have cultural differences and regional differences, and these differences contribute to a greater whole. NPCA must recognize that diversity—and lead by example. To me, this means creating a culture that is more responsive to the people that we serve and has a better understanding of how people experience their parks. We will ultimately be a better organization as a result.

A complete Q&A with Clark can be found on NPCA's blog, Park Advocate: http://parkb.it/meetcb

Above: Clark Bunting, NPCA's new president and CEO. ©NPCA | Scott Kirkwood

HAVE A PHOTO TO SHARE? We welcome photos from members enjoying national parks, particularly those in the Mid-Atlantic region. Your pictures may be included in future NPCA publications! **WHAT DO YOU THINK?** Help us improve our Field Report. Share your comments and ideas with us. Please send digital photos and any feedback to Katherine McKinney, kmckinney@npca.org

Our New Pennsylvania and Delaware Program Manager: **Matt Elliott**

ast November, the NPCA Mid-Atlantic office welcomed Matt Elliott as the new Pennsylvania and Delaware Program Manager. Having grown up in the Adirondack Mountains, and as a current resident of Philadelphia, Matt knows and appreciates the value of historical sites and national landmarks, as well as the value of urban escapes.

For the past ten years, Matt has worked with Republicans and Democrats alike in New Jersey and in Washington, D.C. to advocate

for cutting-edge policies to reduce air pollution, promote renewable energy, and protect open space in the region. As a result, the New Jersey legislature approved-and Governors Corzine and Christie signeda suite of bills that will power one-third of New Jersey's homes with clean, renewable energy by 2025.

"For me, parks have always been special



places, and I'm thrilled to be spending the next chapter in my career working to protect and enhance the national parks in our region," says Matt. "I'm also grateful to be joining a team of such smart, dedicated, and hardworking advocates here in the Mid-Atlantic."

Matt graduated from Vassar College, enjoys photography, and is an avid hiker.

© NPCA | Matt Elliott

Partners & Progress at Gettysburg

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In 1999, after 60 controversy-filled public meetings, the National Park Service adopted a new 20-year general management plan with a clear directive: Return the battlefield to its 1863 appearance, a timely decision given the 150th anniversaries in 2013 of both the Battle of Gettysburg and of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Fast-forward to today.

Participants in last year's commemorative events experienced a park that indeed evokes 1863. The LEED Gold-certified visitor center and museum, opened in 2008, tucks into the landscape along Baltimore Pike amidst lush native landscaping, parking lots that collect stormwater underground, and

modern curatorial facilities. The beautifullyrestored Cyclorama painting is installed in a theatre setting that evokes the sights, sounds, and horror of July 1863. Significant modern intrusions, including the tower, many of the utility lines, the outdated visitor center and Cyclorama buildings, and even the motel, have been removed and the landscape rehabilitated.

Dramatic success like this doesn't just happen—a key factor has been the park's partnership with the Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg, the Gettysburg National Museum Foundation, and-since 2006the Gettysburg Foundation, an organization formed from the merger of the two groups.

The Park Service and the Foundation worked tirelessly to craft their partnership agreement,

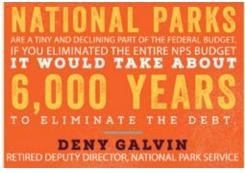
and to fine-tune day-to-day operations. Indeed, the success of any partnership depends upon Park Service leaders and the non-profit partners alike understanding and supporting each other's distinct roles, while closely adhering to the National Park Service mission to preserve and protect the park's values.

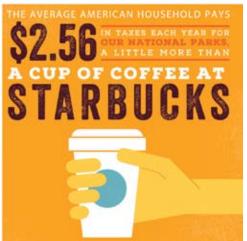
"When Gettysburg National Military Park faced a perfect storm of declining budgets and increased demands due to not one but two 2013 anniversaries, the Gettysburg Foundation provided the margin of excellence," says Alan Spears, NPCA's director of cultural resources. "Creative and productive partnerships—like the one at Gettysburg -are key to future integrity of our beloved national parks."

The successful partnership continues. In addition to fundraising for the museum and visitor center, the Gettysburg Foundation's mission includes land acquisition and conservation, battlefield rehabilitation, and assisting the NPS with monument and artifact preservation—all in support of NPS goals at Gettysburg.

The Foundation's upcoming projects include preserving the historic Gettysburg Train Station as part of the national park, along with other key lands, and historic structures and artifacts. Learn more at http://parkb.it/

gettysburg-partners Left: From the Union position on Little Round Top, Gen. Governeur Warren surveys progress on returning Gettysburg National Military Park to the site's 1863 appearance. ©Appalachianviews | Dreamstime.





Thank You!

Many thanks to NPCA's friends in the Mid-Atlantic region who have provided financial support and pro-bono services for NPCA programs since our last Field Report, published in September: Sandra A. Adams and Tom Roberts, Ted and Calvert Armbrecht, Carol and Lawrence Aten, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ayer, Carol Baker and Mark Stein, Amy Boebel, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Breunig, Mr. James H. and Joan B. Bromley, Lloyd and Thacher Brown, Dr. Lynn Bufka, Ms. Mary C. Bunting, Dorothy and Jerome Canter, Mr. and Mrs. William Catto, Claneil Foundation, Robert and C. Elaine Cline, Robert Clopp and Prudence Clendenning, Harvey and Naomi Cohen, Ms. Gail Ann Cooper, Mr. John Creasy, Jeffrey and Anne Donahue, Joyce C. Doria, Ms. Carol A. Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Fazio, Ms. Gail W. Feagles, Mr. and Mrs. Denis P. Galvin, Katherine H. Garrett, Otto Haas Charitable Trust, The Heinz Endowments, R. Richard and Anne Howland, John E. Huerta and Pamela Byrne, Jerlyn Foundation, Kathleen Minadeo Johnson and Eric Johnson, Ms. Jacqueline Kaye, Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment, Jane and Paul Khoury, H. Kirke Lathrop, Robert and Dee Leggett, James and Jean Macaleer, Mickey MacIntyre and Scollay Petry, Maura D. Mack, Frank Mars, Mrs. Jacqueline B. Mars, Estate of Betty T. McCormack, Priscilla McDougal, David and Jill Morganwalp, Mr. and Mrs. John Nash, Frank A. and Shirley Nicolai, Cecile Poupard-Toner, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome S. Puskin, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rosenbaum, Molly and Peter Ross, Ms. Marilyn Seagears, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Smith, John and Anne Tennis, The Volgenau Foundation, Ms. Robin S. Wink, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Woodcock, Jean Shiro-Zavela and Vance Zavela, and Sarah L. Zimmerman.

Our sincere appreciation goes to our Mid-Atlantic Leadership Council, chaired by Bob Rosenbaum, whose members include Ted and Calvert Armbrecht, Don Ayer, Amy Boebel, Mrs. Lloyd Brown, Dorothy Canter, Anne Donahue, Edwin Fountain, John Maounis, Bob Lane, and Mark Perreault. Council leaders provide invaluable leadership by advising, supporting, and advancing NPCA's mission, strategic priorities, and philanthropic efforts.

For the latest news in park funding, see www.npca.org/protecting-our-parks/park-funding/.

What's New on Fracking?

By Matt Elliott

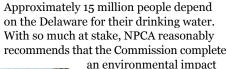
cross the country and here in the Mid-Atlantic, drilling companies are promoting hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," to tap into previously-inaccessible natural gas reserves. Park advocates, among others, raise concerns that the process—which involves injecting chemicals and millions of gallons of fresh water into each well to release the fuels trapped deep underground—may deplete fresh water reserves, contaminate rivers and streams, worsen air quality, and fragment plant and animal habitat.

Recently, Governor Tom Corbett's administration released draft regulations for fracking in Pennsylvania. Citing a lack of protection for our parks, NPCA members and staff attended hearings across the Commonwealth, and submitted written comments with recommendations for significant improvements. For example, the draft regulations would allow companies to develop wells near national parks without notifying the National Park Service, if the wells would be located more than 200 feet away from the park.

Meanwhile, the Delaware River Basin Commission soon could vote to lift the moratorium on fracking in the basin. Now chaired by New Jersey Governor

Chris Christie, the commission includes the governors of Delaware, New York, and Pennsylvania, and the federal Army Corps of Engineers. This commission is charged with safeguarding the health of the Delaware River and its surrounding park lands.

The national parks along the Delaware River draw more than 5 million visitors each year and generate more than \$150 million in visitor spending in nearby communities.



an environmental impact statement before making any decision about lifting the moratorium.

Last October, NPCA volunteers Lloyd Brown and Philip Price, Jr. sponsored a briefing in Philadelphia on the threat fracking poses to our national parks, and how to balance those threats with energy demands. An informative presentation by NPCA's Dr. Jim Nations was followed by a lively discussion about the issues, and ways to become involved.

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Above: The Delaware River, pictured here in a vintage postcard, will be threatened if the moratorium on fracking is lifted. Courtesy of Lew Hoy collection.

If These Parks Could Talk

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The unrelenting nature of the fighting that spring and summer was new to the men on both sides. Previously, a soldier might expect to spend 8 to 10 hours a *year* in combat. Grant's dogged pursuit of Lee now meant that some of his men would spend 8 to 10 hours a *day* for days on end under fire. Grant knew that to win the war his army had to pursue, engage, and systematically weaken the enemy. The Union, with a substantial numerical advantage in service-eligible men, could replace battlefield losses incurred by the constant fighting. The South could not.

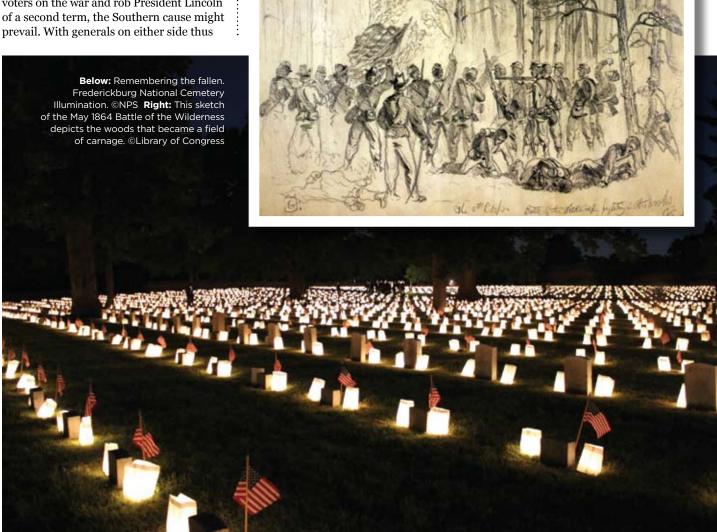
Lee understood that although outright military victory was beyond the reach of the Confederacy, his army might still win a negotiated peace on favorable terms. If, in the election year of 1864, he could inflict enough Union casualties to sour northern voters on the war and rob President Lincoln of a second term, the Southern cause might prevail. With generals on either side thus

determined, the armies settled into a deadly pattern of attack and defend.

A trained military engineer, Lee set up defensive positions that turned fields of approach into killing zones. The Federal assault on entrenched Confederate positions at Cold Harbor on June 2, 1864, was one clear example. The attack resulted in 7,000 Union casualties in just 45 minutes without gaining the North a single inch of ground. Ignoring his losses, Grant again moved south, this time to Petersburg where initial assaults gave way to a ten-month siege that presaged the trench warfare of the first World War.

Grant's Overland Campaign ultimately crippled Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. It also destroyed any romantic notions remaining among the soldiers and the public regarding the true nature of the fighting, which by the summer of 1864 had evolved with a swift, terrible fury into a modern, total war.

Today, NPCA works to protect key lands, from Wilderness to Petersburg, which help the National Park Service tell the story of how the Civil War's momentum turned towards preserving the United States, and continuing along our collective journey towards civil rights for all.



Why I Care: NPCA Volunteer Leader Lloyd Brown Speaks Up

Drama. Serenity. Education. Inspiration. National parks have it all.

My family and I hike Acadia National Park every chance we can. We also love the wide and wild beaches of Cumberland Island National Seashore, the spectacular birds of the Everglades, and the quiet, poignant landscapes of the Civil War battlefields. The rangers we meet bring the history of their respective parks—the history of our nation to life. They speak of the slave who attended George Washington at his headquarters at Valley Forge National Historical Park, explain why the four-corner hat made sense for the troops at Castillo de San Marcos National Monument in St. Augustine, and describe just how the battle unfolded at Gettysburg National Military Park.

I greatly appreciate NPCA's vigilance and role as the only nongovernmental voice whose sole mission is to support our parks. Since 1919, NPCA has monitored government policy, studied issues that affect the parks, and lobbied both sides of the aisle to ensure the environmental and fiscal health of the National Park System.

Nationally, NPCA has successfully advocated for snowmobile regulations at Yellowstone and led the fight to keep uranium mining from the borders of Grand Canyon National Park. More locally, the health of Valley Forge's forest is rebounding four years into an NPCA-supported deer management plan.



As a Pennsylvania resident, and as an outdoor enthusiast—having hiked and paddled through these dramatic landscapes—I fear the impact fracking will have on the vistas, soundscapes, and water quality of this special place. NPCA also promotes a full study of the potential effects of fracking near the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

With a warming world of melting glaciers, pest infestations, and compromised ecosystems, the national parks are the canary in the coal mine warning us of global warming's effects. In addition to serving as an early warning system, our parks also can be part of the solution. In conjunction with adjoining public lands, parks can function as wildlife corridors, giving species the opportunity to migrate to higher ground or cooler temperatures to survive.

Like the many species that seek refuge within their borders, I find respite from my hectic daily life in national parks. For me, it's the natural magnificence as well as the peace and quiet of my experiences in the parks that make me passionate about volunteering with NPCA. My introduction to NPCA began ten years ago when I researched the many environmental threats facing national parks for the Garden Club of America (GCA). I soon learned that NPCA and GCA have worked together for the benefit of the parks for many decades.

Last October, I co-hosted an NPCA event on natural gas fracking to raise awareness of the potential threat to national parks along the Delaware River. As a member of the Mid-Atlantic Leadership Council, I have lobbied elected officials in D.C. about park issues and funding. Over the years, many legislators have voted to cut NPS funding, allowing for the heart-breaking degradation of our nation's parks.

With 9 out of 10 likely voters in support of funding the parks, I believe our legislators should listen to their constituents and restore full funds to the parks in time for their centennial in 2016. I hope to see the parks repaired, well-staffed, and ready to celebrate their next 100 years. It should be a grand affair.

Above left: Lloyd enjoys the quiet beauty of a winter day in Valley Forge National Historical Park. ©Lloyd Brown

Fish Tales

By Ed Stierli

hat do Mid-Atlantic national parks from Delaware Water Gap in Pennsylvania to the New River Gorge in West Virginia have in common? They host the remarkable **Eastern Brook Trout** (Salvelinus fontinalis), lyrically described by author Cormac McCarthy as "polished and muscular." McCarthy wrote: "In the deep glens where they lived all things were older than man and they hummed of mystery." "Brookies" have inhabited the East's coldwater streams, including the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay and the Delaware River, since the glaciers retreated across the Northeast.

Eastern North America's only native trout, brookies feature unique coloring—brilliant,



Above: Clean, fresh air at Shenandoah National Park promotes better habitat for native brook trout. ©NPCA | Barger **Below:** Eastern North America's only native trout, the colorful Eastern Brook Trout struggles to survive as streams warm, acidify, and are otherwise degraded by development impacts. ©Trout Unlimited.



Upcoming NPCA Events in the Mid-Atlantic

Unless otherwise noted, contact Ed Stierli for more information on any of these events (202.454.3339 or estierli@npca.org).

APRIL 5

Potomac River Cleanup: Volunteer with NPCA and Friends of Dyke Marsh to restore the Potomac River's Dyke Marsh along the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Dyke Marsh, Alexandria, VA.

APRIL 5

Anacostia River Earth Day Cleanup & Celebration: Volunteer with NPCA and Anacostia Watershed Society to clean up and restore nearly 40 sites along the Anacostia River at national parks along the Star-Spangled Banner Trail. Washington, D.C.

APRIL 25-27

USA Science & Engineering Festival: Check out this 3-day expo at Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Washington, D.C.

APRIL 26

Fort McHenry Field Day: Join NPCA and the National Aquarium as we plant wetland grasses and restore trails in this urban wildlife sanctuary. Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Baltimore, MD.

APRIL 27

Fort Hunt Field Day: Join NPCA and Friends of Fort Hunt for a park cleanup and trail work. Fort Hunt Park, Alexandria, VA. Contact Pam Goddard, 202.454.3365, pgoddard@npca.org.

SUMMER TBD

Completion of two "Freedom to Float" Public Access Sites:
Come celebrate the launching of new paddler access sites along the Rappahannock and Anacostia Rivers. Port Royal, VA and Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens, Washington, D.C.

MAY 3

Eastern Shore Eco-Paddle: NPCA partners with Leave No Trace for an eco-paddle cleanup and interpretative tour of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument and Captain John Smith Chesapeake Trail. **Nanticoke River, MD.**

MAY 10

Birding through History: Join NPCA's resident birder, Nick Lund, on a walk through Antietam National Battlefield. Sharpsburg, MD. Contact Nick Lund, 202.454.3319, nlund@npca.org.

JUNE 3-4

Choose Clean Water Annual Conference: Learn about clean water solutions at the local,



state, and federal levels while participating in workshops and field trips. Stonewall Jackson Hotel, **Staunton, VA.** Contact Joy Oakes, 202.454.3386, joakes@npca.org.

JUNE 5

Anacostia Water Trail Launch: Join NPCA and Anacostia Watershed Society for a night of paddling to launch the Anacostia Water Trail. Washington, D.C.

JUNE 7

Star-Spangled Canoe & Scoop: As part of National Trails Day, participate in this "canoe & scoop" cleanup paddle along the Star-Spangled Banner Trail with NPCA and Baltimore City Parks & Recreation.

Baltimore, MD.

JUNE 21

Reclaim the Nanticoke: NPCA partners with Delaware Nature Society to complete a shoreline cleanup and paddle event along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake Trail. **Easton, MD.**

For more information about events in your area sponsored by the National Park Service, go to www.nps.gov, click on "Find a Park," and search for the park by name or state. For an updated list of NPCA-sponsored events in the region, go to www.npca.org/midatlantic, click on "Events". For updated information about NPCA's advocacy campaigns, contact any of our offices (see p.2).

marbled green backs speckled with red and outlined in blue. Designated as the "state fish" by New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia, the brook trout is prized by anglers.

Today, brook trout can be found only in higher-elevation streams. Sensitive to pollution, water acidity and temperature, their populations have been declining since the early 19th century due to development's impact on their aquatic habitat. In the Mid-Atlantic, many areas have lost their entire population. While Maryland still can claim the trout's presence, healthy populations are scarce. For years, wildlife agencies simply stocked trout streams, but in recent decades a more systemic, collaborative approach has begun addressing the threats to brook trout.

The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) includes federal agencies, such as the National Park Service, fish and wildlife agencies from 17 states, and conservation organizations. For 10 years, the joint venture has prioritized brook trout restoration through conservation projects such as removing dams, replacing culverts, and improving riparian habitat.

"We think of species like brook trout as indicators of the health and vitality of Chesapeake landscapes," says Mike Slattery, a member of the EBTJV and the Chesapeake Bay Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "By targeting our actions to conserve habitat for these indicator species, and by tracking the health and status of them, we hope to better understand the status of other species as well."

NPCA is a leading member of several coalitions actively working to protect clean water and restore clean air—two essential elements for the brook trout's recovery. For example, NPCA advocacy for enforcement of strengthened federal Clean Air Act protections has helped reduce acid rain's impact on brook trout populations in Shenandoah National Park in Virginia.

Large-scale landscape campaigns to protect headwater streams, improve air quality, and conserve land will remain essential to the Eastern Brook Trout's return to national park streams in the Mid-Atlantic.

To learn more about the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Project, visit www.easternbrooktrout.org.



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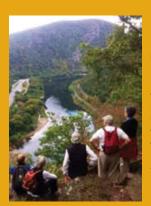
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What's New on Fracking?

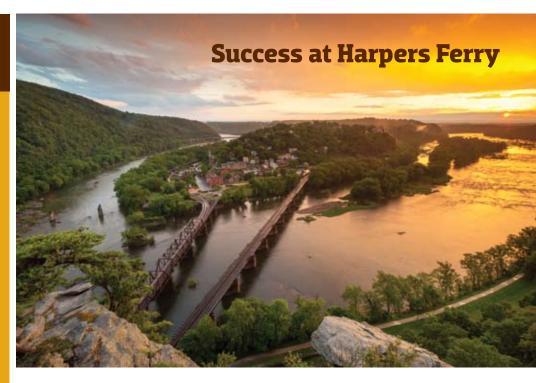
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Want to learn more? Read NPCA's recent report, National Parks and Hydraulic Fracturing: Balancing Energy Needs, Nature, and America's National Heritage, which advises a conservative approach aided by regulations to protect air and water quality and other public values important to the health of our national parks (http://www.npca.org/frackingreport).

Want to help? Contact Matt Elliott, 215.327.2529 or melliott@npca.org.



Left: Members of NPCA's Mid-Atlantic Leadership Council contemplate potential impacts of proposed natural gas fracking on national parks along the Delaware River. ©Edward C. Armbrecht



To learn about an exciting partnership at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park that protected key battlefield land this winter, go to: http://parkb.it/drumh. @Mark Vandyke | Dreamstime.com



