

# Park It!

## Bridging the Watershed's NPS Ranger Newsletter

Bridging the Watershed is an outreach program of the Alice Ferguson Foundation, in partnership with the National Park Service and area schools, whose purpose is to promote student academic achievement, personal connections to the natural world, lifelong civic engagement, and environmental stewardship through hands-on curriculum-based outdoor studies in national parks and public lands.

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### Welcome!

Hello BTW Rangers, and welcome to the first edition of **Bridging the Watershed's Ranger Liaison Newsletter**. This Newsletter will serve as an outlet for everything BTW and NPS related, including special park news, upcoming BTW events, training opportunities, and anything else that tickles our fancy. Think something's missing? Too much information? Don't like the color combo? Shoot an email to Newsletter Editor [Anna Wadhams](#). Hope you enjoy, and feel free to forward to NPS colleagues in your parks!

## This Spring, Field Studies are the New Black!

BTW Enjoys Busiest Spring Season on Record. Come Out and Enjoy the Fun!

Bridging the Watershed is enjoying a bustling field study season. Thanks to everyone at NPS for partnering on our programs. To all Rangers: if you're feeling a bit rusty since your training and want to brush up on the Ps and Qs of all things BTW, feel free to cross train on a field study at another park.

Simply visit our Online [Events Calendar](#), pick a date, and let BTW Program Coordinator [Rhonda Scott](#) know! Remember, field study dates and locations are subject to change, so be sure to check the calendar periodically for schedule updates. Our educators would love to see you in the field!

## Back by Popular Demand: Bridging the Watershed Summer Teacher/Ranger Institutes

Attention Rangers! BTW's Summer Institute schedule is up and we're ready for your applications. Tell all your colleagues and shared with teachers you know! Dates are as follows:

- June 15th-18th Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and Monocacy National Battlefield
- June 22nd-25th C&O Canal National Historic Park, Cumberland
- June 22nd-25th Maryland and Washington DC National Parks
- June 29th-July 2nd Virginia National Parks

To find out more and download applications, please visit our [Website](#). A note on institutes: While BTW encourages you to attend the full institute, you may also select individual days that will best suit your schedule. A complete Institute agenda will be available on our [Ranger Liaison Webpage](#) soon.

## Can You Dig It?

Training Opportunity with Project Learning Tree at the Natural History Museum June 24th!

How do soils impact your everyday life? How do soils affect human health, economic strength, environmental health, and food security? How do humans impact soils? Join Project Learning Tree in an exploration of the Dig It! Secrets of Soil exhibit at the National Museum of Natural History and learn how to conduct soil activities that connect to your state and district learning standards.

The workshop is scheduled from 9am-4pm and is FREE for EDUCATORS! For more information and to receive an application, contact [Jackie Stallard](#), Manager of Education Programs at the [National Forest Foundation](#).

## Watershed News

*Poisoned Waters* in our Area?

With another Earth Day behind us, this Newsletter's Editor viewed *Poisoned Waters*, an intense and highly relevant [Frontline](#) special on PBS.

The documentary explores pollution's effects on two waterways: the Chesapeake Bay and the Puget Sound, and is truly an eye opener, especially as it relates so heavily to BTW's mission.

Though, in true Frontline fashion, the special may lead some to despair, it should be required viewing for all. To watch online and learn more about the threats to these ecologically sensitive areas, visit the *Poisoned Waters* [homepage](#).

## Congrats to NPS and NAMA for Recycling Success!

Research funded by Coke May Lead to Nationwide NPS Recycling

In more upbeat news, the Coca Cola Co. is donating \$1.1 million to gussy up several US national parks and help launch a recycling program at the National Mall and Memorial Parks (hooray!).

The program will include a study of waste generated at NAMA by type and volume, and will be conducted this summer. The resulting data will help formulate best practices on how to address recycling. According to the [Atlanta Business Chronicle](#), "The recycling effort supports the Interior Department's goal of diverting 50 percent of solid waste from landfills through recycling by 2010. The Trust (for the National Mall) aims to exceed that goal and direct at least 50 percent of solid waste towards recycling programs by next year."

BTW sends its warmest congrats to NAMA and all NPS park recycling programs. Your efforts have not been in vain!

This Newsletter was produced by the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Bridging the Watershed staff. Submissions and/or comments are heartily welcomed from all readers, and can be sent to [Anna Wadhams](#).