



GUNPOWDER CURRENTS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF GUNPOWDER FALLS AND
NORTH POINT STATE PARKS

FALL AND WINTER 2016



WHAT'S INSIDE!

After a scorching summer, we readily welcome the crisp, cool days and changing leaves of autumn and look forward to the beauty of a snow-clad landscape in winter. This issue of the Currents features articles reflecting back on our safe and successful summer and a Calendar of Events filled with unique opportunities to experience and enjoy the park from a new perspective.

Whether you and your family enjoy hiking through beautiful forests, recreating on the water or visiting areas rich in history, Gunpowder Falls State Park offers a variety of natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources to enjoy. We invite you to explore our park by joining us for programs and special events. Read on and enjoy!

Gunpowder Falls State Park Headquarters | P.O. Box 480
2813 Jerusalem Road, Kingsville, MD 21087 | 410-592-2897



Spotlight on Gunpowder

Read articles about ways to enjoy the seasons and a look back on summer.



Calendar of Events

Join us for a variety of fun, family-oriented programs!



Get Involved!

Find out how to apply for seasonal positions and volunteer opportunities.

We Are Gunpowder



Photo by Brooke Bartko

As the sun sets over the horizon beyond the Gunpowder River on Labor Day, we start to reflect upon another safe and enjoyable summer spent at the beach. Fourteen hard working lifeguards staffed the beaches at the Hammerman Area of Gunpowder Falls State Park this summer, making it possible for over 80,000 beach visitors to safely enjoy our swimming area.

Even with our beaches experiencing very high visitation, our lifeguards protected our visitors by constantly scanning and roving the area for possible hazards. The guards performed over 2,000 preventative actions, which consisted of enforcing beach rules and regulations. They also responded to emergencies, reuniting 24 missing children with their parents and handling 11 First Aid incidents.

The Gunpowder lifeguards participated in mandatory weekly trainings held every Monday at 6 a.m. in order to keep their skills sharp. This weekly training is something specifically unique to Gunpowder; we take pride in being on top of both our emergency

response and physical skills. The guards would start off their training day with either a long distance run or swim, followed by real life scenarios, rescue relays and various other physical and mental training exercises. They even traveled across the state in order to obtain their Waterfront Lifeguarding Certification and Emergency Oxygen and Airways Certification.

The lifeguards' strenuous physical training was put to the test in August at the Maryland Park Service's Beach Competition held at Cunningham Falls State Park. The Beach Competition is a friendly way for all of the Maryland Park Service lifeguards to meet one another and compete for title of being the best. Jessica Littlepage placed 2nd in the women's mile with a time of 6 minutes and 40 seconds and Robert Williams took 2nd in men's beach flags, a soft sand sprint. Last but not least, Hunter Howell snagged 3rd place in the individual iron guard, consisting of a half-mile run, 300-meter swim, followed by another half-mile run.

Lifeguards are the cornerstone of our summer beach operations and are able to handle any emergency situation that arises without hesitation. We will strive to have another safe and exciting summer next year!

Written by Brooke Bartko, Maryland Conservation Corps Crew Leader. Brooke has been an invaluable asset to the Gunpowder team, filling a variety of roles from contact station attendant, lifeguard, seasonal ranger, beach manager and now the crew supervisor for MCC. In her free time she enjoys swimming, running, paddling and cuddling goats.

Hart-Miller Island: The Final Frontier

OVER THE PAST 35 YEARS, RESIDENTS OF BOWLEYS QUARTERS AND SURROUNDING AREAS HAVE WATCHED TWO HEAVILY ERODED ISLANDS TRANSFORM INTO AN 1100 ACRE LAND MASS. THE 300 ACRES OF THE "THE SOUTH CELL" OF HART-MILLER ISLAND OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS SUMMER.

Habitat loss is the main threat to the survival of wildlife, and biodiversity of wildlife is necessary for optimum environmental health. Locally, we are losing remote island nesting sites and shallow water habitats for migrating birds in the Chesapeake Bay. A model dredging containment site near the mouth of Back River, Hart-Miller Island is proof that humans can create new wildlife habitat while providing recreational opportunities.

Hart-Miller Island, located just off the mouth of Back River in the northern Chesapeake Bay, was created from the remnants of Hart and Miller Islands, which were originally part of the Patapsco Neck Peninsula, extending from Edgemere. The original pieces of land were gradually eroding away from natural storm and wave action.

Joseph Hart purchased Hart and Miller Islands in 1821. In 1858, Hart Island was 264 acres and Miller Island was 124 acres. By

1933, Hart Island had eroded away to 180 acres and only 70 acres of Miller Island remained.

In 1945, the southern end of Hart Island was renamed Pleasure Island and became the site of the New Bay Shore Amusement Park, replacing the old Bay Shore Amusement Park, which was destroyed by fire at what is now North Point State Park. There was a bridge from the mainland to Pleasure Island. Construction of rides and a parking lot exacerbated erosion by removing vegetation, the roots of which had been holding the island together against wind and waves.

By 1965, Hart and Pleasure Islands had

separated completely, in spite of the installation of wooden groins and artificial fill. After the New Bay Shore Amusement Park suffered severe storm damage from Hurricanes Donna and Esther in 1960 and 1961, C.J. Langenfelder,



Photo by Andrea Townsley-Sapp

owner of an oyster shell business, purchased the Hart-Miller-Pleasure Island chain jointly with Bethlehem Steel, who provided nearby summer homes for its upper-level employees. By 1963, Miller Island had eroded away to 66% of its 1933 size, while Hart and Pleasure Island had been reduced by 20%.

In 1970 the federal government authorized the Baltimore Harbor's channels to be deepened to 50 feet to accommodate larger, more economical Post Panamax ships,

expected to be arriving from China through the Panama Canal once a third lane had been installed. The Baltimore Harbor would be one of only three East Coast ports deep enough, if an appropriate location could be found in which to deposit material dredged from the harbor and its channels.

In 1977, Bethlehem Steel and C.J. Langenfelder conveyed the deeds of the Hart-Miller-Pleasure Island Chain to Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Around this time, local boys were joyfully spending their summers paddling across Hawk Cove to play Army on the islands. A boy and his dad collected shells from the shore, young adults camped on the beach and children hiked to the minnow pond on Miller Island. Locals were outraged when they



heard that Baltimore Harbor dredge material would be deposited there, a site chosen because of its proximity to the Baltimore Harbor and the prediction that all three

islands would have eroded away completely by the year 2045.

Even though the Maryland state government proposed that Hart-Miller Island (HMI) ultimately be converted into a recreational and natural resource area,

neighbors worried about the effects on water quality, the future plans for the islands and their view of the Bay Bridge. Would this be the end of a perfect vacation spot close to home?

HMI is regulated by Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Environmental Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Maryland Port Administration and

HART-MILLER ISLAND STATE PARK

Hart-Miller Island is an 1,100-acre island located in Baltimore County on the Chesapeake Bay near the mouth of Back River. It is accessible by personal boat only. The western shore of the island offers safe mooring, wading and access to a 3,000-foot sandy beach. The South Cell is staffed and open to the public May - September from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Along with regular day-use amenities, boaters and beach-goers can now rent bicycles to ride around the eight miles of trails on the island. There are also opportunities to picnic, fish, hike and bird-watch. Primitive camping is also available May 1 - September 30. Hart-Miller Island offers 22 campsites available on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are six campsites at the main camping area on Hart-Miller, 11 sites at Hawk Cove and five sites on Pleasure Island. All sites have a picnic table, lantern post and campfire grill. Restrooms are only available on Hart-Miller and there is no public water. A registration fee of \$6.00 per site/per night will be collected by a ranger. Campfires may only be built in the fire rings provided and alcohol is prohibited in all areas of Hart-Miller Island, Hawk Cove and Pleasure Island. For more information about Hart-Miller Island State Park, visit dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/central/hartmiller.aspx

Maryland Department of the Environment. Between 1981 and 1984 a 100-acre beach was installed, using the original islands as anchors, increasing the total area to 1140 acres. Dredge was deposited in the South Cell from 1984 to 1990 and the North Cell from 1985 to 2010. In 1983, the HMI Citizens Oversight Committee was formed and continues to meet twice a month to keep abreast of the island's progress and to voice ideas and concerns.

Public restrooms, a boardwalk and an observation tower were installed in 1988. Only the beach area, including the restrooms, was open to the public as a state park - the rest of the island was still under construction.

Visitors were able to observe dredged material being deposited into the North Cell from the time it was built in 1994 until 1996, when the dike (a long embankment built to prevent flooding from the Chesapeake Bay) had to be raised and became so high that it obstructed the view from the observation tower.

It has been 35 years since HMI construction began and this new and improved vacation spot continues to evolve. The dike made of sand and armor stone has prevented erosion of the islands, and the placement of dredged material within the perimeter dike has led to the creation of

prime bird habitat and extensive recreational opportunities.

For the first time in its history, park rangers were stationed at the beach on Hart-Miller Island five days a week this past summer, giving visitors access to the South Cell's fully restored biking and hiking trails, as well as providing information about the history of the island. Touch tables were set up on the deck with bird nests, feathers, snake skins, snake eggs, insects and other treasures found on the island. Park Naturalists facilitated Family Fun Days complete with fish seining, Gytaku fish printing and nature hikes. Ideas and suggestions were solicited from visitors for things they want to see and do in the

North Cell, which in five to ten years will become part of the state park.

Created from material dredged from the bottom of the Chesapeake Bay, Hart-Miller Island has become a recreational hotspot for boaters. In the future, Maryland

Department of Natural Resources hopes to provide more ways for park patrons to fully experience and enjoy the island's natural, historical and recreational resources.



Written by Seasonal Ranger Molly Hoopes. The incredible biodiversity on Hart-Miller Island has inspired Molly to begin a series of illustrations of butterfly life cycles as part of a science illustration certificate she is pursuing.

The Revitalization of Interpretation at Gunpowder

My first day as a naturalist with Gunpowder Falls State Park involved a boat ride to Hart-Miller Island, which I explored with my co-naturalists. My amazing supervisor, Ranger Andrea Townsley-Sapp, had brought along a plant press, and my coworker Kevin talked incessantly about frogs and turtles. For a biology nerd such as myself, it was heaven. I was worried that it would not last - that this job, like so many other experiences in life, would eventually become mundane or that it would not always be this awesome. Thankfully, that did not happen. It stayed awesome. In fact, it got better.

As I met the rest of the staff at Gunpowder Falls, both seasonal and permanent, I was amazed at how kind and friendly all of the faces were. These are people who are run ragged throughout the summer, but they still take the time to say hello and ask how you are doing. Days that would have otherwise been stressful always seemed so much more manageable because of these interactions.



We started programming shortly after Memorial Day weekend, and with programming came some of the kindest and most interesting people I have had the pleasure of meeting. The positive attitudes that visitors brought to each program, the kind words and the great questions have made this summer a truly and deeply gratifying experience.

I have also had the opportunity to learn so much about my adopted home. As a non-native Marylander, I have enjoyed discovering the history, ecology and geography of a part of the state previously unknown to me. It has provided a learning opportunity

unparalleled in an academic setting.

I will continue to feel like a part of the Gunpowder Falls family long after the summer is over. The many areas of this beautiful park have offered me so many great experiences that I am sure it will continue to be a second home. I would like to thank each staff member and patron for an excellent summer and an amazing job experience.

Written by Seasonal Naturalist Rona Durbarow. Rona is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and is currently working towards obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Biology.

Monarch Mania at Gunpowder

This past summer, Monarch butterflies made their way into the hearts of not only park patrons but also the staff at the Hammerman Area of Gunpowder Falls State Park. Naturalists began collecting Monarch caterpillars from milkweed patches in various areas of the park in August and steadily raised hundreds of caterpillars into butterflies through the month of October.

Monarch butterflies have become the charismatic symbol of habitat loss and fragmentation. Monarchs migrate from only a few hundred acres of breeding ground in Mexico every spring and travel northward to the southern most part of Canada until late summer when they begin their journey south again. This migration typically takes about five generations - the Monarchs reproduce and perish as they migrate north and the fifth generation becomes the group of butterflies that migrate back to Mexico in autumn.

During this strenuous trip, Monarchs require milkweed to lay their eggs upon as well as other native plants, such as goldenrod and thistle, to nourish them throughout their journey. Since the Agricultural Revolution, lush meadows of milkweed and other nectar sources have been replaced by agricultural fields, drastically reducing habitat for Monarchs. The picture isn't so rosy in their overwintering grounds in the central Mexican

Mountains either - Monarch butterflies prefer to roost in Oyamel fir trees, which happen to be incredibly valuable wood and are logged extensively. In the winter of 2015-2016, butterflies occupied just over 400 acres of forest, 30% below the long-term average of 600 acres.

Raising Monarch caterpillars into butterflies at the park has a multi-faceted purpose; not only are we educating park patrons about habitat loss, but we also participate in a citizen science group - Monarch Watch. This is an organization that collects data about Monarch migration in order to better understand where individuals migrate to and from. They supply us with small stickers that have individual identification numbers and contact information for their organization. We record this information for each butterfly we tag and submit our logs to Monarch Watch in December. When people recover butterflies with the tags, they can contact Monarch Watch. This most typically happens in early spring in Mexico as butterflies begin to migrate north again.

Look for Monarch tag and release programs next summer, beginning in August 2017. Summertime at Gunpowder has become just a bit more colorful!

Written by Ranger Andrea Townsley-Sapp. Andrea loves Monarch butterflies and enjoys sharing her passion with other people!



First three photos from left taken by Seasonal Naturalist Kevin Stohlgren.

The Importance of Pollinators

In order for ecosystems to thrive and develop in a cyclic manner, one specific group of organisms is needed to accomplish this goal. These organisms are known as the pollinators. Responsible for the reproduction of many plant species, pollinators play a vital role in ensuring that Earth's biosphere stays healthy and diverse. Many species of fly, bee, wasp, moth, butterfly and beetle have been vectors of pollination for a long period of time as both plants and animals have co-evolved alongside one another. Without this important bond, Maryland's habitats would begin to perish.

Maryland's pollinator population has been drastically decreasing, which requires us to find ways to preserve these important creatures. The majority of this decline is due to the agricultural practice of monoculture, which limits biodiversity of the landscape around us, along with pesticide use and climate change. The Maryland Park Service has realized the importance of habitat preservation for native pollinators and is actively finding ways to protect these underrated workers of the environment.

In collaboration with the Conservation Jobs Corps – a summer program designed to teach local teenagers job skills and introduce them to working in the Maryland Park Service

– youths at the Hammerman Area of Gunpowder Falls State Park created an insect hotel. Insect hotels provide nesting space for pollinators during the breeding season in spring and also provide shelter from the harsh cooler months of winter.

The hotel was constructed from recycled pallets and untreated two-by-fours with a shingled roof. The hotel was then stuffed with various amounts of material like bark, stones, cinder blocks, bricks, twigs, leaf litter, cardboard and logs with holes drilled in them to ensure various niches for pollinators to dwell. For example, native mason bees

search for pre-drilled holes in wood, ladybugs prefer grass clippings and lacewings seek refuge in cardboard tubes.

The hotel is designed to accommodate various species all over the spectrum of the insect world. It is one of Gunpowder Falls State Park's goals to teach the public ways to preserve the landscape of our beautiful state in order to protect our native pollinators.



Photo by Jared Novia

Written by Maryland Conservation Corps Member Jared Novia. Jared worked as a seasonal ranger in the Hammerman Area of Gunpowder this summer and is now part of our Maryland Conservation Corps crew. Very passionate about birds, Jared always encourages others to be aware of their natural surroundings and learn the importance of the world around them. Jared is never shy in asking his co-workers to stop the truck in order to identify a bird.

Family Programs and Special Events

Join Gunpowder Falls State Park's knowledgeable and friendly staff at one of our various programs or special events to make new memories, discoveries and friends while recreating in the great outdoors. Street addresses for locations are provided after the list of programs. For more information about upcoming programs, visit

www.meetup.com/Gunpowder-Falls-State-Park-Nature-Programs-Events/

Sun. 11/6
1 p.m.

AUTUMN TIE-DYE*

Join us at North Point State Park for a fun and colorful afternoon tie-dyeing shirts with a twist - adding prints of leaves and animal tracks! Meet at the Takos Visitor Center. \$10/shirt. Please specify size when pre-registering. Park entrance fee in effect.

Sun. 11/13
1 p.m.

NATURE-INSPIRED DIY WORKSHOP*

Join park staff for a "Do It Yourself" nature decoration crafting workshop at the Takos Visitor Center at North Point State Park. We will be making Thanksgiving-inspired table center pieces. \$10/person. All supplies provided. Ages 14+. Park entrance fee in effect.

Mon. 11/14
4 p.m.

FULL BEAVER MOON HIKE

Join park staff for a hike along the Black Marsh Trail at North Point State Park to look for wildlife - including beavers - as the marsh comes alive at dusk! Park entrance fee in effect.

Thurs. 11/17
9 p.m.

STARGAZING AND METEOR WATCH ON THE BEACH

Bundle up and lay out a blanket on the sandy beach at Hammerman to watch the Leonid meteors take flight across the night sky! Meet at Beach #2. Park entrance fee in effect.

Sat. 11/19
7:30 a.m.

WINTER WATERFOWL WALK

Join amateur and expert birdwatchers alike during a walk around Days Cove, seeking migrant waterfowl. This area is not normally accessible to the public, which makes it a wildlife hotspot. Meet at the nature center.



Sun. 11/20
6:45 a.m.

SUNRISE MEDITATION ON THE BEACH

Watch the sun rise over the Gunpowder River and clear your mind with basic meditation led by park staff. No prior meditation experience necessary. Meet at Beach #2. Park entrance fee in effect.

Sat. 12/3
12 - 4 p.m.

CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE: THE REAL STORY OF THE TEDDY BEAR

Fun for all ages! Experience the history of our 36th U.S. President Teddy Roosevelt at the Historic Jerusalem Mill Village. View the beauty of our national parks and enjoy the whimsy of 200 cuddly teddy bears. \$10/car.

Sat. 12/3
Sun. 12/4
12 - 4 p.m.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Join the Friends of North Point State Park to have your picture taken with Santa Claus, make crafts, visit the train garden and do some Christmas shopping at the Secret Santa Shop. Participate in the Silent Auction on Saturday and test your luck with door prizes both days. Park entrance fee in effect. For more information, visit northpointstatepark.homestead.com

Sun. 12/4
12 p.m.

NATURE-INSPIRED DIY WORKSHOP*

Join park staff for a "Do It Yourself" nature decoration crafting workshop at Monkton Station. We will be making tree stump center pieces. \$10/person. All supplies provided. Ages 14+.

Sun. 12/4
3 p.m.

BACKYARD BIRDING

Learn how to identify common feeder birds like the black-capped chickadee, dark-eyed junco and downy woodpecker right outside Monkton Station! Bring your binoculars or borrow ours.

Sun. 12/11
7 a.m.

SUNRISE MEDITATION ON THE BEACH

Watch the sun rise over the Gunpowder River and clear your mind with basic meditation led by park staff. No prior meditation experience necessary. Meet at Beach #2. Park entrance fee in effect.



Photo by Jeannette Matkowski

Tues. 12/13
5 p.m.

FULL COLD MOON HIKE

Also called the Long Nights Moon by some Native American tribes, the Cold Moon occurs near the winter solstice when the winter's cold fastens its grip and the nights become longer. Join park staff for a twilight hike at Jerusalem Mill. Please wear warm clothes, sturdy shoes and bring a flashlight or headlamp. Meet at the bulletin board.

Sun. 12/18
12 p.m.

NATURE-INSPIRED DIY WORKSHOP*

Join park staff for a "Do It Yourself" nature decoration crafting workshop at the Takos Visitor Center at North Point State Park. We will be making gourd birdhouses. \$10/person. All supplies provided. Ages 14+. Park entrance fee in effect.

Sun. 12/18
3 p.m.

BACKYARD BIRDING

Learn how to identify common feeder birds like the black-capped chickadee, dark-eyed junco and downy woodpecker right outside the North Point Takos Visitor Center! Bring your binoculars or borrow ours. Park entrance fee in effect.

Wed. 12/21
6 p.m.

WINTER SOLSTICE HIKE

Celebrate the arrival of winter and the shortest day of the year. Meet at the Bunker Hill Road parking lot for a hike through the winter nighttime forest! Then enjoy s'mores around a campfire. Please wear warm clothes, sturdy shoes and bring a flashlight or headlamp. Not recommended for young children.



Photo by Joy Rossback

Sun. 1/1
10 a.m.

FIRST DAY HIKES

As part of a nationwide initiative led by the American Hiking Society to encourage people to get outdoors, kids and adults alike are encouraged to get outside to get their hearts pumping while enjoying the beauty of our park. Park staff will lead guided hikes at three areas of Gunpowder including: the Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail, starting at Monkton Station (wheelchair-accessible) with hot cider and treats afterwards; at Jerusalem Mill along the Little Gunpowder Trail; and at North Point State Park on the Black Marsh Trail.

DROP-IN KIDS NATURE CRAFTS

Sat. 1/7
1 - 3 p.m.

Kids and guardians are invited to drop-in and explore seasonal topics and make crafts with park staff. A variety of fun activities will be provided for your child to choose from. Guardians must accompany children. Meet at the Takos Visitor Center at North Point State Park. Park entrance fee in effect.

FULL WOLF MOON HIKE

Thurs. 1/12
5 p.m.

January brings the Wolf Moon, a Native American name for the full moon in January when hungry packs of wolves would howl outside their villages. Join park staff for a twilight hike at Jerusalem Mill. Please wear warm clothes, sturdy shoes and bring a flashlight or headlamp. Meet at the bulletin board.

EXPLORE GUNPOWDER!

Sun. 1/22
8 a.m.

Join park staff for a guided hike on a trail you may be unfamiliar with! We will be looking for signs of wildlife while enjoying the cold, crisp January air. Please wear warm clothes and sturdy shoes. Meet at the pull-off with the rocks by the river on Guyton Road in Hydes, MD (GPS Coordinates 39.502803; -76.429336).

DROP-IN KIDS NATURE CRAFTS

Sat. 1/28
1 - 3 p.m.

Kids and their guardians are invited to drop-in and explore seasonal topics and make crafts with park staff. A variety of fun activities will be provided for your child to choose from. Guardians must accompany children. Meet at the Takos Visitor Center at North Point State Park. Park entrance fee in effect.

BACKYARD BIRDING

Sat. 1/28
3:30 p.m.

Learn how to identify common feeder birds like the black-capped chickadee, dark-eyed junco and downy woodpecker right outside the North Point Takos Visitor Center! Bring your binoculars or borrow ours. Park entrance fee in effect.



Photo by Rona Durborow

Sun. 1/29
8 a.m.

EXPLORE GUNPOWDER!

Join park staff for a guided hike on a trail you may be unfamiliar with! We will be looking for signs of wildlife while enjoying the cold, crisp January air. Please wear warm clothes and sturdy shoes. Meet at the Hereford Area parking lot on York Road (17910 York Road, Parkton, MD 21120).

Fri. 2/10
5:30 p.m.

FULL SNOW MOON HIKE

Because the northeast typically receives its heaviest snow in February, the Native Americans called February's full moon the "Snow Moon." We will meet at Monkton Station for a twilight hike down the surfaced Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail (wheelchair-accessible). Please wear warm clothes, sturdy shoes and bring a flashlight or headlamp.

Sat. 2/18
1 - 3 p.m.

DROP-IN KIDS NATURE CRAFTS

Kids and their guardians are invited to drop-in and explore seasonal topics and make crafts with park staff. A variety of fun activities will be provided for your child to choose from. Guardians must accompany children. Meet at the Takos Visitor Center at North Point State Park. Park entrance fee in effect.



Photo by Joy Rossback

Sat. 2/18
3:30 p.m.

BACKYARD BIRDING

Learn how to identify common feeder birds like the black-capped chickadee, dark-eyed junco and downy woodpecker right outside the North Point Takos Visitor Center! Bring your binoculars or borrow ours. Park entrance fee in effect.

Sat. 3/4
11 a.m.

MARCH "4TH" HIKE

Join us at Jerusalem Mill as we march forth along the Little Gunpowder Trail, searching for signs of spring returning to the forest. Wear comfortable clothes and sturdy shoes. Meet at the bulletin board. We encourage you to stay afterwards and experience history come alive at the historic Jerusalem Mill Village!

Sun. 3/12
1 p.m.

EXPLORE GUNPOWDER!

Join park staff for a guided hike on a trail you may be unfamiliar with! We will be looking for the first signs of spring while we soak in the sunshine. Please wear warm clothes and sturdy shoes. Meet at the parking lot on the Baltimore County side of Harford Road (13034 Harford Road, Hydes, MD 21082).

Sat. 3/18
7 p.m.

SPRING PEEPERS HIKE AND CAMPFIRE

Have you ever wondered what makes the peeping noises on wet spring nights? It's the spring peeper, of course! Join us for a twilight hike at Jerusalem Mill to hear these tiny frogs with a campfire and s'mores afterwards! Meet at the bulletin board.

Sat. 3/25
8 a.m.

BACKYARD BIRDING

Learn how to identify common feeder birds like the black-capped chickadee, dark-eyed junco and downy woodpecker right outside the North Point Takos Visitor Center! Bring your binoculars or borrow ours. Park entrance fee in effect.

Sat. 3/25
11 a.m. -
1 p.m.

DROP-IN KIDS NATURE CRAFTS AND SCAVENGER HUNT

Kids and their guardians are invited to drop-in and explore seasonal topics and make crafts with park staff. A variety of fun activities will be provided for your child to choose from, including a scavenger hunt! Guardians must accompany children. Meet at the Takos Visitor Center at North Point State Park. Park entrance fee in effect.

Sun. 3/26
4 p.m.

WILDFLOWER WALK

Beginning at the Historic Jerusalem Mill Village, join us for a leisurely hike along the Little Gunpowder Falls in search of early-blooming wildflowers. We expect to find pink azalea, bluebells, bloodroot and irises. Wear comfortable clothes and sturdy shoes. Meet at the bulletin board.



* = event requires pre-registration. Some programs require pre-registration due to limited resources. Please call 410-592-2897 between 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday - Friday to register. All events are free unless otherwise noted.

All events are subject to cancellation. Please check our Twitter page at twitter.com/GunpowderSP for event cancellation notices.

VISIT THE HISTORIC JERUSALEM MILL VILLAGE

Once the centerpiece of a thriving Quaker settlement in the 18th and 19th centuries, Jerusalem Mill operated continuously for nearly two centuries. Located on the banks of the Little Gunpowder Falls, both the mill and village are listed on the National Registrar of Historic Places. The Friends of Jerusalem Mill host year-round events, including:

- Living history demonstrations occur ring year-round, Saturday and Sunday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Be sure to check out the blacksmithing demo, Visitor Center/Mill Museum, Miller's House and McCourtney's General Store. Self-guided tours of the village and trails available during the week. Bring a snack to enjoy in the beautiful picnic area along the Little Gunpowder Falls.
- Join the Friends of Jerusalem Mill on a volunteer workday. Bring a smile and a willingness to help keep this historic area beautiful! No pre-registration required. Light refreshments will be provided. Occurs the second Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon.

Visit jerusalemmill.org for more information about the Historic Jerusalem Mill Village.

ADDRESSES FOR LOCATIONS WITHIN GUNPOWDER FALLS STATE PARK

- *Bunker Hill Parking Lot*: 17724 Bunker Hill Road, Parkton, MD 21120
- *Days Cove*: Located at the end of Days Cove Road in White Marsh, MD. Call 410-592-2897 for detailed directions. This area is only open to the public during scheduled programs.
- *Dundee Creek Marina*: 7400 Graces Quarters Road, Middle River, MD 21220
- *Hammerman Area*: 7200 Graces Quarters Road, Middle River, MD 21220
- *Hart-Miller Island*: GPS Coordinates 39.253133; -76.372067
- *Jerusalem Mill*: 2813 Jerusalem Road, Kingsville, MD 21087
- *Monkton Station*: 1820 Monkton Road, Monkton, MD 21111
- *North Point State Battlefield*: located in the 2880 block of North Point Road, near the intersection of North Point Road and Trappe Road. Look for the snake rail fence.
- *North Point State Park*: 8400 North Point Road, Edgemere, MD 21219
- *Sparks Bank Nature Center*: 1237-1407 Sparks Road, Sparks Glencoe, MD 21152

Get Involved at Gunpowder

Gunpowder Falls State Park has an incredibly active volunteer network, from the various Friends of Maryland State Parks groups located at Jerusalem Mill, North Point State Park and in the Hereford Area to organizations and individuals that volunteer for days of service! Volunteers contribute both funding and labor to the park in order to complete invaluable projects or host events that entertain and educate the public. These groups, especially the Friends of Jerusalem Mill, willingly accept new volunteers, including Eagle Scouts and Boy Scouts of America troops looking to complete service projects.

Organizing service projects within the park is a relatively simple process. After contacting the park, Scouts meet with a park representative to discuss and pick projects (either projects recommended by the park, or ideas from the Scout). A rough timeline and list of deadlines must then be compiled by the Scout, as well as the written detailed project proposal; project blueprints with material list; a plan for fundraising the money for project supplies and materials; a proposal if tools or machinery are needed from the park; and a draft schedule of work days.

Consistent communication between the Scout and the park is required; sending a work timeline and bi-weekly updates about project progression help both the Scout stay focused and the park aware of the status of the project. This is especially important if working on a project that affects visitors.

Because the process of approval for projects and the projects themselves may take a great deal of time, we suggest the Scout to plan his project well in advance of his 18th birthday in order to meet the deadline. For more information about volunteering in the park or completing service projects, please call Park Headquarters at 410-592-2897 and you will be directed to a park representative who can assist you.

Other Volunteer Opportunities!

With over 18,000 acres and 120 miles of trail, Gunpowder can use your help! Contact the groups below directly using the contact information provided, or call 410-592-2897 for more information. Log on to the Maryland Park Service volunteer webpage for more volunteer opportunities: ec.volunteernow.com/custom/1528/

FRIENDS OF
JERUSALEM MILL
jerusalemmill.org
410-877-3560

NCR HEREFORD
VOLUNTEER
ASSOCIATION
ncrtrail.org

GRAHAM
EQUESTRIAN
CENTER
grahameq.org
410-663-4445

NORTH POINT
STATE PARK
VOLUNTEERS
[northpointstatepark.
homestead.com](http://northpointstatepark.homestead.com)

GUNPOWDER
UNITED MOUNTAIN
BIKE OPERATORS
(GUMBO)
littlegunpowder.com

VOLUNTEER
MOUNTED PATROL
410-592-2897

Maryland Park Service Career Opportunities

A career with the Maryland Park Service is an opportunity to work in some of Maryland's most beautiful places, while serving the outdoor recreation needs of over 10 million visitors each year. This privilege involves working with a dedicated and skilled team of park professionals who are passionate about natural and historic resource conservation, recreation and interpretation.



Photo by Brooke Bartko

The Maryland Park Service hires approximately 700 seasonal employees annually to help maintain and operate Maryland's public lands. These positions include: rangers, maintenance, lifeguards, contact station attendants, marina attendants, naturalists and office administrative staff.

If you are looking to begin a career with the Maryland Park Service, working in a seasonal position is the perfect way to gain experience in order to become a full-time employee. For more information about each position, visit dnr.maryland.gov/Publiclands/Pages/careers.aspx

All recruitments are posted on the JobAps website for Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Candidates interested in applying for full-time positions, as well as contractual seasonal positions, with the Maryland Park Service must apply online through the JobAps website: jobaps.com/MD

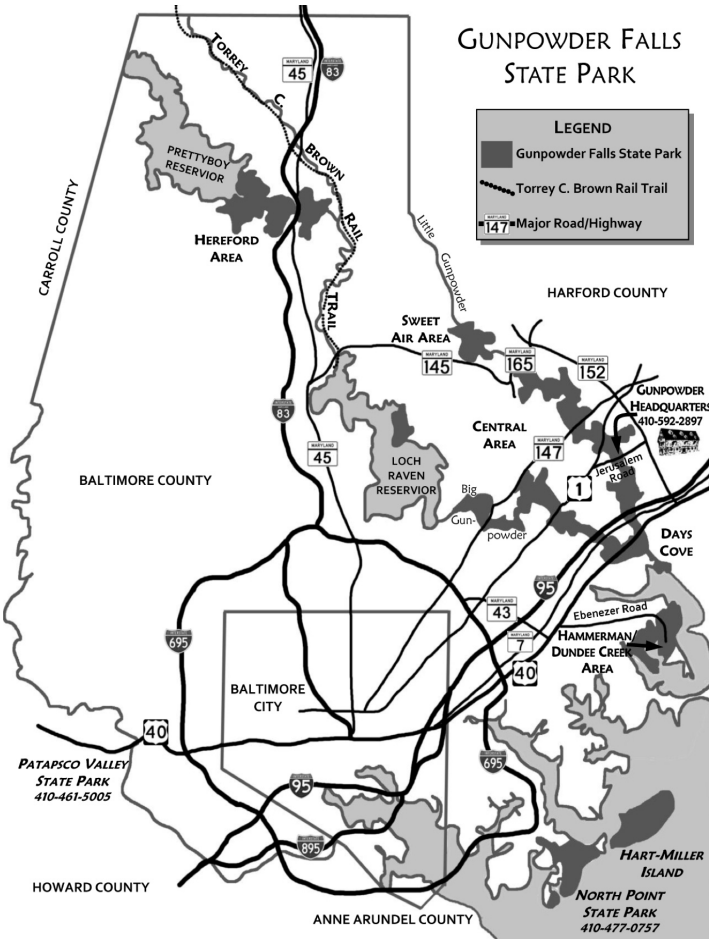
Get Your 2017 State Park & Trail Passport

The 2017 State Park and Trail Passport is available for purchase - \$75 for Maryland residents and \$100 for non-Maryland residents. The passport can be used for:

- Unlimited boat launching at all state facilities, including Dundee Creek Marina at Gunpowder Falls State Park,
- Unlimited day-use admission for everyone in the vehicle (up to 10 people) at every Maryland state park (does not guarantee entry into parks full to capacity) and
- A 10% discount on concession items from state-operated facilities and boat rentals.

The park passport can be purchased online at shopdnr.com, or in-person from Gunpowder Falls at the following locations:

- Park Headquarters (Jerusalem Mill, 2813 Jerusalem Road, Kingsville, MD 21087),
- Hammerman Area Ranger Station (7200 Graces Quarters Road, Middle River, MD 21220) or
- North Point State Park (8400 North Point Road, Edgemere, MD 21219).



ABOUT GUNPOWDER FALLS STATE PARK

Established in 1959 to protect the Gunpowder River and the Big and Little Gunpowder valleys, Gunpowder Falls State Park is now Maryland's largest state park. Comprised of over 18,000 acres in Harford and Baltimore counties, Gunpowder's narrow corridors host a varied topography ranging from tidal wetlands to steep and rugged slopes. Gunpowder features more than 120 miles of trails, protected state Wildlands, historic sites, fishing, canoeing/kayaking streams, a swimming beach and a marina.

The park is divided into six areas: Hereford, Sweet Air, Central, Hammerman, Dundee Creek and the Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail. The park also operates North Point and Hart-Miller Island state parks and North Point State Battlefield.

PARK HEADQUARTERS

Gunpowder Falls State Park headquarters are located in the restored gristmill at Jerusalem Mill Historic Village. The office is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday (closed weekends and state holidays). Call 410-592-2897 if you have any questions.

The facilities and services of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin or physical or mental disability. This document is available in alternative format upon request from a qualified individual with a disability.

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Mark Belton, Secretary

