

# On The Skirmish Line

The Newsletter of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust

## From the President:

### *CVBT's Preservation Efforts in the Year 2001*

The year 2001 has been marked by steady progress in preserving battlefield land. In December of 2000, we paid off the note for 25 acres of the historic Talley Farm, on the Chancellorsville battlefield. "Rally for Talley" was the cry and members did. As the new year started, we closed out that project and were ready to keep moving on. In January, the CVBT acquired 3.854 acres on the Orange Plank Road. This site is related to the battle action that took place on the Talley property. Another piece of land preserved.

We also continued our effort to purchase land at a place called Smith Run. This area was the scene of intense action on May 4, 1863 after the Union Sixth Corps had fought its way out of Fredericksburg and run up against a solid Confederate defensive line at Salem Church (an area long since lost to development) the day before. This landscape would provide new opportunities for understanding the full scope of the Chancellorsville campaign.

Smith Run is a battlefield once lost to history. The Sixth Corps sustained 25 percent of the casualties the Federal army suffered during the Chancellorsville campaign. Four Medals of Honor were eventually awarded for valor exhibited at Smith Run. Still, this area remained somewhat remote, isolated as it was from major roads. This battleground simply did not get much attention from historians. As the year progressed, we feared it would be too late for the site to receive much attention from preservationists as well.

While work continued to find funds and to put together a deal for Smith Run, the CVBT held its annual meeting in Fredericksburg, at one of the pontoon crossing sites on the Rappahannock River. On May 5<sup>th</sup>, we hosted tours and a barbeque dinner. National Park Service historians Eric Mink and Frank O'Reilly conducted walking tours through the streets of Fredericksburg. National Park Service historian Robert K. Krick and University of Virginia professor Gary Gallagher provided an additional tour on May 6<sup>th</sup>, to out of the way sites that most visitors never see. As always, it was wonderful to see our members and supporters.

During the annual meeting, the CVBT received

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## *Check Your Renewal Date to Save Battlefields*

As you know, the CVBT operates with as little overhead as possible. Part of the effort to contain costs is to minimize the number of renewal notices we send out. We will eventually remind you if your membership has lapsed, but you can help save money (which is better spent on dirt and grass) by checking the mailing label on this newsletter. If your renewal is due, please use the attached form and send it in. The money we save will be used to purchase battlefields.

Our check processing crew (unpaid) would also find it helpful if members would be clear as to where they would like their donation to be used. Some checks are obviously renewals, but others may be for specific campaigns such as Talley Farm or Po River. Donations can also be marked for the Endowment Fund only, if desired. Let us know where you want your check to be used and we will be sure to comply with your wishes.

# Virginia Highway Department Still Planning a Road through Chancellorsville

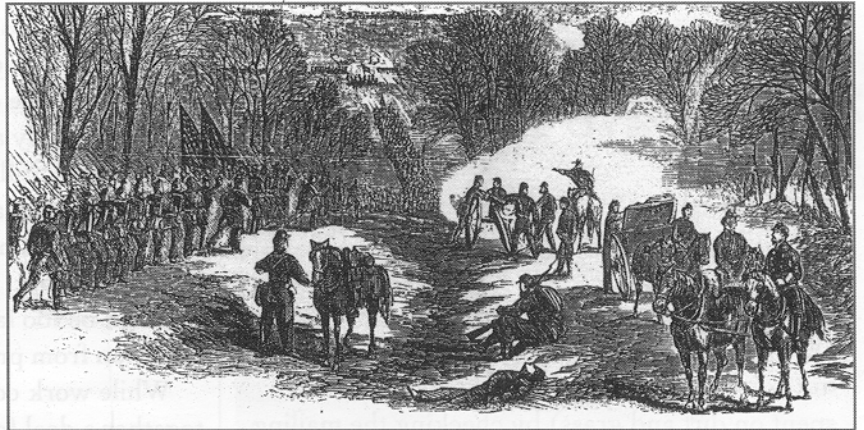
The Virginia Department of Transportation is still planning to construct a four-lane highway through the area where Union and Confederate troops opened the Chancellorsville Campaign. The battlefield of May 1, 1863, is currently open farmland although, as we reported last year, the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors has already rezoned a portion of this site from agriculture to commercial use. This property is privately owned, but the CVBT has indicated its willingness to negotiate a purchase in good faith with any interested property owner.

Any alignment for this proposed new highway will cut through hallowed ground. Tortured attempts to try to route this road around specific sites has resulted in a number of alignment options, although none of them are very good. Instead, the different options all damage the battlefield, to varying degrees, and all of them will have irreparable long-term impacts as they draw development to the new intersections. The existence of the Chancellorsville battlefield would suggest that another solution be sought for the supposed problem

this new road is meant to solve. Unfortunately, the stated desire to relieve traffic congestion will be overwhelmed by the development opportunities that a new, publicly funded road will present.

In a rather astonishing statement, a member of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (a body appointed by the governor to make transportation decisions statewide) noted that this Board would be able to approve a new road more readily if the historic property in private hands were developed sooner. In other words, if the property owner were to destroy the historic integrity of the battlefield, through immediate development, then the Commonwealth Transportation Board would be able to disregard the impact of its road to historic ground.

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*Union general Sykes moves his Corps down the Plank Road. The proposed road would cut through the heart of the May 1st battlefield.*

*Membership Categories*

Annual Member  
**\$35**

Active Member  
**\$135**

Sustaining Member  
**\$250**

Patron  
**\$500**

Benefactor  
**\$1,000**

Life Member  
**\$5,000**

Life Patron  
**\$10,000**

Corporate Member  
**\$500**

Corporate Patron  
**\$1,000**

### The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, Inc. Board of Directors

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COME TO SPOTSYLVANIA FOR

# "Fighting Along the Po River" The CVBT 2002 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust on May 4 and 5, 2002, will focus on preservation in Spotsylvania County -- specifically the several places at which the CVBT has played a major preservation role. Saturday afternoon, join historian Eric Mink as he traces the Union attacks on the Confederate left during the battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse. The annual meeting held that evening will be hosted under a tent on recently acquired CVBT land -- the scene of fighting on May 9th, 1864. During the Saturday evening festivities, there will be a walking tour of the Confederate earthworks south of the Po River. Also that evening, there will be a silent auction of Civil War items, prints, books and other special material. On Sunday, join William Matter, author of "If It Takes All Summer" and historian Frank O'Reilly as they relate Grant and Lee's 1864 campaign through Spotsylvania County. For more information call Carroll Hayden at (540) 898-6626 or email [cchayden@aol.com](mailto:cchayden@aol.com).

## CENTRAL VIRGINIA BATTLEFIELDS TRUST ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY, MAY 4TH

- 1:00 -2:00 p.m. Overview of the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse  
2:00 - 4:30 p.m. Walking tour from the Sedgwick monument to the scene of fighting along the Po River led by historian Eric Mink  
4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Cocktails and Tours of the CVBT's newly acquired Po River property  
6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Barbecue-Style Dinner, catered in the tent  
7:00 - 7:30 p.m. CVBT Annual Meeting (election of directors)

### SUNDAY, MAY 5TH

- 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Tour of Spotsylvania with emphasis on the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse  
*Bus and walking tour led by William Matter and Frank O'Reilly*

### PRICE

- Full weekend package \$115 members/\$150 nonmembers (includes tours, Saturday dinner & Sunday lunch)  
One day package \$60.00 members/\$80 nonmembers (includes Saturday dinner or Sunday lunch)  
Saturday night dinner \$20.00 adults/\$36.00 couples/\$10.00 children (under 17)

**REGISTRATION DUE BY APRIL 26, 2002**

### CENTRAL VIRGINIA BATTLEFIELDS TRUST ANNUAL MEETING 2001 REGISTRATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

- SIGN ME UP FOR:  WEEKEND PACKAGE - \$115 (MEMBERS) x \_\_\_\_\_  WEEKEND PACKAGE - \$150 (NON MEMBERS) x \_\_\_\_\_  
 SATURDAY PACKAGE - \$60 (MEMBERS) x \_\_\_\_\_  SATURDAY PACKAGE - \$80 (NON MEMBERS) x \_\_\_\_\_  
 SUNDAY PACKAGE - \$60 (MEMBERS) x \_\_\_\_\_  SUNDAY PACKAGE - \$80 (NON MEMBERS) x \_\_\_\_\_  
 DINNER - \$20 (ADULTS) x \_\_\_\_\_; \$36 (COUPLES) x \_\_\_\_\_; \$10 (CHILDREN) x \_\_\_\_\_

METHOD OF PAYMENT:  CHECK  VISA  MASTER CARD

CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR CREDIT CARD ORDERS) \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed registration form with credit card information or a check payable to: Central Virginia Battlefields Trust.  
Mail completed form to: Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, c/o Carroll Hayden, 4911 Guinea Station Rd, Fredericksburg, VA 22407.

## The Presidents Message

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a very significant donation. Robin Haymes, representing Mrs. Doris Buffett Bryant, presented a check for \$10,000 for the CVBT's Endowment Fund. The interest from this fund will eventually be used to cover Trust expenses, so that member donations can be used entirely for the purchase of dirt and grass. Without paid staff, more than 90 percent of donated funds go toward buying land. We intend to improve this percentage when the fund is large enough to generate sufficient interest. Mrs. Bryant's gift provided a strong beginning to this effort and her donation will work to preserve battlefields in perpetuity because the principal will not be touched.

The CVBT's annual event occurred on the same weekend as that of the Civil War Preservation Trust. Jim Lighthizer arranged the CWPT's schedule so they could present our Board of Directors with an award early in their program. A representative group of us were thus able to be on hand in Northern Virginia to receive their award for Preservation Organization of the Year for 2001 "For Outstanding Local Leadership in Civil War Battlefield Preservation."

In preserving hallowed ground, we have found that a local organization, in partnership with a national group such as the CWPT, is a powerful combination. Our first purchase (Willis Hill, on the Fredericksburg battlefield) was the result of just such a partnership. We would like to join with them again in the near future to protect even more land.

On Memorial Day, the CVBT placed four commemorative bricks at the wayside park developed in partnership with the City of Fredericksburg. This program is ongoing. Additional bricks memorializing other Civil War soldiers will be in place by this upcoming Memorial Day.

This past year, the CVBT finally acquired land on the Spotsylvania battlefield. We have now purchased land at each of the area's four battlefields (Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court

House). The new site consists of 20 acres on the Po River. This area saw action in the early phases of the campaign and will be the site of our 2002 annual meeting. We are very excited about this acquisition and look forward to showing our members what their donations have made possible.

Not every acquisition required cash, though. In August, local businessman and developer Larry Silver donated six acres of land to the CVBT, on the Wilderness battlefield. This donation includes road frontage that will protect a major entryway to this battlefield. It also represents the first outright gift of land to our organization.

Another positive development was action taken by the Fredericksburg City Council to abandon its right of access to Sunken Road. The National Park Service will soon restore this area to its wartime appearance. This work will include reestablishing the historic road-bed, rebuilding sections of the stone wall, and placing new interpretive markers to enhance the visitor experience. Before any of this could take place, though, the Fredericksburg government had to go through a meticulous legal process to give up use of the road. After public hearings and careful study, the Fredericksburg City Council voted to abandon its right of access, a step that will allow this historic area to be restored.

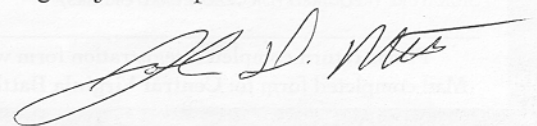
As the year came to an end, we finally closed on 11.62 acres at Smith Run. With \$150,000 from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, \$100,000 from the City of Fredericksburg (yes, the City Council came through yet again), and \$50,000 in CVBT funds, this site came under CVBT ownership. We intend to build on this purchase and on several others during 2002. Time is critical as we confront rapid area growth. This is the good fight, though, and we are glad you are part of it.

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*Even though I'm here in KY, I am proud to be a part of CVBT.... I'm thankful there are people like you who love & appreciate our history & are willing to sacrifice time, effort, energy, & pay to saving the land where real men fought, bled, & died.... It's not likely I'll be able to attend any of your meetings anytime soon, but I will contribute financially & spread the good word about CVBT so that more land may be saved.*

**From a recent letter from new member Tim Pence of Bowling Green, KY**

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# The End of An Era!

## Bob Krick Retires from Park Service

There are certain individuals who personify the traditions and standards of their organizations. The name George Patton instantly recalls to mind the U.S. Army's vaunted capabilities of mobility and firepower. Mention Lewis Puller and one recognizes the professionalism and steadiness under pressure that has always been the U.S. Marine Corps' claim to fame. Throw out the name Bob Krick and those of us who study Civil War history invariably recognize someone who has maintained the highest standards of the National Park Service.

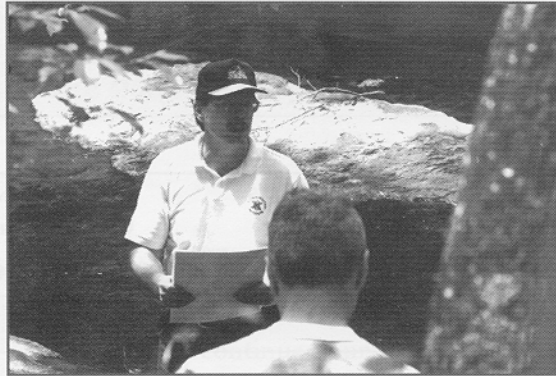
As the year 2002 dawned, Bob retired after a career of more than three decades of federal service. He is widely acclaimed for his many books and articles. Civil War events quickly sell out if he is a featured tour leader. Preservation groups have been inspired by his eloquence. But Bob was also a thoroughgoing professional. During his tenure as Chief Historian at the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, he constantly stressed that park visitors deserved the best experience possible, even if their visit was exasperatingly brief. To this end, he

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## Road Still Planned

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State and Federal laws were established decades ago to avoid destroying this nation's heritage when publicly funded project (such as roads) are planned. New roads are certainly needed, but they should not be constructed to destroy the community they are meant to serve. Fifty years of sprawl development, subsidized through expensive highways that opened land to development, has not solved our traffic woes. States like Maryland and Pennsylvania have adopted strategies that protect open space and try to provide for a more sustainable future. In Virginia, unfortunately, there appear to be some government officials who have yet to accept responsibility for preserving anything.



*Now retired, Bob Krick will be able to lead more tours like this one at the North Anna Battlefield. (photo by Steven Stanley)*

constantly worked to make the park a better place for the American people to be able to visit. His contact with local governments informed officials of park resources as well as concerns, while acknowledging local needs and issues. His sustained contact with elected officials and staffers on Capital Hill was instrumental in getting the park boundaries expanded and funds kicked loose to bring additional acreage under Park protection. Rather than retreat into comfortable, bureaucratic insularity, Bob always opted to take the action necessary to preserve and protect the national resources with which he had been entrusted.

He helped to launch the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites. He mentored a diverse group of well intentioned, but inexperienced individuals who created the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust. He will now lend his considerable expertise to the Richmond Battlefields Association.

Bob Krick's retirement leaves behind a greatly expanded Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, a new generation of young historians with high standards for research and site interpretation, and an intact standard of excellence that is instantly recognizable as the hallmark of the National Park Service. Bob will remain active in preservation, in research and writing, and in speaking. One era has just ended, but a new one is beginning. We wish you well, Bob.

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### Renewal Note

*Please check your mailing label to see if your membership is due for renewal. The date appears in the upper right hand corner of the label. Clip out the renewal form and send it back.*

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# RENEW TODAY!!

Renewing Member

New Member

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

<input type="checkbox"/> PATRON - \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> ANNUAL MEMBER - \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVE MEMBER - \$135	<input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING MEMBER - \$250
<input type="checkbox"/> CORPORATE MEMBER - \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> BENEFACTOR - \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> LIFE MEMBER - \$5,000	<input type="checkbox"/> LIFE PATRON - \$10,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> CORPORATE PATRON - \$1,000		

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK	<input type="checkbox"/> VISA	<input type="checkbox"/> MASTER CARD
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CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE (REQUIRED) \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed renewal form with credit card information or a check payable to: **Central Virginia Battlefields Trust.**  
Mail completed form to: **Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, 604A William Street, Suite 1, Fredericksburg, VA 22401.**

In a constant endeavor to keep our costs down, the CVBT publishes a renewal form in all issues of "On The Skirmish Line". Please check your mailing label to see if your membership is due for renewal and clip out the form above and send it back to our office. If your membership is current, but you know of someone who would like to join, please pass this membership form on to them. The CVBT would be glad to include them in our ever growing list of members.



604-A William Street, Suite 1  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

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[www.cvbt.org](http://www.cvbt.org)

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