

# ON THE skirmish line

Newsletter of The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust

## “A Watershed Moment in the Life of CVBT”

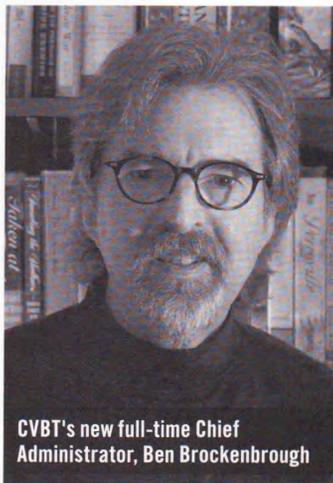
### Dear Members and Friends:

“Success brings growth, and growth brings change, and change, properly handled, gives rise to continued success.”

I would like to bring you, our members and friends, up to date concerning two important CVBT developments.

First, due to the incredible generosity of one of our Board members, Charlie McDaniel, CVBT has been given an office space to call our own. Unlike the small closet-like spaces we have used up to now, this is an expansive, well-designed office space that will afford us a “home base” that will allow us to grow and will reflect positively on the quality of the organization. The office has about 2,560 square feet, and the rent is free. Details in due time.

The second development reflects a watershed moment in the life of CVBT. Since beginning in October 1996, CVBT has enjoyed extraordinary success, having saved over 1,000 acres of Civil War battlefields, having established a reputation for honesty and integrity, seriousness of purpose and an undiminished focus on, and commitment to, battlefield preservation. But with that success has come growth, and with that growth has come an increased work load that is now threatening to overwhelm the ability of the organization’s leadership to handle in a timely and effective



CVBT's new full-time Chief Administrator, Ben Brockenbrough

manner (said leadership continuing to consist of an all-volunteer Board and two extraordinarily effective part time paid Executive Directors, Jerry Brent before his untimely death earlier this year, and Mike Greenfield from that point until now).

After a careful and thorough evaluation of the situation, our Board unanimously approved the creation of a full-time paid Chief Administrator position, and after screening some 50 resumes and interviewing several finalists, we have chosen the best person for the job.

It is my honor and privilege to introduce you to CVBT’s first full-time Chief Administrator, Ben Brockenbrough. Ben is currently President of Richmond Battlefields Association, has an extensive background in battlefield preservation, is willing to work hard to further our mission, and, most importantly, shares our passion and dedication for preserving hallowed ground. His first day on the job will be January 1, 2015.

Further details will follow, but please join me now in welcoming Ben onto the CVBT leadership team. His participation will enhance our efforts enormously, of that I am certain.

(Continued on page 5)

# Central Virginia Battlefields Trust Completes New Educational Project

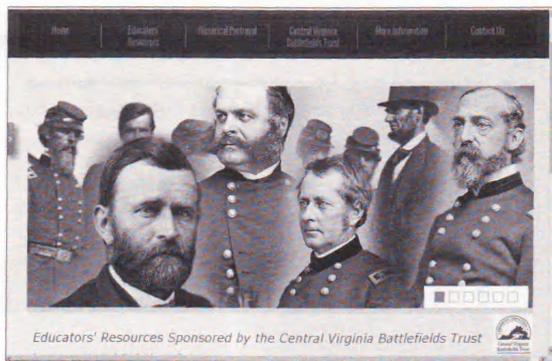
By Tom Van Winkle

**E**arly in October of 2013, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust began work to further its educational outreach. Under the direction of CVBT Education Director Eric Powell and partner companies Heritage Media, LLC and Oak Hill Studio, a series of videos was created for classroom usage.

Kathryn Smith, a history teacher at North Stafford High School stated:

Students in the classroom today expect technology to be part of their everyday school routine. Allowing students to explore video resources via the Internet gives them control over their classroom experience, empowers them to make connections, and makes my teaching more effective. I would definitely take advantage of online resources that are aligned with SOL standards to make history more engaging for my students.

The goal of this project was to provide no-cost SOL-aligned education resources to teachers and students of American Civil War history. Some of the best known reenactors of notable Civil War icons were video-recorded as they covered the requirements in Virginia Standards of Learning USI.9 and VUS.7.



The project was given the name “History Storyboards.”

In an effort to cover the cost of this project, CVBT applied for and was awarded a grant from the Duff McDuff Green Jr. Fund. The grant covered roughly 40% of the total cost. Partner companies Heritage Media, LLC and Oak Hill Studio donated the remaining 60% of the cost of production to complete the videos. Heritage Media, LLC researched, wrote and produced the videos, while Oak Hill Studio researched and provided the path to reenactors used in the short films as well as still images.

Over the next year, production of the videos took place at specific locations in Virginia and West Virginia aligned with the historic icon being filmed. For example, Robert E. Lee was filmed in Buena Vista, Virginia at a location closely resembling a period photo, when he was walking out of the doorway of the Stewart House in Richmond, Virginia and was intercepted by reporters. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson was filmed by his horse in a reenactment of the events on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1863, just as he was to ride off and meet General Lee, for what would be Jackson’s final battle at Chancellorsville. In total, six videos were created to meet the school curriculum. The other subjects included Frederick Douglas, Jefferson Davis, Abraham Lincoln, and



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

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Ulysses S. Grant. Each icon was filmed at a specific place and time in their history and each reenactment covered the required information to meet the Standards of Learning.

A new web site—[www.historystoryboards.org](http://www.historystoryboards.org)—has been designed and is now live. This site was developed by Central Virginia Battlefields Trust Director of Communications and Web Master Tom Van Winkle. The site has three main headings: *Educators' Resources* (which houses the scholastic project sponsored by CVBT), *Historical Portrayal*, and *Why Preserve*.

*Historical Portrayal* contains videos of today's reenactors explaining their views of why portraying both military and civilian figures of the Civil War is important to our continued education and understanding of this period. The owner of Oak Hill Studio, Paul Harris, developed this concept, and although these videos are not SOL-compliant they complement the overall subject of educating our youth.

*Why Preserve* is a snapshot of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust and its mission to save endangered Civil War battlefields. A link to CVBT's new web site is available as well.

The *Educators' Resources* project will be freely distributed to schools and may be used by any school anywhere. Locally, CVBT Education Director Eric Powell will use the schools' digital resource information channels. Those

include the Virginia *Teacher Direct* newsletter, the Virginia Consortium of Social Studies Educators and College Specialists listing service, Facebook and Twitter postings from the Virginia Council for Social Studies, local teacher newsletters, emails, and word of mouth. The videos are You Tube-based to allow free access for anyone who is interested in Civil War history. Additionally, CVBT and its partners in this project, Heritage Media, LLC and Oak Hill Studio, will actively promote the videos on their websites, Facebook pages, CVBT membership newsletters, and at meetings and events.

As the Civil War Sesquicentennial comes to a close, CVBT sees this project as a real opportunity to further its mission. We dare to imagine a number of young viewers being inspired by these videos in some way. Perhaps some will ask their parents to take them to Civil War sites in our area or elsewhere. Perhaps some will be inspired to learn more about American history and a few will aim for a career in that field. And maybe, a special few will truly "get it." They will see that history is exciting. That it needs to be explored and preserved. That those who shaped it should be remembered. Hopefully, they will even understand that the lessons of history can and should be applied today.

Please visit [www.historystoryboards.org](http://www.historystoryboards.org) and [www.cvbt.org](http://www.cvbt.org).

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## CVBT Youth Community Service Day: A Clean-Up at Chancellorsville

by *Eric Powell*

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**T**he CVBT hosted its first Youth Community Service Day on Saturday, November 8. Twenty three volunteers, both students and adults, spent a beautiful fall day cleaning up the Stonewall Brigade tract on the south side of Route 3. Students came from Spotsylvania, Orange, and even as far away as Hanover County. They raked leaves; picked up deadfall, rocks and trash; and cleaned up the old garage located on the nine acre property. Not only does it make the site more attractive, but it allows for easier mowing and maintenance in the future. For their efforts, volunteers received lunch, a free CVBT t-shirt, a complimentary one-year membership, and several DVDs and

(Continued on page 5)



# Don't Miss the Annual Meeting in May!

**T**he Central Virginia Battlefields Trust's 2015 annual meeting promises to be an exciting one! After two years of hosting a scaled-back dinner meeting (since the National Park Service was providing a wide range of events related to the Sesquicentennial), we are pleased to announce that our 2015 meeting will return to our usual three day format. The meeting will be held from Friday, May 22 through Sunday, May 24, and again will be based at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House, located at 2801 Plank Road in Fredericksburg. While some of our plans are still tentative, the following provides an outline of the activities and tours we intend to provide for our members and guests over the weekend.

Registration will begin at 12:30 on Friday, and will be followed by an afternoon tour of the National Cemetery, led by Don Pfanz. The evening's activities will include our formal dinner. **Please note that our annual business meeting and dinner will be held on Friday, May 22, rather than on Saturday evening, as has**

been our practice in recent years. It will include a delicious buffet dinner and a premium cash bar. We are pleased to report that noted Civil War historian and widely published author William C. "Jack" Davis will be our guest and keynote speaker on Friday night, where he will educate us on "Grant and Lee, the Generals Nobody Knows." Several of Jack's books will be available for sale prior to dinner, and he will be happy to inscribe them. Following the dinner, our annual business meeting will include a review of CVBT's accomplishments and finances during 2014, an update on our current and proposed activities, and an election of Board members.

Saturday's events will begin with a tour of the Confederate Cemetery and other local cemeteries, led

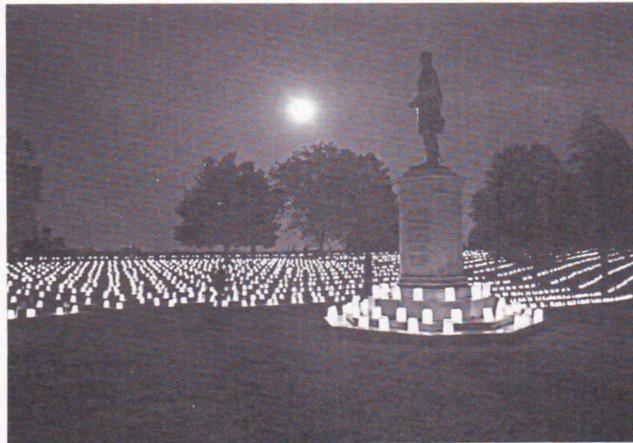
**WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR 2015 MEETING WILL RETURN TO OUR USUAL THREE DAY FORMAT.**

by Bob Krick. We will then convene for lunch at Ristorante Renato (downtown on William Street), where our Board meets for our monthly lunch. After lunch, Bob will lead us on a tour of Moss Neck and other sites to be determined. On the way back to the Hospitality House, we will stop by to visit our new, spacious Fredericksburg office. While attendees will be on their own for dinner, CVBT

will provide bus transportation from the hotel to both the Confederate Cemetery and the National Cemetery for the annual luminaria programs. The Fredericksburg luminarias are always very well-planned and evocative events, and this year will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program at the National Cemetery. (Note: In the event of rain,

the luminaria at the National Cemetery will be moved to Sunday evening, May 24.)

On Sunday morning, we will host a bus and walking tour of CVBT-owned lands, including the Rodes-Doles site (the former location of the "Stars and Bars" castle), and the recently cleared Stonewall Brigade tract. This tour will be led by Bob and other



Board members, and will be followed by a picnic lunch on site. The tour may or may not continue after lunch, depending on developments. Stay tuned!

For those who are able to stay over until Monday, Fredericksburg will honor its departed heroes through several Memorial Day events. The day will begin with an observance at the Confederate Cemetery, followed by a procession to the National Cemetery, where a solemn noon ceremony will be held.

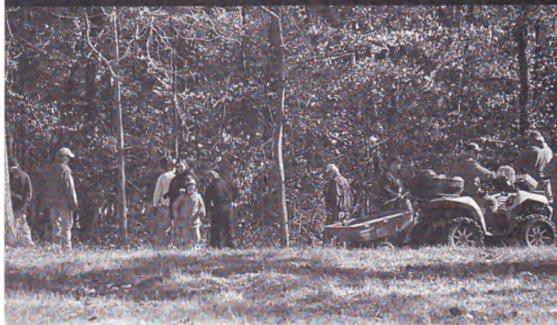
More information on the availability of a block of rooms at the hotel, and the fees for the various tours and events will be available soon. We look forward to seeing you for a very special weekend in May!

(CVBT Community Youth Clean-Up Day, continued from page 3)

publications from the CVBT. Board member Eric Powell taught a brief lesson on the Battle of Chancellorsville, the military movements on the land, and how this piece of property fits into the over 1,000 acres that our organization has saved. Special thanks are given to the 47th Virginia Infantry reenacting group. The men and women of the 47th completed heavy tasks such as cutting up fallen trees, boarding up and securing the garage, and providing adult supervision of students, as well as hauling debris to the landfill. The students enjoyed their day of learning and preserving history. Bennett Rankin, age 13, from Ni River Middle School, concluded the day by saying, "I really enjoyed the day and learning about the Battle of Chancellorsville. I've toured the National Park before, but never thought about the role the land on this side of Route 3 played in the battle." We hope to make this an annual event and see it grow in the future!



CVBT provided lunch, t-shirts, DVDs and educational publications for all of our clean-up volunteers. The volunteers cleared the Stonewall Brigade tract and enjoyed a history lesson on the Battle of Chancellorsville.



["A Watershed Moment in the Life of CVBT," continued from page 1]

Please don't hesitate to contact any of the Board with questions or concerns. Our pledge to be good stewards of the monies entrusted to us remains firm and unwavering, and with several potential projects in the works, every contribution will be deeply appreciated. In this season of thanksgiving and renewal and grace, a special donation will be especially welcomed. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Mike Stevens  
President, Central Virginia Battlefields Trust

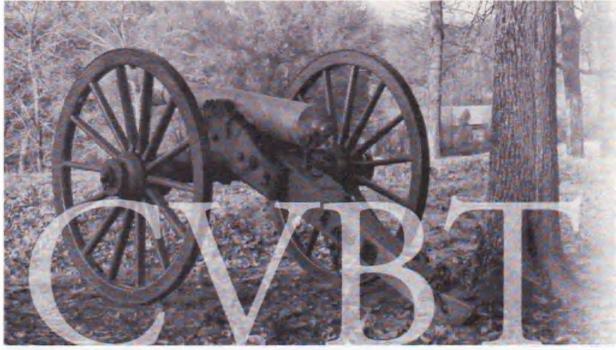
## Stay on the Skirmish Line!



Take a look at the mailing label on your latest *Skirmish Line* newsletter. You will see that it includes your CVBT membership expiration date. Since we are a dirt and grass outfit, members can help us save on mailing costs by checking that expiration date and sending in their renewal on their own. If the date is highlighted, your membership has expired. While we would like to share the *Skirmish Line* with everyone, we can only afford to send it to current members. So please renew your membership at the appropriate time. You might also consider upgrading your membership level, to increase our capability to save hallowed ground in central Virginia.



Remember to order all your Amazon.com items through the CVBT Amazon web link. CVBT receives a percentage of the order to help preserve hallowed ground!



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The Trust's mission is to purchase Civil War battlefield terrain and to advocate for battlefield protection at the local, state, and federal levels of government.

For information on membership, please write to the Trust at P.O. Box 3417, Fredericksburg, VA 22402; call our office at (540) 374-0900; or visit our website at [www.cvbt.org](http://www.cvbt.org). Contributions to the CVBT are tax-deductible.

Annual Member	\$ 35	Patron	\$ 500	Life Patron	\$10,000
Active Member	\$ 135	Benefactor	\$ 1,000	Corporate Member	\$ 500
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