

On The Skirmish Line

The Newsletter of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust

Still Working to Acquire Hallowed Ground

Members will have noticed that we have not reported the acquisition of much property recently. This lack of visible progress should not be viewed as a lack of ongoing work.

Board members are diligently working on several potential acquisitions, but details cannot responsibly be discussed until a contract is in place.

Our group is very focused in these efforts, though, having developed and adopted a long range plan for CVBT acquisitions at each of the area's battlefields (Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House).

There is always historic land available, but we must be judicious in how we proceed. It would be irresponsible to commit to acquiring a piece of ground that had some connection to a specific battle, if by doing so we were prevented from being able to acquire a more important site elsewhere.

Much of the hallowed ground in the Fredericksburg area is only going to be available for purchase once. If the CVBT does not acquire it at that time, it will be developed and lost forever to preservation.

So how do we work in this booming real estate market?

We developed a set of clear criteria to be able to evaluate the significance of land we might consider. This method includes thorough research into the historic significance of the specific terrain. We then review the actual threat of development. Threats vary depending on the location of the ground and a local jurisdiction's plans for roads, water, or sewer lines.

In some areas, we may have time to carefully plan an acquisition. In others, we will need to move immediately.

Next, we evaluate the interpretive value of an area. Would

acquisition improve existing interpretive programs at the National Park? Perhaps an acquisition would open new opportunities for interpretation. In effect, what would be the educational value of a parcel or parcels?

Finally, we look at the condition of the ground. Terrain that retains its battlefield integrity has a different value than land that has been bulldozed, although bulldozed ground may still be important to acquire.

Within these parameters, the CVBT has prepared a plan of action to ensure we are focused on obtaining land that absolutely must be acquired.

As we have noted many times before, as development pressure mounts, the opportunity to preserve ground is becoming very short.

We firmly believe that what we do not preserve within the next ten years will probably be lost forever. Consequently, we do not have the luxury of waiting for land to come on the market or to get distracted by land that does not meet any of our criteria.

Yet while we must actively seek purchase opportunities, we must also be judicious in our proceedings.

Many property owners are seeking higher prices for their land than the market justifies. The market is already quite strong, but the expectations, too often, are even higher.

We cannot pay inflated prices for land, though, because such actions would artificially drive up the costs for other land we seek to obtain. Developers are not going to pay inflated prices either. As a result, negotiations become lengthy as we work toward a fair price that we can responsibly ask our members to support with their donations.

We will announce any successes as soon as they occur. In the meantime, know that we are actively working on several parcels of land at several battlefields.



On The Skirmish Line is published for the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust membership at PO Box 3417, Fredericksburg, VA 22402. The CVBT is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's Civil War battlefields. All contributions are tax deductible. A financial statement is available, upon request, from the Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs. Our latest IRS Form 990 is also available on our website.

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“It’s the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press. It’s the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech. It’s the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate. It’s the soldier, who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protestor to burn the flag....The soldier is a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.” –Father Denis O’Brien, USMC

We who study and revere the brave men wearing both blue and gray whose blood and bravery hallowed the grounds we are trying so hard to preserve must never forget that there are equally brave Americans who are at this very moment fighting for cause and country.

Please join with all of us on CVBT’s Board in praying God’s blessings on the men and women of our Armed Forces who are putting themselves in harm’s way for us and for our country overseas. May they come home with honor, safely and soon. Amen, and amen.

Membership Recruitment

We need YOU - will you be our "top recruiter"?

As with so many organizations involved in historic preservation, we find ourselves spending a great deal of time recruiting members. While we work hard to find creative ways of financing our purchase of properties, as we did with the grants for Smith's Run, it often comes down to the generosity and devotion of our members. We depend on you to renew your membership on a yearly basis and for your many other donations throughout the year.

ATTENTION!
ZOUAVES!
RECRUITS WANTED
FOR
GLADEK'S ZOUAVES
35TH NEW JERSEY VETERAN VOLUNTEERS.
ONLY LOOK AT THE BOUNTY
COME IN OUT OF THE DRAFT OR YOU WILL TAKE COLD.
REMEMBER THE DREADFUL DRAFT TAKES PLACE ON THE FIFTH OF SEPTEMBER.
NOW IS THE TIME to Pocket the Greenbacks.
ONLY THINK OF IT!
\$600 CASH IN HAND.

THE FOLLOWING BOUNTIES WILL BE PAID:	
County and City Bounty,	\$500
Government Bounty,	300
State Pay,	216
TOTAL BOUNTY,	\$1016

Each accepted recruit will receive \$600 cash in hand immediately after muster in the U. S. Service. Each person who will present an acceptable recruit will receive a premium of \$25.
Persons who have a desire to lead the gay and dashing life of a Zoo Zou, can do so by enlisting in the 35th N. J. Veteran Volunteers. Call on

HENRY A. SPEELER,
Lieutenant and Recruiting Officer, 35th N. J. Vet. Vols.
112 Federal St., near Federal Street Ferry.
August, 19th, 1864.

As we continue to find properties to purchase, and work to maintain those we already own, we depend even more on our members. In this regard, we need YOUR HELP!

We're asking our current members to "recruit" new members for CVBT. As a small incentive for our top recruiter we'd like to offer that individual a "free pass" to the 2004 Annual Meeting, free registration and dinner on that Saturday night is on us. A small way of showing just how much we appreciate your efforts on our behalf. Be sure that any new member forms or gift membership forms have your name on the them so that we can keep an accurate count on our top recruiter.

On the reverse of this page are a couple of membership forms, suitable for copying (!), that we hope you will pass on to friends, family members, fellow Roundtable or reenactment group members... anyone that you think might be a potential CVBT member. We have members from California to Maine, even as distant as Great Britain... and believe it or not, despite our name, the majority of our membership does not reside in the "central Virginia" area! The preservation of these hallowed grounds knows no boundaries, we welcome members from throughout the United States and abroad.

We ask your help and support in bringing new members to the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust. There are several sites still in danger, hallowed ground still in need of protection, so please help us continue the fight.

Something New This Year — Combined Federal Campaign

For federal employees and members of the military, residing in the DC Metro Area, Norfolk and Central Virginia area, we've signed on with the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) this year. All it takes to make contributions through payroll deductions is filling in the payroll deduction authorization form, with the amount deducted from each paycheck, and that's it.

If you opt to participate, please let us know if you prefer your donation be applied towards membership or if you prefer it to be a general donation separate from membership.

We can't participate in the national CFC Campaign because we do not have offices in other states, but we are excited about the possibilities of increased donations through our participation in these regional CFC Campaigns.

JOIN TODAY!!

New Member Recruited by: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email address: _____

Membership Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Member—\$35	<input type="checkbox"/> Active Member—\$135	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member—\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron—\$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 Member—\$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Patron—\$1,000		

Method of Payment: Check VISA MasterCard

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration: _____

Signature (required for Credit Card) _____

Please return completed form with credit card information or a check payable to: **Central Virginia Battlefields Trust**
Mail completed form to: **CVBT, Attn: Membership, PO Box 3417, Fredericksburg, VA 22402**

GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP TODAY!!

A Gift from: _____ Member ID: _____

Please send a Gift Membership to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email address: _____

Membership Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Member—\$35	<input type="checkbox"/> Active Member—\$135	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member—\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron—\$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 Member—\$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Patron—\$1,000		

Method of Payment: Check VISA MasterCard

Name on Credit Card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration: _____

Signature (required for Credit Card) _____

Please return completed form with credit card information or a check payable to: **Central Virginia Battlefields Trust**
Mail completed form to: **CVBT, Attn: Membership, PO Box 3417, Fredericksburg, VA 22402**

It's Still About Dirt and Grass

Since the CVBT was formed, back in 1996, we have consistently bragged that our motto was: "Dirt and Grass. Not Paid Staff." Our organization has grown, however, until we now control in excess of \$1 million in assets (battlefield land in a lucrative real estate market). We must care for these sections of battlefield under our collective ownership as well as keep our membership informed and up to date.



To handle the various responsibilities of a mature organization, a private donor has stepped forward and funded a part-time staff position. We now have an Executive Director, who works directly for the President.

This new position has been filled by Rebecca Rickey, who has formally resigned from the CVBT Board of Directors.

Ms. Rickey brings a wealth of knowledge in battlefield preservation to this job. She worked for the old Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) and was recruited to the CVBT Board of Directors very early in our existence. Ms. Rickey holds a degree in History from Colorado State University and is a Navy veteran. We are extremely fortunate to have someone of her talents and experience on board.

Having an Executive Director does not mean that our Board of Directors will become less active. Fund raising, working with property owners to acquire land, and physically caring for the land we own are just some of the tasks that continue to be handled by our hard working directors.

Our staff position is funded by an outside source and is carefully defined to fulfill an administrative function. We firmly believe that the Board of Directors should be an assemblage of hard working individuals who can work as a team to acquire hallowed ground. It's still about dirt and grass.

Fredericksburg History and Biography

The CVBT is preparing to publish Volume Two of its annual publication *Fredericksburg History and Biography*.

This year, it will be our pleasure to present a journal that includes a study of Spotsylvania County's Confederate Cemetery; a review of how Medals of Honor were awarded during the Civil War as well as in the decades after the war; and a report on the archaeological work underway on Willis Hill (an eighteenth century site on the Fredericksburg battlefield). In addition, we are thrilled to be able to present an account of the little known, pre-Civil War court martial of Joe Hooker.

Members who are at the Active Level or above, will automatically receive a copy of the new journal in the mail, as a benefit of membership. Look for it toward the end of the year.

Additional copies will be available for sale to anyone, at \$11.95 each. Copies of the inaugural (2002) volume are also available for the same price.

2004 Annual Meeting

Plans are underway for CVBT's 2004 Annual Meeting scheduled for May 1 & 2. We're hoping to try a different approach for this meeting, scheduling a Saturday afternoon seminar, a dinner and speaker for Saturday evening and a tour of CVBT properties on Sunday morning. As we commemorate the 140th anniversary of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Courthouse we've already signed up noted author Gordon Rhea as our guest. At the Saturday dinner we'll present the first Annual Ralph Happel Preservation Award as well as having a keynote speaker and the "real business", the annual meeting!

Sunday morning's tour will showcase CVBT properties and allows members to see all the "dirt and grass" their donations have purchased!

We'll be holding the event at the Holiday Inn Select at Central Park in Fredericksburg which allows the seminar and dinner to be in the same facility...and our out-of-town attendees will also be able to reserve rooms there at a "meeting rate".

More info to follow...join us in 2004!!

RENEW TODAY!!

Renewing Member New Member

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

email address: _____

Membership Category:

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

Method of Payment:

Check

VISA

MasterCard

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration: _____

Signature (required for Credit Card)

Please return completed renewal form with credit card information or a check payable to: **Central Virginia Battlefields Trust**
Mail completed form to: **CVBT, Attn: Membership, PO Box 3417, Fredericksburg, VA 22402**

We do everything we can to make sure your donations go to **“Dirt and Grass”**. To help keep our costs down we rely on you to check your mailing label to see if your membership is due for renewal. If your membership is current, but you know of someone who would like to join CVBT, please pass this membership form on to them.



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