



The Friends & Neighbors of Putnam Memorial State Park



"Connecticut's Valley Forge"

December 2008 NewsLetter

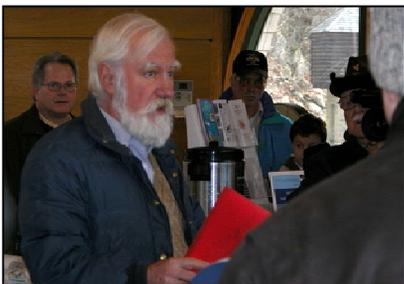
Bethel/Redding CT

December Winter Walk



The park visitor center was the home base for this year's Winter Walk.

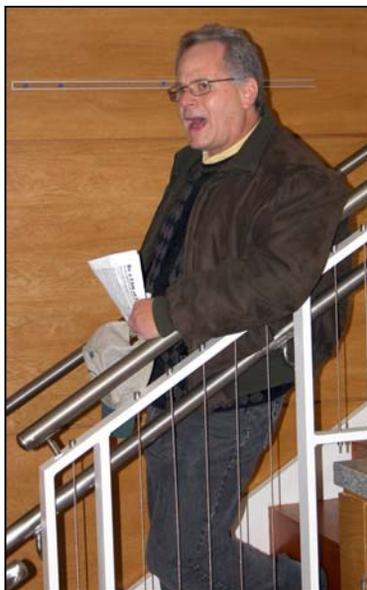
The annual *December Winter Walk* was held on Saturday, December 6th. This was the final FANS event of the year, and our 5th Winter Walk. This event is geared more for the adult category, as it is like a moving history narration of the three army camps in Redding during winter of 1778-79, and the updates on the ongoing archaeological digs. This year's crowd was the largest yet.



Dan Cruson, FANS chief historian, archaeologist and tour guide ... begins his talk while still in the visitor center.



The flyer for this year's walk. History, archaeology, a skirmish or two, and a trip to our informative visitor center.



FANS president, Steve Levine, welcomes the crowd to the park.

← Jeanine Herman and helpers get the pie, cookies, cider and coffee ready for after-the-tour snacks.

→ The lull before the storm ... Cheri Levine mans the food buffet area before the masses return to the visitor center.



Tour group leader, Dan Cruson, chats with one of the visitors before the walk.



One of the top attractions ... the flint lock muskets.



The new display kiosks went over just great



December Winter Walk - Continued



Dan Cruson assembles the crowd by the front gate. The military escort joined the group here to accompany it throughout the camp.



The tour enters the park up the main ramp toward the memorial monument.



Each year, members of the military read excerpts from diaries of men who were here in 1778/79.

Thanks To This Year's Reenactors



10th Massachusetts,
Brian McCoy.

As the year progressed, we have singled out our FANs volunteers for thanks for their efforts in support of our events at the park. But in this last newsletter of the year we would like to give three huzzahs for our reenactors who performed in front of the public. Some camped in their tents, and braved the weather. All of the leader-representatives here are also FANs members who spent many hours in planning meetings. **Thank you, troops!**



Butler's Rangers, Loyalist
Unit , Dave Solek



CT 5th Regiment,
Jim Freebairn
...Reenactment
Coordinator



CT 5th Regiment,
Tom Castrovinci



5CR Camp Gear



23rd Reg't of Foot,
Rob Doscher



" Pvt. Benjamin Chadwick
reporting for duty ... Sir! "



Wilton Militia,
Artillery Company

Thanks To This Year's Craftspersons

Go to: **FANs** new Web site at
www.putnampark.org

Starting out in May of each year, with the Living History School Days, the FANs group utilize colonial era crafts people to demonstrate how things were done in the revolutionary war period. We have a good group of artists who teach our visitors just how things were done long ago. Here are just some of them:



British Surgeon & Dentist, from the 23rd Reg't of Foot. Jack Ciotti. His instruments are a little scary.



Resident Whitesmith, of the 5th CT Reg't, is a big draw when he makes musket balls.



The Apothecary was a very necessary guy in the colonial days. Bob Young is with the 2nd Contin. Lt. Dragoons



The potter made essential vessels used daily by everyone. The spinner and weaver made things to wear (also very essential). Eric and Janice Steinhagen are a great team of artists.

The People That Keep The Park Running!

Park Boss



Nathan Hale is the CEO of Putnam Park. Nate is the Park Supervisor for Putnam Park, Huntington Park, Kettletown Park and a handful of other smaller parks in our region. He is one busy guy. He is also very much part of FANs. This is what makes the gears go smoothly.

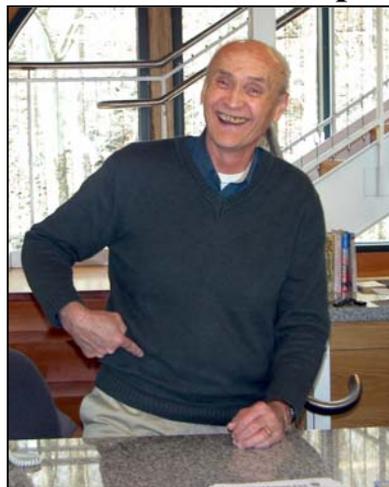


Park Museum

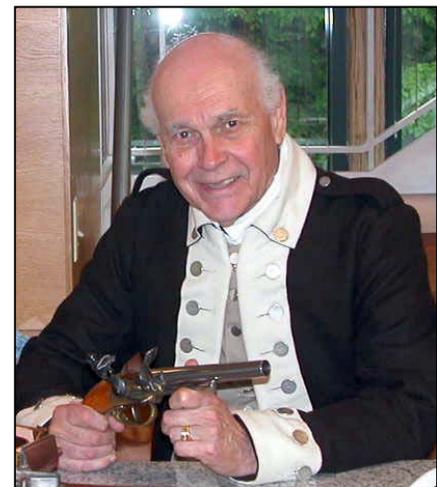


Park Visitor Center

Interpretive Guides



Thornton Henderson, known as TG, is one of the two main guides at the park. There are two venues which have to be covered: the museum and the visitor center.



Carlton Kline, know as the "Colonel", has been a guide since the park re-opened in 1998. There are more photos of the Colonel in his uniform than there are of the monument and the front entrance.

Tom Borysiewicz is the third interpretive guide at the park. Tom gets the relief shift which allows TG and the Colonel to get a day off every now and then.

The People That Keep The Park Running - Continued



To contact us:
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Maintainers

Just about the only state in the northeast that doesn't call these guys "park rangers", Connecticut calls them Maintainers! They all are experts at mowing huge lawns, cutting down giant trees, and operating a large assortment of machines from tractors, to plows, to mowers, to ATVs. They are also master carpenters, electricians, and road builders. They keep our park immaculate.



Andy Sullivan is an institution at Putnam Park. Andy has worked here from right after the Continental Army vacated the camp. He is known in these parts as Putnam Park's Ranger. Ask anybody who has lived here for the last 30 years! When it comes to making signs, posts, brochure boxes ... Andy probably made them.



Andy Sullivan welcoming Gov. Jodi Rell.



You never know when you'll see Andy and David around the park.



David Magnifico is another of the park's full time Maintainers. Seen all over the park on different projects ... Dave has even filled in at a FAN's meeting.

Graphics Department



Sharon painting one of the graphics on our history signs.

Sharon Skystimas is one of Nate's specialists from one of his other parks. But this summer things worked out where we were in need of an artist to paint graphics of the different historical sites on our new signs made up at the sign shop. Sharon, who is an accomplished artist, just happened to be down at Putnam Park for some other projects. "Hey, can she paint scenes on our signs?" **Yes she can!** Sharon has been doing the artwork as quickly as the sign shop sends us the white signs with text.



The next FAN's Meeting will be on Monday, **January 12th** at **7:00PM** at the **Visitor Center** at Putnam Park.

New schedule : 2nd Monday of each month