

# ENformer

## NEWSLETTER

### Flight 93 National Memorial Visitor Center to Open September 10

The new Flight 93 National Memorial Visitor Center will open to the public at 2 pm on Thursday, September 10, 2015. The permanent exhibits use photographs, artifacts, tactile models, and audio and video to convey the Flight 93 story in the context of the other terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Eastern National is opening a new store at the visitor center offering educational merchandise for visitors to the memorial.

"The visitor center is on schedule to open September 10 thanks to the dedicated effort of the memorial staff and our contractors," said Supt. Steve Clark. "We look forward to welcoming visitors and providing them a fuller story about the heroic efforts of the passengers and crew of United Flight 93." More information is available [here](#).



David English with his handmade stringed instruments at the Blue Ridge Music Center Museum and Eastern National Store on the Blue Ridge Parkway. *Photo courtesy NPS.*

### Blue Ridge Parkway Kicks Off Yearlong Centennial Celebration

Blue Ridge Parkway kicked off their yearlong centennial celebration with a special event on August 29, 2015 at the [Blue Ridge Music Center](#) that featured a partner showcase, reception, and evening musical performance by the Steep Canyon Rangers. Many of the park's partner organizations, including Eastern National, were on hand with displays and information about the activities and projects they are involved in that support the park. NPS Centennial Volunteer



## Assateague Island National Seashore is Celebrating 50 Years!

Assateague Island National Seashore is celebrating its golden anniversary this year, and the park will hold a fee-free anniversary weekend September 19-21, 2015. The anniversary activities will have a 1960s theme with a DJ playing 1960s beach music thanks to support from Eastern National. EN will also have a selection of 1960s toys available for sale and has produced T-shirts, pins, patches, and decals, with the official anniversary logo (shown above).

## Steamtown National Historic Site Holds Railfest 2015

This year's Railfest event at Steamtown National Historic site will be held Saturday, September 5 and Sunday, September 6. The park will have displays, special exhibits, demonstrations, tours, train excursions, and more! Eastern National has produced a new T-shirt for the event and is selling select merchandise on two train excursions. More information on the event can be found [here](#).

## Call for Submissions to 2016 Passport Contest

Photo submissions are now being accepted for the 2016 Passport To Your National Parks® Photo Contest, open to active NPS employees and Volunteers-In-Parks. Ten winning photos will be

Ambassador Marielle DeJong helped the partners launch a "[100 WAYS](#)" [website](#) describing the various ways that the partners support the park, help visitors, and how the public can join in their activities. This content is also available [here](#) on Facebook.

Eastern National featured demonstrations of stringed instruments that are available for purchase in the EN store. Handmade by David English (shown above), these instruments are made almost entirely from repurposed recycled materials like tobacco sticks, hardwood flooring, cigar boxes, and cookie tins - firmly rooted in the time-honored tradition of crafting musical instruments from whatever is available. David shared his music and the history of traditional handmade instruments.

Eastern National's Blue Ridge Music Center Store features listening stations where visitors can sample vintage recordings. Local and contemporary traditional Appalachian music is available for purchase. The Black Owl Alpaca (a portable, weather-resistant version of a three-stringed mountain dulcimer priced at \$99) is on track to join the lovely handmade birch lap harp (\$81.95 retail) as a top seller for the site. Whether it's through recorded or sheet music, how-to publications, gifts, guitar picks, affordably great-sounding instruments, or tap dancing wooden limberjacks, this store makes it easy for folks to enjoy traditional music and begin making their own joyful noise.



Reenactor James Foote as Theodore Roosevelt speaks to visitors at the reopening of the Theodore Roosevelt Home at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site on July 12, 2015. *Photo courtesy NPS.*

## "Summer White House" Reopening Celebrated at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site

Following a three-year, \$10 million project to rehabilitate the home's structure and restore objects within the house, the Theodore Roosevelt Home at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site reopened to the public in July. The festivities began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony the morning of Sunday, July 12, 2015. For the first time in three years, visitors and dignitaries were allowed into the "Summer White House" of the 26th president to see the home as it looked when Theodore Roosevelt lived there between 1885 and 1919.

featured on the 2016 Passport To Your National Parks® annual stamp series. Submissions must be received by September 15, 2015.

The photographer of each winning photo will receive \$500 or, if the photo was taken on government time, \$500 will be donated to the interpretive program of the photographer's park. Photos taken during special events or anniversaries are encouraged, and a brief description of the photo should accompany each submission.

Parks previously featured on the Passport stamps are not eligible. Submissions must be reproduction-quality color originals in the form of a 300 dpi TIFF or JPEG file on a CD or thumb drive and should be mailed to: Eastern National, ATTN: Passport Photo Contest, 470 Maryland Drive, Suite 1, Fort Washington, PA 19034.

Winners will be announced in November 2015. Email [EileenC@easternnational.org](mailto:EileenC@easternnational.org) with any questions.

---

## Share Your Stories

You can also be a part of the *ENformer* by sending us your stories. Eastern National is pleased to be able to assist the interpretive and educational programs at parks.

We want to share stories about EN-supported events and programs and products we've developed to commemorate special occasions in parks. So keep us informed about what is going on, and we'll spread the news to all! Send your stories to Jennifer Allen at:

[enformer@easternnational.org](mailto:enformer@easternnational.org)

---

Eastern National produced many new site-specific items that were available for purchase, including T-shirts, pins, magnets, postcards, bookmarks, mugs, and tote bags. Sales were over \$4,000 on the day of the reopening, and they haven't slowed down since. Sales were \$30,000 in July and \$30,000 in August. This is 178 percent ahead of last year. EN donations also provided support for a VIP reopening night event - a kick-off celebration for members of the Roosevelt family, NPS employees, and partners in the Oyster Bay community, as well as live organ music on the day of the reopening event.

Four thousand visitors attended the day-long celebration, which was filled with a wide array of activities, including tours of the newly renovated home and races and a Rough Riders enlistment activity for youngsters. Visitors enjoyed musical selections from the Sagamore Hill Band and the Roosevelt Songbirds, had their photos taken in a photo booth, and experienced a Rough Riders cavalry demonstration. Teddy Roosevelt's great-grandsons Theodore Roosevelt IV and Tweed Roosevelt were among the guests. In the words of Teddy Roosevelt, the day was "Deeeelightful!"



Interpreters reenacted the exchange of vows by Robert E. Lee and Mary Anna Randolph Custis at Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial. *Photo courtesy NPS.*

## Historic Wedding Celebrated at

## Quick Links

[Eastern National](#)

[Shop Arrowhead Store](#)

[Shop eParks](#)

Join Our Mailing List!



470 Maryland Drive  
Fort Washington, PA 19034  
(215) 283-6900

## Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial

Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial celebrated the 184th wedding anniversary of Robert E. Lee and Mary Anna Randolph Custis from June 27 to 30, 2015. The site hosted a series of interpretive and educational events about wedding customs and traditions of the mid-19th century with a focus on music, dancing, food, and period dress.

Musical performances during the wedding program were supported by Eastern National donation funds. EN also donated merchandise for volunteer recognition.

The exchange of vows was reenacted in the house on June 30, with ranger talks that day focusing on the Lee wedding and also on weddings in the enslaved community. Joshua Cannon (shown above portraying Robert E. Lee) is an engineering equipment operator at the park and a former U.S. Marine. "It seemed appropriate to have a Virginia boy with a military background play the role," said Interpretive Park Ranger Sarah Gamble.