

From the Park Manager's desk:

Hungry Mother has experienced many personnel changes during 2010. I have greatly enjoyed the people I have met and connections I have made with groups in the area in my four months since coming onto the job. I would like to personally thank the Hungry Mother State Park Friends Group for all the support that each of you offers the park. I look forward to working with the Friends Group to continue to make Hungry Mother an even greater place for relaxation and recreation activities.

We now must look forward to 2011 with many great activities and opportunities for our park. I would like to share some of the great opportunities for Hungry Mother as we enter the next year.

### **Virginia State Parks 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:**

Virginia State Parks will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011. Several activities and events have been planned as part of the anniversary celebration statewide. One of the most exciting events will be a one hour documentary that PBS is currently shooting at several park locations throughout the state. Footage has already been taken at Hungry Mother and the documentary is tentatively scheduled to air in late spring 2011. In addition to the documentary, the Virginia Lottery is creating a scratch game in honor of the anniversary, daily trivia games through social media will be available, and there will also be weekly blog contests on line. The department is looking to offer daily prizes on line and there will be a substantial grand prize drawing Labor Day Weekend. The statewide celebration will take place on June 18, 2011, and each individual park will have an anniversary celebration on that day. Hungry Mother's event is in the planning stages and I will keep the Friends group updated on progress beginning in March. The entire week of June 13, 2011 the entire State Park system will offer free parking.

The birth of the Virginia State Park system's first six parks took place at Hungry Mother in 1936, and I believe in 2011 that our park should have the best 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The park staff is welcoming ideas for our celebration as we plan the event. If you have ideas or suggestions you would like to make come by the park or email myself or Geoff Hall at [scott.bowen@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:scott.bowen@dcr.virginia.gov) and [geoff.hall@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:geoff.hall@dcr.virginia.gov).

### **AmeriCorps Interpretation Project at Virginia State Parks:**

Hungry Mother State Park is actively looking for a motivated individual over age 17 that wants to help others discover the wonders of the natural world, explore our rich history and learn to preserve and protect our natural treasures for future generations. This opportunity will allow the successful candidate to be part of a team that designs and leads environmental education programs for park guests and recruit new park volunteers, while interacting with visitors in a fun, family friendly setting.

The successful candidate will receive in return for a season of committed service a \$3,000 living allowance, a \$2,038 Education Award (transferable to other family members if over 55), training in the natural resources and public service fields, and professional development and networking opportunities. The program runs April through September 2011 and members must complete 675 hours to be eligible for the above benefits. Hungry Mother State Park will provide housing to successful candidate if needed.

Open recruitment for this opportunity is now taking place and will include a variety of outreach and media outlets. Hungry Mother is currently identifying potential recruitment targets in our local area, including presentations at volunteer and career fairs and postings to area school websites. For more information visit [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov) or [www.virginiastateparks.gov](http://www.virginiastateparks.gov).

### **Virginia State Parks Youth Ambassador:**

This opportunity is in partnership with America's State Parks and the Outdoor Foundation in an effort to energize a new generation of youth ages 16-26 about the value of state parks and outdoor recreation opportunities. Each of Virginia's 35 state parks will be recruiting a Youth Ambassador to represent the park in local, state, and regional Youth Summits where they can network and attend outdoor recreation programs, and social networking seminars. Below is an excerpt from a letter generated by Park Interpreter Gwen Kirby that has gone out to all local colleges and universities, as well as Smyth and Tazewell County Schools:

“We are looking for the best and brightest outdoor adventurers to be volunteer advocates for our parks as a Youth Ambassador. We want you to share your experiences at Virginia State Parks with the public, to show off the parks in their splendor, to inspire others to get outside and wonder at the natural things around them. You will be provided opportunities to participate in activities at our park, and then document your outdoor adventures using social media. You will get to use your creativity and imagination – we want to see the parks from your perspective. Write articles for our blogs, post pictures on our internet pages, make a short film! You will learn new skills, network with professionals in parks and resources management, and build a great resume`. We will train you – all we ask is for a commitment of ten volunteer hours per month.”

Persons interested in this great opportunity should visit our website and fill out the application: [http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks/volunteer.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/volunteer.shtml) . Select the park of your interest and tell us what you want to do.