

Newsletter



FRIENDS OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

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FBTWNM Board Officers

President: Cindy Simmons 540-874-4872

Vice President: Ruby Penn

Secretary: Paula Clay

Treasurer: Kaye Hancock

Recording Secretary: Edith Morgan



MISSION

In partnership with the National Park Service, The Friends support Booker T. Washington National Monument and its mission to preserve and protect the birth site and childhood home of Booker T. Washington and promote public awareness and appreciation for his legacy.

MEMBERSHIP TO FRIENDS

We welcome new members to be part of our Friends organization:

Students--\$5	Patrons--\$100-\$499
Individuals--\$15	Sponsor--\$500-\$999
Family--\$25	Benefactor--\$1000+
Organizations--\$50	

Memberships may be paid by mail or at our website through Paypal.

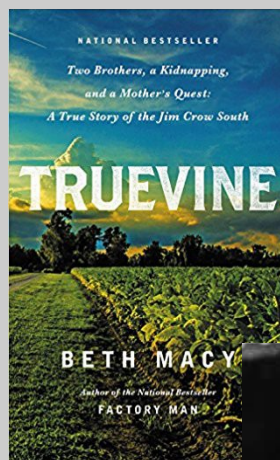
REMINDERS

FRIENDS Board meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.

FEBRUARY is **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Special Event Coming!!!

April 28, 2018 --Seventh Annual
Booker T Washington 7th Annual Legacy Dinner
Guest Speaker: Beth Macy, author of the
New York Times bestseller TRUEVINE
Trinity Ecumenical Parish
40 Lakemount Drive (Hwy. 122)
Moneta, VA
6 PM to 9 PM
Tickets: \$25 members; \$30 non-members
Tickets can be purchased from any
Friends board member or call Gloria Martin at 540-420-4641





Meet John Mitchell, a Monument employee who wears many hats and plays a crucial role in the operations of the physical plant at the Monument. John is married with two sons ages 16 and 20. He is a graduate of FCHS has been with the Monument for 29 years.

He currently holds the position of EEO Counselor, a descriptive information role that is within the Department of the Interior. John is also a certified arborist within the National Park Service and trains people all over the US to fell trees. He is a regional chain saw instructor, a program manager, event planner for the yearly Juneteenth celebration and a heavy equipment operator just to name a few of his many responsibilities.

When asked what constitutes his best day, he said waking up and knowing he was coming to work at the park. He loves his job and comes early.

Some things John would like to see happen are visitor growth, capacity and area growth, more events, more possible use in the future by the community for events, and he would especially like to see Juneteenth grow and be recognized nationally as having its roots at Booker T. Washington National Monument.

Enterprising local youth

Colin Hendrickson, a sophomore at Franklin County High School and member of Scout Troop #130 of Monteta, VA, has taken on a huge project to help the Monument. Colin heads the leadership team of his troop. He said that his troop had been thinking about the fact that no one seemed to be doing anything to help the Monument, so he set out to find out what was needed and how they could help a national park such a short distance from them. Colin has been with the troop five years.

In talking with Ranger Timbo Sims, he sought to find out what the top priorities would be for a project and they settled on replacing the fences which is a daunting undertaking. He is researching the size and cost of the project and has a lumber mill picked out for materials. Then he would like to start a fund raising effort to raise the money and would like to enlist the help of the Friends. He hopes to start the project in late March or early April. All the fencing would be taken down and replaced. He's hoping to get at least 10 out of the 20 members of his troop who are from 6th to 12th grades and working weekends complete in 4 to 6 weeks section by section. We wish him success.

Grant, Membership and Scholarship News



African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund

A Letter of Intent has been sent and received. This grant is to advance ongoing preservation activities for historic places such as sites, museums, and landscapes representing African American Cultural Heritage. The fund supports Capital Projects, Organizational Capacity Building, Project Planning and Programming and Interpretation.



The Friends have been awarded a scholarship for \$2000 to help in travel expenses in attending the Friends Alliance Meeting in Washington, DC in March. Two board members Gloria Martin and Ruby Penn have been chosen to attend.



In honor of the 101st anniversary of the National Park System and the 62nd anniversary of the BTWNM, the Friends Group is inviting 101 local leaders and businesses to start a tradition of sponsoring the park through the Friends Group by joining the **101st Booker T. Washington Bucket Challenge** with an annual donation gift of \$100. The leadership gift will preserve this piece of history right here in our community so that future generations can discover the legacy of Booker T. Washington and the richness of Smith Mountain Lake, VA.



The Friends will be awarding two \$500 student scholarships this year at the Legacy Dinner to FCHS students.



New members for 2018!!