

# THE BUGLE CALL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD FOUNDATION

WINTER 2015

## SECOND ANNUAL BLOODY HILL RUN



The start of the 2014 *Bloody Hill Run*

Each year more than 175,000 people visit Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, one of only six National Park Service sites in Missouri. Visitors come from all over the United States and many foreign countries to discover both its historic significance and its natural beauty. However, even though it is located only a few miles south of Springfield, many area residents have never visited the park and are not aware of all it has to offer. In an effort to bring new visitors to the park and promote its facilities, the Wilson's Creek Foundation sponsored our second annual Bloody Hill Run on October 25, 2014, a USATF certified 8K run and a 1-mile fun run.


With a cannon blast to start the race, 8K participants followed the park's tour road, passing by the historic Ray House and ending with a climb up the infamous Bloody Hill. Fun Runners also got a taste of Bloody Hill before turning around at the half-mile mark to return to the finish line. Runners and their guests got a glimpse into the Civil War era with period music, displays, crafts, and reenactors.

Each 8k runner received a barbecue dinner, long-



The toughest part of the run, the climb up Bloody Hill

sleeved tech shirt, survivor participation medal, free one-day entrance to Wilson's Creek Nat. Battlefield, and lots of sponsor freebies and coupons. Fun Run participants received a dinner ticket, cotton t-shirt, free one-day entrance, and sponsor coupons. The barbecue dinner was also available for guests and spectators with a donation to the Wilson's Creek Foundation. Prizes and medals were awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in the 8k, and overall winners and masters winners received trophies and Branson vacation prize packages. A Desert Storm Kayak provided by Bass Pro Inc. was given away in a drawing.

Over 120 runners participated in the Bloody Hill Run this year, more than twice as many as in 2013. The Foundation hopes the event will continue to grow in the future, helping us promote the park, encourage tourism, and highlight one of the hidden jewels of the Springfield area, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. Proceeds will be used to support the battlefield and the work of the Foundation. 



Run volunteers present medals to finishers.

## SAVING SIGEL'S FIRST POSITION

For almost ten years, the Foundation has been interested in preserving a significant piece of historic property on the southeast boundary of Wilson's Creek Battlefield. It is the site of Colonel Franz Sigel's first position on the morning of August 10, 1861, as he placed his six artillery pieces on the hill and waited for orders to fire on the Confederate forces camped in former Sharp's cornfield below.

Although not within the park's original boundary, this 20-acre tract has since been recognized by Congress as a historically significant piece of the Battle of Wilson's Creek's story. It was included in the battlefield's bound-

See *Sigel's First Position* on page 3

# WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jerry Redfearn

Greetings to all of the Friends of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

This is my first newsletter since becoming President of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation this past August. It is an honor and privilege to serve in this capacity.

I want to give a large THANK YOU to our outgoing Board Members, Susan Beine, Tom Strong, and especially Craig Dunn. Craig did an outstanding job of leading the Foundation as president the past two years. Again, THANKS TO ALL!

We would also like to thank our two newest Board Members, Kerry Montgomery and Randy Friga. Welcome aboard!

Old man winter has reached the Ozarks, but 2014 has been a very successful and rewarding year for the Foundation. In June we held our 2nd Annual Spring Fling Event at the Ray House, a barbeque dinner with entertainment, Civil War reenactors, and exhibits. It was very well attended and enjoyed by all. The event raised approximately \$10,000 for the Foundation. For two

weeks in July the Foundation sponsored a new program, the Wilson's Creek Summer Quest Camp for 9-12 year-olds. It was well received with over 50 campers.

On October 25 we held our 2nd Annual BLOODY HILL RUN, an 8K Certified Race and Fun Run held on the battlefield's Tour Road. This race continues to grow, not only in the number of participants, but also the reputation for being a very challenging course.

Thanks to everyone for their participation, encouragement, and support of these events. The work of the Foundation could not be accomplished without you. We are looking forward to another successful year in 2015. Again, THANK YOU for your continued support. On behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors, April, Roseann, Ted and all of the staff at the Battlefield, We wish you a HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON and a HEALTHY and PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!

Jerry Redfearn,  
President



By the close of the Civil War 166 regiments of African-American troops had been raised for the Union: 145 regiments of infantry, 7 of cavalry, 12 of heavy artillery, and one of engineers. They served with honor on countless battlefields and sacrificed 2,751 lives to set their brothers free.



Sgt. Major Christain Fleetwood received the Medal of Honor for having "Saved the regimental colors after eleven of the twelve color guards had been shot down around it." Sgt. Major was the top rank allowed to a colored soldier at that time.

Have any stories of local or historical interest relating to the Civil War? We're always on the lookout for new stories and unique images for *The Bugle Call*. Please send your newsletter contributions to:

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation  
Attn: Bugle Call Editor  
P.O. Box 8163  
Springfield, MO 65801  
FAX to: 417-864-7428  
E-mail: [info@wilsonscreek.com](mailto:info@wilsonscreek.com)

## The Mission of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation

To work in cooperation with and to support the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, a unit of the National Park Service and its staff. To further, by all proper and legitimate agencies and means, the acquisition of Civil War historical properties and materials especially those related to the Battle of Wilson's Creek, or usable in the interpretation of the Wilson's Creek battle. To be a friend of the park whose primary purpose is to support Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in a partnership through activities which may include fund-raising, volunteerism, education, advocacy, and research.

*Sigel's First Position* continued from page 1

ary expansion area, a total of 615 acres in several parcels around the park boundary, approved by the U.S. Congress in 2004 to be acquired from willing sellers.

Until recently, attempts to negotiate and acquire this property had been unsuccessful, but in March 2013 the Civil War Trust was able to purchase 60 acres of the original 160-acre property that had been owned by James Keet, a well-known local attorney, judge, and Civil War enthusiast. The Foundation raised funds to partner with the CW Trust in this transaction, contributing \$110,000 to cover the price of the 20-acre tract. The Trust also received an American Battlefield Protection Program grant of \$122,500 for half the cost of the other 40 acres. The total price for the 60 acres was \$367,500.

In September 2014, the National Park Service made an offer to purchase the 20 acres that is within the Wilson's Creek NB boundary expansion area from the Civil War Trust. That transaction is now underway and should be completed early in 2015, when the additional 40 acres will be donated to Wilson's Creek NB to also become part of the battlefield. With the preservation of this property and the protection of the battlefield's southeast boundary, one of the Foundation's important land preservation goals will be met. We are very pleased to have been able to partner with the Civil War Trust, a national Civil War battlefield preservation organization, to complete this project.

In the past twelve years, the Foundation has purchased or helped preserve over 300 acres of historic property surrounding Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. For more information or to support the Foundation's land preservation efforts, go to [www.wilsonscreek.com](http://www.wilsonscreek.com) or call the Foundation office, 417-864-3041. 📣

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## HELP WILSON'S CREEK WHEN YOU SHOP AT AMAZON.COM

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When you sign up for AmazonSmile and choose Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation as your charity, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the Wilson's Creek Foundation.

You can use your existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile if you have one, or create a new account. Millions of products are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on product detail pages.

To shop at AmazonSmile go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) on your computer or mobile device. On your first visit you will be prompted to select a charitable organization to receive donations. Once your choice is saved, every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation. There is no extra cost to you or to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation. Add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. 📣

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## EXPANDED RAY HOUSE JAMBOREE DRAWS CROWD

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This year the Foundation changed the schedule and format of our annual Ray House Jamboree. Old-time and Civil War period music still filled the air on June 7th, but the event was moved to later in the day. We added a barbeque dinner, an authentic Civil War camp with soldiers and horses, and period clothing and other displays. A major goal of the event was to engage families and



give young people an opportunity to experience Civil War period music, crafts, and history in the beautiful Ray House setting. All entertainment and tours were free and open to the public with admission to the battlefield.

The family-friendly evening drew a large crowd to enjoy the barbeque dinner provided by Easterly's Chuckwagon while they listened to old-time music under the tent. The young people were especially interested in touring the Ray House to hear about the family who lived there during the Battle of Wilson's Creek and

visiting the Civil War camp set up by reenactors with the 8th MO Infantry from St. Louis. The evening ended with a cannon firing on the hill



behind the house. It was wonderful to see so many young people and families enjoying the event, which raised over \$10,000 to support projects and activities at the battlefield. 📣



# WILSON'S CREEK EXPLORER QUEST SUMMER CAMP

With funding from the National Park Foundation's America's Best Idea grant, the Foundation was able to offer a new educational program during June 2014, the Wilson's Creek Explorer Summer Quest. Our goal was to encourage a new generation of caregivers who would be inspired to carry on the important mission of protecting and preserving the battlefield. By connecting young people with the history of the park, helping them discover their own family history, and creating a new appreciation for the National Park Service System, the Summer Quest experience encourages them to take ownership of the park here in their community and other parks around the United States.

We completed our two weeks of summer day camp at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield on Friday, June 27, and it was a wonderful experience for everyone involved. We had thirty 9- and 10-year-olds the first week and twenty 11- and 12-year-olds the second week. Campers came from the Republic Parks summer recreation program, and the counselors who helped with each group were excellent. Our curriculum provided many different activities, including a photo contest, journal writing, the NPS Junior Ranger program, drilling as Civil War infantry soldiers, period role-playing and games, nature hikes, a hands-on water quality activity, and several presentations by park rangers and staff. Most activities were outdoors, and we had perfect early summer weather almost every day.

The program coordinators for the Explorer Summer Quest, Mary Beth Breshears and Cheryl Loftin, are both volunteers at Wilson's Creek NB and former teachers, so

they are very knowledgeable about the park and familiar with children in these age groups. They added a lot to our program by contributing their own skills and getting other interesting, talented people involved.

The kids were enthusiastic about the camp, and we enjoyed working with them. Although some participants had visited the battlefield before, the activities we provided

were more in depth and varied than their previous experiences. At the end of the week, each child made a pledge to protect Wilson's Creek and other national parks. They took home Civil War style haversacks, a Union or Confederate kepi (cap), water bottles, their journals, Junior Ranger books and badges, and certificates of completion.

It is our hope that these young people will take ownership of Wilson's Creek NB, realize that this and other national parks belong to them, and understand the importance of becoming stewards who care for and protect this hallowed space and the other exceptional places that make up our National Park System. We feel that this camp had a real impact on the participants, and we couldn't have provided as many worthwhile, fun activities without the funding we received from the National Park Foundation's America's Best Idea grant. 🗨



Reenactor Larry Toll explains camp life of a Civil War soldier to the students.



Mark Shippley with Lawrence Photo shows campers a picture of Matthew Brady and discusses photography during the Civil War



# Superintendent's Corner

By Ted Hillmer

Dear Foundation Members,

I am one of few people who enjoy this time of year. The colder temperatures bring out the kid in me. Maybe it was the time spent in Michigan with my parents as we enjoyed ice fishing on Lake Huron. I hope this season is a time to be spent with family and creating memories. Come out and walk our trails and enjoy the great outdoors!

As 2014 comes to an end, I am greatly appreciative of the time and effort each of the Wilson's Creek Foundation members and board members have given. Together we can work to keep our eyes on the prize – protection of the battlefield and education programs for the greater Springfield area and out of state visitors.

As a Foundation member recently said to me, we have changed direction since the 150th Commemoration of the Battle of Wilson's Creek in 2011. We are working on different types of projects, and a greater time commitment is expected from the members of the Foundation Board and staff. We have supported the Wilson's Creek calendar, Arts in the Park, and the luminary event for

the past ten years. The change in direction will encourage people to visit the battlefield for the first time, to attend the Ray House Jubilee, the Spring Fling, and the Bloody Hill Run. The Foundation has also assisted with the installation of redesigned Battle of Springfield markers, relocation of the Civil War museum exhibits, and a summer education grant from NPS Foundation for the elementary students.

I am very pleased with all of you who have given your time, talents, and financial support to make the Foundation's projects successful. Each event or activity has promoted the park and provided educational components that teach the visitors about the importance of history at the best battlefield in the NPS.

Ted Hillmer,  
Superintendent

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## NEW MEMBERS & CONTRIBUTORS

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These generous people and organizations have recently joined or contributed to the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation. Please join us in thanking them for their support of historical preservation!

Kenneth Ackley	John and Carolyn Gerdes	Mary and Rick McQueary	Ken Rutherford
John C. Alexander	Donley and Patricia Granstra	Bill Melville	Cynthia Schowengerdt
Jack and Laurel Babcock	Ray and Betty Greenlee	Kerry Montgomery	Michael Schroepfel
Brent Barnett	Carol Grimes	Tim and Roberta Montgomery	Holmes and Elaine Semken
Bass Pro Inc.	Jack Hadsall	Robert Nichols	Tom Strong
Matt and Melanie Blunt	Joseph Hajek	Timothy and Mary	Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Telle
David Brigman	Fred and Fuki Hall	Noonan	Florence Thompson
David Callihan	Judd and Marcia Harris	Kathleen O'Dell	Thompson Communications
Robert Capps	Theodore Heidloff	Old Missouri Bank	Alan Thrower
Wesley Cooper	Brian Hickman	Ozarks Coca-Cola/Dr. Pepper	John Tolbirt
John Coryell	Karen Horny	Padgett Family Foundation	Dr. Michael Trapasso
Bill and Virginia Darr	James Houghton	Thomas and Colette Petr	Georgianna Tuuri
Stephanie Davenport	John Houlehan	Bill and Nancy Piston	USS Tidewater AD 31 Assoc.
Charlie and Micki Dischinger	Bill and Sue Kelly	Martha Railey	Timothy Vaught
Craig and Tricia Dunn	Mildred Lampe	David Rauch	Fred and Shelly Weber
Empire Bank	Kathryn Litherland	Jerry Redfean	Mark Whisler
James W. Erwin	Edward V. Loughran	Alice Richardson	Helen White
Hadley and Jacqueline Ford	Bill and Kathy Love	Don and Sally Richardson	Jackie Williams
Tom Fowler, III	Evelyn Mangan	James Ridenour	Mike and Carol Williamson
Major Martha Friedmeyer	Joe Martinez	Bill and Judy Robinett	
Randy Friga	Ken McClure	Steve Ross	
Don Garrett	Mark McQueary	Bill and Toni Roush	



Wilson's Creek  
National Battlefield  
Foundation

**P.O. Box 8163  
Springfield, MO 65801**

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Foundation on Facebook!

**Visit our website!  
[www.wilsonscreek.com](http://www.wilsonscreek.com)**

## **Upcoming Events: at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield**

### **January**

- 1 New Year's Day (Visitor Center, Tour Road and all other battlefield property closed).
- 19 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No Entrance Fee

### **February**

- 14-16 President's Day Weekend – No Entrance Fee

### **April**

- 18-19 National Park Weekend – No Entrance Fee

Note: All programs are weather dependent and subject to availability of volunteer assistance. For more information, call (417) 732-2662 or visit the National Park Service Web Site at [www.nps.gov/wicr](http://www.nps.gov/wicr)

We hope you can visit to the battlefield during the quiet winter season to explore the trails, travel the tour road, do a little family research in the Library or just enjoy the quiet of the park and its wildlife in the winter.