

This statue is a tribute to our CCC veterans... "Roosevelt's Tree Army" ...the builders of our modern conservation and outdoor recreation heritage. This monument...along with our planned interpretive exhibits...will tell the story of triumph over adversity during one of the darkest times in our nation's history...of the resiliency of nature and the human spirit – two forces that once brought together – helped to restore the nation and our natural resources.

While the CCC worker statue is our star attraction today, we are most humbly honored to share this moment with the real CCC workers.... And to remember those who are no longer with us .

Formed in 1984, Maryland Free State Chapter 113 never gave up on their stated purpose to raise funds and public support to bring this bronze statue to Maryland. When I became the new Superintendent in 2008, I soon learned... and was reminded frequently... that this project was one of my first orders of business!

I quickly realized that this was right...and that there was no time to waste.

Thankfully, we were fortunate to have the support of our friends from Potomac Edison, who enthusiastically embraced this opportunity to build a monument to the CCC. Potomac Edison President Jim Fakult and our good friend David Kline, head of their public relations are here today. Please accept our sincere gratitude for your Corporation's generous and timely gift, which closed the funding gap that made this statue possible. (Applause)

I would also like to thank and recognize our dedicated and talented Maryland Park Service staff and our colleagues in DNR Engineering & Construction who brought the CCC Worker Statue to Maryland, prepared this site for its unique and inspired display and developed the interpretive exhibits that will be installed on this site and in our CCC cabin. They put their hearts into this project and I think it shows.

And, while the statue is here, our work is not yet done.

We are deeply grateful to Landscape Architect Ross Lillard, who volunteered his talents to design the future plaza that will showcase the statue....we have Ross' plans staged here and an illustration from Sara Loran.

Also supporting the project and pledging to help us see the final design through to completion are our invaluable and loyal volunteers...the Friends of Cunningham Falls & Gambrill State Parks. With their support, we will complete the plaza and trail this spring in true CCC fashion, employing our own Maryland Conservation Corps and our in-house stone mason, Jesse Gipe.

This monument has been a tremendous and spirited effort by ALL, overcoming every manner of obstacle, to make this dream a reality.

I'll close with this reflection...

Not unlike the CCC, State Parks were a great experiment that came out of the Great Depression -- an affordable place for the common man to relax.

Over time, they have become important places, not only to connect with nature's beauty

But, State Parks are also places of important ideas...interpreted from our history...

Thank you all for sharing this landmark day with us ... to honor the Civilian Conservation Corps and the "men who served" some 70 years ago....and all that it has meant to our State Parks, State Forests and natural resources, and the people of Maryland and the nation...an incredible legacy that forever will inspire us.

It is a truly glorious day....not only because of the fine weather, company and scenery, but because our very own CCC Worker Statue, is finally here!

This CCC Worker Statue is the first in Maryland...and it is the first statue to ever be erected within a state park!

I think it is time that we unveil him, don't you?

(Unveil statue)

N. An. Steiner
11.5.11

the hardwork, ingenuity and resourcefulness of the CCCers and their leaders...

The context and events of the CCC...the vision of a great President...the selfless acts of courage, compassion and cooperation...that fostered and organized and cultivated this undertaking some 70 years ago, remain relevant and instructive to us now.

State Parks are places to remember...to celebrate...to interpret... and to learn from this incredible moment in our history...so that the CCC may inspire us to come together and to rise yet again to the challenges our state and our nation face today.

This monument and the collective partnerships and friendships that brought us here to Gambrill State Park are a tribute to the meaning of the CCC and the conservation work we must continue to aspire to do into the future...in their memory and in their honor.

Thank you.

It is now my distinct pleasure to introduce our Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Secretary John Griffin, who was an early supporter of the statue project and our efforts to preserve and celebrate the legacy of the CCC.