

## Anne Strand Receives 2018 George and Helen Hartzog Enduring Service Award

By Amanda Corman



On Wednesday, May 9, 2018, Anne Strand was awarded the 2018 Southeast Region Hartzog Enduring Service Award. Prior to Lockheed Elementary School's Civil War play, a small ceremony was held to present Anne with the great honor. As part of this presentation, Amanda Corman, Volunteer Coordinator, read the official letter from Southeast Regional Director Stan Austin as well as spoke briefly on the many undertakings that Anne accomplished during her ten years as a volunteer at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. Superintendent Nancy Walther spoke on how the park has appreciated Anne's hard work and dedication as well as her personal gratitude for all Anne has done over the years. Superintendent Walther then presented Anne with a beautiful engraved crystal bowl. Anne was deeply touched and spoke not only to the adults in the audience but also to the elementary children. Her encouragement, even though she has retired, continues to inspire remaining volunteers as well as the future generation of volunteers.

The Hartzog Enduring Service Award is awarded to an individual whose service has had a sustained, positive impact on the National Park Service. It is meant to recognize those who have chosen to make a difference in parks or offices through specific volunteer work that has resulted in exceptional and lasting improvements in helping to advance the mission of the park or office where he/she volunteers or has volunteered.

Anne Strand joined the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (KEMO) Volunteer-In-Park program in 2008 as a member of the Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club (KMTC). Anne quickly became an active member and within a year she had gone from 77 hours to 266 hours of volunteer service. At the end of FY2017, she had donated over 5,000 hours to the park. As part of the KMTC Board, she served as Secretary and for a number of years as Membership Director. As KMTC Secretary and Membership Director, she maintained records of over 500 Trail Club members and ambassadors. This does not include the countless number of one-day volunteers who have participated in monthly trail work days. In 2010, Anne and her husband, David, developed a new volunteer program called the Trail Ambassadors. In

2014, Anne worked closely with park staff and management to develop the 150<sup>th</sup> Battle of Kennesaw Mountain events. She was able to help manage many different programs which included fundraising, marketing, and event planning for the three-day event.

In her 10 years of volunteer service, Anne Strand has made great strides to reach members of the community regardless of their age. During the past decade, Anne has been a key contributor in the park receiving seven National Park Foundation Grants (two Active Trails, four Ticket to Ride, and an Every Kid in a Park) totaling \$61,900.00. As part of these grants, the park has been able to reach both elementary and high school students at Title I schools in Douglas, Paulding and Cobb Counties. Recently, Anne has helped the park reach a new audience within the senior citizen community. She has brought the history and trails of Kennesaw Mountain to various senior citizen community centers within Cobb County and developed partnerships with the Cobb County Senior Services program, Sterling Estates Senior Living Community, and with a local branch of the YMCA.

Congratulations Anne! Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park appreciates the hard work and dedication you have provided. Words are unable to express how we appreciate all that you have done in making Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park beautiful and sharing it with others around you.