

**SYLLABUS FOR HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION WORKSHOPS AT THE  
SOUTHEASTERN STATE PARKS PROGRAMMING SEMINAR  
AT CUMBERLAND GAP NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK  
NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 2, 2004**

**TRAILS, INC. [precursor to Appalachian Living History]**

**THEME OF WORKSHOPS:** 18<sup>th</sup> century historical interpretation in southeastern parks.

**LEADERS:** Doug Wood, Dianne Anestis, Mike Little, Sue Little, & Tiffany Little.

**OVERVIEW:** The 18<sup>th</sup> century (1700s) was a dynamic era in the southeastern region of the present-day United States of America. Three European powers vied for dominion over the region and by the end of the era, the fledgling North American republic known as the United States of America was carving away at the claims of the European monarchs. Aboriginal power centers also exerted great influence over various cultures that called the region home. Consequently, each of these cultures was altered significantly as military clashes and economic exchanges brought about a blending of cultures leading to the modern diversity that marks the southeastern region to this day. The roots of the local cultures and natural landforms in and near our parks today can still be traced to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The interpretation of these ancestral cultures and the environment in which they developed is an often overlooked tool that parks can use to generate appreciation of cultural diversity as well as pride in the nation that best exemplifies tolerance of multi-ethnicity and conservation of ecological diversity. These workshops will help park staff become equipped to interpret history in general and 18<sup>th</sup> century history in particular. Historical interpretation can provide important lessons in living with cultural diversity, and---in our parks---historical interpretation can teach the wisdom of conserving natural resources.

**TUESDAY AFTERNOON:** A two hour workshop will be held partly outdoors (weather permitting) to introduce participants to the natural world that sustained 18<sup>th</sup> century cultures as well as the natural world that was altered by 18<sup>th</sup> century peoples. Participants will learn how to use traditional interpretive hikes to enhance historical programs.

**WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON:** A dramatic vignette at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park will demonstrate the highly effective use of living history in sparking the imagination of park audiences and making history come alive for them.

**THURSDAY MORNING:** Resources for historical interpretation will be explored. Hands-on activities will enhance understanding of the value of using local resources to interpret local history. Access to regional historical resources will be explored as well. Sharing between the parks is encouraged in this two hour workshop. Participants will learn how to distinguish between historical fact, legend, and fallacy.