

NEWS

For immediate release

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New Nonprofit Champions Delaware Historic Site

Friends of Cooch's Bridge "all in" on preserving state's heritage

Montchanin, Delaware, August 10, 2021 — "When it comes to preserving Delaware's diverse heritage, we're all in," says Vince Watchorn, president of the new nonprofit Friends of Cooch's Bridge.

"The Friends has only been around for a year, but has already accomplished several years' worth of work to that end," Watchorn says.

The Cooch's Bridge Historic Site is owned and operated by the state through the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs (HCA), a Dover-based government agency.

The Friends of Cooch's Bridge acts as an advocacy group for the property.

Among the group's accomplishments in its first year, the Friends of Cooch's Bridge has provided private tours of the site to nearly 100 visitors and stakeholders; introduced its mission to state and federal legislators and policymakers outside of HCA; conducted audience research; developed a strategic plan and vision statement; and secured funds for a feasibility study of new trails throughout the property.

Promoting future public access to the historic property is a keynote of the nonprofit.

The group has also put in place online and offline fundraising capabilities; established a social media presence; launched a website; and developed partnerships with other, historic preservation and educational organizations.

"We take historic stewardship seriously," Watchorn says.

"Cooch's Bridge Historic Site is a precious gem that ought to be safeguarded and, more importantly, experienced by visitors from all over the country.

"The site embodies the story of our shared past—from the days of the indigenous Americans that lived here, to the European settlers who sailed here, to the enslaved Africans who were brought here. Cooch's Bridge is a multifaceted diamond.

"The Friends' job is to polish it for all to enjoy."

About the Friends of Cooch's Bridge

Montchanin, Delaware-based Friends of Cooch's Bridge is a non-profit advocacy group that aims to preserve the built and natural features of the Delaware-owned historic property known Cooch's Bridge Historic Site, and promote public access to them. The property, among other things, is the site of Delaware's only battle of the Revolutionary War. More information is available at <https://friendsofcoochsbridge.org>.

Note to editors: Photos available upon request. Contact Bob James.