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NOVELIST JOINS VOLUNTEERS FOR OLD CAHAWBA PARK DAY

WHAT: Park Day at Old Cahawba
WHEN: April 2, beginning at 9:00 AM.
WHERE: Old Cahawba Archaeological Park, 9518 Cahaba Road, Orrville

Almost exactly 150 years after the first shots of the Civil War were fired, another wave of volunteers is about to descend on America's storied battlegrounds – only this array of dedicated people will be armed with paint brushes, trash bags and weed whackers.

On **Saturday, April 2**, history buffs and preservationists from around the country will team up with the Civil War Trust to help clean and restore America's priceless battlefields, cemeteries and shrines. The nationwide effort – dubbed Park Day – is underwritten with a grant from History™, formerly The History Channel, and has been endorsed by Take Pride in America, a division of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Park Day Volunteers will clean brush and debris from Cahawba, Alabama's first capital and the site of a Civil War prison. And if you participate in the clean up, you'll feel very close to this special place. Volunteers should bring their own gloves, boots or shoes, yard tools, and lunch.

At Cahawba, one volunteer, novelist David Rothstein, is flying in from Oregon to reward volunteers with a fascinating sneak peek into his new novel, *Casualties*. The novel was inspired by and largely set in Cahawba. This will be a unique opportunity to bring Cahawba to life as it was in the Civil War through a discussion and readings from the novel and tours by park staff.

As Rothstein writes in his novel, "If you go to Cahawba today and sit quietly under the cedars and live oak trees, you will feel the spirits of the people who lived and suffered and died there. If you stand in the center of the space that was the prison warehouse, you can trace the outlines of the place in the remains of the brick foundation where the prisoners were once kept, and they will speak to you. It feels as if Cahawba is still holding its breath."

The novel is for sale at the Park Visitor Center store. Rothstein will be signing copies at Park Day and store profits benefit Old Cahawba. For more information on *Casualties* go to: www.amazon.com/Casualties-Novel-Civil-War-1/dp/1453877029

With 55,000 members, the Civil War Trust is the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization in the United States. Its goal is to preserve our nation's endangered Civil War sites and to promote appreciation of these hallowed grounds through education and heritage tourism. The Trust's website is www.civilwar.org.

*To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the **Alabama Historical Commission**, the **State Historic Preservation Office**.*