



***Central Virginia Battlefields Trust
2020 Annual Conference
April 24-26, 2020***

“First Days – A Focused Look at the First Day of Combat on the Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House battlefields.”

*“We’ve done the entire battlefield many times and spent the day looking at the big picture, now we take a look at the ever important **“First Day”** of each conflict”*

**What is the importance of the first day of battle?
How the prepared battle plan held up--or did it?
What factors effected the opening of operations?**

New Half Day Tour Format! - Less Walking!

Headquarters: Fredericksburg Hospitality House Hotel and Conference Center, 2801 Plank Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22401, Hotel Phone: (540) 786-8321- Toll Free: (800) 682-1049
www.fredericksburghospitalityhouse.com Room Rate \$95 per night to include breakfast buffet.
Room Block Link: [CVBT-2020-Conference-Room-Reservations](#)

Bus Tour Information

Tour Lunches will be on your own and open for you to choose from the various venues surrounding our base camp at the hotel, many of which are in short walking distance and others a 2 minute drive. An extended lunch time of 90 minutes will be provided between half-day tours. We are arranging discounts for CVBT tour guests at several of these restaurants. Snacks and water will always be available on each tour bus as usual.



**Friday morning tour of Fredericksburg First Day battle with Kris White.
8:00am -12:00pm**

Join historian and author Kris White as he leads us on a tour of the First Day of battle on the Fredericksburg battlefield. Stops will include Chatham Manor, Fredericksburg City dock, and Caroline street areas as we will follow the path of the Union Army across the Rappahannock and through the downtown area. Kris will make the story of the street fighting come alive.

Kris is the Education Manager at the American Battlefield Trust, co-founder of the Emerging Civil War, author of several books and articles. He spent five years as a staff military historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.



**Friday afternoon tour of Chancellorsville First Day battle with Frank O'Reilly
1:30pm – 5:00pm**

Frank O'Reilly will lead this tour of the First Day at Chancellorsville. This tour will include stops at the first day battlefield site on Plank Road and the Lee-Jackson Bivouac Site, one of the last times General Lee and "Stonewall" Jackson would meet.

Frank serves as a historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, is the author of "Stonewall Jackson at Fredericksburg", "The Fredericksburg Campaign: Winter War the Rappahannock", as well as numerous other articles on the Civil War and appearances in C-SPAN.



**Saturday Morning Tour First Day at Wilderness battlefield with Greg Mertz
8:00am - 12:00pm**

Greg Mertz leads this tour of the action of May 5th on The Wilderness Battlefield. Greg will emphasize how decisions made on the first day of the battle affected the choices available to the respective sides. Stops will

include Saunders Field, Higginson Farm, Chewning Farm, Widow Tapp Farm and the Brock Road/Plank Road intersection.

Greg is the Supervisory Historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, and the author of Attack at Daylight and Whip Them: The Battle of Shiloh as well as numerous other articles on the Civil War, including a two-part series on the Wilderness for Blue & Gray Magazine. Greg began his National Park Service career at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site in 1980.



**Saturday afternoon Tour of First Day at Spotsylvania Court House battlefield with Chris Mackowski
1:30pm – 5:00pm**

Author and CVBT Board member Chris Mackowski will lead this tour of the First Day's action of the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House. Stops include Todd's Tavern and the Spotsylvania Exhibit Shelter.

Chris is the editor-in-chief of Emerging Civil War and has written extensively about the battle of Spotsylvania Court House. He is a professor of journalism and mass communication at St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, NY, and historian-in-residence at Stevenson Ridge.

Friday Evening Presidents Reception

Friday Evening:

5:00pm – 8:00pm

Join CVBT President Tom Van Winkle, CVBT's Board of Directors, and your fellow preservation Partners for an enjoyable evening including complimentary beer, wine and appetizers. A special suite will be reserved at the hotel. This is a modest sized room, so take advantage of our extended time this year. (Truth be told, we won't kick you out at 8:00, we simply have too much fun!)

Saturday Evening Reception, Dinner, Meeting & Program

(Fredericksburg Ballroom, Main Entrance, Third Floor)



Reception: 6:00pm - 6:45pm (cash bar)

Dinner: 6:45 – 7:30

Meeting: 7:30 – 8:00

Program: 8:15 -9:30

Mingle with your fellow CVBT Partners, historians, and our Board of Directors during our reception time, then enjoy a delicious dinner. After a short business meeting, we will again offer a fascinating program. This year, well known author and historian, Chris Kolakowski, will be our keynote speaker.



We all know about the Monitor and the Merrimac, and of the roll that naval forces played in Grant's campaigns in The West, but how did it impact the rest of the Civil War? Author and historian Chris Kolakowski will tell us all about the history that the Navy played in the war with his presentation:

"Blue & Gray on the Blue & Brown Water: Naval Perspectives on the Civil War".

Chris is the Director of the Douglas McArthur Memorial in Norfolk, VA. as well as Chief Historian of Emerging Civil War. He has written and spoken extensively on various aspects of military history and leadership from 1775 to the present.



Sunday Breakfast and Program at Historic Stevenson Ridge

9:00am – 12:00pm

The last day of our conference wraps up our "First Days." We've toured the battlefields; we've heard the stories; we've explored the history. Let's tie it all up. Join historian Chris Mackowski for a final (and fun) wrap-up over a delicious breakfast! This will be an interactive discussion, so audience participation is encouraged!