



FOMR NEWSLETTER

Spring, 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 6 (Wednesday) 6-9 pm: Chattahoochee Pot Luck and Story Night, at the Council Bluff Pavilion, McIntosh Reserve. Bring a covered dish and a river story to tell. Or come to listen. Drinking water, sweet tea and paper products provided. We'll eat by the river and tell our stories and then look ahead to the larger day-long event proposed for April 2013. The purpose of the April River Day will be to deepen our awareness of the personal, historical, cultural and environmental relevance of the Chattahoochee for all who live along its shores - through our stories, and the recording of them, for those to come.

June 23 (Fourth Saturday) 9 am: Scot Keith, archeologist with New South Associates, will discuss his research on the prehistoric peoples of the Southeast, particularly focusing on the nature of interactions and religion within the Swift Creek culture during the Middle Woodland period. Meet at the pavilion by the old ranger station.

July 14 (Second Saturday), 9 am: Dale Arrowood's raptor show will come to McIntosh. Meet on the big field by the river.

August 11 (Second Saturday) 9 am: Dr. David Morgan will lead a warm season grasses and sedges tour.

September 15 (Third Saturday): Rivers Alive. Arrive about 9 for sign up. This event is organized by Georgia Power and the Park, but we will need FOMR volunteers to help out as group leaders. Participants receive lunch and free tee-shirts. Please contact Dita Pickering or Randall Herrin if you can help with this.

September 29-30: Fall Festival: We will need folks to help plan displays and host our booth at the Fall Festival in two hour intervals on each of the two days. If you can help out, please contact Dita or Randall.

PAST EVENTS

January: Brent Womack, DNR Wildlife Biologist, led a Walk and Talk at Moore's Bridge Park on small game management. Rain prevented the hike part of the day, but we enjoyed listening to Brent's presentation under a very leaky shelter. We ran for our cars upon hearing the tornado warnings blaring forth from Whitesburg.

February: We again met at the Moore's Bridge Park for an update on the development of that park by Trudy Crunkleton, pictured here on the porch of the Moore House. Trudy is



Director of Parks for Carroll County. Among other items, Trudy noted that some work has been done for the trails on the Black Dirt side of the park. Eventually there may be a paved trail along the river, connecting to other river trails outside the park. This multi-county River Trail is a DOT project and is planned for an unspecified time in the future. In the interior of the park there will be many miles of trails for

use by both equestrians and hikers. Eventually, there will be camping available, as well. Doug Mabry also shared his progress in accumulating historical documents for Moore's Bridge Park.

March: Drew Olsen, 2011 winner of the Legends Division of the 2011 Supreme Extreme Mustang presented a program at McIntosh on the trainer's perspective on preparing a young or "green" horse for trail riding on trails shared with hikers and cyclists. His insight into equine behavior was a benefit to all who encounter horses on mixed-use trails, especially hikers, cyclists, and parents with small children.

April: The Spring Wildflower hike with Wendell and Eleanor Hoomes again featured two hikes - the fast walkers with Eleanor, and the slow walkers with Wendell. Even though the hike was slightly earlier in the month than usual, many flowering plants were already past their prime. It seems that spring comes earlier these days.

April: John Congleton, Cathe McKinnon, and Wendell Hoomes represented FOMR at the grand opening of the Little Tallapoosa Park

April: Dita Pickering, Randall Herrin and James Dickinson helped “guard the eggs” at the annual Easter Egg Hunt at McIntosh. Dita contributed this shot of the hordes at work.



May: Song Bird Walk and Talk with Dr. Barbara Ballentine (UWG) and Dr. Jeremy Hyman (Western Carolina University.) We had clear views of a Bald Eagle sunning in the trees on the other side of the river, and a Yellow Crowned Night Heron and a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers in the wetlands. We caught glimpses of but mostly heard the Summer Tanager, the Parula Warbler, the Red-bellied Woodpecker, the Yellow Billed Cuckoo, the Indigo Bunting, the Northern Rough-winged Swallow, the Eastern Meadowlark, as well as the other more familiar residents we see at our feeders (Northern Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Chickadee, Rufous-sided Towhee.) We observed the reactions of birds to the alarm calls produced by a Carolina Wren that were recorded and stored on an MP3 player and projected from a small speaker by Dr. Hyman. Many species of songbirds will respond to alarm calls produced by other species by inspecting the area and producing their own alarm calls. Alarm calling behavior informs a potential predator that they have been spotted, removing the element of surprise and reducing the likelihood of a successful hunt!



Teresa and Lowell Gilson and Barbara Ballentine study a Bald Eagle sunning himself in the trees across the river.

PRESIDENT’S NOTE

Every year when you submit your membership dues to the Friends of McIntosh Reserve, a short questionnaire included with the paperwork asks if you have an interest in becoming involved at a deeper level with our group. If you indicated a specific interest on this questionnaire when you first joined FOMR or the last time you renewed your membership, we may be contacting you in the near future to help with some of our projects and activities. We hope that you will have the time and interest to help out with some of our ongoing work. We are always looking for volunteers and interested members of the community to help with FOMR-sponsored projects, both in and outside of the Park. If you would like to lend a hand with a project that has particular appeal to you, or if you have an idea to initiate a new project, please feel free to contact me or another board member or officer of FOMR. I am personally interested in seeing that you have the opportunity to assist where you feel you can make the greatest difference. So please, don't be shy, and give one of us a call.

PROJECTS UPDATE

Trail Blazing: We have permission to mark one of the back trails as a pilot project. Cost should be minimal.

Map Kiosk: A kiosk, to be placed in the horse trailer day parking area, is in the planning stages, with construction to take place in the fall. The Kiosk will contain a map, as well as other general information about the park and upcoming events of interest. The cost is estimated at between \$300 and \$500.

Reprinting of brochures: Most of our brochures are gone. We now need additional funds to reprint.

Mapping of the Bowen Family Cemetery: John and Jacki Congleton are in the process of mapping the Bowen Family Cemetery, concentrating on detecting and marking the stone configurations beyond the easily observed familiar tombs.



John Congleton sights a cemetery boundary.

Projects continued:

If you would like to financially support one of these projects or any combination, we would greatly appreciate your help. Also, we always need volunteers to actually do the labor for the projects, lead groups for the Rivers Alive event, man our booth for the Fall Festival or help write grant proposals. Jerry is always receptive to new ideas for Walk and Talk speakers. Contact information is given below.

PARK UPDATE

Park hours for the summer: 8 am to 8 pm for day use. Office hours: 8 to 5 except for Friday, when the office is usually open until 7 pm.

Park Director, Daryl Johnson, reports that current projects include the installation of a boat ramp and the reconfiguration of the river trail beyond the camp sites on the river, as approved by FEMA .

Current employees of the Park include Daryl Johnson, Steve Chadwick, Greg Pate, Heather Jenkins, Jennifer Chambers and Gena Griffin during weekdays, and Elizabeth Roberts and Terry Dobson on the weekends.

Contact Information for Board Members and Officers

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Become a Friend

Renewals to FOMR are collected in the fall, for budgeting the following year. However, if you are not currently listed as a Friend, we invite you to contribute now at a level that is convenient for you. Contributions help us pay postage and carry out projects agreed upon by the board. Memorial donations are gratefully accepted and acknowledged.

Mail your contribution payable to **Friends of McIntosh Reserve, Inc.** PO Box 483. Whitesburg, GA 30185. Please include your name (s), mailing address, telephone numbers and email address.