


Friends of McIntosh Reserve, Inc.



F O M R N e w s l e t t e r

Fall 2014 - Volume 13, # 2

www.FriendsOfMcIntoshReserve.org

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Upcoming Events

October 18, 2014, 9:30 am - Kiosk Dedication

Prior to the October Walk and Talk, we will meet for a brief dedication of the kiosk erected in memory of Hugh Mitchell, FOMR President 2009 and 2010. The Kiosk is located in the Horse Day Parking area, just up from the McIntosh cabin.

October 18, 2014, 10:30 am to noon - McIntosh Reserve Park

Renee Morrison, storyteller and snake expert from Jacksonville State University, will lead a Walk and Talk she calls "Hiss and Slither". This program will especially appeal to the younger set, though all ages will enjoy her presentation of live creatures. There will be ghost stories and a guided hike seeded with replicas of things that "hiss and slither". Park at the Old Ranger Station. Meet at the Amphitheater.

November 10, 2014 (Monday), 6:30 pm - FOMR Annual Meeting

This year our Annual Meeting will be a potluck dinner held at Tanner Park Group Shelter #1, which is an enclosed shelter that can accommodate us for both a dinner and a meeting. Dr. Ben DeMayo will be our featured speaker. His topic is "Native American Archaeoastronomy". If you like, bring your binoculars for use after the presentation.

For the meal, FOMR will provide plates and bowls, plastic flatware, napkins, cups, tea (sweet and unsweet) and ice. We will be relying upon members to bring covered dishes with serving utensils: a meat or vegetable dish, a salad, a dessert or additional drink (no alcohol allowed). We will eat soon after every one arrives at 6:30, with the meeting and talk to follow the meal.

If you have not been to Tanner recently, you may want to arrive earlier to have a look around the park. Members attending this evening event will not be required to pay to enter the park. We will provide the gate with a list of attendees to be admitted, so please RSVP as soon as possible and no later than Nov. 8. Respond to Cathe McKinnon: coyotekatega@att.net or 770-214-1507. Also, when you respond, it would be helpful for you to indicate what type of covered dish you intend to bring.

There is no cost for the dinner this year. However, this would be a great time to make a contribution for 2015. Projects based on funds accumulated by the first of the year can then be used effectively for budgeting for the coming year. A contribution form is available on our website, or see below.

November 15, 2014, 10:00 am - McIntosh Reserve Park

Sally Bethea, speaking for Chattahoochee River Keeper, will provide an update on the state of the river. Meet at the Amphitheater.

December 6, 2014, 10:00 am - Christmas Fern and Holly Hike

Join Wendell and Eleanor Hoopes for our annual hike to view the spectacular displays of winter plants along the back trails of the park. Meet at the Old Ranger Station.

President's Report

I hope that you have had many opportunities to visit McIntosh Reserve during 2014. Our kiosk is in place – now with the trail map created by our own John Congleton. Helen Helwig and Marcella Kuykendall added decorative tiles that definitely enhance the appearance of the kiosk and set it apart as a special structure within the park.

We are planning to have a gathering of friends of Hugh Mitchell at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 18, to acknowledge our dedication of the kiosk in his memory. This gathering will be followed by our October “Walk and Talk” at the amphitheater near the old ranger station at 10:30 am

I also hope that you have spent some time on the Friends of McIntosh Reserve website designed by our own Stella Spyrou. It is a much enhanced website that features a photo section that should not be missed. Click on “Photo” and wait for the pictures to download. Each section features its own slideshow... so take some time to enjoy the view.

I have overseen four trail workdays April through June – with assistance from Tom Anderson, Margery Bouris, Mitchell Clifton, Ross Miller, and Dita Pickering. We distributed a request for volunteers to assist with trail workdays on the first Saturday and the third Monday in September, October, and November. I asked anyone who could participate to email me or call me in advance of each scheduled workday so I would know what to plan. Trail workdays in October and November will depend upon emails to me (coyotekatega@att.net) indicating participation.

This fall, we have had a number of opportunities to reach out to the youth in our community, to tell them about the park, and about the activities sponsored by FOMR. I was able to participate in a Girl Scout event at their headquarters in Mableton, Georgia, where I obtained more than a page of contact data for leaders interested in receiving information about our Walk and Talk programs. I have also met with a group of Scout leaders in Carroll County to explore ways for them to become more involved in our programs before the end of the year. I hope to have input from them in planning some of our Walk and Talks in 2015. I also

participated in an event at UWG sharing opportunities for volunteer work with students. I'm hopeful that we can get some student involvement in our trail workdays and other events in 2014-2015.

While I met with the Girl Scouts, Wendell Hoopes spoke to a large group of Boy Scouts camping out at the Reserve. He told them the history of the Reserve and of Chief McIntosh and introduced them to the concept of nonprofit organizations like FOMR, Inc.

In closing, please help us make this year's annual meeting a special event. You will be receiving an email from Margery Bouris with detailed information regarding this event. I'm looking forward to this time of fellowship. Sincerely, Cathe McKinnon.

Past Events

June, 2014: Moore's Bridge Park

Doug Mabry gave an informative presentation about the "skirmish" at Moore's Bridge that took place at this location on July 13, 1864 prior to Sherman's March on Atlanta. Moore's Bridge was the only site of war activity in Carroll County. When the Union forces realized they could not hold the bridge, they burned it. A report of the skirmish and more about Horace King, the builder of the destroyed bridge, can be accessed on our website.

July, 2014 - McIntosh Reserve Park



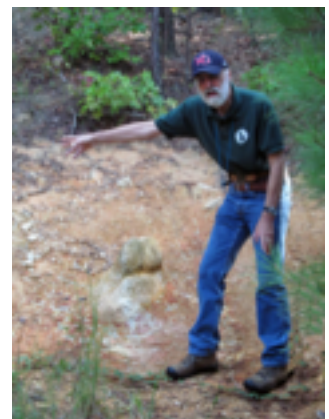
Stanley and Lora Tate led a birding hike during what they called "The Dog Day Doldrums". In spite of the warmness of the season, we heard the songs of the White-eyed Vireo, Indigo Bunting, Carolina Wren, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Goldfinch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Great-crested Flycatcher. As we walked the river bank from the Overlook to the bridge we were able to get the White-eyed Vireo to respond to our recorded calls though he never left the thickets. There was an abundance of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, several Goldfinches, and male and female Indigo Buntings.

Northern Rough-winged Swallows were flying over the river and a Belted Kingfisher flew past us going up river. We sighted an adult Bald Eagle making a low pass over the river followed shortly thereafter by a juvenile Bald Eagle quartering across the river.

Probably the most AH-Ha sighting was the mother bunting feeding her baby. (In the picture, Stanley and Dick Brunnell pause to make an identification.)

August, 2014 - McIntosh Reserve Park

Dr. Tim Chowns, Geologist with UWG, led a Walk and Talk on "Weathering as Illustrated at McIntosh Reserve Park". Dr. Chowns provided an overview of the major types of rocks and the primary causes of weathering. He then led participants on a hike to find examples along the paths of the park. A more detailed report, with an impressive amount of geological information is available on the FOMR website.



September, 2014 - McIntosh Reserve Park



A number of FOMR members participated in this year's Rivers Alive clean-up event. This year we helped out with registration and tee-shirt distribution. As we were not required to serve as guides, some of us worked to clean up the McGarity trail. Keith Jabat took his kayak out to gather trash directly from the river. Some 261 participants collected at least 1150 pounds of trash. Plastic soda bottles won the "most frequently found" prize. The most unusual item was an odd "whip" made of sticks braided with horsehair.

Also in September - McIntosh Reserve Park

We manned our FOMR booth at the Fall Festival. The weather was pleasant and we enjoyed visiting with the many park visitors as they came by to chat. People were especially interested this year in the map prepared by Randall Herrin showing the old ferry crossings along the river.



Project Updates

Brochures

Almost all of the information brochures designed and printed by FOMR have been distributed to the public over the past several years. As the number of parks increases, the goal now is to streamline the printed information dispensed at each park, so that printing costs can be controlled. We are exploring ways in which FOMR might be helpful in contributing to this effort.

Kiosk

The Hugh Mitchell Kiosk is now functional. Located in the Day Parking area for horseback riders, it is easily viewed by visitors as they pass along the road toward the McIntosh cabin. The kiosk design was selected by Tom Anderson and Cathe McKinnon and was built by park personnel. The decorative tiles were created and installed by Helen Helwig and Marcella Kuykendall. It was funded by contributions made to FOMR in Hugh's memory. The kiosk will be kept up to date with information about Walk and Talks and other park activities. The large trail map currently displayed is the one made and contributed by the Congletons. One visitor to the park reported taking a picture with his smart phone of the map in the kiosk for use during their hike. (This map may be printed from our website and copies are often available at the park entrance as well.) As noted above, the kiosk will be officially dedicated prior to the October Walk and Talk.

Notecards and postcards

Stella Spyrou headed up our note card and postcard project. FOMR now offers two packages of eight notecards (four designs each), featuring scenes from McIntosh Park. These may be purchased at various FOMR events and will be available at the annual meeting for \$10.00 per set. We also have postcards for \$1.00 each.

Hiking with clippers

Trail workdays have been scheduled for 9 am on the first Saturday and the third Monday, September through November. If you can work, please contact Cathe McKinnon (coyotekatega@att.net or **770-214-1507**). If no one contacts her for a particular day, that work day will be cancelled.

Please plan to wear comfortable clothing and good walking shoes, use sunscreen and bug spray, and bring gloves, clippers, loppers, etc. You may also wish to bring water so you can stay hydrated. We will meet by the Hugh Mitchell kiosk in the Horse Day Parking area near the McIntosh cabin.

Chattahoochee Story Project

The Chattahoochee Story Project will meet again in the spring. Anyone interested in transcribing the October 2013 campfire stories, please get in touch with Sybil Thomas at 770-834-9615.

News from the Park

Daryl Johnson reports that after the Fall Festival, the park moves into maintenance mode to prepare for the fall and winter weather. Camping demands pick up as scout troops and families take advantage of the cooler weather. Bikers, hikers, riders and kayakers also find their way to the park in greater numbers. Many photographers – both professional and amateur - roam the trails to catch the changing season and use the beauty of the park as the backdrop for wedding or special occasion portraits.

The park also features a much improved “Spray and Splash” that was enjoyed by many before its closure after Labor Day. It no longer draws water from the pond but is on a closed water system.

Two full-time staffers and five part-timers take on the job of getting ready for winter while caring for the many visitors to the park.

As the number of parks in the county has increased, some of the activities historically taken on at McIntosh are now shared with other locations. The Easter Egg Hunt and the Fall Festival continue to be held at McIntosh. Christmas lights with Santa Claus and Halloween activities take place at Tanner Park. Little Tallapoosa hosts the Old Country Fair in the spring.

Become a Friend

New friends are welcome at any time. You may become a friend just by declaring yourself to be so. Everyone is invited to attend FOMR board meetings on the second Monday of odd numbered months at 5:30 at the Neva Lomason library in Carrollton. Ideas for walk and talks, comments, suggestions etc. are always welcome.

Of course, we do invite monetary contributions and memorial donations, as this helps us carry out projects the board recommends. Contributions may be made to FOMR, Inc, or (tax deductible) to the Community Foundation of West GA, with a notation on the check that it is for FOMR, Inc. Please include your name(s), mailing address, telephone numbers and email address, and mail to:

FOMR, Inc
PO Box 463
Whitesburg, GA 30185

You may choose to complete and mail the form which is located on the website.
<http://www.friendsofmcintoshreserve.org/Contributions.html>

Contact Information

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FOMR website: www.FriendsOfMcIntoshReserve.org