

Friends of McIntosh Reserve, Inc.



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

Spring 2014 - Volume 13, # 1

www.FriendsOfMcIntoshReserve.org

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Upcoming Events

June 7, 2014 - 9:00 am

Trail workday at McIntosh Reserve Park in recognition of National Trail Day. Meet near the new kiosk in the day parking area. As we walk, we will be assessing trail, reporting downed trees that require chainsaw use, clearing fallen debris, trimming vines and low branches, etc. Please wear comfortable clothing and good walking shoes, use sunscreen and bug spray, and bring gloves, clippers, loppers, etc. And water to drink. If you are planning to attend, please let Cathe McKinnon know by Friday, June 6, so that she can more accurately plan which trail to cover and so you can be contacted should plans change: coyotekatega@att.net or 770-214-1507.

June 21, 2014 - 9:00 am

Moore's Bridge Park: Doug Mabry will give a Walk and Talk about the Civil War Battle at Moore's Bridge. Enter through the Highway 16 side and meet at the Moore house. (This is in recognition of the approaching 150th anniversary of that event.)

July 19, 9:00 am

McIntosh Reserve Park: Stanley Tate will lead a Walk and Talk on "the Birds of McIntosh".

August 16, 2014 - 9:00 am

McIntosh Reserve Park: Dr. Tim Chowns, Geologist with UWG, will lead a Walk and Talk on "Weathering as illustrated at McIntosh Reserve Park".

September 13, 2014

Rivers Alive

September 27-28, 2014

Fall Festival

October 18, 2014 - 9:00 am

McIntosh Reserve: Renee Morrison will lead a Walk and Talk she calls "Hiss and Slither," which will inform us about snakes and lizards, etc.

November 10, 2014 - 6:30 pm

Tanner Park: Annual dinner and meeting. See the President's report for more details.

President's Report

I am please to be able to tell you that our long awaited kiosk is now in place. Helen Helwig is working on decorative tiles that will enhance the kiosk's visual appeal and we are hoping to have a large map of the park available to be displayed in the near future.

Our events committee is making plans now for three upcoming events that will need support from our membership: Dedication of Kiosk: TBA; Rivers Alive - September 13; Fall Festival - September 27-28

This year our Annual Meeting will be a potluck dinner held at Tanner Park Group Shelter #1, which is an enclosed shelter with a fireplace that can accommodate us for both a dinner and a meeting.

Please put this date on your calendars: Monday, November 10, 2014. We have made this change in an effort to avoid scheduling our meeting on the Monday before Thanksgiving. We hope this change will make it possible for more of you to attend.

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 respond to our invitation to this event when the time comes to do so.

I also want to remind you that we do not collect dues per se. It costs nothing to be a member of Friends of McIntosh Reserve. We only ask that you support us with your time, your energy, and, if you so desire, a tax deductible contribution to Friends of McIntosh Reserve that will allow us to continue funding speakers for Walk and Talk programs and special projects designed to enhance everyone's appreciation of all the park has to offer. We ask that you complete a form advising us of your intent to be associated with FOMR, as we do maintain separate contact lists for those with more than a passing interest.

Please contact me if you have questions or concerns that your Board of Directors needs to address.

Cathe McKinnon, President

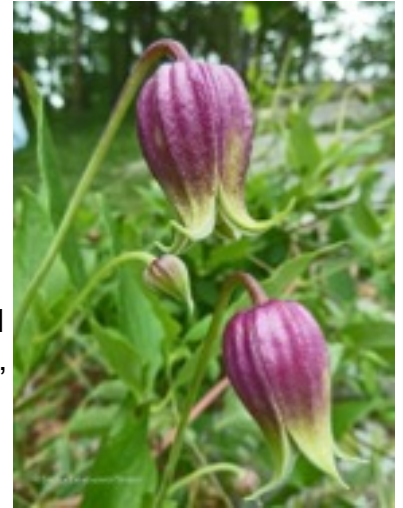
coyotekatega@att.net

770-214-1507

Past Events

May 2014

In May, Dr. David Morgan led a Walk and Talk at McIntosh Reserve Park focused on grasses and invasive plants. He pointed out a number of the 86 grasses surveyed within the park and a few of the 11 most worrisome invasive plants to be found there. Dr. Morgan also answered questions about other plants of interest we encountered along the way. Thanks to Stella Spyrou for this picture of a native Clematis growing below Council Bluff.



Dr. Morgan's preliminary survey report and plant list compiled in 2011 and 2012 can be viewed on our website (in the *Park Information* tab), as well as a more comprehensive report and pictures of the May Walk and Talk.

April 2014

The annual Wild Flower Walk and Talk was again led by Wendell Hoomes. Randall Herrin provided a moving report on the hike. It can be read in its entirety on our website (FriendsOfMcIntoshReserve.org). Stella Spyrou took some great pictures on this hike which can be viewed for the next month or so at this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nrl9ww0a1dabm3r/AABAWeml1iYPZwD0FepasG3ha>

Our friend Emily Cumming was saluted in Randall's write-up, which several of us sent to Emily. Randall received a reply from Emily. He wrote that she was "tickled to be remembered warmly, and misses Carrollton and her "McIntosh Friends very, very much. She mentioned that I didn't list the trilliums, bloodroot and the yellow trout lily. (Sorry Wendell!!) She reports that she and Joe still visit their mountain place to see the stars and enjoy family and nature as respite from "un-natural apartment living with all these OLD people" in Atlanta. Plenty of life and spunk left in Emily, huh? May we all fare as well. Randall".



March 2014

Richard Littleton, certified beekeeper, presented a lively and informative program on bees and bee keeping. He showed us the equipment he uses as well as a demonstration hive with live bees. The Carroll County Ag Center can provide information about beekeeping and access to Richard for advice about bees (770-836-8546).



February 2014

Dr. Ben Steere, Department of Anthropology at UWG, presented a Walk and Talk about the “deep history” of the McIntosh area, referencing 13,000 years of human settlement in America and in our region in particular. He reviewed the way the land within the park would have been used by the early immigrants from Asia and the Native Americans and illustrated the various pre-historical periods with the kinds of archeological data – spear points, arrowheads, pottery - that might be found in the park. After the talk, the group visited the field by the river, which would have been home to many generations of Native American families. Dr. Steere discussed the kinds of homes that would have been built and the kinds of agriculture, hunting practices and seasonal resources that would have been utilized. The last stop was a visit to an early 20th century home site, with old bricks and daffodils to mark the spot.



January 2014

Trudy Crunkleton, Park Manager for Carroll County, led a hike to explore the new trails recently developed within the north part of Moore's Bridge Park.



Also, in January, FOMR, The League of Women Voter's of Carrollton/Carroll County and the Department of Sociology at UWG co-sponsored a showing of the documentary film, "**Chattahoochee - From Water War to Water Vision**". The film, originally produced for Georgia Public Broadcasting, describes the bitter, 20-year old struggle between Alabama, Florida and Georgia over the waters of the Chattahoochee. Following the film, Dr. Jerry Stober updated viewers on developments in the tri-state controversy since the film was released.

December 2013

Wendell and Eleanor with Rosie, their new white German Shepard, again led the Christmas fern and Holly hike. It was a pleasure to visit old friends in the forest and to see their bright holiday colors.



November 2013

The annual dinner was held at Historic Banning Mills. In the picture, Dita Pickering presents Dr. Robert Claxton with a plaque recognizing his many years of service on the FOMR board. (Bob also served as president of FOMR from 2005 – 2006). Our speaker for the evening, Sally Bethea, executive director of the Chattahoochee RiverKeepers, gave an update on the state of the Chattahoochee River and discussed the newly funded project for sampling water quality in Snake Creek and at the Highway 16 bridge in Whitesburg. A number of our county commissioners and personnel attended the meeting. Sally's talk was co-sponsored by the Carroll County League of Women Voters, who list water quality as an area of concern.



News from the Park

To the delight of area kids, the redesigned spray and splash opened Memorial Day weekend. Daryl Johnson reports that business is brisk at the park, as many turn out to enjoy the spring weather. He noted that the Easter egg hunt was well attended. (We thank Dita Pickering and James Dickinson for representing FOMR at that event.)



There is a new face to greet guests on the weekends at the park. Jackie Benefield has fallen in love with McIntosh and lets her enthusiasm show. Born in Bowden, Jackie now lives just over the Georgia border in Alabama. She wants to be able to inform guests about the many attractions of the park, including the monthly FOMR walk and talks. She likes it when there is a supply of brochures and maps to hand out to inquisitive guests.

Jackie is amazed at the number of weddings that are held at McIntosh and has begun collecting pictures of these events. She would like to make a scrapbook to show engaged couples who are thinking of having their celebration there. She would also like to see more signage about the county and state to let folks know about this paradise.

Become a Friend

New friends are welcome at any time. As indicated in the President's report, you may become a friend just by declaring yourself to be so. As we do keep a contact list composed of more dedicated Friends, we hope that you will let us know more about you. Of course, we do invite monetary contributions and memorial donations, as this helps us carry out projects the board recommends. Contributions may be made payable to FOMR, Inc or 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

President: Catherine McKinnon	covotekateqa@att.net	770-214-1507
Past President: John Congleton	icongleton@westga.edu	770-362-3559
Vice President: Doug Mabry	d.c.mabry@bellsouth.net	770-258-9161
Recording Secretary: Dita Pickering	d19d26@att.net	770-834-4091
Treasurer: Rhonda Rowell	rowell98@yahoo.com	770-834-5739
Corr. Secretary: Margery Bouris	digi@mindspring.com	770-834-8679
Membership Registrar: Carol Mitchell	marycarolcox@aol.com	770-832-6694
Board Member: Tim Chowns	tchowns@westga.edu	770-834-7069
Board Member: John Congleton	icongleton@westga.edu	770-362-3559
Board Member: Ben DeMayo	bdemayo@westga.edu	770-834-2661
Board Member: Wendell Hoomes	hoomes2@gmail.com	770-854-8919
Board Member: Doug Mabry	d.c.mabry@bellsouth.net	770-258-9161
Board Member: Catherine McKinnon	covotekateqa@att.net	770-214-1507
Board Member: Carol Mitchell	marycarolcox@aol.com	770-832-6694
Board Member: Stella Spyrou	Stella.Spyrou@gmail.com	770-947-0753
Board Member: Jerry Stober	aistober@earthlink.net	770-854-4258
Walk and Talks: Jerry Stober	aistober@earthlink.net	770-854-4258
Trail Committee: Cathe McKinnon	covotekateqa@att.net	770-214-1507
McIntosh Reserve: Daryl Johnson	dliohanson@carrollcountyga.com	770-830-5879

FOMR website: www.FriendsOfMcIntoshReserve.org