



New Manchester Times

Quarterly Newsletter from the Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park, Inc.
1826 Mount Vernon Road
Lithia Springs, GA 30122



April, May, June 2006

Volunteer, Educational, Nonprofit

Vol. 13, Number 1

Park Day 2006

Park cleanup
Saturday, April 1 at 10AM
meet at the Visitor's Center

Sponsored by
The Civil War Preservation Trust
The History Channel
Take Pride in America

Hosted by
The Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park

The American Civil War was a defining moment in our nation's history. Millions of Americans visit Civil War sites every year. It is through the preservation of sites like Sweetwater Creek State Park that our nation recalls and honors the historical significance of its darkest hour.

Sweetwater Creek State Park and other sites like it need your help. There is much work to be done at our country's Civil War sites. Maintaining and keeping them in good condition is a rewarding, but time-consuming job. The Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park invite you to join us by volunteering to participate in the nationwide annual Park Day event. Bring your gloves!

For more information contact:

Don Scarbrough
(770) 732-5871

We are changing....just a little bit....

To conserve time, resources, and money, the New Manchester Times will now be issued quarterly on our website. Members who do not have an email address will continue to receive a mailed copy. If you have email and feel you are not receiving your notice, or if you prefer a paper copy, please notify Beverly Nelson at howbev1@bellsouth.net.

A HISTORICAL STORY FROM THE TOWN OF NEW MANCHESTER

The Bell Family

Thomas Bell was the oldest of the Bell Family that was working at the factory. Thomas's wife was Mariah Gerry Bell. Mariah stayed home to care for a very large family while Thomas went to work each day at the mill. Their children were: William Henderson Bell, Elizabeth Jane Bell, Sara Agnes Bell, Thomas Franklin Bell, James Winfield Bell, Georgia Ann Bell, Anderson Bell, Joseph Bell, and Henry Clay Bell.

William Henderson Bell was the oldest of the children. Born in January of 1844, he was employed at the factory as a young man 20 years of age. He was a supervisor, in the factory working as second in charge of the carding room. When Joshua Welsh, the local superintendent, was away, he would leave Al Tippen's, the head man in charge of the Spinning Room, in charge of the factory. If Mr. Tippen's was away, then Mr. Welsh would leave William Henderson Bell in charge of the factory operations.

William H. Bell and his brothers Thomas Franklin Bell and James Winfield Bell along with his sisters Elizabeth Jane Bell and Sara Agnes Bell, also his father Thomas Bell were all working at the factory when the Federal soldiers arrived at the mill. When the soldiers took control of the factory, the Bell family was sent to their home and were placed under the watchful eye's of the Yankee soldiers. After being detained there for a seven day period, the Bell family was forced to travel to Marietta where they were joined with the Roswell factory workers. There they were loaded onto train box-cars and sent north to Louisville, Kentucky. The day after their arrival at Louisville, they took the oath to the federal government and they were turned loose north across the Ohio River. Like the other refugee's who were sent north, they were forbidden to travel south of the Ohio River while the country was still at war.

The civil war ended in April of 1865, and the Bell family like several other Sweetwater family's, decided to return back to Georgia. When the Bell's began their journey back to Georgia in late August of 1865, Thomas and Mariah had a new arrival to the family. On August 22, Mariah gave birth to a little baby boy that they named Rafor Pinkney Bell. As a new mother she would start their journey south. When Rafor was only two weeks old Mariah took ill and passed away while trying to return home, leaving a broken hearted family to finish the difficult journey home.

Interpretive Topics Classes

The Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park, in support of DNR, has decided to develop classes that support DNR's list of Interpretive Topics specific to Sweetwater Creek State Park and any other classes relative to Civil War history, Science education, and conservation that applies to the park. These are classes that will be delivered to the public using the indoor classrooms at the new Interpretive Center targeted for July, 2006.

Below is the DNR list of Interpretive Topics specific to Sweetwater Creek State Park.

The project standard for delivery of class presentations is MS PowerPoint. Other implementation options can be considered.

Volunteers, referred to as a Subject Matter Expert (SME), can manage and develop a topic or topics by notifying the Volunteer Coordinator, Beverly Nelson <howbev1@bellsouth.net>. The delivery of the class presentation can be accomplished in three ways:

1. The SME can construct the class using their personal computing resources. When complete, the presentation can be burned to a CD and delivered to the Volunteer Coordinator. The Coordinator will make arrangements to store the presentation on the Friends system for Quality Assurance (QA) and then availability. (At a later date when the Friend's system is online, the presentation can be emailed or uploaded via FTP to the Friends online site).
2. The SME can use the Friend's system to construct the class. The SME can make arrangements to have the Volunteer office open for development, a userid assigned, and a brief orientation for using the system.
3. If the SME is not familiar with MS PowerPoint, then the Volunteer Coordinator will make arrangements for another volunteer to assist the developer in development of the class.

When the presentation is complete and installed on the Friend's system, a QA volunteer will be assigned to review the presentation.

The SME and other volunteers will be enabled to sign up to teach and deliver the topic presentation with the Volunteer Coordinator. Classes will be scheduled and published as available. Some classes will carry a charge per student and therefore become a revenue generator for the Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park.

Thanks,
Chuck Mandt
Project Manager for Interpretive Topics Classes

Sweetwater Creek State Conservation Park Georgia DNR Interpretive Topics 2006

- Primary Topic:
 - Geology
 - Sweetwater Creek
 - Brevard Fault
 - Eco-region of Sweetwater Creek
 - Natural Resources
 - Wildlife
 - Indigenous Species of interest (mentioned but need examples)
 - Protected Species and Species of Concern
 - Invasive wildlife
 - Plants/Natural Communities
 - Indigenous Species of interest (mentioned but need examples)
 - Protected Species and Species of Concern
 - Large-flowered Yellow Ladyslipper
 - Pink Ladyslipper
 - Invasive plants (mentioned but need examples)
 - Geology(see Primary)
 - Piedmont
 - Resource Management Practices
 - Urban encroachment
 - Erosion Control
 - Artifact Preservation
 - Ruins Preservation
 - Water
 - Lakes (Man Made Lake (need Name))
 - Rivers (Sweetwater Creek)
 - Ecosystem
 - Climate
- Cultural Resources
 - Building ruins (Ruined Mill)
 - Moonshine stills
 - Native Americans (Debbie's call)
 - Site of an historic event (destruction of Mill and removal of Mill workers)
 - Archaeological sites (Site of destroyed town New Manchester)
 - Black Powder Demonstrations?
 - Historic roads
 - Historic waterway
 - Burial grounds/cemeteries?
 - Music Concerts
 - Early Georgia home life
 - Living history
 - Story telling
- Special Event Programs
 - Arts & Crafts Festival
 - Holiday Celebration
 - Artifact Day
 - Fishing Rodeo or tournament
 - Music festivals
 - Fall festivals?
 - Birding Weekend
 - Historical reenactments?
 - Wildflower weekend
 - Photography weekend
 - Mushroom weekend
 - Outdoor Adventure
 - Junior Rangers
 - Runs/Races
- Recreational Activities
 - Hiking
 - Cross Country Running
 - Birding
 - Canoeing
 - Kayaking
 - Fishing
 - Jogging
 - Rowing
 - Picnicking
- Nature Study
- Playgrounds
- Swimming
- Horseshoes
- Orienteering
- Wilderness Survival skills
- Music Programs
- Crafts
- Games

Something to Crow About
By Vicki Williams

I've never really paid much attention to crows. They are so common I just tend to ignore them. It seems that there is always a crow 'cawing' off in the distance somewhere and their call just becomes part of the background noise. But recently I was asked two questions that got me to thinking about those ubiquitous black birds. Oddly, both questions were about crow's nests. First, I was asked about where crows make their nests. Next, a co-worker asked me what a crow's nest was...in the nautical sense.

While pondering the two questions, I started paying more attention to the crows around me. Observing the crows in my yard one day, I suddenly realized that the pair I was watching was engaged in nest building activity. The first one I noticed was carrying a small, twiggy stick on February 12, which I thought was a bit early, but I was wrong.

First, just a bit of trivia about sailing ships - a crow's nest is the highest point on the ship where a lookout would be stationed to watch for other ships, land or obstacles. The reason it was called a crow's nest is because the Vikings actually used crows (or ravens) as part of their navigation equipment. The crows were kept in cages that were tied to the tops of the ship masts. When bad weather occurred and the Vikings couldn't figure out which direction to head for shore, they would release a crow and it would automatically fly towards land.

We have two kinds of crows in Georgia – the American crow and the fish crow. The most common crow we see is the American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). Fish crows (*Corvus ossifragus*) can also be seen and heard at Sweetwater Creek State Park occasionally, however the only way most people can tell an American and a Fish crow apart is by their call. Visually, they look almost identical.

The normal call of an American crow is "caw, caw." The call of the fish crow is very nasal and less strident. I've heard the sound described as a crow with a cold. Try pinching your nose shut and saying, "caw, caw." Next time you are at Sweetwater, pay attention to the crow calls you hear. Besides the typical 'caw' call, crows can make a variety of other sounds. If you hear an odd noise in the trees that just doesn't seem to fit anything else, look around for a crow. They can make a rattling cry, a babbling sound, and a set of soft, almost musical noises. When young crows are learning to call, they make a vast array of un-crow like noises.

American crows are black with a slight purple-blue sheen. They are generally 17 to 21 inches in length and weigh about 20 ounces. Their tails are fan-shaped, as opposed to a raven's wedge-shaped tail. The oldest crow documented in the wild was 14 years old.

Crows are frequently regarded as destructive pests. It is true that they love to eat corn in fields, but they more than make up for their bandit ways by eating lots of insects and rodents that attack corn and other crops. Crows are omnivores (meaning they eat anything and everything) and will also eat berries, nuts, fruit, rabbits, mice, lizards, grasshoppers, snakes, earthworms and carrion. There is one other aspect of their eating habits that does make humans despise them at times – they eat the eggs and young of other birds.

Crows generally build their nests in the tops of trees from 6 to 60 feet off the ground in a fork that has 2-4 branches. Both the male and the female work together to construct the nest. First they bring in large sticks and twigs to lay the foundation. Next, they fill in the cracks and crevices by interweaving smaller twigs, strands of bark, moss, plant fibers, wool, fur, rootlets and leaves. Once the walls are constructed they make a bowl in the center of the nest for the eggs. Usually the nest is about 2 feet wide and 1 foot thick. Despite their size, they can be hard to see. Even though I know exactly which tree in my backyard the crows built their nest in, I sometimes have difficulty finding it!

It was quite interesting to watch the crows bring in their nesting material because they didn't just fly directly to the nest site. They would fly in and stop 10 to 30 feet away, then look around carefully before flying to the nest. Once, as I was leaving for work, I saw a crow fly in and present a twiggy branch to the crow in the nest, then fly off.

Crows spend 5 to 13 days building their nest before starting to lay eggs. The crows I was watching carried twigs and leaf litter for 12 days, so I think the female in my backyard is sitting on eggs now. Usually 4-6 eggs are incubated for 18 days. The male feeds the female, as do any helper crows.

Crows form life long pair bonds and are monogamous. They frequently form family units consisting of the dominant male and female pair and some of their offspring from previous years. These helpers stay until they leave home to find their own nest site as they aren't sexually mature until they are 2 years old. The young crows help to feed the female and the newly hatched nestlings. Oddly enough, there doesn't seem to be improved survivability of infant crows because of this behavior.

Newly hatched crows are altricial (totally helpless and hairless) and remain in the nest for 28-35 days before they finally fledge. Even then, the adults feed them for another 2 months. Crows begin breeding in February and usually only have one brood each year. In the south they sometimes have two if the weather cooperates.

Crows are extremely intelligent and can learn to mimic human speech. Very few birds are known to use tools, but crows have been observed using sticks and small bits of bark to stick in holes to get at insects. When they find nuts that are too tough to crack they have been seen dropping them on roadways to try and crack them, or possibly in the hope that cars will run over the nuts and smash them. They are also very curious and love to collect shiny objects such as foil, keys, and bottle caps.

The reason you seldom see just one crow is that they are extremely gregarious birds and apparently enjoy socializing with each other. In the summer they usually are found in family units, but in the fall and winter they will congregate in massive roosts at night, flying back to their home territory to spend the day foraging for food. In the south, crows do not migrate because of the mild temperatures. In the extreme north they will migrate short distances.

Hopefully, I'll still be able to see my crow's nest after the trees leaf out. I'm eagerly anticipating watching baby crows, listening to the different "words" in the crow language, and seeing adult crows acting parental!

Boat and Canoe Rentals Temporarily Suspended

Due to the excessive rains last summer, the ground around the Mt. Vernon Road Bridge foundations was washed away. In order to facilitate the repairs to the bridge the lake level is being lowered. Because of this, the Bait Shop will not be renting boats or canoes until the repairs on the bridge are complete. At this time, we have no estimated time of completion for these repairs.

However, individuals may continue to launch their private boats and canoes if their vehicles are able to negotiate the ramp at this lower water level.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Please note: The DNR sponsored hikes will be charged for at not more than \$2.00/person

"Friends" Monthly Membership Meeting at the Volunteer office 9AM, 1826 Mt. Vernon Rd. Contact Beverly Nelson howbev1@bellsouth.net or 770-459-1946. Saturdays March 18, April 15, May 20, no meeting in June.

March 26, Sunday 10AM to 2PM, Spring Wildflower Hike with Don Scarbrough. This is a 4 mile moderate hike. For more info, 770-732-5871.

April 1, Saturday 10AM, "Park Day" cleanup, meet at the Visitor Center. Bring gloves! Volunteers needed, contact Dianne Patti diannepatti@bellsouth.net or 770-819-8911.

April 9, Sunday 10AM to 2PM, Spring Wildflower Hike with Don Scarbrough. Bring your camera and close-up lens. This is a 4 mile moderate hike. For more info, 770-732-5871.

April 13, Thursday, 8PM-10PM, "Ruins and Rapids" Full Moon Hike –Bring your flashlight for this 1 ½ mile night-time hike with Don Scarbrough. For more info, 770-732-5871.

April 22, Saturday 12PM – 5PM "A Walk Through Time" with Dan Emsweller: Sweetwater Valley 75 Years Ago. Celebrate the 75th anniversary of Georgia's state park system as we learn about life in Sweetwater Valley 75 years ago. Highlights of the tour will be the site of the electrical power plant at Ferguson's mill, the dance hall/speakeasy site at Sweetwater Creek, the farming community in the Jack's Hill area, and Alexander's Mill. This will be a 5-mile hike of moderate/strenuous difficulty. This history tour will also be presented on:
Saturday, Jul 22, 2006 (12 PM - 5 PM) and Saturday, Oct 21, 2006 (12 PM - 5 PM)

May 27, Saturday 10AM Children's Fishing Rodeo with Jimmy Farrell. Volunteers needed, contact Dianne Patti diannepatti@bellsouth.net or 770-819-8911.

June 3, Saturday 10AM Senior Fishing Day with Jimmy Farrell. Volunteers needed, contact Dianne Patti diannepatti@bellsouth.net or 770-819-8911.

June 17, 18, Saturday 9AM-5PM and Sunday 10AM-4PM Spring Arts & Crafts Show with Jimmy Farrell. Vendors please check our web site for an application www.friendsofsweetwatercreek.org or contact Jimmy Farrell at 404-295-9375, or jwfarrell@bellsouth.net. Volunteers needed, contact Dianne Patti diannepatti@bellsouth.net or 770-819-8911.

FOUNDERS CLUB

Your chance to become a part of Sweetwater Creek history

When the fundraising began for the Sweetwater Creek Visitor Center and Museum, local support was needed to show foundations and corporate givers that Sweetwater Creek State Park had a community that was in support of this project. These local individual contributors are the people who helped show the worthiness of this project by making their private contributions. These are the Contributing Founders of the Sweetwater Creek Visitor Center. They will become part of the history of Sweetwater Creek when their names are placed on permanent display in the lobby of the Visitor Center now under construction.

The \$2,000,000 fundraising for the Visitor Center has been completed, but the interior of the Visitor Center needs equipment and historic and environmental exhibits. Contributions are needed now.

This is your chance to become a part of history, and a member of the Founders Club with your pledge and contribution of \$1,000 or more. Time is limited, so please don't delay. All contributions are tax deductible. For additional information, check our website www.friendsofsweetwatercreek.org or call Bill Cahill 770-942-2555.

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW APPLICATION

Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park
P.O. Box 816
Lithia Springs, GA 30122
www.friendsofsweetwatercreek.org

NAME _____

BUSINESS NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE(home) _____ PHONE(business) _____

EMAIL _____ FAX _____ MOBILE _____

ARE YOU A RETURNING VENDOR? _____ WHICH SHOWS? _____

CATEGORY OF YOUR WORK _____

Requirements: Vendors will have vehicles out of show area 1/2 hour before show opens. No vehicles allowed in during open hours. No take downs permitted before end of show. Juried show. 2 pictures required. All items for sale will be hand-made. NO RETAIL.

Signature _____ Date _____

For any questions contact Bert Blood at (888)875-8761 email: craftshow05@bellsouth.net or Jimmy Farrell at (404) 295-9375 email: jwfarrell@bellsouth.net.

The applicant hereby agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park, their officers, agents, successors and assigns from and against any and all claims, demands, actions or causes of actions, suits at law or inequity of any nature or character arising out of or by reason of any act or omission of the second party or its agents in the performance of rights, duties, and obligations of the second party under this agreement. The second party understands that Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park assume no responsibility or liability for any property of the second party, which may be located on the above-described premises. For and in consideration of permission to participate in the Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park, the specified above shall be subject to acts of God or any condition or circumstances beyond the control of the Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park which shall prevent the carrying out of some or all of the Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park, upon the occurrence of such event, shall have the right to terminate this agreement.

Spring Arts & Crafts Show
Saturday, June 17, 2006 9:00am-5:00pm
Sunday, June 18, 2006 10:00am-4:00pm
At Sweetwater Creek State Park - New Loop
Special Needs _____

New Manchester Days Festival
and Arts & Crafts Show
Saturday, September 23, 2006 9:00am-5:00pm
Sunday, September 24, 2006 10:00am-4:00pm
At Sweetwater Creek State Park - Visitors Center
Special Needs _____

Regular Space 12'x12' \$50.00 _____
Electricity (additional) ___@\$10.00 _____
Total \$ _____

Regular Space 12'x12' \$50.00 _____
Electricity (additional) ___@\$10.00 _____
Total \$ _____

Checks payable to Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park

SPOTLIGHT ON SPONSORS

Our Corporate Sponsors

These Corporate Sponsors have contributed a great deal to help the Volunteers support, maintain, and improve Sweetwater Creek State Park. Their selfless acts of generosity are major contributions to the quality of Sweetwater Creek and our community. Please keep them in mind when shopping, and tell them you appreciate their support for Sweetwater Creek State Park.

Pit Stop
Sanitation Services
Phone 770-439-2888

John Thornton
Chevrolet Mazda Isuzu
Thornton Road

Signs Now
6689 Parker St.
Phone 770-942-4242

**Rotary Club
of Douglas County**

Walker's
Your local neighborhood print shop
770-920-2982

"A" Quality Storage
5770 Fairburn Road U-HAUL
Douglasville 770-920-8000

Abercrombie Transmissions
7841 Bankhead Hwy.
770-920-0095

Blitzpack Courier
Jimmy Farrell 770-489-2121
Pager 404-560-1509

Williamson Bros. Bar-B-Q
Hwy 5 Douglasville
Phone 770-949-5058

P & N Manufacturing Co.
Custom Engraving & Name Tags
Phone 770-942-5349

Kennesaw Bait Co.
Bait & Tackle Supplier
770-428-7406

Robert D. Coats
Attorney At Law
Douglasville 770-577-7155

Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park, Inc.
1826 Mount Vernon Road
Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(QTR2,06)



www.friendsofsweetwatercreek.org

WATCH FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS!
New Visitor & Interpretive Center
Dedication Ceremonies
For DNR, Friends, Sponsors
COMING SOON!