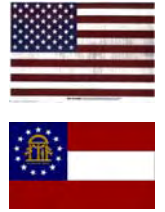




New Manchester Times

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

Lithia Springs, GA 30122



July, August, September 2006

Volunteer, Educational, Nonprofit

Vol. 13, Number 2

OPENING SOON!

Sweetwater Creek State Park Visitor & Interpretive Center

Submitted by Vince Taylor

It was during the 1960's that local visionaries living in and around Douglas County recognized the need to protect the "Factory Shoals" area of Sweetwater Creek. This several hundred acres contained the ruins of the New Manchester Manufacturing Company (destroyed by Sherman's troops during the Civil War and one of the last remaining brick ruins dating to that conflict in the Atlanta area), sites of Native American interest, special plant populations and a geologic fault zone. The result of this group's hard work was the 1972 authorization of Sweetwater Creek State Park. From the beginning, a major flaw in the development of the park was the absence of a central feature that would interpret to the visiting public the value of the property and why the park existed. Beginning in the 1970's, park management would annually submit budget requests for a visitor center, interpretive center or museum. The right combination of local, government and legislative support was just never there to birth such a project.

In the mid 1990's, a small group of people committed to the lasting health, conservation and preservation of the park organized into the Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park, Inc. A primary goal of this group was to develop the circumstances necessary to establish a facility dedicated to the orientation and education of the park users. The vision of this building from the beginning included displays detailing the historic, cultural and natural resources of the park, meeting space for educational programs and park offices. It would become the nerve center of the park.

Through the remainder of the 1990's, the FSWCSP realized that the state legislature was not going to authorize the estimated two million dollars needed for this project. They were, however successful in persuading the state to commit \$1.5 million matching funds with the provision that the remaining half million dollars to be raised locally. After several years of fundraising, including a \$250,000 contribution from the Woodruff Foundation, a \$100,000 anonymous gift and scores of smaller local donations, the building was fully funded by the end of the year 2004.

In the meantime, the Engineering and Construction Section of The State Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division began design work in anticipation of the funding success. It was during this period that the decision was made to construct the facility under the LEEDS program, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design which when followed produces what is commonly known as a "green" building. The results are a facility that utilizes recyclable or recycled building products, reduces or eliminates many of the harmful chemicals commonly found in building construction, minimizes site disturbance, captures and reuses rainwater, minimizes the loss of heating and cooling and utilizes solar energy. We anticipate at this writing a Gold rating under the LEEDS program with a possible Platinum certification.

(cont)

Construction began in the spring of 2005. Unfortunately this coincided with a spike in the world price of certain construction materials, principally wood and steel. The need to remain within budget resulted in the reduction in landscaping around the building and the deferment of certain exhibit fabrication pending future funding. In spite of these reductions and several construction delays, the Sweetwater Creek Interpretive Center is scheduled for a July 8, 2006 opening with a dedication sometime in the autumn of 2006.

Housed in the facility are displays reflecting the New Manchester Manufacturing Company and its operation. Future exhibits will cover Native American influence on the property, local Civil War history, native flora and fauna and the geology of the area. Estimated costs of these exhibits are expected to be in excess of \$200,000. Not to be overlooked is the green nature of the building itself as an exhibit. A dividable classroom and a small environmental lab room will be available for educational programs. Rest rooms, featuring mulching toilets are available. The central park offices will be located here as well. A future phase two will contain additional exhibit space, meeting space for the Friends of Sweetwater Creek and a theater/auditorium.

We anticipate that this Interpretive Center will finally fill that need for the central focus point, where new and repeat visitors can be oriented to, or reminded of, why Sweetwater Creek State Conservation Park exists and why that is so important. I hope that you are as proud of this center as we are.



Petroglyph to be displayed in center.



Early picture of construction – You should see it now!

GOOD NEWS - THE BRIDGE IS OPEN

Boat and Canoe Rentals Still Suspended

Due to the excessive rains last summer, the ground around the Mt. Vernon Road Bridge foundations was washed away. The bridge has been reopened and the lake drainage has been stopped, but the lake level is still way below normal. Because of this, the Bait Shop will not be renting boats or canoes until the lake level recovers. This will depend on the amount of rainfall.

However, individuals may continue to launch their private boats and canoes. They will not be able to drive on the sandy lake bottom, so their launch will have to be facilitated by hand-dragging their craft.



SWEETWATER



Bicycle Outfitters
Racing Inc.
Douglasville, GA.

RUN
5K



BIKE
10 MILES



BIATHLON



2006

Sweetwater Creek State Park, Georgia

Robert D. Coats LLC
Attorney at law

Waymaker
Printing

October 1st

At 9:00 a.m.

Course: Begin and end at Sweetwater State Park. Run course is on trails and bike course is on local road.

Registration: Pre-registration by mail - \$18.00, after September 19th - \$25.00

Race day registration begins at 7:45 a.m.

Make checks payable to **Friends of Sweetwater**
Sent to: Bill Allen, 2635 Arlington Ct.
Lithia Springs, GA. 30122

Directions: Interstate 20 W, exit at Thornton Rd. Cross interstate 1 block, right onto Blairs Bridge Rd. Then left onto Mt. Vernon Rd. follow 1 mile to Sweetwater State Park.

Awards

First Place Male and Female Overall and Masters. Three deep in age groups. T-Shirt to all runners.

Biathlon Overall

Male & Female, Masters - Male & Female.

1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Age Groups

Male & Female: 10-under; 11-14; 15-19; 20-24; 25-29; 30-34; 35-39; 40-44; 45-49; 50-54; 55-59; 60-64; 65-69; 70-over.

For more Information: Bill Allen 770-949-3049

NAME _____	AGE _____	SEX: M F
ADDRESS _____	CITY _____	STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____	EMERGENCY CONTACT _____	
T-SHIRT SIZE: YM YL S M L XL XXL		
I waive any and all claims for my heirs and myself against Friends of Sweetwater and their respective officials, sponsors and volunteers as well as Sweetwater State Park and their respective officials of the Sweetwater Biathlon for illness or injury which may result in death directly or indirectly from my participation in this event. I understand that running or walking can be a hazard which could result in injury or even death. I am in proper physical condition to participate in this event.		
Signature _____	Date _____	
(Parent or guardian must sign if entrant is under 18 years of age)		

“CHARLES J. Mc DONALD”

A HISTORICAL STORY FROM THE TOWN OF NEW MANCHESTER

Submitted by Dan Emsweller

Charles J. McDonald - was born in Charleston, South Carolina on July 9, 1793. He studied first at the Reverend Nathan Beman's Academy, and then he attended Columbia College in South Carolina, where he graduated in 1816. He then studied law under Joel Crawford, and was admitted to the Bar in 1817.

Charles Mc Donald arrived in Georgia in the early 1800's and advanced rapidly in both law and politics.

His positions of note would be:

- * Solicitor General of the Flint Circuit Superior Court, from 1822 - 1825.
- * Brigadier General - In the Georgia State Militia in 1823. He held this position until he was elevated to the Bench in 1825.
- * Judge - In the Flint Circuit Superior Court 1825.
- * Georgia State Representative.
- * Elected to Georgia State Senate in 1830 and again in 1837.

In 1839, Charles McDonald would replace John Gilmer, (name sake of Gilmer County) as the 32nd Governor of the State of Georgia. Charles McDonald would serve as Governor from 1839 through 1843 at our States Capital in Milledgeville, Georgia. (Yes.... not Atlanta) During his term he faced a hostile Legislature. In 1842, with the Legislative Session coming to an end, McDonald ordered the State Treasure to pay the Legislator's salaries last - after all other state expenses were paid, and only then if sufficient funds were left. This caused a tremendous uproar at the State Capital.

After serving as Governor, McDonald would return to his home in Marietta and start planning his next business venture. He would have a business associate and military comrade from Milledgeville, Col. James Rogers join him in partnership in a new cotton factory to be located in Campbell County, Georgia. In 1845, McDonald purchased the land throughout the Sweetwater valley and in 1846, he began the construction of the Sweetwater Factory. This new textile factory would open its doors for business on December 21st, 1849. At this time in Georgia history this building would be the largest building in this region of Georgia, including the City of Atlanta.

Even with the beginning of this new textile enterprise, McDonald would stay active in State Politics. Earlier he was a "unionist", in 1850 he became a State's Righter, he was a leading member of the Nashville Convention, and was defeated in 1851 as the gubernatorial candidate of the Southern Rights Party. He then served as a Justice on the Supreme Court of Georgia from 1855 to 1859.

Back at the Sweetwater Factory, McDonald's partner, James Rogers, would be the first local superintendent at the factory. Mr. Rogers would also be listed as the first Post Master of Sweetwater Factory. At some point in the early 1850's Charles McDonald would buy out James Rogers interest in the company and in 1853 Mr. William Gould would become the new Local Superintendent of the factory and the new Postmaster at Sweetwater.

In 1857, Charles McDonald would sell his interest - to the company - for \$50,000, and incorporate the Sweetwater Factory as the New Manchester Manufacturing Company.

In 1819, McDonald had married Anne Franklin of Macon, and they had three daughters and two sons. After her Death in 1835, he would marry Elizabeth Ruffin, but they would have no children. Charles McDonald died at his home in Marietta on Dec. 16, 1860. He was 67 years old.

Thus we have now been introduced to the first two of the original founding fathers of "New Manchester".

CALL TO VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR:

THE "RUINS AND RAPIDS" FULL MOON HIKES EACH MONTH.

THE UPCOMING NEW MANCHESTER DAYS AND ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW.

THE VISITOR CENTER OFFICE AREA TO ASSIST VISITORS TO THE PARK WITH INFORMATION.

WE HAVE MANY PHOTOGRAPHY, MEDIA, AND COMPUTER DATABASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WHO HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST. PLEASE CALL BEVERLY TO FIND OUT MORE.

THERE ARE SEVERAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO US THIS UPCOMING QUARTER. WE KNOW WE SEE MANY OF OUR "REGULAR" FACES AT ALL OUR EVENTS, BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO OUR PROSPECTIVE VOLUNTEERS TO COME AND JOIN US. MANY PEOPLE HAVE INDICATED AN INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING WITH US, BUT MAY NOT HAVE FOUND THE TIME TO TAKE ON A NEW PROJECT. THERE'S NO BETTER WAY TO LEARN ABOUT SWEETWATER CREEK STATE PARK AND THE HISTORY OF THIS AREA OR TO MEET SOME REALLY DEDICATED AND NICE PEOPLE THAN TO COME OUT FOR A VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE! PLEASE CHECK OUR ENCLOSED CALENDAR AND PLAN TO COME OUT AND VOLUNTEER WITH US. HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!

CONTACT: BEVERLY NELSON 770-459-1946 OR HOWBEV1@BELLSOUTH.NET

What Influences the Flow of Sweetwater Creek?

Submitted by John Johnston

Sweetwater Creek State Conservation Park lies within the northern Piedmont Province of the Southern Appalachian Mountains. It is named for Sweetwater Creek which begins in Paulding County and flows through Carroll, Cobb, and Douglas counties and ends where it flows into the Chattahoochee River. Its drainage basin covers 246 square miles. If you look at a map, you will notice that the creek flows almost due east from its origin in Paulding County to Austell in Douglas County. This easterly flow direction is very unusual because most major creeks (and rivers) in the Piedmont flow NW to the SE. At Austell the creek makes a 90 degree right turn and flows almost due south into the Chattahoochee. Why does it make a turn at Austell? There are two factors at Austell influencing the flow direction, one is a structural control and the other is a lithologic (rock) control.

A SW-NE trending regional geologic structure known as the Austell-Frolona Anticlinorium extends from Roanoke, Alabama to Austell. An anticlinorium is a convex upward fold of regional extent composed of smaller upward and downward folds arranged so that they form a general arch. One way to visualize what this may look like is to imagine scooting along a small throw rug. If you slide your feet you will form an upward fold and, if you do it just right, the fold appears as if it plunges, or disappears, into the floor. This is exactly what the Austell-Frolona Anticlinorium looks like, with it plunging into the earth at Austell. This anticlinorium formed approximately 250 million years ago and, although it has eroded down over the years, it is still almost 100 feet higher in elevation than the surrounding area. Sweetwater Creek cannot cross over this elevated area so it must flow around the “nose” of the anticlinorium at Austell.

The lithology, or rock type, of the Austell-Frolona Anticlinorium also influences the flow direction. At the nose of the anticlinorium where it plunges at Austell is a very resistant metamorphic rock called the Austell Gneiss. The creek cannot easily erode the Austell Gneiss so it must flow around it.

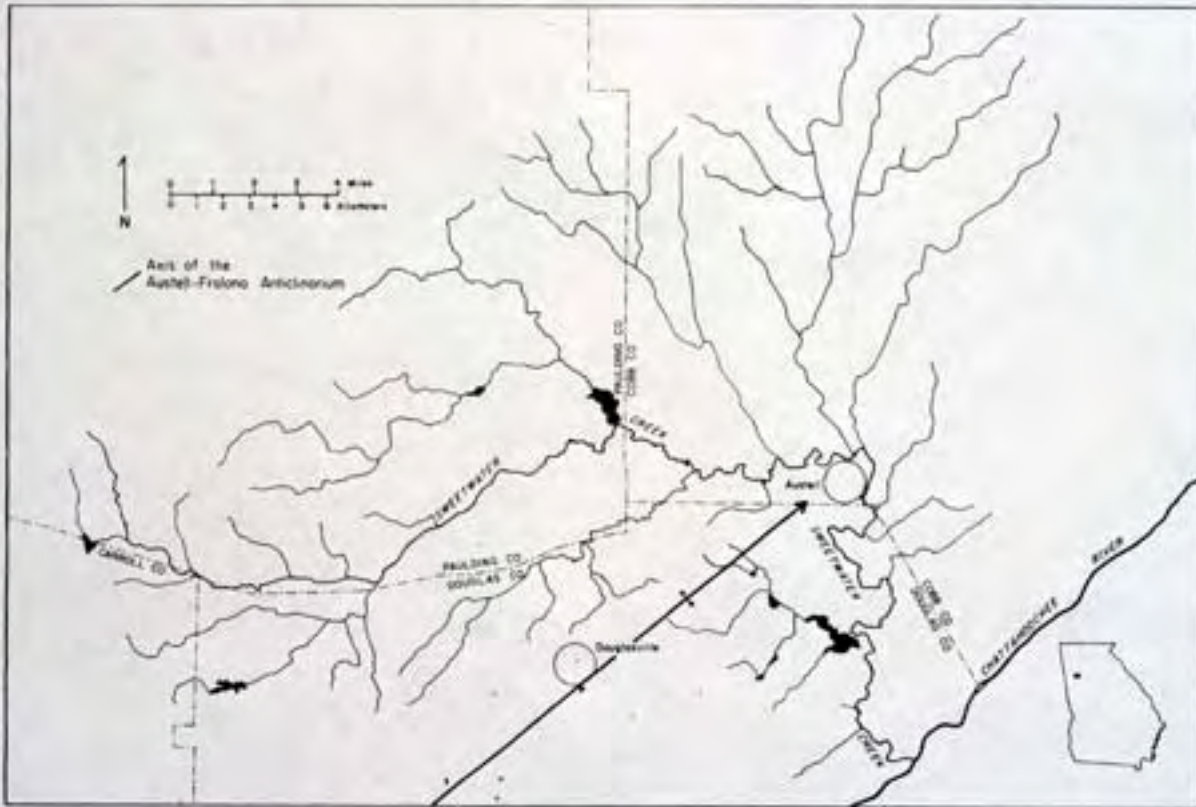
Sweetwater Creek crosses two major SW-NE trending faults and one major SW-NE trending fault zone. The first fault is the Blair Bridge Fault. Located northwest of the park, it crosses I-20 at the Lee Road overpass. The creek crosses the Blair Bridge Fault at approximately_____. The second fault is the Long Island Fault located south of the main portion of the park. The creek crosses the Long Island Fault at_____. The major fault zone that the creek crosses is the well known but poorly understood Brevard Fault Zone. Contrary to popular belief, Sweetwater Creek does not follow the Brevard Fault Zone; the creek crosses into the zone as it enters the Chattahoochee River, which does follow the Brevard Fault Zone from its headwaters in north Georgia to just before the Alabama line, where the river turns south at West Point Lake. (The Brevard Fault Zone extends from northwest NC to Montgomery, AL). As the name implies, the Brevard Fault Zone is not one single fault but a zone of intense shearing with a combination of several different types of faults. The zone ranges from 0.5 to 2.5 miles wide.

From the point where Sweetwater Creek enters the park to the point where it flows into the Chattahoochee River, a distance of approximately six miles, the creek drops 120 feet in elevation, or gradient. Most of the increase in gradient begins at the start of the mill race. This is the main reason the mill was built at this location. The drop in gradient between the start of the mill race and the mill provided the energy required to turn the 40,000 pound undershot water wheel.

Why does the creek drop in elevation? The Chattahoochee River flows through the Brevard Fault Zone, which is also a zone of less resistant rock. Also, like all major rivers, the Chattahoochee continuously down cuts, or erodes, through the rock as it tries to reach base flow, which for the Chattahoochee River is sea level. Sweetwater Creek, like all other creeks entering the river, is also down cutting through the rock to reach its base flow, which for Sweetwater Creek is the lower elevation of the Chattahoochee River.

How does the creek drop in elevation? Just before the beginning of the mill race, the creek begins to flow across a mica schist, a metamorphic rock that easily erodes.

I hope this overview gives you a better understanding of the factors that influence the flow of Sweetwater Creek. If you would like to know more about the geology of Sweetwater Creek State Conservation Park and the geological events that have shaped the region then please consider going on one of the Geologic Hikes. A schedule of hikes will be posted on the Friends website so keep checking back!



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Please note: There is usually a charge for the DNR sponsored hikes. All Calendar Events subject to change. Please check website for updates. www.friendsofsweetwatercreek.org or call the office at 770-732-5871.

"Friends" Monthly Membership Meeting at the Volunteer office 9AM, 1826 Mt. Vernon Rd. Contact Beverly Nelson howbev1@bellsouth.net or 770-459-1946. Saturdays, [July 15](#), [August 19](#), [September 16](#).

TBA, New Interpretive Center Dedication ceremony.

July 10, Monday, 7 PM. Board of Directors Meeting. Volunteer Office. Contact Beverly Nelson.

July 10, Monday, 9-11 PM. "Ruins and Rapids" Full Moon Hike with Don Scarbrough. This will be a 2 hour, 2 mile guided hike rated "moderate" for difficulty. We will be hiking alongside the lovely rapids of Sweetwater Creek (up to class IV) and into the ruins of the Civil War era textile mill of New Manchester under the light of the full moon (hopefully). The hikes will continue if it is overcast but will be cancelled if it is raining. Please bring a flashlight and sturdy shoes. Unfortunately, children under 6 and dogs will not be permitted. \$2 adults \$1 children (under 12). For more info, call 770-732-5871. **The Full Moon Hike will also be held on Wednesday, August 9 and Thursday, September 7.**

July 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. \$2 adults \$1 children (under 12). **This history tour will also be presented on Saturday, Oct 21, 2006 (12 PM - 5 PM).**

September 23, Saturday, 9AM-5PM & 24, Sunday, 10AM-4 PM. "New Manchester Days" and Arts and Crafts Show. Located at the new Visitors' Center area. Vendor application on website www.friendsofsweetwatercreek.org or at the park. Contact Bert Blood 888-875-8761 or email craftershow05@bellsouth.net or Jimmy Farrell at 404-295-9375, or jwfarrell@bellsouth.net.

FISHING RODEO

FREE FISHING

FREE FOOD

FREE FUN

What a great day on May 27th! There were kids running around with stringers of fish and big smiles on their faces, just waiting for someone to congratulate them and take their picture. There were some really nice senior ladies walking around with poles and cartons of worms, asking who's going to bait their hooks. People were everywhere with big plates of food, enjoying the free BBQ, fried fish, and hotdogs and hamburgers. This was truly one of the biggest and best events that the Friends were happy to participate in with Representative Roger Bruce. It will be hard to top that one next year, but be confident, we will make every effort!



SPRING ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

Though still small, our Arts & Crafts Show appears to be growing. We had more vendors sign on for our most recent show on June 17 and 18. The weather was hot, but the shady new picnic loop provided a more pleasant experience for vendors and visitors alike. We hope to grow our next years show by possibly adding entertainment and other "extras".



NEW MANCHESTER DAYS AND ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

New Manchester Days is being held the weekend of September 23 and 24 this year, along with an Arts & Crafts Show. These activities will be held in the Visitor Center area. The set-up has not been established yet, but NMD and the living history encampment will all be in the area around the parking loop or within the new visitor center. We expect the "story teller", the "reptile man", and some live music to entertain the visitors to the park that weekend also. Traditionally, we have guided history tours to the mill ruins. We look forward to a well-supported, very successful event this year. We, as volunteers, can make sure that happens!



NEWS NEWS NEWS
PERSONAL TOUCH NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE WE KNOW

Lynell Arnold

Our thoughts and prayers are with Lynell and her husband Floyd and their family. Floyd has recently been hospitalized and Lynell is by his side. As many of you know, Lynell is the friendly voice you hear on the phone when you call the park's main number. As she has been away from the office, the Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park volunteers have been filling in at the office. We wish for the speedy recovery of Floyd.

Beverly Nelson

The Friends secretary and volunteer coordinator, Beverly, has returned recently from a trip to Washington state. Bev said, "It was gorgeous. I saw the Pacific Ocean, Gray's Bay, Mount St. Helens, Mount Rainier, the northern Cascade Mountains, the Columbia River Gorge, Pike Place Market, and so much of the beautiful countryside there. I put down about 1,500 miles on the rental car to see as much as I could. On my previous trip, a few years ago, I went to the top of the space needle, rode on the monorail, and walked in the Olympic National Park. Washington is a beautiful, very green state, with lots of awe-inspiring snow capped mountains, water falls, and flowing, bubbling rivers." Beverly rates this trip right up there with a Caribbean cruise! Go, if you can. There's so much to see and do.

**I would like to thank the Friends of Sweetwater Creek as a group
for the plant that was sent at the recent passing of my father, Gerald C. Taylor.
Thanks also to all of you individuals who sent expressions of sympathy and condolence
in physical, written or verbal form.**

**It was a difficult time for me and my family,
and the knowledge that friends were thinking of us was of great comfort.**

**Thank you again,
Vince Taylor**

**THANKS TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF DOUGLAS COUNTY
FOR THEIR GREAT SUPPORT**

The Rotary Club of Douglas County held their June 19th meeting in the new Visitor Center at Sweetwater Creek. At the meeting, the Rotary Club presented a check in the amount of \$7,800 to Bill Cahill. This is the third installment of a \$25,000 grant given to the Friends at the end of our fundraising effort for the Sweetwater Creek Visitor Center. Their contribution is what pushed our fundraising over the top. The meeting was held in the new Visitor Center as a gesture of thanks from the Friends and the Park. Members were given a tour of the Visitor Center and had several of the exhibits explained in more detail.

Rotary has a history of helping the community and has contributed to the Friends of Sweetwater Creek over the past several years. During Rotary's Centennial Celebration they contributed all the funds for the three historic markers now on the Red Trail. These were the first high quality markers installed in the park. Their contribution also paid for the historic marker at the mill.

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

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(QTR3,06)



www.friendsofsweetwatercreek.org

