



New Manchester Times

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

Lithia Springs, GA 30122



January, February, March 2007

Volunteer, Educational, Nonprofit

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2007 YOU ARE INVITED !

FRIENDS OF SWEETWATER CREEK STATE PARK

AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday, January 20, 2007

6:00 PM

Group Shelter in Sweetwater Creek State Park

See more details in the calendar.

Visitor Center Update

Hopefully you have all been able to visit the new Visitor and Interpretive Center at Sweetwater Creek State Park. If not, you should go soon. Many educational and interpretive displays have been included in this state-of-the-art building. However, the display floor plan is far from being complete. Everyone was aware that the funds raised to erect the new center would fall short to be able to completely furnish the inside displays. \$200,000.00 additional dollars are now needed. The Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park have been asked to donate half of those needed funds. A new fund-raising effort is underway.

The Friends resident Historian, Dan Emsweller, has been working hard with DNR to plan and acquire artifacts for the displays. As many of you know, we are in possession of the ancient petroglyph which is in need of being mounted in order to be displayed. There are many other artifacts and display material ready to go in the center as the needed funds become available.

2007 will be a very active year for the Friends as we work to reach our commitment. We are asking all volunteers to become more active and help us achieve this goal. There are always many other projects we host through the year as well so we ask our volunteers for some of their time to assist our group. The best way to find out how you can help is to attend our monthly membership meetings. Please see the calendar of events for schedules.

ARBOR DAY IN GEORGIA IS IN FEBRUARY

Arbor Day in Georgia is the third Friday in February which will be February 16, 2007. There is also a National Arbor Day on the last Friday of April which is April 26, 2007.

The state tree for Georgia is the Live Oak. Since the Live Oak does not survive well in our local area, other trees are suggested for planting in our local area.

Arbor Day was founded by J. Sterling Morton in Nebraska in 1872. When Morton moved to Nebraska from Detroit in 1854, the plains were virtually barren of trees. Through his efforts, Arbor Day was founded and millions of trees were planted in Nebraska. Mr. Morton's home in Nebraska City is now part of the Arbor Day Foundation Farm. The Farm also includes a working apple orchard and the Lied Lodge and Conference Center.

Many programs are offered at the farm and there is a beautiful Tree House Trail on the property which includes a 50 foot tree house and observation platform to view wildlife in the forest below. Visit www.arborday.org for more information.

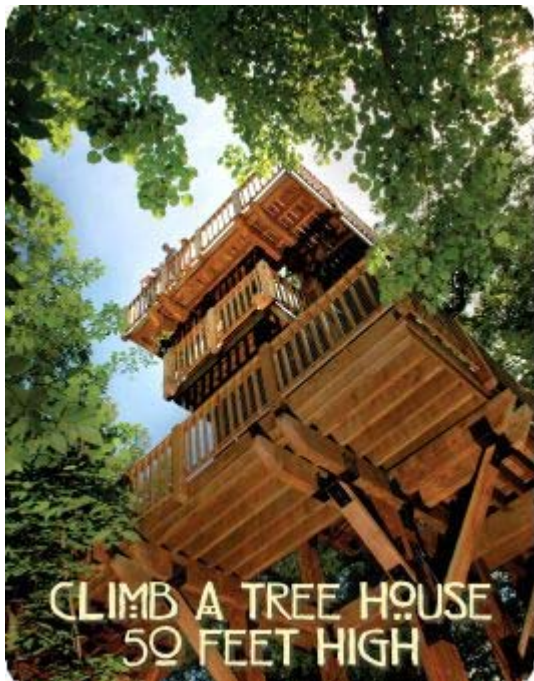
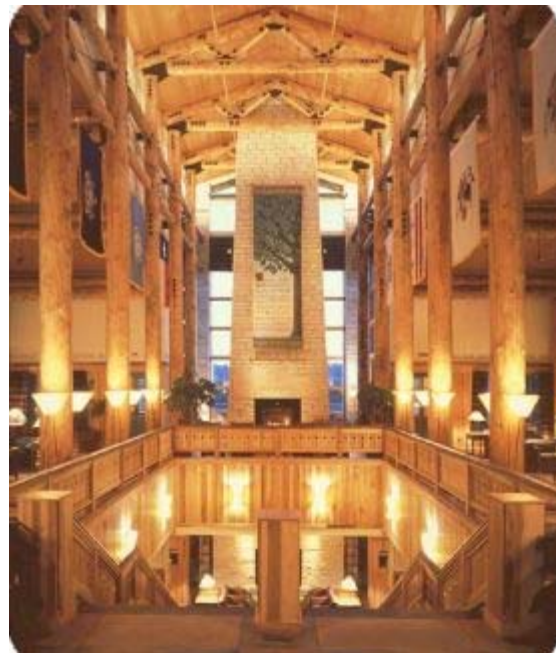


Photo by R. Neibel, Nebraska DED



IT WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR GRANDMA

With all the talk of chemical related diseases and mutating strains of kill-resistant bacteria, some people have decided it's time to get back to safe basics. There are five basic, safe cleaning products that have been around for years: baking soda, borax, soap, washing soda (sodium carbonate) and white vinegar. Substituting all or some of these in cleaning routines will lead to a healthier world.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Please note: There is usually a charge for the DNR sponsored hikes. All events are subject to change and weather permitting. Please check our website for updates, www.friendsofsweetwatercreek.org, or call the park office at 770-732-5871.

AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday, January 20, 2007 at 6:00 PM at the Group Shelter in Sweetwater Creek State Park. Everyone is invited to join us in celebrating our accomplishments for 2006 and some very special people who made it all happen. Dinner will be catered for us by Williamson Brothers BBQ. Attendees are being asked to bring a soft drink, side dish, or a dessert. For suggestions on what you can bring, please call Pheribie Prescott at 770-944-7561.

New Manchester History Hike

Saturday, January 13, 2007 (1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Saturday, January 20, 2007 (1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Saturday, January 27, 2007 (1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

This mile-long hike (easy to moderate) will lead us to the ruins of the Civil War-era New Manchester textile mill and will focus on the history of the Sweetwater Creek valley. \$1-\$2 plus \$3 parking. 770-732-5871.

Geology Hike

Sunday, January 21, 2007 (1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Friends member and geologist John Johnston will lead a "moderate" 2-mile hike identifying rock types and explaining how and when they formed. He will also explain the tectonic events that forced the rock units to be faulted and folded. There will be a short visit inside the impressive ruins of the Civil War era New Manchester mill. \$1-\$2 plus \$3 parking. 770-732-5871.

"Friends" Monthly Membership Meeting

At the Volunteer office, 1826 Mt. Vernon Rd. Contact Lori Gambill, Secretary, 770-616-0476. Saturdays, [February 17 at 9:00AM at the volunteer office.](#)

[March 17 at 9:00AM in the volunteer office.](#)

Ruins and Rapids Full Moon Hike

Led by Park Naturalist Don Scarbrough. This will be about a 2 hour, 1.5 mile guided hike rated "moderate" in 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) plus \$3.00 parking fee. For more info, call 770-732-5871.

Friday, February 2, 2007 (7:00 PM - 9:00 PM)

Saturday, March 3, 2007 (7:00 PM - 9:00 PM)

As the months get warmer our calendar will grow with events for spring, summer and fall. There will be many "hands on" projects around the park, including painting, sprucing up picnic areas and trails, and entry way plantings. Plan now to stay attuned to our newsletters and website at www.friendsofsweetwatercreek.org for information on these projects.

NEWS REVIEW

WHAT WERE WE UP TO THIS LAST QUARTER

OCTOBER

October 1st started with the first ever Sweetwater Biathlon hosted by the Friends group. It was a huge success with a great turnout. Hopefully we will repeat this event in 2007 as it was a great fund-raiser. Thanks go to Bill Allen for organizing this event.

On the 11th there was a grand opening ceremony for the new Sweetwater Creek State Park Visitor and Interpretive Center. A host of DNR and local dignitaries attended as well as park staff, many Friends members, and park visitors. Refreshments provided by the Friends, which included a beautifully decorated sheet cake with pictures of the new center on it, were served following the ceremony. A great honor was bestowed on one of our foremost members, Bill Cahill. A very important part of the new visitor center has been named the Bill Cahill Laboratory. This room is crucial to our efforts to educate school children and visitors and will be used for our upcoming water monitoring programs through Georgia Adopt-A-Stream and Rivers Alive.

At our October 21st membership meeting we took nominations for officers for the 2007 year. This short meeting was followed by a very successful Rivers Alive cleanup. With over 40 participants, we collected enough trash to fill up Bill McCray's truck twice. Thanks to all the members who led groups and handled disposal.

NOVEMBER

The Friends Annual Meeting was held on November 18th. Elections were held for the 2007 year. The results are, Jimmy Farrell, President, Pheribie Prescott, Vice-President, Bert Blood, Treasurer, and Lori Gambill, Secretary. Our officers need our continued participation and support for another successful year.

DECEMBER

Everyone took a well-deserved rest in December. Because of the busy holiday season, there generally is no meeting and no activities scheduled.

A big **THANK YOU** is owed to all our very active members; people who are creating and organizing events, those who assist at events, those who work with maintenance at the park, and to the volunteers who consistently assist in the visitor center on weekends. Our officers spend countless hours with the administration of the Friends group. Many of our volunteers have been assisting with the park naturalist's programs and walking tours. Our resident historian is continually researching, finding, and acquiring historical information and artifacts. Some members have individually developed and are hosting new projects and our newly revised website is a great success.

Believe it or not, as busy as we all are, our group would be able to do so much more with additional active support from our members. There are some programs that have been dropped and many more programs which have been considered but cannot be accomplished without more participation. The Friends dedication to preserving and interpreting Sweetwater Creek State Park has led us to many great deeds and we invite others with our same love of the park to become more involved. So much more can and needs to be done. Please plan to attend our meetings and find out how you can help, or just show up at a scheduled event.

HANDLING BUSINESS

WITH VOLUNTEERING COMES SOME RESPONSIBILITY

THE STATE FRIENDS GROUP IS TRYING TO GIVE US FREE MONEY !

Their new VIP (Volunteer Incentive Plan) is paying \$2.00 per volunteer hour up to 750 hours per quarter, which equates to \$1,500 per quarter. This just started July, 2006. Last year, from July 2005 to June 2006 we turned in over 4,000 hours to the state Friends group. This averages over 1,000 hours per quarter. We COULD get \$6,000 a year.

To date only about 12 volunteers have responded ON THE RIGHT FORM with less than 500 hours for two quarters (July '06-Dec '06).

WE'LL NEVER GET THE MONEY IF WE DON'T TURN IN OUR VOLUNTEER HOURS ON THE APPROVED FORM !

TURN IN YOUR HOURS JULY, 2006 THROUGH DECEMBER, 2006 TO BEVERLY NELSON – ON THE APPROVED FORM – BY FEBRUARY 28, 2007

If yours are not received by then, ON THE CORRECT FORM, they will not be included. Please don't be the one who keeps us from getting our well-deserved money.

New hours forms can be found in the volunteer office and at the visitor center.

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“TAKE A SACK, BRING IT BACK”

The Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park have created another way for the public to help keep the park clean. Called “Take a Sack, Bring it Back”, the Friends are building trash bag dispenser boxes to be located at trail heads which allow visitors to take a bag with them for trash removal. The first box has been put up by the Red Trail Head and has been being used.

Thanks to Zack Fisher for developing this project, and to Max Prescott for building the first box, and to Bert Blood for donating the instruction plaque for it. If you are interested in building a box, please contact Zack Fisher at 770-949-1184. We are also looking for sponsors to fund the replenishment of bags. If you know of a business or person who would like to be advertised on the box as the sponsor, please let Zack know.

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

Lightning FX
Signs + Graphics
Phone 404-216-7928

**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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www.friendsofsweetwatercreek.org

