



**GEORGIA**  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE PARKS & HISTORIC SITES

# ROADS LESS TRAVELED

*News From the Georgia State Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Sites Interpretive Unit  
Fall 2019*



Common yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*



Fall 2019

Volume 5, Issue 2

PRHS Interpretive  
Newsletter  
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Georgia State Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites



Parrish/Watson Mill at George L. Smith State Park ca 1970s

# ROADS LESS TRAVELED

## Interpretive News:

Hello and welcome to the Fall 2019 issue of the *Roads Less Traveled*. In this issue we are starting a new occasional feature called the Naturalist's Easel. Our long time cover artist Phil Delestrez is the inspiration behind this new section. Phil has been a life long artist, specializing in wonderful natural resource subject matter, as is evident by his great covers for the *Roads Less Traveled*. The Naturalist's Easel section will allow any of our uniquely talented rangers to submit natural or cultural resource inspired drawings, paintings, photographs, etc. to share with the *Roads Less Traveled* community. We would also like to provide a little information about the artists' backgrounds and inspirations. As an example, you will find in this issue a sample your humble editor did to help give any potential artists an idea of what we are looking for in the section. So, grab your pencils, charcoals, brushes, and cameras and show us your stuff!



Pouring a cup at the Victorian Tea held at Tallulah Gorge State Park

## Park Spotlight



### Hard Labor Creek State Park

Come explore this gem of President Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps; marvel at the universe through giant telescopes in the GSU Observatory; venture onto over 40 miles of trails via horse, bike, or on foot; take a guided paddle, or swim at the Lake Rutledge Beach area. The park's 5,804 acres are just a stone's throw from Atlanta and Athens. Looking for some family fun? Try your hand at mini-golf, or for those serious golf enthusiasts play 18 holes at The Creek at Hard Labor. Finally, spend the night under the stars at one of the wooded campsites or newly renovated cabins. Whether geocaching, fishing, hiking, putting, or paddling, there is something for everyone at Hard Labor Creek State Park, and be sure to drop by the trading post for a warm smile and pleasant conversation.

By: David Guzman and Jenna  
McGloughlin, HLC

## Meet the Interpreter: Derek Jackson, Jarrell Plantation State Historic Site



Derek Jackson joined PRHS in 2018 after moving from Brunswick, Georgia. He graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.A. in American Studies from the College of Coastal Georgia (CCGA), receiving the University System of Georgia's Outstanding Scholar Award for academic achievement.

He worked as the Supplemental Instructor of history and political science for four years at CCGA and he was the Senior Editor for the *Seaswells Journal of Art and Literature*. In 2014, Derek's passion for historic sites took shape when he accepted an internship with The Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello. There he developed a deep love for heritage sites as a conduit for communicating history to the public. Later, he followed this new passion by working closely with several non-profit organizations in

Brunswick who were fighting to preserve the city's forgotten historic sites. His documentary film work for these organizations led to several collaborations with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division headquartered in Brunswick.

Outside of his work in PRHS, Derek continues his interest in historic preservation by serving as a board member of the culturally significant Cannonball House in Macon, Georgia.

If you have not been to Jarrell Plantation State Historic Site, stop in and Derek will give you a tour. It's a great historic site and time capsule of rural middle Georgia's past.

## The 2019 Friends of Georgia State Parks Conference



Jamie Madden, PMT

Ellen Graham, DIR

David Gomez, NEE/CVH

Brad Gibson, CLC

The Interpretive Unit is pleased to have been a part of this year's very successful Friends Conference held in historic Savannah, Georgia.

This year the Interpretive Unit was involved in assisting with developing content for the manager's portion of the event. Parks Historian, Judd Smith, worked with HPD to develop a session on the role HPD plays in review and assistance with maintenance issues of historic structures on PRHS properties. Many thanks to HPD's Jennifer Dixon who prepared and delivered an exceptional informational session.

Ellen Graham, Chief Naturalist, helped facilitate several sessions and presented the award for Best Year Round Programming. Chief Vann House won the Cultural Resource Enhancement Award and Cloudland Canyon was awarded the Natural Resource Enhancement Award.

In a special award, Ellen Graham

was presented an Above and Beyond plaque for coordinating the development of our new Junior Ranger program and for her work facilitating the International First Day Hikes Program for the past three years.

Other highlights of the conference included interpretive trips to tour Fort Pulaski and Wormsloe, a birding experience at Harris Neck Wildlife Refuge, a sea kayaking adventure, and a shooting sports opportunity at the WRD firing range outside Richmond Hill.

By all reports the sessions were well thought out and timely. Our Park Managers and Friends representatives made this a special conference.

Many thanks to all those people who helped facilitate this wonderful conference.

*By: Judd Smith,  
Parks Historian*



## Fort King George Scout Boat Mural Project

In the 1720s Fort King George represented the furthest southern reach of England's military in North America. The land at the mouth of the Altamaha River was strategically important and was disputed between the rival powers of England, France, and Spain. As part of the fort's defenses, the garrison employed "scout boats" which were small oar and sail powered craft armed with small cannons. These boats would navigate the marshes and tidal creeks near the fort and report their findings to the garrison, functioning as an 18th century "early warning system."

The site's scout boat display had been damaged by years of being subjected to harsh flood lighting and was bleached out in several places.



The old damaged mural

After discussing the situation with Site Manager Valarie Ikhwan, we decided to replace the damaged mural with a new one painted by Phil Delestrez and Judd Smith. Phil has done several projects similar to this at Panola Mountain and took a lead role in this project. The project took about a month to complete, with painting occurring when there were a few minutes here and there to paint.

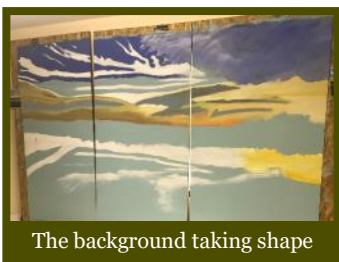
We used several photo references from pictures taken by Valarie and created a mural

that we felt incorporated the natural and cultural elements found on the 18th century coast.



Phil Delestrez beginning work

We used acrylic paints that will stand up to long use, especially since the lighting has been changed to more exhibit friendly LEDs.



The background taking shape



Developing the horizon



Phil adding detail to the marsh

Once we finished the mural's background and foreground elements, we took the panels to FKG and installed them in place.



Ready for the Boat!

Afterwards we were able to work on the mural's focal point—the scout boat.

Trying to paint something that has the right perspective when attached to a physical structure is difficult. The boat was challenging and it was decided to make sure the perspective from



Judd painting the scout boat

the front of the boat was correct.

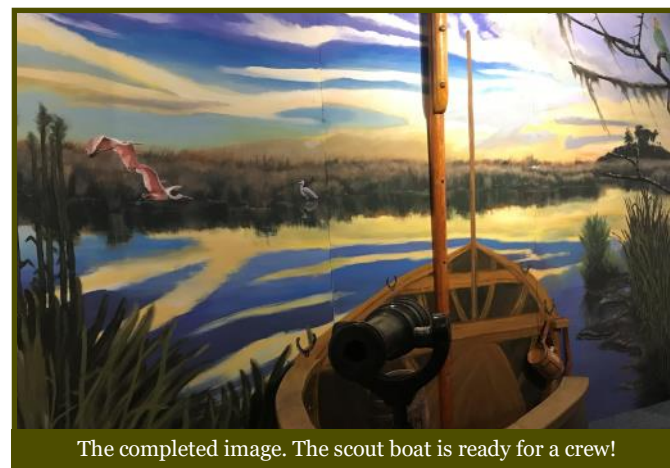


The artists in their element

This was a great in-house project and helps to complement the Spanish mission exhibit re-installed last year and new floor coverings placed in the museum earlier this year.

If you have not been to Fort King George recently, go and take a look. Valarie and her staff will be glad to give you the tour.

*By: Judd Smith,  
Parks Historian*



The completed image. The scout boat is ready for a crew!

## The Naturalist's Easel



Eastern Bluebird—2019— Colored Pencils on Bristol Board

I have been drawing since I can remember. I enjoy all types of artwork and many styles, but I really feel drawn to the 'modernists' like Cezanne and Matisse. I consider myself more of an illustrator, and feel more comfortable with a pencil than a brush, but I do enjoy painting. I also don't usually do natural resource related artwork, so this is a little departure from my other work. I hope everyone enjoys this piece. Please share your thoughts about this new column and submit some of your own creations for future issues.

Judd Smith, Artist

## Victorian Tea at Tallulah Gorge



Jessica James, West Malenke and Joell Zalatan strike a Victorian pose at Tallulah Gorge

On September 21, 2019, the staff and volunteers at Tallulah Gorge offered a Victorian tour and tea program.

Interpretive Rangers West Malenke, Joell Zalatan and Assistant Manager Jessica James wore Victorian period clothing and carried out first person impressions of people from the late 1800s.

Tallulah Gorge was an immensely popular travel destination in that period and hundreds of people flocked there to have their photographs taken. West Malenke's impression was of Walter Hunnicutt a professional photographer of the era.

Jessica James researched numerous period newspapers and discovered a rescue that took place in the gorge in the late

1800's. She and Joell presented a program from the rescued girls' perspective. They relayed their tale of woe about being stuck on a ledge in the gorge and experiencing poison ivy—all to the delight of the assembled visitors.

Afterwards the guests were treated to tea and scones provided by a local bakery and a live music concert in the evening.

This type of well researched programming and use of living history is a great way to connect our visitors to our cultural and natural resources. Kudos to the entire staff at Tallulah Gorge and the volunteers who assisted them making this a success.

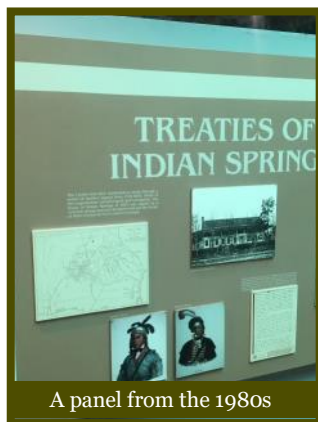
What a great way to end the summer season!



## Indian Springs Museum Upgrades

In 1933, during the Great Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Company 459 arrived in Jackson, Georgia, with the mission of developing facilities at Indian Springs State Park. Indian Springs' history spans centuries and the mineral water flowing there has been sought after for generations. By the time the CCC arrived, Indian Springs had already been the focal point of history: witnessing two treaties signed with the (Muscogee) Creek Nation, the development of a bustling resort town filled with opulent hotels, and the creation of Indian Springs State Park in 1927.

Among the buildings that the CCC constructed is a massive stone building that houses a museum dedicated to Indian Springs State Park and its connection to the area's past. First opened in the early 1960's, over the years it has had many changes, the last occurring in the late 1980s.



A panel from the 1980s

By the summer of 2017 the museum exhibits needed a major overhaul. PRHS Division Historian Judd Smith, in cooperation with Park Manager Katherine Darsey and HPD personnel Rachel Black, Josh Headlee and Aimee Bouzigard, proposed making changes to the museum which would include new exhibit panels, lighting, and

flooring. Funds for the project were secured in 2018 to begin the project. Over the next year the process to transform the old museum occurred.



Removing the old exhibit panels

Photographs, maps, and illustrations were located using online resources, park files, and the Georgia Archives. The text was written and edited, with gracious assistance from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for the parts related to Indian Springs' Native American legacy. The park management and staff handled working with contractors, building exhibit substrates, and replacing floor covering and lighting.



Ready for the new panels

The DNR Engineering and Construction Division worked with a contractor to replace an ADA walkway to the museum and helped facilitate other repairs to the building. HPD staff assisted with demolition of the old exhibits, provided artifact

storage and care during the renovation process, helped edit text for the exhibits, and assisted with the install. Additionally, HPD's African American Heritage Network reached out to locals and conducted interviews which helped to provide some needed content for the exhibits.



Graphics Design Package

Once the information for the exhibits was prepared, Parks Historian Smith worked with an exhibit design company, Building Four Fabrication, to develop graphics and produce the panels. When completed the panels were installed on backers built in house and mounted by staff from PRHS and HPD.



Testing the placement

A project of this scope can only be done with a team effort and their contributions should be recognized. The following organizations and individuals played important roles in the development and installation of the new exhibits and Indian Springs State Park: DNR Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division, DNR Historic Preservation Division, DNR Engineering and Construction Division, the (Muscogee) Creek

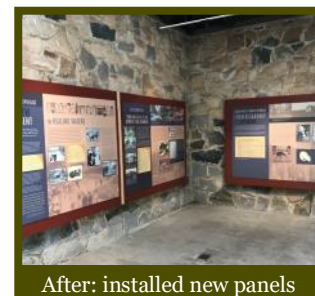
Nation, Building Four Fabrication, Judd Smith, Katherine Darsey, David Barber, Chase Grizzard, Josh Headlee, Rachel Black, Erynn Bentley, Aimee Bouzigard, Melissa Jest, Leslie Spencer, Haylee Griffin, Pam Meditz, Matt Bruner, and Suzanne Passmore.

This project is the culmination of over two years work and will provide Indian Springs State Park a great opportunity with which to continue telling the story of the park's rich cultural history for years to come.

*By: Judd Smith,  
Parks Historian*



Before: the 1980s



After: installed new panels



Finished with new flooring

# Georgia State Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites

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Stockbridge, GA 30281

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## gastateparks.org

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*Connecting people with our state's cultural and natural resources*

### Mission

To protect our state's natural beauty and historic integrity while providing opportunities for public enjoyment and education.

### Vision

Using our system's diversity and a commitment to excellence as our strengths, we will be a national model for quality service, resource protection, outdoor recreational opportunities, ecosystems management and interpretation of our heritage. We will provide an excellent work environment for our employees through effective leadership, proper training, challenging opportunities and a guarantee of fair treatment.

Widow Skimmer Dragonfly *Libellula luctuosa*



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## Parting Thoughts and Takeaways:

To quote a line from Frank Herbert's classic science fiction book *Dune*, "Fear is the mind killer." Obviously, Herbert was writing a novel set in a universe very different from ours, but with this quote he touches on an important part of the human psyche. Fear warns us against risky endeavors, provokes our "fight or flight" response, and is something that all people understand and deal with on a daily basis.

Fear is also, unfortunately, a very real issue that faces resource interpreters. Social phobias, such as the fear of public speaking (*glossophobia*), rank as some of the highest sources of anxiety for people across all segments of society.

Many people assume that because interpreters are expected to "speak in public," that they are immune to the fear of public speaking and other forms of social anxiety. As strange as it may seem, many interpreters are very introverted and self-reflective people. Public speaking may not always come naturally. How then can interpreters "find their voice" and

overcome that anxiety?

The most important way is to know the subject matter and practice, practice, practice presentations. Good interpreters always arrive early for presentations. Use that time to get to know your audience as they arrive. Introduce yourself and engage them for a few minutes. Once you get into the presentation, act as if you are talking to the members of the crowd you know. It is easier to talk to people you are familiar with than strangers. You can also use call and response techniques to create a dialogue with the audience. Being conversational helps defuse anxiety and promotes a positive interaction.

Ultimately, even the most seasoned interpreters will experience nerves and sense anxiety over programs, but always remember that as important as connecting people to our resources is, it is not life or death if we have a bad outing. Embrace your mistakes, don't let them consume you so they create doubts and fears that can poison your next program. As Bob Ross said let them be "happy

accidents," and work as confidence builders not confidence shakers.

Until Next Time,

***Happy Programming,***

***Judd Smith***

