



**GEORGIA**  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE PARKS & HISTORIC SITES

# ROADS LESS TRAVELED

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

*Volume: 1*

*Issue: 2*

*Fall 2015*



Louisiana Waterthrush—*Parkesia motacilla*

Painting by: Phil Delestrez, 2015

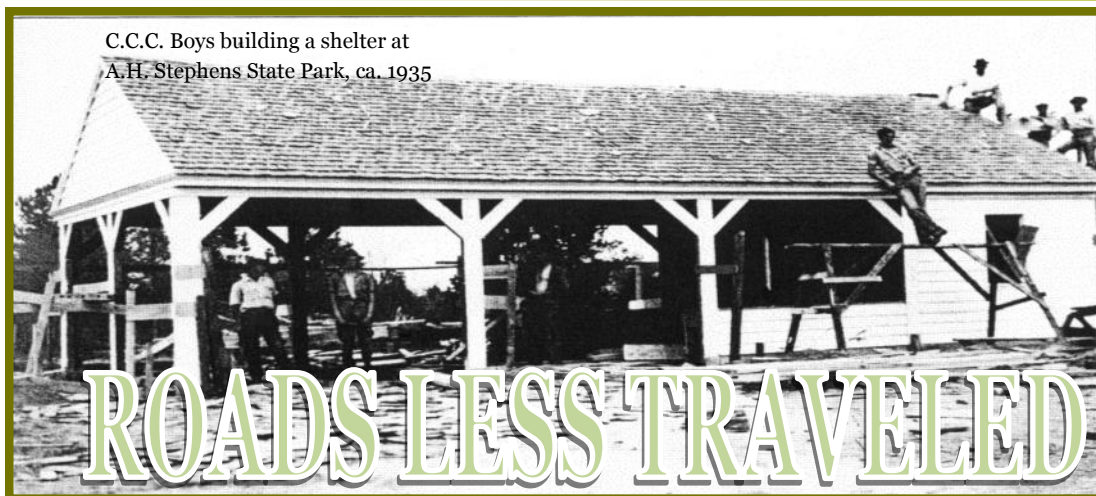
**Fall 2015**

**Volume 1, Issue 2**

**PRHS Interpretive  
Unit Personnel**

**Judd Smith  
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## **Updates and Happenings**

### ***DID YOU KNOW?***

For those that have not read it, the Friends of Georgia State Parks magazine Georgia's Great Places is a terrific magazine and **YOU** can be a part of it.

Damon Kirkpatrick states they are looking for articles that offer,

*"Unique perspectives, little known histories or facts and unusual stories that come together to keep our readers interested and to inspire them to visit a park."*

Subjects can be natural, cultural or recreational so if you think you have an idea, contact Damon through the Friends of Georgia State Parks website.

As Damon says,

*"Submissions are always welcome!"*

### ***INTERPRETIVE NEWS***

After a great month of training the AmeriCorps members have reached their assigned parks and are beginning a year of outstanding programs. The groups are housed out of Red Top Mountain, Fort McAllister, Fort Morris and Crooked River. The ten member team will be conducting programs at those parks and sites in addition to Pickett's Mill, Etowah, Vann House, New Echota, Wormsloe, Skidaway, Fort King George, Hofwyl-Broadfield, Sweetwater Creek, Sapelo/Reynolds Mansion and Stephen C. Foster. Each team has submitted and been approved for many different programs and activities on these sites and we are looking forward to their success. Stay tuned for more updates.

The Programming Advisory Committee Special Events/New Initiatives Sub-Committee met in late September to discuss an annual theme for our entire division for 2016. This theme will be a focal point for programs, marketing, recreation activities, retail and much more. The concept is to have a unique theme for each year for parks and sites to be able to link their programming with larger divisional efforts and support. More information will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.



### ***PARK SPOTLIGHT***

Fort McAllister, the "Guardian of the Ogeechee," withstood attacks from Union ironclads and ultimately fell to General William T. Sherman's forces on December 13, 1864.

Henry Ford, the automaker, began restoring the fort in the 1930's and today that legacy is celebrated along with fort's rich history in the park's museum.

This 32 pounder cannon looking out over the Ogeechee River shows the strategic importance of this earthen bastion.



## Meet the Interpreter: Lieren Forbes



Lieren Forbes is the Interpretive Ranger at Panola Mountain State Park. She is originally from Gainesville, Georgia, and went to Georgia College & State University. There she studied Environmental Science and Biology. After graduation, she worked as an outdoor educator in North Georgia before joining the Panola Team in August of 2014.

At Panola she is in charge of the park's major re-energized programming effort. She leads hikes, organizes special events, and puts on educational programs for our visitors from all over the country and international guests as well.

Children and students that come to Panola on field trips all meet "Ranger Lee," and have a memorable experience.

In FY15 Panola offered 545 programs for 7,328 people and generated \$40,335 in programming revenue. Much of that successful growth can be attributed to Lieren and her work getting the people engaged with Panola's many natural and recreational resources.

As Lieren says, "Have a question about something you've seen at the park or in your own back yard? I'm your girl! Come find me in the Nature Center and I'll be happy to tell you all about our natural wonders. Hope to see you soon!"

## Pollinators, Pollinators, Pollinators

Some scientists have stated that the Monarch Butterfly population has been significantly reduced in the last 15 years. This issue is critical enough to bring national attention and federal funding. To encourage habitat restoration, on September 26, 2015, many parks held Your State Park's Day programs to develop demonstration gardens to aid the

Monarch Butterfly and other pollinators.

In spite of a rainy day throughout much of the state. We hosted 111 projects with 1,217 volunteers participating. System wide we planted 49 pollinator gardens. A special mention goes out to the Little White House who had three young ladies (pictured below

center) fly from Washington D.C. after seeing the PBS Ken Burns' documentary on FDR's family.

These gardens provide a perfect venue to connect your visitors to this important resource and to encourage them to take an active role in promoting pollinators in their own yards.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Monarch Butterflies can fly between 12 and 25 miles an hour and their migration takes them 2,500 miles from the Great Lakes in Canada to Central Mexico, passing through Georgia along their way.

Volunteers at the Little White House



Monarch Butterfly— *Danaus plexippus*

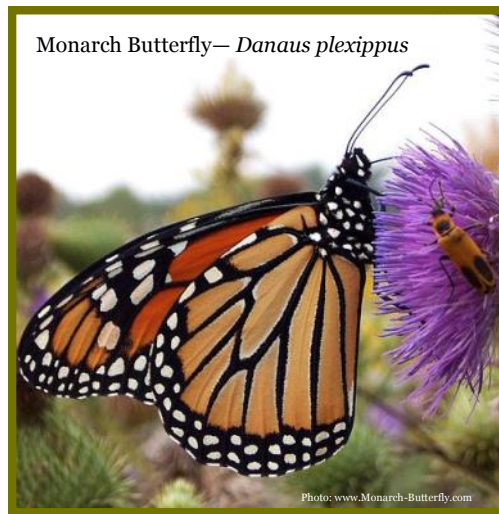


Photo: www.Monarch-Butterfly.com

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*A Great Time, Every Time!*

### 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.

Dowdell's Knob, F.D. Roosevelt State Park, 2014



## PARTING THOUGHTS AND TAKEAWAYS:

### POINT OF INTEREST

Larry Beck and Ted Cable took Freeman Tilden's Six Principles of Interpretation and added to them to reflect the changes to interpretation that had occurred in the fifty years since Tilden first published his work.

Entitled Interpretation for the 21st Century, Fifteen Guiding Principles for Interpreting Nature and Culture, and first published in 1997, it is a recommended read for interpreters of all experience levels and areas of interest.

“Passion is the essential ingredient for powerful and effective interpretation —passion for the resource and for those people who come to be inspired by the same.”

Larry Beck and Ted Cable said that we must have passion for two things in order to be effective interpreters: the first is obviously a passion for the resource we are interpreting. Without that our programming efforts will fail before we start. If **you** are not interested in the subject how will the

audience ever be. The second, and one that we as interpreters sometimes forget, is our passion for those souls that have come to your resource to be themselves inspired. Always remember, you may have heard yourself doing that birding walk a hundred times, that living history program a thousand times, or that campfire storytelling thousands of times, but your visitor that has come to be inspired by your resource may be hearing and experiencing it for the first time, and that can make all the difference.

Until Next Time, Happy  
Programming.

*Judd Smith*