



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

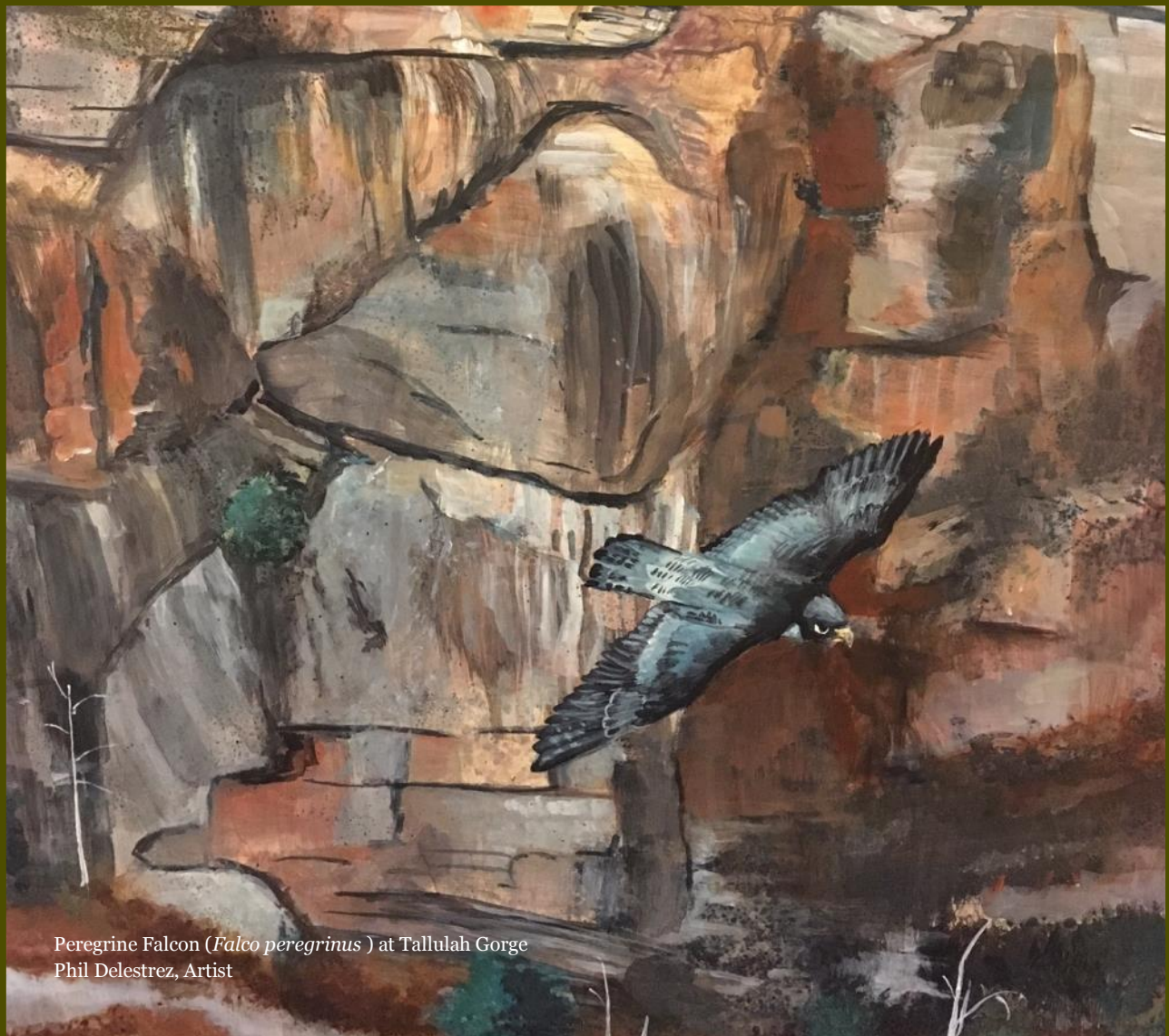
STATE PARKS & HISTORIC SITES

ROADS LESS TRAVELED

News From the Georgia State Parks, Recreation

and Historic Sites Interpretive Unit

Spring 2017



Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) at Tallulah Gorge
Phil Delestrez, Artist

Spring 2017

Volume 2, Issue 4

**PRHS Interpretive
Newsletter
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ROADS LESS TRAVELED

Interpretive News:

Marketing Moment

Social media is one of our best tools for attracting new visitors. While it's not "free" – because it takes time to do well – it's inexpensive and effective.

Most users are females between 35 and 54 years of age, and the highest traffic is between 1 and 3 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays – when people are thinking ahead to the weekend.

You should always include a photo or video, otherwise few people will see your post, but do not upload more than 10 images into one gallery.

Encourage visitors by posting images of beautiful scenery, a child earning her Junior Ranger badge, wildlife, a hiking group by the trailhead, etc. Be sure to change your profile picture occasionally.

Create Facebook events for your best programs.

Promote accommodations as PART OF a post about activities or scenery. Show people why they want to come, then tell them how they can stay overnight.

DNR's Social Media Policy can be found online: <http://gastateparks.org/redbook>

By: Kim Hatcher, Marketing

It is spring in Georgia and our parks and historic sites are coming alive with activity. The Interpretive Unit has been working diligently to complete Interpretive-Recreation plans for all our parks and historic sites and we are about half way there. If we have not been to your facility, be patient, we are coming.

The Interpretive Unit is pleased to announce the completion of the Black Powder Safety Officer training course and is also excited to announce our annual Seasonal Naturalist training which will be held again at Indian Springs State Park May 22-24, 2017. All new interpretive staff should plan to attend this important class.

Here's to a great springtime of interpretation in Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites!



Park Spotlight

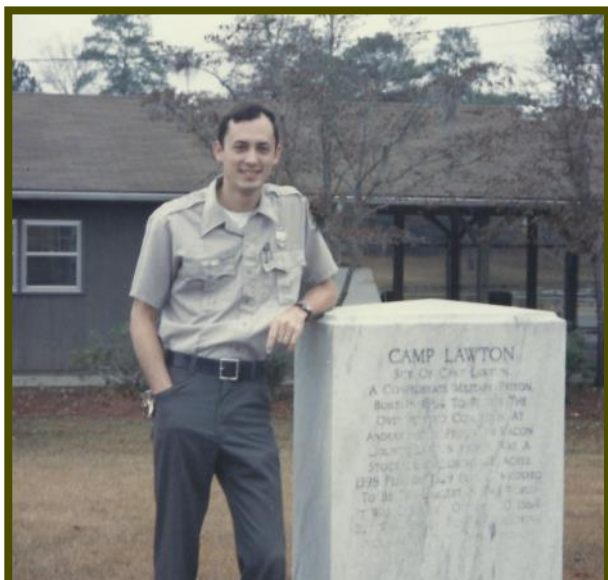
Tugaloo State Park is a beautiful peninsular park located on 55,590-acre Lake Hartwell. The park is home to wildlife such as deer, pileated woodpeckers, raccoons, opossums and even the occasional skunk!

Guests can enjoy overnight accommodations such as scenic waterfront campsites, lakeside cottages, yurts and pioneer camping. While visiting the park, guests can hike the ¾-mile Muscadine Trail or the longer 4-mile Sassafras Trail where you can take in tranquil and serene views of Lake Hartwell. Tugaloo State Park also boasts a 6-lane mega ramp commonly used for large fishing tournaments. Come see us to relax and enjoy the great outdoors!

By: Michelle Egan, Asst. Manager, TUG



Meet the Interpreter: Wally Woods, Assistant Director PRHS



Wally Woods when he served at Magnolia Springs
photo courtesy Susan Woods

Wally Woods has been a dedicated PRHS associate for over thirty years. Most of us know Wally from his tireless efforts as our Division's Chief of Operations and Assistant Director, but Wally has served in a variety of roles throughout his tenure. It all began when he worked as an Interpretive Ranger at Skidaway Island State Park during his early college years.

After graduation, Wally went on to frontline interpretation at the Lapham-Patterson House, Magnolia Springs State Park, Fort Mountain State Park, and many more. His efforts to promote and preserve our cultural and natural resources have led directly to the acquisition of new park properties for the protection of natural resources, several major museum renovations, and restoration work on many historic buildings. Some

of those projects include: developing the Camp Lawton Museum, restoration of Hardman Farm and the stone CCC tower at Fort Mountain, and renovation of the CCC tower at A.H. Stephens.

As Assistant Director, he also has been a champion for the return of several Interpretive Ranger positions that were lost to budget cuts.

These days Wally spends most of his weekends hiking with his wife and visiting his grown children. Wally enjoys fishing, golfing, and is an active member of his church.

The Interpretive Unit wishes him all the best in his retirement!

By: Judd Smith, Int. Specialist

Interpreting Resource Management: A Necessity in PRHS

One of the greatest advertising campaigns in recent history began with a bear rescued from a forest fire.

Smokey Bear, for generations of people, was an icon for the prevention of forest fires. Unfortunately, Smokey had unintended side effects. Fire became seen in such a negative light that it led to the suppression of prescribed fire much needed for the health of many fire tolerant species and to prevent the buildup of duff that fuels catastrophic wildfires. Now Smokey's message has changed to "only you can prevent **wild**fires," to help remove the negative connotations of all fire.

Part of our responsibilities lie in providing interpretive experiences for our visitors while promoting the message that resource management tools like prescribed fire are needed and necessary. Our programs are the front line to help extend that message.

Likewise, it also includes our other best management practices such as timber harvesting needed to control the spread of invasive pests and promote new growth, and to our managed hunts which directly relate to healthy deer populations on our parks.

These practices, as well as removing invasive plant species, protecting endangered and threatened species, and resource planning for our system's future are all topics worthy of our programming efforts.

Many of our visitors come from urban and suburban areas and their only contact with this type of work are what they may see in the media or other second hand sources. Our role should be to promote a greater knowledge of these efforts and their benefits. Remember that appreciation follows understanding.

Contact our Natural Resource Managers, Brian Nichols, Phil Delestrez and Sim Davidson for more information.



DNR prescribed fire team member operating a drip torch

Kolomoki Mounds: Wattle and Daub Hut and Demonstration Area



Kolomoki Mounds State Historic Park interprets the lives of the Kolomoki people who inhabited the land in Southwest Georgia from 350 A.D. to 750 A.D.

Recently, the park has added a wattle and daub hut as an interpretive aid. The project began in 2013, through funds raised by the Friends of Kolomoki, Georgia-Pacific, and Rotary of Blakely. After years of fund raising and permit approvals, construction started in 2016 and was completed in the winter of 2017.

The hut is a replica poured from concrete, closely matching the look of the clay originally used and is designed to last for years of interpretation. An opening was left on the roof to act as a chimney for

the fire that would have been built on the inside. Animal furs such as deer and rabbit would be placed on the floor used for seating and beds. Local trees, stripped of bark, hold the thatch roof and make the four center beams.

Guided tours through the hut coupled with programs using period Native American weapons such as the blowgun and atlatl in the demonstration area help visitors to understand the daily life of the Kolomoki people.

The Kolomoki mound builders were a sophisticated society, and the wattle and daub hut and demonstration area help to expand the park's interpretation of this important culture.

*By: Lauren Lambert,
Assistant Manager, KOL*

Interpreting for the Georgia Performance Standards

There are benefits to offering programs that correlate to the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS). The Georgia Department of Education (DOE) has standards in Science, Social Studies, English, etc. They are grade specific and they help educators know what the students are expected to know, understand, and do. Parks are outdoor classrooms and are a perfect setting to help students **DO science, not just view science. Likewise, our Historic Sites can make history come alive for students.**

What Teachers Are Looking For:

The experience needs to be relevant to what they must teach. It needs to teach the standards at their appropriate grade level. It needs to be hands-on and minds-on, and it needs to be well organized. Communication is a key.

Make it REAL:

You can help to make the science or social studies topics relevant to the students by portraying science and history as a social, lived experience. Think of how you can

show evidence and offer explanations. Specify big ideas, not lists of facts. For example, many ideas in science cut across concepts and learners should recognize this (cycles, patterns, etc.).

Think "Big":

What will the student learn and remember 30 years from now? It is not a race to "cover" as many topics as possible but rather think about teaching fewer, deeper concepts.

Some Effective Teaching Strategies:

Focus on important ideas. Have students take notes and make drawings of observations in a journal. Use concept maps to organize information. Identify similarities and differences by using compare and contrast. Break students into small groups for cooperative learning. Ask students what would happen if ____ were changed which allows them to generate and test hypotheses.

Critical Factors for Field Trips:

Know that teachers spend very little time preparing students for field trips, so be

prepared. During the trip, foster active participation in activities. Include both hands-on activities and time for more structured instruction. Engage teachers and chaperones. When teachers are involved in planning, it is more likely the activities will be viewed as valuable. Alignment of classroom and field trip content and teacher buy-in are important. Finally, offer teachers a post-visit activity option.

Web Sites:

www.georgiastandards.org

www.gadoe.org

<http://www.nextgenscience.org/next-generation-science-standards>

Adding Technology: Recently Tallulah Gorge and Providence Canyon offered virtual field trips. Stay tuned as we explore other ways to reach Georgia students.

By: Ellen Graham, Chief Naturalist

Georgia State Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites

2500 Hwy 155 SW
Stockbridge, GA 30281

gastateparks.org

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.

Fort King George State Historic Site, Darien, Georgia



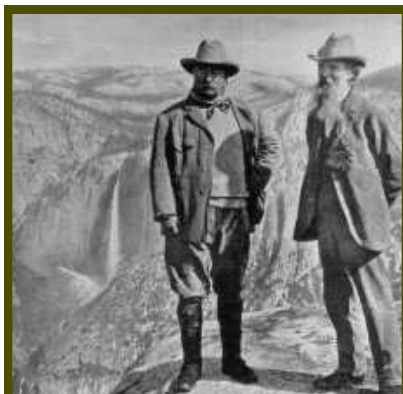
Parting Thoughts and Takeaways:

Recently, I was leafing through a book about our 26th President, Theodore Roosevelt, and came across a passage where he likens the extinction of an animal species to the destruction of a great cathedral or gallery of fine art masterpieces. He wrote eloquently about the need to protect birds and other species for future generations. He said, speaking of natural resources, "... I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us."

In many ways, Roosevelt was writing about our roles in the twenty-first century. It is our commitment to future park visitors to interpret and educate about the preservation and protection of those fragile resources that can be lost through wasteful use.

Although Roosevelt lived long before the Leave No Trace (LNT) ethos, his words and actions show that he would support

those principles today.



Roosevelt and John Muir
photo courtesy www.sierraclub.org

If you have not visited the LNT home page, check it out at: <https://lnt.org>
They have a free online awareness course that introduces the seven principles of LNT. There are also program ideas which could be incorporated into Junior Ranger and other interpretive programs.

These principles have been supported by park systems and other groups around the country, including the Sierra Club, and that brings us full circle back to Roosevelt, who was a friend of John Muir, a founder of that organization.

I encourage all interpreters to take a few minutes and read about John Muir, Roosevelt, and Georgia's own Joseph LeConte (another co-founder of the Sierra Club.) I believe you will see the forward thinking vision these men had over 100 years ago. As Roosevelt said "none... compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us..."

Until Next Time,

Happy Programming,

Judd Smith