



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 2017



*Paul Dickey Jr.
2017*

Georgia State Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites

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**PRHS Interpretive
Newsletter
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Marketing Moment

Creating a Facebook event is a great way to increase participation in programs. Not only can you reach people who already “like” your page, but also you can reach THEIR friends — if Nancy sees that Mary is going, she’s more likely to go too. Follow these tips:

From your park’s Facebook page, click “Event” on the left, then “Add Event.” It’s a good idea to read “Event Tips Website” at the bottom of the form.

Pick a short, clear event name. Avoid ALL CAPS.

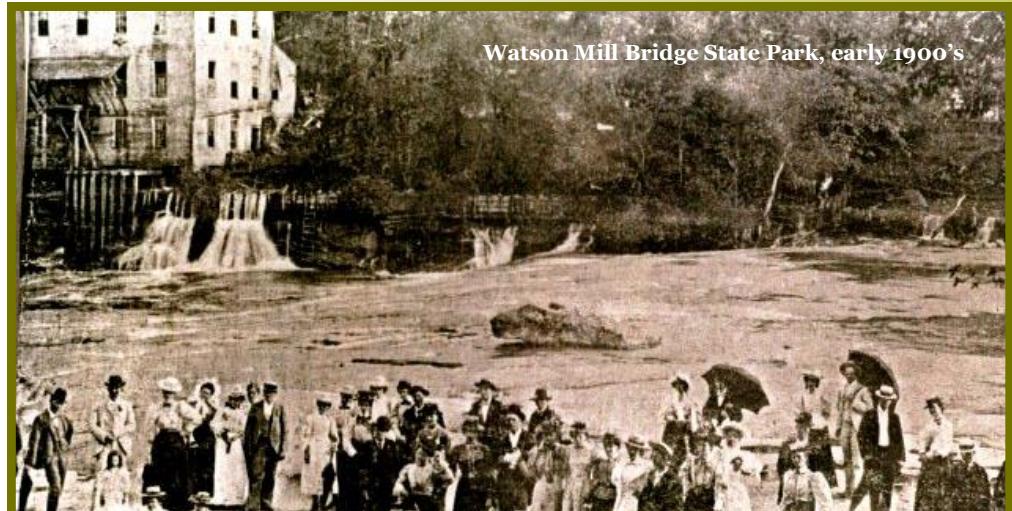
Don’t use a standard flyer for your event photo. These are the wrong scale and difficult to read. Pick an eye-catching, horizontal photo that you have rights to use. You could also create a simple graphic with park name, event title and date. High Falls’ Trunk-or-Treat event is a good example.

Include ALL information, including fees, phone, website, age group, and what visitors will do. Never ask readers to call for these basics.

Choose “Anyone can post” and “Display guest list” to engage the most people.

Important: share the event a few times as you get closer to the date.

Google “tips for creating Facebook event” for more ideas.



Watson Mill Bridge State Park, early 1900's

ROADS LESS TRAVELED

Interpretive News:

The New Year is rapidly approaching as we finalize our Fall programs and line up new ones in 2018. Our statewide program theme for 2018 is “Parks after Dark.” This great theme will allow us to showcase unique activities and highlight locations on your parks and sites that many people might otherwise overlook. Moonlight paddles, night hikes, living history programs are all opportunities to share the resources with our visitors.

Unfortunately, the Pioneer Skills Workshop was postponed due to the clean up after Hurricane Irma. The Interpretive Unit is working to re-schedule this important training. Please stay tuned for further developments.



Kolomoki Mounds State Historic Park



Park Spotlight: George L. Smith

Only a few short miles from I-16, George L. Smith State Park offers a unique day trip or overnight getaway for all types of outdoor enthusiasts. The 412-acre cypress lake beckons both fishermen and kayakers alike. Visitors can tour the Historic Mill House built in 1880 and may have a chance to view the grist mill in operation. Hikers and birdwatchers can stretch their legs on 7 miles of hiking trails with the possibility of spotting Georgia’s State Reptile, the Gopher Tortoise. Overnight accommodations include 8 cottages, 24 RV campsites as well as pioneer and primitive camp sites. Many guests refer to George L. Smith State Park as one of Georgia’s “Best Kept Secrets.”

By: Morgan Attaway, Manager GLS

Meet the Interpreter: Dillan Lee, Pickett's Mill Battlefield State Historic Site

Dillan Lee is the Interpretive Ranger at Pickett's Mill Battlefield State Historic Site. He graduated from Georgia Southern University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History, with an emphasis in military history, in May 2015.

His interest in working with DNR PRHS began several years ago as a volunteer reenactor in 2011. After graduation, he decided that teaching history from on site was preferable to a classroom, and began his career at Fort McAllister State Historic Park. He has been at Pickett's Mill since October 2016.

Dillan takes pride in his wealth of knowledge concerning nineteenth century material and military culture. His interpretive philosophy is deeply rooted in



living history. As he states, "By understanding in detail the soldiers and civilians of the past, history is truly brought to life for the visitors of today."

His favorite DNR PRHS moment was giving a two-hour tour of Fort McAllister *in German* to a family visiting from Stuttgart.

In his spare time he can be found working on his book about the Civil War defenses of Savannah. He also enjoys hiking Civil War battlefields and reading obscure military manuals.



Hurricanes and Storms: Interpreting Nature's Intensity

Almost every park and historic site in our system felt some effect of Hurricane Irma in September. This huge storm impacted everywhere from the coast to the mountains and many parks lost power, had trees down, and some experienced structural damage. Beyond the clean up that Irma has spurred into action, rangers can use the storm to springboard interpretation about the role that hurricanes, tornadoes, and other natural phenomena play in the ecosystem and the lasting effects they can have.

Parks and sites on the coast can interpret the damaging effects of storm surges and tides. A great video illustrating the effects of the storm surge on Sapelo Island is here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1f_9s_gIWgc&feature=youtu.be.

From a cultural resource perspective hurricanes are often known to move silt and uncover

underwater artifacts such as with Irma uncovering a wooden canoe: <https://www.archaeology.org/news/5915-170914-florida-dugout-canoe>

Hurricanes spawn high winds and tornadoes. Trees can be toppled and the forest canopy can be altered to allow more light for ground cover species to flourish. Extremely high winds several years ago severely impacted Hard Labor Creek State Park. In the aftermath, park staff and volunteers replanted a section of the park in longleaf pine. This tract now serves as an interpretive area where rangers can discuss storms and forest regeneration.

For those parks that did have storm effects in natural areas, use the opportunity to take photographs of areas impacted and routinely monitor those areas going forward. It will help you create a time lapse of how the natural areas regenerate and how those ecosystems may change over time.



Hurricane Irma storm surge at FKG

Segregation to Integration in Georgia's Parks

Interpreting history sometimes means we must interpret issues that may be difficult, but it is important that these facets of our collective history be interpreted for future generations of park visitors. One such issue was the segregation of our state parks.

Many people today do not realize that for nearly forty years, Georgia operated, essentially, two state park systems. The landmark *Plessy v. Ferguson* case in 1896, and its famous "separate but equal" ruling, allowed many states to provide accommodations such as separate schools, restrooms, and even drinking fountains that were segregated by race. This also extended to state park facilities.

By the 1950's "State Parks for Negroes," as they were known, included George Washington Carver State Park in Acworth, Yam Grande State Park near Swainsboro, Lincoln

State Park near Millen, and a section of Georgia Veterans State Park near Cordele. All these provided traditional state park activities including: boating, fishing, camping, picnicking, swimming, and hiking. Over the years other segregated parks came and went, all most assuredly separate, but few, if any, were truly equal. Some of these were Keg Creek Park near Augusta, a section of Fort Yargo State Park, and Gordonia-Alatamaha State Park.

The dark times of segregation cast a shadow on these beautiful natural areas, and African Americans were not allowed to enter "whites only" parks. African Americans wanting to visit a state park might be faced with long drives to get to a segregated park, having to pass by closer "whites only" parks on their route of travel. Once there, they might find that the conditions of equipment, facilities, and buildings, may or may not, have been held to the same standard as

"whites only" parks.

The decades of the 1950s and 1960s brought about major social change as segregation laws were challenged around the country. "Separate but equal" was ultimately judged to be inherently "unequal." The Civil Rights Act of 1964, along with court challenges and the tireless work of Civil Rights activists leading boycotts, protests, and sit-ins broke the bulwark of segregation, and Georgia's schools, universities, businesses, and state parks were integrated.

By the 1970's, the segregated parks had been absorbed into other parks, closed outright, or outsourced to county parks and recreation systems as integration triumphed over segregation.

Today PRHS promotes access for all, a major reason for our continued growth and success as an agency.

By: Judd Smith, Parks Historian



Pages from a late 1950s brochure detailing the amenities for "State Parks for Negroes." George Washington Carver State Park is now run by Bartow County and is known as Bartow-Carver Park.



GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARK
Acworth, Georgia

George W. Carver Park is located off U. S. Highway No. 41 near the towns of Acworth and Cartersville.

The park is on the shore of the huge Allatoona Lake. This is one of the largest bodies of water near the city of Atlanta, containing 10,550 acres, and a shore line at normal summer level of 180 miles.

Facilities at this park include a large cabin with terrace facing the lake, a modern playground for the children, a large picnic area, sand beach, docks, and ramp for loading boats. There is very good fishing, and is an excellent place for a day's outing.

**GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER
YAM GRANDE
LINCOLN
VETERANS' MEMORIAL**

Welcome 2017-2018 AmeriCorps Interpreters



PRHS welcomes seven AmeriCorps Interpreters serving our system until July, 2018. The group consists of seven motivated individuals from around the country. They are: Amber Avery, Nicole Cobb, Kaitlin Edwards, Stephane Fortin, Sara Futch, Sarah Rhodes, and Abby Stone.

Having completed interpretive training in a variety of areas, the team will be assisting parks with programming efforts ranging from special event coordination, recreation based program initiatives, first time camper programs, and much more. They will be traveling throughout the state and may be coming to your park or site in the near future. Questions about the role AmeriCorps plays in PRHS can be sent to Kent Wall, AmeriCorps Supervisor, at Kent.Wall@dnr.ga.gov

Please join the Interpretive Unit in welcoming this enthusiastic group of programmers to the PRHS family.



Left to right: Sarah Rhodes, Amber Avery, Kaitlin Edwards, Nicole Cobb, Abby Stone, Stephane Fortin, and Sara Futch.

Smoke on the Horizon: Prescribed Fire Season Is Coming!



Fall and Winter mean that burn season is back once again. This year, PRHS has a goal of burning over 1,000 acres of habitat, and you can help us achieve that goal, and goals to come, by ***either directly joining the Interagency Burn Team, or interpreting our natural resource management, or both.***

Fire is such a valuable tool for managing our habitats. Going back through history, lightning strikes and Native American cultures were the major sources of fire in the southeast. Native Americans burned the woods and meadows to stimulate new plant growth which attracted game, cleared land for farming, and kept visibility in the understory of the woods. Early settlers took these cues from the Native Americans, and followed suit. Since the 1920's to present day, however, due in part to the successful campaign of Smokey the Bear and the US Forest Service, fire has been considered a detriment to our forests, and has been suppressed.

As things come full circle, we are now realizing through science, that many

plant and animal communities, especially in the Southeast, depend on fire. Several species of animals, such as the Gopher Tortoise, Red-Cockaded Woodpecker, Eastern Indigo Snake, all depend on fire. Plants like Wiregrass, many Pitcher plant bogs, and Longleaf Pine forests, depend on fire. Even many of our Piedmont and Mountain communities, are fire adapted.

The Interagency Burn team consists of members from several state, federal and non-profit organizations and helps to conduct prescribed burns on parks and other public lands.

If you are interested learning more about interpreting fire and prescribed burning, for interpretation or as part of your DNR career, please contact Phil Delestrez, Northern Region Resource Manager at Phil.Delestrez@dnr.ga.gov.

*By: Phil Delestrez
Region Resource Manager*

Georgia State Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites

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A Great Time, Every Time!

“Little Phil” the Black Rat Snake - Region 4 Office at
Hard Labor Creek State Park

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.



Parting Thoughts and Takeaways:

“America’s genius has been nurtured by nature . . .”

“So far, Microsoft sells no match for nature’s code.”

“It takes time— loose, unstructured dreamtime— to experience nature in a meaningful way.”

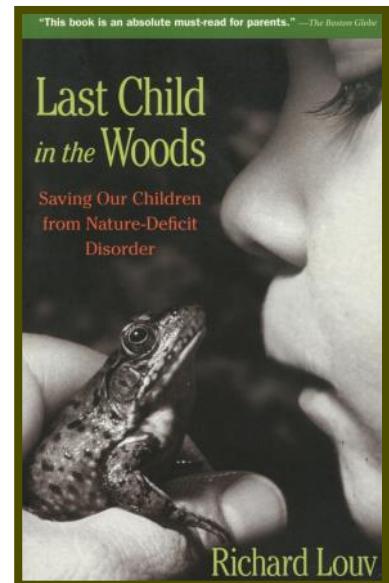
Has everyone figured out where the above quotes come from? If you guessed Richard Louv, you are right. If you guessed his modern classic Last Child in the Woods you win bonus points. In it he discusses “Nature-Deficit Disorder” and the alarming rate that children are no longer engaging in imaginative play outdoors. The reasons he gives for this disorder are the rise of technology, hectic schedules, and many more.

As interpreters our mission is to be the advocate for safe outdoor activity. We must not allow ourselves to fall into the trap of the “easy” road for programs.

We must be sure that a good percentage of our programming efforts center around connecting people to the outdoor resources of your parks and sites. In the new Junior Ranger books now in development, we emphasize activities that allow kids to have that “meaningful outdoor experience.” Our PRHS play parts are also available for your use (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FpdPGU7dhEgkK2sTaKuazERYwM7yDMLyW7bZoxfIc/edit#gid=1108565761>) are designed to encourage imaginative outdoor play.

I challenge all of you as you are planning programs for 2018 in your annual action plans to look closely at your program offerings. If they are not engaging the outdoors in an impactful way then re-think your plans. Make your programs dynamic and engaging and people will respond. Don’t sacrifice quality programs for the sake of convenience.

Lastly, If you have not read Last Child in



the Woods— add it to your list.

Until next time,

Happy Programming,

Judd Smith